By Sara Flounders

A seismic shift is sending shock waves through the global economy. The well-established capitalist disorder, dominated by U.S. imperialism and in place since World War II, is on shaky ground. Extreme economic sanctions imposed on Russia are dragging the whole world into a war that started long before the Russian intervention in Ukraine on Feb. 24.

A big calculation is which countries will be forced to accept the onerous economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S. Countries representing a majority of the world’s population are not willing to tie their sovereignty to total Wall Street control. To the shock of U.S. war strategists, almost all of Latin America, the Caribbean, many countries in Africa, and most of Asia have rejected the sanctions on Russia. The open defiance by so many countries and major trading blocs is a stunning confirmation of the weakening hold of U.S. economic power.

U.S. dominance challenged

It is well recognized that U.S. economic dominance in Europe, and globally, has been challenged by increased European Union trade with Russia and China. The growing integration of the Eurasian bloc of countries, stretching from China and South Asia through Central Asia and Russia to Europe, gives a huge economic advantage to the countries involved.

The growing integration of EU trade and investment with Russia and China threatens both the domination of U.S. corporate power in Europe and U.S. global hegemony. It is in the interest of corporate power in the U.S. to cynically provoke a conflict where it is the least affected, but doing so in a region where its capitalist rivals in the EU will carry the heaviest burden.

U.S. threatens nuclear war to get sanctions

The U.S. has instigated a crisis by encircling Russia with NATO bases, organizing constant military operations and supplying heavy weapons to Ukraine to fire on Russia’s borders. The United States is the only country to have ever used nuclear weapons. It incinerated two entire cities—Hiroshima and Nagasaki—in 1945. The U.S. has refused to agree to a “No First Use” nuclear policy. By placing nuclear weapons in Europe and setting up nuclear-capable weaponry on Russia’s borders, it has been openly provoking Russia to strike in self-defense. The U.S. used the nuclear threat not only on Russia but to impel the European Union to impose harsh sanctions on Russia, even though it was against EU interests to cut economic ties with Moscow.

With the EU, and especially Germany, unwilling to impose sanctions that would break all relations with Russia, the U.S. played hardball. President Joe Biden threatened the EU on Feb. 26, two days after Russia began its military operation in Ukraine, that the only alternative to going along with the U.S. sanctions “would be the Third World War.”

“You have two options. Start a Third World War, go to war with Russia, physically. Or, two, make sure that the country that acts so contrary to international law

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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 brings wars and austerity and racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with education or anything else— unless they can pay for it.

LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

Workers World, in a series of articles by Leslie Feinberg titled “This week”.

This is part of an article published Dec. 7, 2012, in Workers World, in a series of articles by Leslie Feinberg on the local, U.S. and international campaign to “Free CeCe!” Trans woman CeCe McDonald was charged with murder for defending herself and friends when attacked by a white-supremacist mob in 2011 in Minneapolis. In June 2012, Feinberg committed civil disobedience and was arrested for spray-painting “Free CeCe!” on the walls and pillars of the Hennepin County Courthouse, where McDonald was to be sent. Sent to prison, McDonald served much less time because of the powerful campaign for her freedom. She was finally freed Jan. 13, 2014.

At certain moments in history, the struggle of individuals to survive and organize against fascist attacks, police and prison terror that reveals the societal relationship of forces — between oppressor and oppressed, exploiter and exploited. The battles inspire unity and action that help shape and define political eras — like the demands to free the Scottsboro Brothers, Lolita Lebrón, Leonard Peltier, George Jackson, Joann Little, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The struggle to “Free CeCe!” is sparking a growing, broad united front against white supremacy and anti-trans violence. CeCe McDonald’s courage and consciousness — and the tireless and tenacious solidarity work by supporters in Minneapolis and the region led by those who are oppressed — has widened and deepened the demand to “Free CeCe!” in cities across the U.S. and around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. and internationally now know more facts about the attack on CeCe McDonald than the judge and prosecutor allowed a jury to know during her trial. CeCe McDonald and her friends were assaulted in Minneapolis on June 5, 2011, by a group that announced its ideology as racist and fascist in words and action. The attackers shouted white-supremacist Klan language, transmisogynist epithets and a slur against same-sex love. CeCe replied that “her crew would not tolerate hate speech.” One of the attackers then assaulted CeCe McDonald with a weapon — smashing her in the face with a bar that deeply punctured her cheek.

In the fight that ensued, one of the attackers died. He had a swastika tattoo.

CeCe McDonald was the only person arrested by the police that night. McDonald has been punished ever since as the “aggressor” for defending her life and the lives of her friends — and surviving. Police, sheriffs, jailers, prosecutor, judge and prison administration have arrested her, locked her up and held her in solitary confinement for long periods.

Stop the war on trans women of color! (1)

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Black Trans Lives Matter! The right to self-defense!

By Leslie Feinberg

CeCe McDonald and Leslie Feinberg, Hennepin County jail, Minneapolis, May 1, 2012.

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 brings wars and austerity and racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are ganged 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, multigendered 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 we have 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 1939, 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. (1)

Join us in the fight for socialism!
**New York City**  
**Workers Assembly launches May Day organizing**  
*By Monica Moorehead and Brenda Ryan*

A powerful New York City Workers Assembly was held March 19 to plan for May Day. Speakers included workers involved in the Amazon Labor Union fight to win a union election, Starbucks workers organizing union drives at their local stores, and migrant construction workers fighting for dignity.

The well-attended meeting was organized by Workers Assembly Against Racism and held at the Solidarity Center in Manhattan. There was broad representation present from the International Working Women’s Day Coalition, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Laundry Workers Center, Amazon Labor Union, Teamsters Local 806, GABRIELA New York, Coalition of Labor Union Women, La Peña del Bronx and the International Action Center.

Earlier in the day, an International Working Women’s Day Coalition delegation marched from busy Penn Station to the Solidarity Center to attend the assembly, calling attention with their signs and chants to the fact that "Every issue is a woman’s issue!"

**Philadelphia**  
**Residents fight to keep homes from gentrifiers**  
*By Joe Piette*

Residents of University City Townhomes, nearby University of Pennsylvania students and faculty members, and community anti-gentrification activists rallied March 19 to demand Brett Altman of IBID Associates LP stop plans to demolish the affordable housing structures.

Altman hopes to make millions in profits from "redeveloping" the 2.7-acre city-owned property. Residents demand that no port property is given away to private investors.

A community meal was made available to the 200 participants before and after a march in the streets around the complex.

At the end of the short march, the crowd stood on Market Street where they heard Penn professor Chi-Ming Yang say: "Affordable housing is not a business deal; it is a human right!"

UC Townhomes resident Darlene Foreman explained, "Our lives have been turned upside down. There are women and children, elderly people, as well as disabled residents on this property. Where are we supposed to go?"

Resident Rashida Alexander said: "I’m fighting for affordable housing, to stop gentrification. They’ve taken everything, our children’s schools; all of Philadelphia is being gentrified, and people are being displaced. Homelessness is at an all-time high."

Penn professor Krystal Strong emphasized: "The Townhomes are the literal last sign of Black people in this so-called University City. When we say ‘Save Townhomes,’ we are talking about saving Philadelphia for Black people."

Black activist Dr. Walter Palmer explained how the original name for what is now known as University City was "The Black Bottom." (The area’s history and struggle against gentrification at theblackbottom.wordpress.com.)

Demands of the 69 families who live in UC Townhomes include:

- Stop the demolition. In a city where 26% of residents live below the poverty line of $24,600 and the city has no citywide plan for preserving or constructing low-income housing, putting Townhomes residents out of their homes should not be allowed.

- Full compensation for market value of homes.

- Full relocation fund.

- Immediate repairs. Sewage leaks, rats, roaches, uncollected garbage and lack of repairs have all created unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

- Demand that the new owner live in the homes.

- Homelessness is at an all-time high! Give residents more time to find housing past the eviction date of July 8. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the scarcity of low-income housing, many residents also have disabilities, poor credit or other barriers to contend with in finding new homes.

- Provide just compensation. Brett Altman, having received the land for $1 in 1982 and benefitting from 40 years of state and federal financial assistance in the form of tax credits and housing subsidies, now stands to sell the same land for up to $100 million. Residents demand $500,000 financial compensation per family, amounting to 53% of the total sale price.

- One of the last speakers, longtime activist Pam Africa of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, put it all together when she said, “It is our duty to stand up and fight!”

More on how to join this struggle at savetheUCTownhomes.com.

**Oakland, California**  
**Port and school workers map fight against privatization**  
*By Dave Welsh*

The movement to stop privatization of Oakland’s port and schools took a step forward March 16, when a crowd of 90 packed the Henry Schmidt Room at the Port of Oakland. Planning also focused on stopping businessmen like John Fisher, owner of Gap Stores and the Oakland Athletics baseball team, who is attempting to use Howard Terminal, part of the Port of Oakland, as a location for a new ballpark in West Oakland, which will cost ILWU union jobs in the port.

The next coalition meeting is March 30, 6:00 p.m., Westlake Middle School, 2629 Harrison Street, Oakland.

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No letup in worker resistance at Starbucks, Amazon

By Martha Grevatt

Amazon night shift workers in Queens, New York, and Marlboro, Maryland, (near Washington, D.C.) walked off the job March 16, in the wee hours of the morning. The walkouts—which involved roughly half the shift workforce in the three delivery stations—demanded higher pay and the restoration of 20-minute breaks that began during the pandemic but were later stopped by Amazon. These workers are on a “megayield” shift from 1:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Amazonians United coordinated the walkouts as an “escalation” of a multi-million petition campaign, demanding $2-an-hour raise for megayield workers, accommodations for workers who cannot work the full 11-hour shift (such as parents and caregivers), company-provided Lyft rides and a return to the 20-minute breaks. (amazoniansunited.org)

In Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon warehouse workers are voting by mail in a second National Labor Relations Board-supervised election on whether to be represented by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Ballot counting will begin March 28.

The NLRB ordered a second election due to Amazon’s illegal union busting during the first Bessemer election last year—but the company has not stopped its widespread practices of disinformation and intimidation. Because of high turnover due to intolerable and unsafe working conditions, half the workers voting in this election did not vote in the previous election.

Meanwhile, the Amazon Labor Union is gearing up for an NLRB election at a Staten Island, New York, warehouse taking place March 23-30. The ALU is organizing around an eight-point program of demands including better pay, safer, paid sick time, overtime, a dedicated shuttle service, restoration of 20-minute breaks and allowing the union to present its position at “trainings.” These mandatory meetings are where Amazon engages in intimidation and presents one-sided, anti-union propaganda. (amazonlaborunion.org)

From mass phone banking to solidarity rallies, ALU is employing a range of tactics designed to win the election. UNITE HERE Local 100 and Workers Assembly Against Racism in New York City have made their office space available to ALU for the phone banks.

In Southern California, Amazon Flex drivers rallied outside an Amazon warehouse March 17 to demand higher pay to compensate for higher fuel prices. These drivers must use their own personal vehicles and pay all accompanying costs such as gasoline and tolls.

More progress in Starbucks union campaign

March 18 marked another milestone in the Starbucks union organizing campaign, with the Westmoreland Starbucks in Portland, Oregon, becoming the 150th store to file for an NLRB election. One day later the Overland store near Kansas City was hit with an Unfair Labor Practice strike that kept the store closed all day. Strikers carried signs reading “Don’t let them grind you down” and “Change is brewing, feel the heat.” This follows a one-day ULP strike at a Denver Starbucks March 11.

The NLRB has filed ULP complaints against Starbucks alleging illegal surveillance, threats, intimidation, firing and more. Starbucks has fired union organizers in Memphis, Tennessee; Buffalo, New York; and Phoenix. But workers are not intimidated—Starbucks Workers United won three more union elections in the Buffalo area where the union drive was launched and is now headquartered.

Starbucks had closed one of these three stores for two months; the workers there who signed union cards had to transfer to other stores. Most of the workers voting in the representation election were hired after the filing for an election with the NLRB. But the union still won the vote!

Coffee shop resistance is not limited to Starbucks. Workers at Great Lakes Coffee in Detroit have been on strike since Feb. 16. Labor and community supporters have joined several solidarity rallies and marches, including the latest on March 19. “Coffee against Coffee” are fighting to be represented by UNITE HERE Local 24.

There are many strikes in progress across the country, including teachers in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and Forest Park, Illinois; service technicians at Cummins in Concord, Massachusetts; musicians with the San Antonio Symphony; and United Steelworkers (USW) members at Sherwin Williams in Greater Cleveland.

The wave of working-class resistance, initially identified with the month of “Striketober,” shows no sign of letting up. We are running into a Labor Spring.

rejecting israeli occupation

Paisleyan American fired by elite school

By Betsy Piette

Athletic trainer Natalie Abulhawa, a Palestinian-American Muslim, held a March 16 press conference in Philadelphia to announce the filing of a federal charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against Agnes Irwin School (AIS). Abulhawa alleges AIS wrongfully terminated her after just 10 days of employment in early November 2021, using nearly decade-old social media posts as a pretext.

The complaint was filed on Abulhawa’s behalf by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Philadelphia), whose attorneys addressed the press conference. CAIR noted that AIS did not terminate similarly situated employees not in Abulhawa’s protected class for their previous or recent social media posts.

On Nov. 1, 2021, the AIS Athletic Director informed Abulhawa that the school had received complaints from parents and faculty members because of a dangerously misleading profile published about her by Canary Mission, a known Islamophobic, anti-Palestinian hate website.

She was given no opportunity to explain the nature of the widely disseminated website and, after a short 10-minute meeting with Head of the School Sally Kriel, was told her employment was terminated immediately, based solely on the hate site content.

Abulhawa’s termination by AIS has damaged her career. She noted: “The athletic training community is small, and word gets around. Whereas I had no trouble getting a job before, I have been struggling to get interviews with prospective employers, despite a current shortage of athletic trainers. The harm to my reputation, finances, career and mental health has been enormous. I’ve been forced to reconsider my career path, including going back to school to develop another skill. I have been taking jobs as a freelancer, without the security of a salary, health insurance or other benefits.”

Canary Mission – website of hate

Jewish Voice for Peace condemns Canary Mission as a “malicious website that seeks to vilify principled activists for Palestinian human rights with targeted campaigns of misinformation, bigotry and slander. … Canary Mission targets students and faculty because they criticize Israel — not because they have expressed anti-Jewish bias.” (JVP statement, May 13, 2016)

The Intercept says the list’s damning profiles are “often based on quotes ripped out of context and wrongly conflate support for Palestinian human rights with support for violence or anti-Semitism.” (Nov. 22, 2018)

In its page on Natalie Abulhawa, Canary Mission listed social media posts she made in 2016 when she was in Palestine and witnessed Israel’s occupation first-hand. Other malicious “proof” used to discredit her was her membership in Students for Justice in Palestine at Temple University and the fact her mother is the distinguished Palestinian human rights activist and author Susan Abulhawa.

At the press conference Natalie Abulhawa pointed out: “The website which posted the misleading profile about me does not target actual racists or anti-Semites — such as nazis, KKK members or white nationalists. Most of its targets are students or individuals similarly vulnerable, with the intention of destroying their careers and livelihoods.”

Since first launched in 2015, Canary Mission has targeted over 2,000 individuals. However, it was Agnes Irwin which fired Abulhawa, not Canary Mission.

“It is important to know that work in this field with such contempt and disrespect. Employment discrimination against Palestinian Americans and Muslim Americans is a real problem. AIS did not think twice before bulldozing me, without any pretext of due process. It only took a known hate site to profile me for them to derail my career,” Abulhawa said.

“I am telling my story today so that Agnes Irwin, which purports to empower women, can be held accountable for the ways in which they demeaned, humiliated and harmed me. Institutions like this often do not hesitate to harm people like me, because we are perceived to have no power. Rather than behaving ethically and fairly, they chose to bow to the whims and xenophobia of funders.” CAIR has launched a letter-writing campaign on Natalie Abulhawa’s behalf. The link to the letter being sent to Agnes Irwin is tinyurl.com/2s3t7ay2.
U.S. wars, sanctions, economic austerity fuel global refugee crises

By Betsy Piette

The outpouring of sympathy for refugees fleeing the current war in Ukraine is nonstop. Continuous news feeds show pictures of damaged buildings, crowded trains, and people packed into shelters — even a memorial of 100 empty, high-tech strollers symbolizing children who died.

Western media pundits claim this is the first time there has been a refugee crisis in Europe since 1945. They conveniently ignore the brutal U.S./NATO war in Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Or more telling, the 1.5 million refugees who fled Eastern Ukraine under intense fighting but are in receipt of the 2014 U.S.-backed right-wing coup.

Every war has a disproportionate impact on women and children. The major difference between this conflict and the U.S. and/or NATO aggressions in Asia and Africa is that the U.S. is trying to use Ukraine as a battering ram against Russia, making it useful to promote sympathy for Ukrainian refugees, who are the cannon fodder for the war.

Since most Ukrainian refugees are white Europeans, the corporate media in the U.S. and Western Europe use race, white supremacy and class orientation in their propaganda campaigns.

Racist media reports

Several racist media reports described Ukrainians fleeing war zones as “more civilized,” “more educated” and “more worthy,” compared to the 6.7 million refugees from the U.S.-driven conflict in Syria — currently the “leading so like us.” (Daniel Hammam, The Telegraph, Feb. 28).

Al Jazeera English apologized for Peter Dobbie’s comment, that: “These are prosperous, middle-class people. They are not obvi- ously refugees trying to get away from the Middle East or North Africa. They look like any European family that you’d live next door to.”

We are in the 21st century; we are wealthy nations and we have cruise missile fire as though we were in Iraq or Afghanistan. Can you imagine?” said an commentator on BFMTV, France’s leading news channel, during a live broadcast on injustice4m.com, March 8)

These comments all ignore that the Middle East and Northern Africa had prosperous, educated workers and professionals before the U.S./NATO wars targeted and destroyed their countries.

‘Shock and awe’

The March 19, 2003, illegal U.S.-British attack, invasion and subsequent occupation of Iraq began with ‘shock and awe,’ a blitz bombing of Baghdad, destroying infrastructure and claiming tens of thousands of lives. U.S. media avoided showing suffering Iraqis. Western reporters were tightly embedded within U.S. military units. Pentagon officials delivered ‘news briefings.’ There was scant mention of the one-million-plus Iraqis who died as a result of this invasion and the decade of sanctions that preceded it and even less attention to the millions of Iraqi refugees forced to flee their homes or their homeland.

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The civilian death toll in the U.S. war in Korea (1950-53) United States has invaded 70 nations, including lands of numerous Indigenous peoples. According to Donald Fixico, Arizona State University pro- fessor of history, by 1900 Indigenous populations in the U.S. had been decimated from millions to around 230,000. (history.com, Oct. 25, 2021)

Millions of Africans died as a result of the U.S. and European slave trade from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Many perished in the “Middle Passage” — the voyages enslaved Africans endured in the holds of slave ships crossing the Atlantic. Millions more died under the unspeakably brutal condi- tions of enslavement. In 1948, global imperialist- ism encouraged and allowed Zionists to violently uproot 90% of Palestinians from their land, wiping out over 500 Palestinian towns and villages and creating over 750,000 refu- gees who were permanently barred from returning to their historic homeland. The world bourgeois media has remained silent when the crimes of Israel are concerned.

Since 1950, the U.S. has invaded over 50 countries on every continent except North America, creating countless refugees, those fleeing war as well as the impact of U.S. economic sanctions — war by another name.

The civilian death toll in the U.S. war in Korea (1950-53) estimated at over 3 million people. The U.S. imple- mented a scorched-earth policy, leaving few buildings standing on the land that is now the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. To this date there is no peace accord between the U.S. and the DPRK.

U.S. wars in Southeast Asia ripped apart Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the 1960s and 1970s. The effort to dominate the region failed, but the massive destruc- tion left 4 million dead, millions maimed and 2 mil- lion Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees desperate for resettlement.

84 million displaced people

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees estimates that in 2021, over 84 million people remained forcibly displaced worldwide, as a result of wars, violence and persecution. These numbers were the total of the previous decade and an increase of 1.6 million over 2020. These statistics include 28.6 million global refu- gees and 50.9 million internally displaced people.

Many left their home countries because of environ- mental disasters fueled by global warming. Many were driven from their homelands by the unconscious decision to leave home to escape violence and in search of less oppressive eco- nomic conditions.

No Western media banner headlines or top-of-the- hour coverage highlighted these human disasters.

U.S. and EU politicians made no calls for immediate intervention, even though the numbers of refugees were greater than the entire population of the most populous European member. Germany followed its long- standing habit of arming wars initiated or backed by the United States and its NATO allies, including France and Britain. The majority of these 84 million refugees were people of color.

U.S. wars caused refugee crisis

For over a century, the U.S. has repeatedly intervened in countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, including Haiti — creating an ongoing refugee crisis. In recent years U.S. economic sanctions drove 5.5 million Cubans to leave their country, because of economic insecurity and shortages of food, medicine and essential services.

U.S. wars seeking to overturn governments in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Yemen and even South Sudan are part of the “endless war” that President Joe Biden pledged to end when he issued his political platform in July 2019. Combined with equally deadly economic sanctions, they are responsible for the U.N.-documented surge of millions of refugees — mostly flee- ing their homelands.

Almost half of Syria’s 23 million population was displaced by 2019. U.S./NATO sanctions, their arm- ing and financing of mercenary forces and bombing of infrastructure. There are currently 6.7 million Syrian refugees.

Over 3.5 million Afghan people have been displaced since the start of the U.S. brutal occupation in 2001. Despite a deepening humanitarian crisis, after U.S. forces withdrew in August 2021, the Biden administra- tion seized $7 billion of Afghanistan’s funds, which are needed to run essential government services.

The war in Syria, another 8-year-old war, has caused over 11 million Syrian refugees to flee their homes and a similar number in Lebanon, Jordan and elsewhere. These refugees are used by the U.S. and NATO to fuel war and instability in the region.

South Sudan — the U.S. “creation” carved out of war- torn Sudan through a referendum orchestrated by the U.S. in 2011 — has the largest number of refugees in Africa. There are currently 1.9 million South Sudanese refugees. Displaced by the U.S.-NATO bombing in Libya in 2011 destroyed the entire infrastructure of that modern African state. Two million Libyans — one-third of Libya’s pre-NATO intervention population — sought refuge in Tunisia.

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The U.S. has played a pivotal role in the genocidal war in Yemen since 2014, supplying weapons and military assistance to Saudi Arabia. As of 2021 over 4 million people in Yemen have been internally displaced in one of the poorest countries in the Middle East.

Numerous U.S. spokespeople, including President Joe Biden, are calling for Vladimir Putin to be charged with “war crimes” by the International Court of Justice — the World Court. However, the U.S. asserts that its own gov- erning officials or military commanders — clearly guilty of multiple war crimes — cannot be prosecuted by the court because the U.S. withdrew from the court’s “com- pulsory jurisdiction” in 1986 — after the court ruled the U.S. owed Nicaragua war reparations.

Some countries have been offered refuge to those fleeing the U.S./NATO wars in Africa and the Middle East. European states closed their borders to mil- lions of Afghan refugees. The U.S. supplied weapons and sold its border with Mexico to stop the mostly Central American refugees from entering and appealing for asylum.

Imperialist wars created the conditions that caused refugees to flee. The genocidal war in Ukraine — from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Central and South America to Europe and the U.S. — has resulted in the largest dislocation of humanity since World War II.

The opportunism for Ukrainians — expressed in racist terms — does nothing to remove the imperial- ists’ responsibility for this crisis.
Bradford Gamble was only 20 years old when he was sentenced to a life term in prison. He's now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his life on parole. He's now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his right hand. He's now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his right hand. He's now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his right hand. He's now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his right hand.

In 2021, Gamble was taken to the medical wing of State Correctional Institution Coalition Cove Township, where he was once imprisoned, and was told he was getting a routine colonoscopy. What he did not know was that medical staff at the prison performed a biopsy and extracted a length of his intestines. Their functional robots. The DOC medical department is 100% wrong in their way of treating us. We need people to know and understand that. — Bradford Gamble

Corrections — in whose “custody” he had been for the last 46 years. In 2021, Gamble was taken to the medical wing of State Correctional Institution Coalition Cove Township, where he had been imprisoned, and was told he was getting a routine colonoscopy. What he did not know was that medical staff at the prison performed a biopsy and extracted a length of his intestines. Their test confirmed that he had colon cancer. For eight months, no medical staff, no prison administrators — no one — relayed this diagnosis back to the patient, who was worse. Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition.

After months of Gamble filling numerous grievances with the prison administration and petitioning the prison medical staff with demands to see his own medical records, one day a guard walked past his cell and, without breaking stride, dropped a narrow piece of paper on the floor within reach. It was a medical slip with only a sentence or two printed on it, which confirmed the diagnosis of colorectal cancer, as well as the news that this prognosis was terminal as a result of metastasis. The cancer begins to spread to his lymph nodes.

Gradual reform isn’t ‘compassionate’

In Pennsylvania, in order for an incarcerated person to even be considered for “compassionate release,” they must be too sick to walk and have proof from a medical doctor that they are going to die in less than a year. (The Morning Call, July 26, 2021)

The laws that determine whether a person can be freed from prison because of failing health vary from state to state, but a trend toward establishing procedures for this kind of “compassionate release” has emerged since the First Step Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump in December 2018.

Even so, over 20,000 elderly and dying prisoners sent petitions for compassionate release between January 2020 and June 2021. Only 3,608 were granted. (U.S. Sentencing Commission) During that same 18-month period, 2,715 prisoners died as a direct result of the COVID-19, and an additional 400,000 prisoners contracted the virus and became seriously ill — including Bradford Gamble. (The Marshall Project)

There are at least 1,300,000 prisoners in the U.S. over the age of 50. (Bureau of Justice Statistics) A 2018 report, “The 4.400% increase over a 50-year span.”

Gamble was only 20 years old when he was condemned to spend the rest of his life in prison. He’s now 66. No technology existed then that even resembled the mobile device he can now hold in his hand and hear the voice of Bryant Arroyo, an organizer, environmental activist and Workers World contributor.

At 50 years old, Arroyo himself has spent more than half his life behind bars for a crime he didn’t commit. But in addition to waging his own struggle for freedom and exoneration, Bryant fought a relentless battle to win compassionate release for Gamble, whom he calls “Bub.” After months of phone calls, letters, emails, petitions, legal dead ends, obstruction from prison officials, Gamble became one of only 17% of terminally ill prisoners in the country whose compassionate release petition was accepted. (U.S. Sentencing Commission)

“He was Godspell,” Gamble tells the half a dozen people who crowded on the couch in front of him after his release. They’re all abjolists.

Released after 46 years
Bradford Gamble exposes medical abuse

By Ted Kelly

Bradford Gamble is holding a cell phone to his ear with one hand, his other elbow resting on the arm of his wheelchair. On the wall behind him, beside a mattress with an electric fireplace, is a series of decorative wreaths arranged like letters to spell out the word “home.” He is sitting in the living room of his nephew Shaunn J. Jordan’s West Philadelphia house, a place Bradford just started calling home.

This cozy environment might as well be on a different planet compared to where he was a week ago — 150 miles away, shackled to a hospital bed at Geisinger Medical Center. Despite the fact that Gamble uses a wheelchair, despite the fact that he has Stage 4 metastatic cancer, despite the fact that he is dying, only a week ago he was still a prisoner of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections — in whose “custody” he had been for the last 46 years.

In 2021, Gamble was taken to the medical wing of State Correctional Institution Coalition Cove Township, where he had been imprisoned, and was told he was getting a routine colonoscopy. What he did not know was that medical staff at the prison performed a biopsy and extracted a length of his intestines. Their test confirmed that he had colon cancer. For eight months, no medical staff, no prison administrators — no one — relayed this diagnosis back to the patient, who was worse. Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition. When Gamble was treated for what appeared to be a colon obstruction, the prison staff never told him about this condition.

The word “care” in your job description — health care — should mean a lot. “We’re not ashamed of saying we’re abjolists.”

One thing Mr. Arroyo taught me is to never give up. Never stop fighting. If you can’t fight for yourself, fight for somebody else. I always told him, if I make it out of this prison, I’m gonna put them in a position to touch the people in jails and prisons all over, you’d think different. So think different now. Don’t wait. Let us know that you love us, that you care about us.

“We need help, it’s as simple as that”

I didn’t make it out here just to say, oh, I’m home. Family, friends, it’s lovely. It’s beautiful. But I got more to do.”

Bradford Gamble says health care workers in the U.S. need to understand how much rampant neglect and abuse that their purported colleagues are committing in prison medical facilities. “We need help, it’s as simple as that.”

Workers World is an independent, revolutionary communist newspaper circulating for over 60 years. We are committed to building solidarity among workers and oppressed peoples around the globe. For that reason Workers World has always provided FREE subscriptions and other radical printed materials to prisoners in the U.S. One in three subscribers to Workers World are currently behind bars — in hundreds of prisons across dozens of states. We need your help to provide even more prisoners with FREE subscriptions to Workers World!

We receive hundreds of phone calls, letters and subscription requests from prisoners. In addition to the work we do fighting racism, imperialism, gender oppression and labor exploitation every day, we need the resources to keep operating. These resources allow us to continue our daily work of organizing defense committees, coordinating prison visits, planning demonstrations and mass mobilizations for prisoners in isolated and isolated prison conditions. Donating now is an immediate way you can help fight this racist, capitalist system and empower our readers to tear down the walls once and for all. Donate today at patreon.com/wwwp.

Support readers behind the walls
Rodney Reed: Justice delayed is justice denied

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

On any day of the week, prisons are hell. Texas prisons are no exception. And for prisoners on death row, the hell never ends unless they are executed. The hell increases exponentially each day for those who are innocent and awaiting execution.

This is the extra hot hell that many innocent people on Texas death row are living 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One of them is Michael Gonzales, who just survived an execution date on March 9 and was granted a stay.

Another death row prisoner is Melissa Lucio, who is scheduled to be legally lynched on April 27 for an alleged crime. Robert Roberson, like Lucio, is accused of a crime that did not happen. Each of them is accused of killing their young child. But these children’s deaths were not caused by the parents; they were accidental.

Rodney Reed is another prisoner living on death row hell. He survived an execution date in November 2019 because Texas’ highest court, the Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA), issued a stay and ordered the trial court to consider new evidence of Reed’s innocence.

The hearing in Bastrop was finally held in July 2021. Unfortunately, the judge’s opinion was almost word-for-word the same as the state’s opinion. The judge ignored all of the newly discovered evidence and recommended the CCA deny Reed a new trial.

Rodney Reed’s family, friends and supporters are running low. On March 4, in an attempt to give a nudge toward justice, Sandra Reed, Rodney Reed’s mother, along with his spouse and dozens of supporters, gathered outside the CCA building in Austin. They were supporting the court on notice that they were tired of waiting. They were tired of seeing their loved one behind bars in a cage and tired of taking time off from work to drive over three hours each way for a two-hour visit with her. And they were tired of worrying about another execution date.

Sandra Reed spoke of the family’s long journey trying to find justice: “We continue to hope and pray that the truth will come out. Rodney was exonerated and freed a few years ago and did not live to see his son freed.

Stop the executions!

The guest speaker was Juan Melendez, who is with Witness to Innocence, a national organization of exonerated death row survivors, active in the fight to end the death penalty. He traveled from New Mexico to Austin to show solidarity with Reed.

Melendez told the large crowd: “I spent 17 years, eight months and one day on death row for a crime I did not commit, before I was finally exonerated and freed in 2002.” He told of the pain of waiting 17 years, eight months and one day on death row for a crime he did not commit, before he was finally exonerated and freed in 2002.

He told of the pain of knowing he was innocent and the anguish he felt at being far from his family, especially his mother.

Other speakers included Delia Perez-Meyers, who expressed the constant anxiety of having an innocent family member on death row. She and her relatives constantly fight for her brother, Luis Castro Perez.

Perez-Meyers said, “He has been on death row for 23 years fighting to prove his innocence. It takes a toll on all of us, knowing our loved one is innocent, knowing the state could kill him. But we continue to fight.”

Lilly Hughes, who is with Austin Abolitionists and a longtime supporter of Reed’s, chaired the press conference and rally. Every major news outlet in Austin, including the Houston Chronicle, turned out to cover the event.

When the truth is exposed about what happens in the jails, courtrooms and the prisons, it is clear that the real criminals are the cops, district attorneys, judges and prison officials who allow the racism and white supremacy to reign free in the absolutely illegal and unconstitutional actions—to continue day after day. They are the real criminals under capitalism.

Gloria Rubac is an organizer of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.
Librotraficante Movement plans to liberate books again

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

“They banned books. We made history!” This was the cry of the founder of the Librotraficante Movement—writer, activist and professor Tony Díaz on March 12.

The Librotraficantes and supporters filled Casa Ramirez folk art shop to overflow capacity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of a 2012 caravan that took books banned from the Mexican American Studies (MAS) programs in the Tucson Unified School District back into Arizona.

The original organizers of Librotraficante—along with Díaz—were Lila Lopez, Bryan Parras and Lupe Mender. Starting in 1998, they moderated a radio show on Houston’s Pacifica KPFT radio station called “Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say.” When the group learned in early 2012 about the attack on MAS and the book banning in Arizona public schools, they went into action.

They decided to form a group of “book smugglers,” Librotraficantes, and smuggle what they called “wet books” across the border into Arizona—those resistant twist on a racist term for Mexican migrants. A big bag was rented, money and books were collected, and the caravan began.

Along the way, thousands of additional books were donated from around the country, allowing communities to open four “underground” libraries that seemed to unleash a renewed interest in La Raza literary legacy. The caravan brought book readings and rallies and press conferences in every city where it stopped.

Caravanistas spoke to students of all ages, from young children to high school and college students. As activists, informed their rank and file union, Unione Sindacale di Base (USB), the General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) and against the ANPI, against the expansion of NATO to the east.

The Italian government is on the front line in the proxy war fought on Ukrainian territory by the Russian army against the troops of the Zelensky government, which had been armed, trained and financed for almost a decade by the U.S. and NATO.

A UN role has reached the point where the country is being increasingly excluded from the initiatives of the French-German axis that leads the European Union. These initiatives have aimed at trying to stem the crisis, recently materialized in a high-level discussion among French President Emmanuel Macron (current president of the EU Council), German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Media propaganda has pounded away, pushing an increasingly active Italian commitment in support of the Ukrainian army and, in the case of war propaganda. While they oppose the “special military operation” ordered by Putin, they also oppose sending weapons to the Ukrainian army and, in the case of ANPI, against the expansion of NATO to the east.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

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


Free PDF download available at workers.org/books

During the 2012 Librotraficante caravan, Tony Díaz speaks in front of The Alamo in San Antonio.

The ANPI is “guilty,” along with many other popular organizations, of refusing to conform to the single voice of war propaganda. While they oppose the “special military operation” ordered by Putin, they also oppose sending weapons to the Ukrainian army and, in the case of ANPI, against the expansion of NATO to the east.

Italian airport workers refuse to load arms for Ukraine

By Alessio Arena

Fronte Popolare, Italy

Workers at the Galileo Galilei Airport in Pisa—a civilian airport—reported March 12 that they had been involved in the loading of a cargo plane with what was alleged to be humanitarian aid destined for Ukraine.

The aid turned out to be arms and ammunition destined for the troops of the Zelensky regime.

Having learned the real content of the shipment, the workers decided to resign and to refuse to load arms for Ukraine and, in the case of war propaganda. While they oppose the “special military operation” ordered by Putin, they also oppose sending weapons to the Ukrainian army and, in the case of ANPI, against the expansion of NATO to the east.

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No sanctions, no nukes, no war!

Continued from page 1

This March 27 statement issued by the Sanctions Kill Campaign links to a petition at www.sanctionskill.org. The Sanctions Kill Campaign is a broad coalition of social justice, solidarity and peace forces, focused on exposing the devastating impact of U.S. sanctions on civilian populations globally.

Sanctions are not a substitute for war

The current regime of sanctions against Russia is not a war but a form of warfare. Sanctions kill thousands, just as bombs do. Sanctions create hyperinflation, artificial famines and spread the constant war that punishes civilian populations. As U.S. President [Joe] Biden said, the sanctions are intended “to inflict further pain.” Sanctions are collective punishment and illegal under international law.

Nor are the sanctions by the U.S. and its allies against Russia a deterrent to war. They will not reduce hostilities but are an escalation of the current conflict.

Sanctions consolidate U.S. dominance in Europe

Sanctions are being used to consoli- date U.S. dominance in the region, even though it is counter to the material inter- ests of the European Union and Britain to cut economic ties with Moscow. The growth in EU trade with Russia and China threatens the diminution of U.S. corporate power in Europe. The EU is the biggest investor in Russia. While the U.S. is the largest exporter of methane gas, the EU purchases substantial gas from Russia at much lower prices, also oil and wheat.

With the EU and especially Germany unwilling to impose sanctions, which would break all relations with Russia, Biden threatened the U.S. allies that the only alternative to sanctions . . . would be nuclear war. The U.S. president said: “You have two options. Start a Third World War. ... Or two, make sure that the country that acts contrary to international law ends up paying a price.” Biden said the U.S. would break all relations with Russia and keep NATO and the EU “on the same page.”

Using the dominant role of the dollar in the world economy, Washington has uni- laterally imposed over 5,000 sanctions on Russia, making it the most sanctioned target of U.S. aggressive policies.

U.S. sanctions drag the whole world into the conflict

Unfortunately, Russia is not the only victim of these bilateral coercive measures. Over 40 countries, comprising a third of humanity, are so targeted by U.S. sanctions. Over 40 countries, comprising a third of humanity, are so targeted by U.S.

Sanctions are a crime against humanity

Such sanctions would damage these countries’ own trade relations. Supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures from the U.S.-led sanctions are already disproportionately impacting poor and working people globally due to shortages and higher prices for food, fuel and basic commodities. Sanctions are a crime against humanity.

Sanctions Kill Campaign: End the Ukraine war

This devastating war started with the U.S.-orchestrated coup in 2014, overthrowing the democratically elected gov- ernment in Ukraine. Although Ukraine is not a formal NATO member, the U.S. has since dumped mountains of lethal arms and deployed U.S. military “advisers” into Ukraine.

Ukraine is a pawn in Washington’s strategy against Russia. Since the coup, Ukraine has been reduced to the poorest country in Europe with the highest rate of migration. Kiev’s continuing aggression against its eastern provinces and mass privatizations of socially owned property have furthered the economic ruin.

The Sanctions Kill Campaign calls on all sides to end hostilities and for the U.S. to employ diplomacy — not weapons, sanctions and war!

More at www.sanctionskill.org

Sign the petition: solidaritycenter.europowerbase.net/
civicrm/petition/sign?id=28&reset=1

Road Development projects. Port cities in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Hungary are being rebuilt. New energy projects are underway. Europe’s trade with China now exceeds its trade with the United States.

In the struggle to maintain its domi- nant position, U.S. imperialism has only one tool against these rapidly developing and sharply competing economic rela- tions: war. Both military war and the eco- nomic war of sanctions.

Coming, part 2: Sanctions are war.

CIVICERN - END THE UKRAINE WAR
Another form of imperialist genocide

By G. Dunkel

Look at the March 20 figures from Worldometer for the United States and China, including Hong Kong. The U.S. has officially recorded 997,845 COVID-19 deaths. (The real figure is certainly higher since deaths due to COVID-19 are often unreported.) Since the official death rate in the U.S. is around 1,400 per day, the official total for the U.S. will be over a million deaths before the end of March. Every state has abolished their mask mandate, if they even had one, and legal restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 are being rescinded quickly. The only rule that Americans must follow is that people must learn to live with the disease, like they live with the flu, and accept the deaths as part of leading a normal life and keeping prosperity flowing.

China is reporting a COVID-19 surge in the past few weeks, with two fatalities March 19, the first COVID-19 deaths in China in over a year. China has reported only 4,638 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic two years ago. Its population of 1.4 billion is only four times the population of the U.S.

The “zero tolerance” COVID-19 policy has led China to lock down major cities like Wuhan, the pandemic epicenter, Hong Kong, and in Ji Lin Province in the northeast. China was able to hold a successful Summer Olympics under this policy without any large-scale outbreaks. Hong Kong, which is formally part of China but has its own health care system and separate economy, has recorded 5,620 deaths. Almost all of these are due to the fifth wave of COVID-19, which has battered Hong Kong for the past two months.

Hong Kong, according to an analysis by the Hong Kong Free Press, has had a peak COVID-19 infection rate of 900 per 100,000, a global record, and at one point the highest death rate in the world. Hong Kong relied on travel restrictions that involved compulsory quarantine in designated places and multiple testing. But health care system — limited and profit-driven — collapsed as COVID-19 spread rapidly among the elderly, whose vaccination rate was low, and as restrictions and testing requirements were relaxed. Hong Kong has very dense, cramped, expensive housing, and in Jilin Province in the northeast, China has reported a significant increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks.

The CROWN bill, while progressive in addressing the ongoing bias against the culture of mainly African Americans, at the same time speaks to the institutional- ized white-supremacist attitudes that permeate every aspect of U.S. society and that are not just isolated instances.

The great Philadelphia 76ers basketball player, Allen Iverson, was once ostracized by the National Basketball Association white hierarchy for wearing cornrows. Iverson’s immense popularity, due to his fearless style of play, admired mainly by Black and white youth, made him an important icon for the Hip-Hop generation and others.

In December 2019, 16-year-old African American wrestler, Andrew Johnson, was given an ultimatum by a white male referee during a competition — either have his dreadlocks cut off or forfeit his wrestling match. Wanting to compete so badly, Johnson made the painful decision to have a white female trainer cut his dreadlocks. This occurred in Buena Vista, New Jersey, only two years ago! The same referee who made the ruling on Johnson’s hair claimed it violated the National Federation of State High School Associations’ rule that all hair should be covered while competing. This same white referee was accused of using a racial slur against a Black referee in 2016. There was no doubt that Johnson was humiliated and traumatized by this incident.

Prisoners won lawsuit to keep hairstyle

Back in 2020, WW covered a case of two African American prisoners, Eric McGill and Leontay Pratt, who were relegated to solitary confinement for months for wearing dreadlocks due to their Rastafarian faith. The men were first imprisoned at Lebanon County Correctional Facility in Pennsylvania for not being able to make bail. As a result of a number of lawsuits targeting this facility, the county jail was forced to pass a narrow religious exemption to this racist policy.

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, which represented these prisoners, released a statement saying, “While this new policy protects the rights of incarcerated people to wear dreadlocks for religious reasons, it does not address the larger issue that Lebanon County still bans dreadlocks when people have them for reasons other than religion. Contrary to Lebanon County’s assertions, dreadlocks do not present inherent security or cleanliness concerns. Indeed, dozens of jail and prison systems across the United States permit incarcerated people to have dreadlocks.”

The WW article, written by co-director of the Prisoners’ Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party Ted Kelly, goes on to say, “The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 1994 stated plainly that ‘any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities,’ constitutes a violation of the genocide convention.”

There are many forms of war carried out at home and abroad by U.S. imperialism. For example, there is the current instigated U.S.-NATO threat of war against Russia which could lead to a wider war. There is the ongoing war against Black and Brown people in the form of police terror inside the U.S. And this war includes the attempted cultural genocide that the CROWN bill addresses.

The fact that such a bill had to be passed in the House of Representatives is an indictment of a racist system that relies on demonizing African and other Indigenous cultures of oppressed people to maintain its class rule.

With nearly 1 million deaths

U.S. disparages China’s COVID-19 policy

By G. Dunkel

China’s lockdowns is becoming unsup- portable: It’s affecting Apple’s production of iPhones and creating kinks in the world’s supply chain.

Why the differences between China and the U.S.

China is a socialist country that tries to protect the lives and prevent the suffer- ing of its people. It developed a strategy of “test, track, isolate,” before vaccines, before antivirals, before monoclonal anti- bodies — a strategy that involved locking down millions of people and whole cit- ies for weeks at a time. It was a coherent approach for the whole country. Mistakes were made and sometimes corrected in time. China’s leadership realizes that the virus and circumstances can and do change rapidly.

In the U.S., a capitalist country, the approach to controlling the pandemic was remarkably incoherent. It exposed a lack of racial and economic justice and was stained by all sorts of quackery over sup- posed remedies — hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin were the two most promoted “cures.” Many decisions were made to pre- serve businesses and their profits.

If the United States had the same death rate as China — in other words, if it had the same social system and approach to COVID-19 as China — fewer than 2,000 people would have died in the U.S. in the course of the pandemic.

Capitalism on a Ventilator

The impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S.

An anthology contrasting the effective Chinese response to COVID-19 with the disastrous response here in the U.S. It pushes back against the racist anti-China campaign in the media.

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E-book from Kobo: tinyurl.com/CapVent-ebook
Por Sara Flounders

Mundo Obreo

Si le preocupa Ucrania, ¿Desmantelen la OTAN!

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Si le preocupa Ucrania, ¿Desmantelen la OTAN!

By Danny O’Brien

As the United States military apparatus once again flexes its muscles and bares its teeth to the world, we see in its wake an international mobilization of imperialism and a hopping onto the handshake of war merchants. On March 9, right-wing candidate and former prosecutor Yoon Suk-yeol of the People’s Power Party won the presidency of the Republic of Korea (South Korea or ROK) in a narrow margin of 48.6% to 47.8% against Lee Jae-myung, the Democratic Party candidate.

Yoon’s victory, despite its name, is not to be confused with a party concerned with the power of the people.

**Attack on working people**

Yoon’s campaign raises several alarms for working and oppressed people. Firstly, he ran on a campaign of cutting the minimum wage and allowing for a longer workweek. Currently, the minimum wage in the country is the equivalent of $7.20 an hour. Under the previous presidency of Moon Jae-in, South Korea’s workweek was reduced from a grueling 68 hours to a still-grueling 52 (40 hours plus 12 hours overtime).

Yoon has criticized even this limit for “inflexibility,” saying people in certain sectors, like the gaming industry, should “be able” to work 120 hours a week. Apparently, he believes what a country of overworked people needs is simply more work.

**Attack on gender equality and women**

Yoon wishes to abolish the 21-year-old Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, stating with audacity that it is “inefficient” and that there is “already gender equality.” The Ministry is charged with protecting women against domestic violence, improvement of rights on a gender-equal basis, prevention of the sex trade and planning positive gender policies.

Yoon ran on a campaign of anti-feminism, pandering to a large and growing voter bloc within the country of “men in their twenties.” “Idaeanam” (“men in their twenties”). “Idaeanam” cite feminism and affirmative action as “reverse discrimination,” are in opposition to LGBTQ+ rights and (surprise) are concentrated mainly in the upper class.

**Attacks on immigrants**

Yoon campaigned to start the screening of foreigners, specifically Chinese immigrants, to deny them use of the country’s national health insurance. Yoon believes Chinese immigrants are “taking advantage” of the services and “putting their spouses on meal tables prepared by Koreans.”

This rhetoric will no doubt raise Sinophobic bigotry and Korean nationalism within the country and could potentially have the same deadly results as the hateful anti-immigration rhetoric in the U.S. There could easily be a rise in hate crimes against Chinese people in Korea, as well as against women and gender-oppressed people.

**Dangerous military policies**

While these domestic policies will suffice the working class and deprive them of liberties, Yoon’s foreign policy exists on a potentially more dangerous ground.

The U.S. already maintains a nuclear presence in South Korea by use of bombarding systems, and submarines. The denuclearization of the country in 1991 reversed the three-decade-long amassment of 950 warheads. Now, in a time of renewed nuclear fearmongering, Yoon Suk-yeol has requested the U.S. redeploy its tactical nuclear weapons to his country. These include intercontinental ballistic missiles.

So far the U.S. has denied the request; but with its recent saber-rattling onslaught and attempted recapture of the self-centered around the vilification of Russia, further requests could be approved.

**U.S. military occupation**

As it stands, the U.S. has multiple air defense battalions scattered around the Korean peninsula. In 2015 during my time in the U.S. Army, I was attached to a PATRIOT Launching Station battery in Osan Airbase, south of Seoul. I saw the disdain of the Korean people toward the military occupation of their country and watched as they further protested this occupation after the U.S. sent live samples of anthrax to the country through the airbase.

Typically, our military unit would convoy across the land and set up missile systems at various bases, including a weekly display of force directed on the border with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Soldiers would test weapons, throw grenades and don their “full battle-rattle.”

The endless military adventurism, dog-and-pony shows and shouting of U.S. missile systems was then and is an ongoing force against the self-determination of the Korean people.

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Una mujer llamada Generala Moisés

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

Nos deja hace casi un siglo pero su nombre sigue vivo, recorrido por millones de personas; su memoria es sagrada entre los amantes de la libertad.

Sus papás le pusieron el nombre de Araminta. Era hija de esclavos negros de la región Tidewater en el estado de Maryland, tal vez en 1820 (o 1821 — nadie sabe a ciencia cierta). Cuando era bebé, los esclavos convirtieron su nombre e inteligente al apodo, “Minty”. Se recuperó en la historia por su nombre de casada: Harriet Tubman, líder para la libertad.

De niña, dio sus primeros pasos por el camino a la libertad. Ni 10 años tenía cuando se escapó de unos esclavistas crueles que usaban la violencia desnuda contra bebés, niñas y niños para forzarlos a hacer su voluntad.

A la tierna edad de 5 años, Harriet fue forzada a cuidar a un niño blanco, hacer labores del aseo doméstico, y trabajar durante el día y noche para los demás. Tenía 7 años cuando la sorprendieron comiendo arroz. No tenía un privilegio reservado exclusivamente para los blancos. Bajo la amenaza del latigo, la niña se fugó. Corriendo rápidamente para los blancos. Bajo la amenaza del azúcar, un privilegio reservado exclusivamente para los demás. Tenía 7 años en esa fecha.

Los partidarios de Mumia Abu-Jamal se reúnen en la estatua de Harriet Tubman frente al Ayuntamiento de Filadelfia, el 2 de marzo.

Harriet sabía que un esclavo capturado sin experiencia de ella. No estaba feliz ni abandonada–ignorante de la libertad, soñando con el amanecer de la suerte. Así tan sencillo.

Más adelante diría de su educación y de la misma esclavitud: “Cree como hierba abandonada – ignorante de la libertad, sin experiencia de ella. No estaba feliz ni contenta. Cada vez que veía a un hombre blanco me daba miedo de que me llevara. Se llevaron a dos de mis hermanos a una cadena de presidiarios. Una de ellas dejó dos hijos. Siempre vivimos en el desasosiego. Creo que la esclavitud es lo más cercano al infierno. ”

Como resultado de sus redadas en los estados carceleros del Sur, Harriet condujo cientos de negros a la libertad, incluso a sus propios papás, ya viejos, Harriet y Benjamin Ross. Se cree que sus antepasados vivieron en el pueblo Ashanti, una tribu de la costa occidental de África (La región central de la antigua sociedad Ashanti, es el país moderno de Ghana.).

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal: “Nunca jamás había visto algo así. No reímos y reímos y reímos. Por un lado podrías ver una mujer cargando una cubeta colocada en la cabeza llenas del azúcar humeante como si acabara de quitarla de la fogata. Ni un niño se colgó detrás de ella... Una mujer llevó dos cerdos; subimos a todos. Al cerdo blanco le pusimos Beaugregard (un general sureño) y al negro, Jeff Davis (el presidente de la Confederación de estados sureños). A veces llevaron las mujeres con gemelos colgados de sus cueros. En mi vida no he visto tantos gemelos. Bolsas colgadas de los hombros, niños traían, todas ellas cargadas.”

Harriet Tubman nació en el año 1820, en su noventa años de vida. El abolicionista armado John Brown habló de ella con tremenda admiración como “La Generala”. Harriet Tubman. Luchadora por la libertad. Es un nombre sagrado, que queda alto en el altar de la libertad.

Fuentes:


Traducción: kato