

Response to Buffalo massacre

Smash white supremacy!

By Nigel Bouvart
Buffalo, New York

On the evening of May 14, a fascist carrying a rifle entered a supermarket in the predominantly Black neighborhood of Masten Park on Buffalo's East Side and opened fire. While most official statements have more or less vaguely alluded to "racial motivations," the shooter's intentions were quite explicitly outlined in a manifesto, in which he wrote of his adherence to white-supremacist "great replacement" ideology.

The "great replacement" is an idea in fascist ideology that white people are

being systematically outreproduced by minority groups. It is an idea that finds expression in far-right politics everywhere, from the chant of "Jews will not replace us" shouted by neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017 to Tucker Carlson's nightly show on Fox News. It is an idea of fascist ideology, turned into action in the genocide of the peoples supposedly doing the "replacing" — including all people of color — and they were the target of this attack.

The shooter chose the location deliberately: the only supermarket in a neighborhood which is overwhelmingly Black. The technology he set up to livestream

his attack reveals his racism. When the shooter points his gun at a passerby and notices that they are white, he says "Sorry" and continues on his way. All but two of the 13 killed and injured were Black.

Governor Kathy Hochul, while correctly describing this terrible act as one of "white-supremacy terrorism," missed the mark in attempting to lay the blame on "social media." The shooter socialized with his fellow white supremacists on Discord and livestreamed his attack on Twitch. But these media are not what caused the ideology; they are merely a means of communication of ideas.

The prime cause of this attack is white-supremacist ideology and the tradition of horrific violence, which it instigates and which it upholds. It is inseparably bound up with the very fabric of the white-supremacist, capitalist United States. The violence will be removed only by the destruction of that fabric.

Conditions in Buffalo

Beyond the loss of loved ones by families and neighbors and the trauma inflicted on those forced to bear witness to this atrocity, the attack has wider ramifications for the community on which it

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Israeli military murders journalist

By Richie Merino

On the morning of May 11, Israeli occupation forces murdered Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was on the job in the occupied West Bank. She was reporting on Israel's violent raid in the Jenin refugee camp, when she was shot in the face by an Israeli sniper. She was wearing a clearly marked "PRESS" vest and helmet.

A colleague of Abu Akleh, producer Ali Al-Samudi, was shot in the back at the same time. "We [journalists] were targeted while we were standing in an empty area. There were no clashes, no gunfire and not even any stone throwers," he said afterwards. (Middle East Monitor, May 11)

Palestinian human rights organizations, including B'Tselem, and Abu Akleh's employer Al Jazeera have condemned her assassination. They accuse Israeli occupation forces of deliberately killing Shireen as part of its attempt to prevent the exposure of its war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Abu Akleh's murder is not an isolated incident. In November 2015, Israel launched a "war" against journalists, Palestinian or not, for recording and exposing the Israeli regime's violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Last year Israel bombed the offices of Al Jazeera and the Associated Press in Gaza. According to Nasser Abu Baker of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, Abu Akleh was the

55th Palestinian journalist to have been targeted and killed by Israeli occupation forces since 2000.

Hours after Abu Akleh's execution, Israeli occupation forces aggressively

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Palestinian women mourners at funeral for Shireen Abu Akleh, May 13.



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Million Worker March recalled

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Starbucks Memphis Seven



By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

May 15 — Workers World reported on an April 16 solidarity demonstration that took place across the street from the exercise yard at Folkston ICE Detention Center, operated in Georgia by the for-profit GEO group. (workers.org, April 22)

By chance, a number of detainees were outside, just as the 50 or so immigrant rights activists marched up with their banners and signs calling for the closure of Folkston. Several detainees went to the fence of the exercise yard with fists up in welcome. For 90 minutes, they chanted and exchanged information with their supporters.

Detention officials have singled out three of the detainees for punishment for having engaged with the demonstrators. Their names are Allen Roberts, who suffers from asthma, Garsumo Dorley, who has PTSD, and a third Black man who remains anonymous. Each was given 32 days in solitary confinement. Garsumo, who asked to speak with his psychiatrist when the “extraction team” came to physically and brutally remove him from his cell, was given an additional 22 days for a total of 54 days.

The men spend 23 out of 24 hours alone in a windowless, concrete cell with nothing to read or look at. A bright fluorescent light is on from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day. A heavy metal door reenforces the oppressive solitude. For only one hour are they individually taken to a metal



PHOTO: COALITION TO SHUT ICE DOWN

Folkston ICE Detention Center, April 16.

cage in the exercise yard and left, usually in the hot south Georgia sun, until it is time to go back to their cells.

Garsumo, in particular, has been threatened by the guards and is so fearful that he is afraid to eat the food, worried about what they might have done to it.

The Coalition to Shut ICE Down in Georgia has launched a letter-writing campaign to gain these prisoners immediate release from solitary confinement, a form of torture.

Additional information can be found at bit.ly/StopFolkstonAbuse.

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

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

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

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

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

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

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

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

Austin
austin@workers.org

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

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

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

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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

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

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

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

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

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

Mundo Obrero: Carlos Vargas

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Workers take first bite out of the Apple in Georgia

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

According to union organizers at the Cumberland Mall Apple store, the National Labor Relations Board has set June 1-3 for their election vote. The sales, technical, creative and operations specialist workers made their location the first Apple retail store in the U.S. to file to unionize.

More than 70% of the 109 workers in all departments at that location signed cards as of the April date of their filing with the NLRB. More have signed since then.

Like at Starbucks, customer support for the union drive has been plentiful



and appreciated. Anyone entering the store is able to see the bright red wristbands most workers wore, signifying their intention to vote union. News of other Apple stores unionizing includes stores in Towson, Maryland, and the Grand Central location in New York City.

Apple is a \$3 trillion company, and its head, Tim Cook, gets a \$98 million salary. It is reported that Apple has now hired Littler Mendelson, the same union-busting firm that Amazon uses to intimidate and threaten workers against unionizing.

No matter! Atlanta Apple workers are confident they will win. □

New York

Community rallies for school bus struggles

By Sara Catalinotto

The rally “Express Yourself about School Bus Struggles!” took place at Union Square in New York City the afternoon of May 15. School bus drivers, unions, educators, parents, caregivers and attendants, children and community members gathered to express support for a School Bus Bill of Rights that would guarantee riders’ civil rights, workers’ job rights and everyone’s safety. Children and youth told their own stories



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST) rally, Union Square, New York City, May 15.

in artwork, music and dance and through spoken words. The rally was sponsored by Parents to Improve School Transportation (PIST) and Comité Timón. □

Nurses’ union marches in Oregon

By Danny O’Brien
Oregon City, Oregon

Nurses from the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) working at Providence Oregon hospitals marched May 11 from Providence Willamette Falls Community Center to the Clackamas Courthouse, where they held a picket and gave speeches. The Providence network in Oregon operates hospitals, health plans, physicians, clinics, home health services and affiliated health services.

ONA members were building community consciousness and warning Providence Oregon of an imminent statewide strike, should the corporation not meet their demands for better working conditions. Key demands

included that Providence meet safe staffing standards, end uneven distribution of nurses’ patient loads, increase wages to at least match inflation and provide better health care for the nurses.

Workers at Providence St. Vincent, west of Portland, reportedly have been out front in leading the state struggle, bringing continuous inspiration to Providence-employed nurses throughout Oregon.

Nurses have been given local support and solidarity from Jobs with Justice, the Teamsters Union, Democratic Socialists of America and a sibling union at Kaiser hospitals, the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals. □



WW PHOTO: DANNY O'BRIEN

Oregon nurses rally, warn of statewide strike, May 11.

Portland

Starbucks workers rewriting history

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Oregon

May 14—A fiery passionate crowd of 70 Starbucks workers and supporters protested at Portland’s Jantzen Beach Starbucks store, because the manager there fired Matt, a shift supervisor, for trying to unionize.

Ian, a Starbucks worker from Eugene traveled two hours to the protest. Seven out of eight Eugene Starbucks stores were recently successful in voting in a union. Ian said there is an 80% national turnover rate of Starbucks employees and that 80% of Starbucks workers have only worked there for one year.

Alex Riccio, a national Starbucks Workers United organizer, traveled here from Philadelphia to support Oregon Starbucks stores trying to unionize. Riccio, a longtime union organizer, said he was motivated to come because there are more Starbucks stores unionizing on the West Coast than anywhere else in the country.

Riccio said that in all his years of organizing, he’s never seen such momentum coming from workers: “This monumental worker-led movement is actively rewriting history.” He noted: “Today there are



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Arthur (center, with placard), who works at a downtown Portland Starbucks, said, ‘Workers get \$14 an hour, but it’s not consistent work. Starbucks is not giving us enough hours to make a living wage.’

250 Starbucks stores across the country that have filed for unionization. ... you don’t need a piece of paper from the government to say we are a union. Workers that are organizing are already a union.”

Quinten spoke at the protest—he was one of the first Starbucks workers in Portland to get fired for union organizing. He announced that on May 17, four Portland Starbucks stores will be voting to unionize. Quinten said: “I was treated very badly just because I was trying to improve working conditions by organizing a union.”

Protesters talked to customers approaching the store, turning them away during the demonstration. One woman said she was going to start boycotting Starbucks, that what they are doing to employees is terrible and that Starbucks prices are too high anyway.

Riccio said that workers, who are the vast majority of people, make all the wealth in this country. Ian said he made three drinks in only five minutes, which sold for enough money to pay his wages for the hour. He asked: Where are all the rest of the profits going that Starbucks makes off the workers? He answered: “To the bosses and CEOs.” □

Million Worker March leader speaks on historic struggle

By Monica Moorehead
New York City

Clarence Thomas — known as the “real” Clarence Thomas, as opposed to the right-wing SCOTUS justice — a retired member of the militant International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10, was the main speaker at a meeting and book signing for an exciting new book, “Mobilizing in Our OWN Name.” The May 11 meeting at the People’s Forum in New York City was part of an East Coast tour to promote the book, which chronicles the historic organizing that built the Million Worker March in 2004, of which Thomas was a co-founder.

ILWU Local 10, along with other radical Black unionists and political activists, launched an independent, rank-and-file grassroots movement to challenge the Democrats and to support a progressive platform of demands during the 2004 presidential election. Some of those demands included the right to health care, education, jobs with a living wage, an end to racism, etc.

Thomas explained that the AFL-CIO leadership, then led by John Sweeney, tried to pressure the MWM to support the pro-capitalist, pro-war Democratic presidential nominee, John Kerry. The pressure failed.

As Martha Grevatt noted in an April 19 Workers World review, “‘Mobilizing in Our Own Name’ is not a typical anthology, limited to 10 or 20 essays by a range of mainstream authors. Instead Thomas has assembled 300-plus pages of articles, leaflets, letters, statements, poems and photographs. Many of the articles are from the pages of Workers World newspaper.

“Local 10’s sharp divergence from



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Clarence Thomas

‘business unionism’ is a thread running throughout the book. In a 2005 statement released after a group of major unions left the AFL-CIO to form Change to Win, MWM identified ‘central questions of concern to the rank and file,’ including ‘how to transform and make the existing top-down structure [of] business unionism democratic.’” (workers.org/2022/04/63420/)

The important lessons coming out of the MWM, which brought out over 10,000 people for a rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17, 2004, were discussed at the Forum for today’s huge wave of union organizing led by mainly Starbucks’ and Amazon’s young workers.

Speakers at the book signing included regional MWM organizers, such as Sharon Black, Larry Holmes, Johnnie Stevens, Brenda Stokely and Gloria Verdieu, who edited the book. A young Black worker, Shaquille Williams, a mutual aid activist, spoke on how inspired he was to hear about the MWM groundbreaking movement. Miranda Bachman, from Youth Against War & Racism, chaired the meeting.

Go to MillionWorkerMarch.com to order the book.

Southern workers gather to build Workers Assembly movement

This article was originally published May 5 by the Southern Workers Assembly. Go to southernworker.org for more on SWA organizing.

Under the slogan “Build the Workers Assembly Movement! Organize the South!” nearly 80 workers from eight Southern states gathered in Durham, North Carolina, for a Southern Workers Assembly Organizing School over the weekend of April 29 to May 1. Workers came to the School from Atlanta; New Orleans; Charleston, South Carolina; Richmond and Tidewater, Virginia; Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Asheville and Eastern North Carolina; northern Kentucky; and elsewhere.

Over the last year, the network of areas building Workers Assemblies across the South has grown substantially to include nine different cities, the development of several industry-based councils — including Amazon, health care and education workers — and interest in developing assemblies in additional locations as well.

The gathering in Durham was an effort to consolidate this growth, and draw lessons from these experiences to inform the methodology of building Workers Assemblies to organize the unorganized, to develop worker cadre and to collectively chart a course for our work going forward.

Workers who participated in the SWA School came from a wide range of different sectors, including strong participation from Amazon workers, domestic, health care, education, local municipal, manufacturing, meatpacking and service industry workers. A major emphasis of the School was building Black worker leadership.

The School was rooted in an assessment of the current political period of the growing self-organization and activity among various sectors of the working class and the growing danger of right-wing reaction, as well as the role that Workers Assemblies in the U.S. South must play in relation to these and other developments.

In his opening orientation, Ajamu Dillahunt, member of the Southern Workers Assembly Coordinating Committee and a leader of Black Workers for Justice, noted: “We have to take advantage of this moment. As the Black Panther Party said in the 1960s, we have to “Seize the Time” and build a rank and file-led social movement unionism that organizes workplace committees connected to each through Workers Assemblies in multiple Southern cities.”

A Southern Workers political program

A main focus of the meeting was engaging the rank-and-file base of the assemblies in a discussion of a draft political program that could be the basis of broad unity and collective action in the months ahead. This program would help workers see their workplace fights within a broader social movement struggle for power and justice.

In breakout groups, workers discussed their priorities for wages, benefits, housing, education, racism, gender oppression, labor rights, the environment,

immigration, war and voting rights, in order to contribute toward the development of such a program. There was a high level of unity around expanding labor union rights, including ending right-to-work (for less) laws, overturning bans on collective bargaining and making union busting and captive audience meetings illegal.

From there, workers discussed plans to develop a unifying campaign that the various assemblies can implement to engage co-workers and leaflet other large workplaces across the South with these political demands. The hope is to develop a broad consciousness that we, as workers, have common needs and interests distinct from the owning class and to engage wide layers of our class in ongoing and escalating activity to open a public struggle for power.

The first stage of this campaign will lead up to the midterm elections in 2022, which will be an important battleground for the working class to raise its demands with employers and the politicians running for our votes.

Building Workers Assemblies, leaflet brigades and industry councils

There was a great deal of discussion throughout the weekend on the methodology of building Workers Assemblies, beginning first with small group discussions on the “Ten Building Blocks to Building a Workers Assembly.” These discussions offered a venue for workers at varying levels to develop their local assemblies to exchange and offer lessons from their experiences. (Information at southernworker.org/resources/.)

One of the core tasks of the local Workers Assemblies is to identify workers and supporters who can establish a leaflet brigade, with the goal of leafleting at major workplaces in their area to agitate and make contacts with worker-activists.

Leaflet brigades that consistently and regularly engage workers from major workplaces in their geographic areas



During May Day weekend, SWA breakout groups planned an organizing campaign.

The gathering in Durham was an effort to consolidate this growth, and draw lessons from these experiences to inform the methodology of building Workers Assemblies to organize the unorganized, to develop worker cadre and to collectively chart a course for our work going forward.



PHOTO: SWA

Southern Workers Assembly School, April 29-May 1, Durham, North Carolina.

have proven to be a critical component in the developing Workers Assemblies, and some of those experiences were shared during the SWA School.

One particularly valuable lesson in the role of these brigades came from the Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, area. Last year, in the midst of the Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon union election, brigades consistently leafletted the Amazon RDU1 Fulfillment Center, RDU5 Sortation Center and the DRT1 Delivery station. This led to the formation of CAUSE (Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment), an organization of rank-and-file Amazon workers across the area that was recently publicly announced.

“These are exciting times for the labor movement in the Triangle and Charlotte for Amazon employees and CAUSE members,” said Rev. Ryan Brown, an RDU1 worker and leader of CAUSE. “The support that we’ve received from our co-workers and the Southern Workers Assembly has been overwhelmingly encouraging in our leaflet brigades and petition campaign. Amazon employees at CLT2, DRT1, RDU1 and RDU5 are anticipating much needed changes in our low wages and our grueling working conditions at their respective locations through CAUSE efforts.”

In the months since the initial brigade work at these locations, over 600 Amazon workers at these three warehouses have signed up for more information. A handful of work stoppages have also occurred in this time frame, with workers taking action responding to the leaflets, including about 50 third-shift workers who walked off the job in mid-March, followed by the day shift being shut down the following day when management convened an all-worker meeting to hear from workers. Later, workers also refused to go back to work when celebrating the exit of a beloved co-worker.

These and other experiences were shared during a session of the Southern Workers Assembly’s Amazon Council that convened during the School, where Amazon workers from several Southern states shared reports on the organizing in their facilities, their efforts to engage other Amazon workers in their areas through leafleting brigades and other assembly work and took up a discussion of deepening their coordination around raising demands and taking workplace actions. Another point during this discussion was how to connect Amazon workers into networks with workers organizing in different cities across the South.

“In New Orleans, we’re bringing together hospitality workers, film and television workers, Amazon workers and teachers to form a local Workers Assembly,” Meg Maloney, an Amazon worker, shared during the session. “We’re training together, learning about our right to concerted activity and workplace organizing, sharing our experiences and learning from one another in the struggle. We’re stronger when we’re united in our workplaces and communities. Together we will win!”

By the end of the weekend, workers met in groups of local areas to discuss their efforts to build local Worker Assemblies and lay out immediate next steps based on discussions throughout the weekend. Workers identified major employers in their area and mapped out plans to continue supporting workplace committees, connected to a social movement framework to draw in more workers to our movement.

Deepening and expanding work to ‘Organize the South!’

In the weeks ahead, workers who participated in the SWA School and the local Workers Assemblies will continue discussion to finalize the Southern Workers Program and a plan for action for the remainder of 2022.

A particularly exciting outcome from the School was the establishment of new relationships with areas interested in building local Workers Assemblies. There was a strong delegation of educator activists from Richmond, Virginia, who had recently won the first-ever local government union certification election for collective bargaining in their state. Members of the Richmond Education Association and the Virginia Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators (VCORE) shared lessons about building rank-and-file worker engagement in the fight for the school board to recognize their union.

“We not only won back our right to collectively bargain but won our union election with a 99% ‘yes’ vote. And we did all this by revamping our union’s workplace organization, by training a new layer of union worksite leaders and by agitating for a democratic, worker-led union with a class-struggle orientation,” said Patrick Korte, a Richmond teacher and member of Richmond Education Association and VCORE. “We have encouraged our union to adopt a classwide perspective by practicing solidarity with striking Nabisco workers, with Starbucks workers struggling to unionize and with all public sector workers fighting to win collective bargaining rights.”

By every measure, the SWA School was a qualitative step forward in the development of Workers Assemblies as the infrastructure to anchor a rank and file-led, independent workers’ movement that can organize the South. □

WW speaks with fired Starbucks workers

Part 2 Intolerable working conditions

On April 30, WW managing editor Monica Moorehead interviewed 25-year-old Beto Sanchez and 22-year-old LaKota McGlawn, two of the seven fired Starbucks workers based in Memphis, Tennessee. The two young workers were in New York City to speak at the May Day rally and march initiated by the Workers Assembly Against Racism (WAAR). The other fired workers are Nikki Taylor, Nabretta Hardin, Kylie Throckmorton, Emma Worrell and Florentino Escobar. Go to @memphisseven901 on Twitter and memphis_seven901 on Instagram. This is part two of a three part series. Go to workers.org to read the entire interview.

WW: What were some of the issues and the conditions that led to you all being organizers in the first place?

Beto Sanchez: Unfortunately, these issues are not unfamiliar with workers everywhere. Our store is one of the very old stores that was never renovated. If you ever go to McDonald's, you can tell the difference between the classic ones and the renovated ones. We still have an old store which is a former Taco Bell. There's a lot of things that they keep dangling our renovation in front of us like a carrot on a stick. Like if you make more sales, maybe we'll give you a renovation.

It's very undignified of them to be like that with this at this point. We had to fill in so many incident reports and issues with their stores that at the end of the day ended up becoming OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] violations. We've had a lot of exposed wires at our place. The drainage is awful. We didn't have hot water for half the time that we were operating. We don't even have the OSHA labor posters that are supposed to be on every single facility that's like operating as an employer.

And time and time again, these are things that management should be in trouble for. And I feel that that's a lot more reason for someone to be terminated than what we did. And at this point, we shouldn't have to ask for safe working conditions to begin with. This shouldn't be something we have to fight for. The fact that it is just goes to show what Starbucks really cares about, and it's definitely not our safety.

WW: Do you have anything to add, LaKota?

LaKota McGlawn: We also had a lot of scheduling issues. We would be scheduled outside of our availability. For example, I take care of my grandmother, and we had decided that one day of the week would be like the day that I would take her to her doctors' appointments. And so, all of her doctors' appointments are set on that day, and I was scheduled on that day without being asked or anything. And I had to work my grandmother's appointments around that day, because it was a meeting for the shift supervisors.

Safety, as Beto said, has been another big thing. And along with the accountability, because sometimes our district manager wouldn't do the COVID check-in that they're supposed to do; you're supposed to do it at each store. And then when our partner relations told us that he doesn't have to do that. But you know, you can if you're going in between two locations. If you go somewhere else, you could have a chance of catching COVID in that middle location. And if we end up having a break-out, and he didn't sign the COVID check-in, we're not going to know where it came from. We're not going to know who was exposed.

WW: So how do you view what's going on throughout the country, especially with union rank-and-file grassroots organizing led by young people like yourself. How do you view the Memphis Seven's situation within that framework of what's going on around the country?

LM: I definitely see it as tied together because especially with younger people, they've seen how they've been failed by the system before them. And we're tired of it. And we're just at this point looking for a change. And I guess if we have to be that change, then I guess it is, yeah.

Bourgeois co-option

BS: Whenever I say that there's a lot of times in history with things like this where corporations find themselves on the wrong side, using this exploitation; and this is something that's unfortunately pretty prevalent between workers of all ages. A lot of the things that unions fought for, what we have nowadays, like the five-day work-week. It didn't used to be like that, but it was because of the push that unions gave that gave us benefits that

we have today: organizations like OSHA that are meant for accountability, for the safety of workers at this point.

We're seeing this union movement being led by 18 year olds, 17 year olds. I met Katie McCoy in Seattle, who is 17 years old, leading a union force where she's part of the Service Workers Union. It's college kids who are tackling billionaires, tackling corporations, because at this point, we've witnessed a lot of the accountability that corporations like them don't take. How many times do we see every time Pride's coming around, all the corporations love to put out their little rainbow logos to pretend that they care about stuff like that.

And as soon as July hits, all of a sudden it's gone. You know, how many times do we see corporations trying to promote Earth Day, when at the same time they're the ones causing the biggest pollution in the earth? And let alone, you know, Memphis is full of union history. We know Nabretta's grandfather here. She was part of the Memphis Seven. Her grandfather walked along with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. She's part of the sanitation workers strike. Memphis is full of history.

But we all remember that they never called Dr. Martin Luther King peaceful when he was still alive. They always called him radical. They always called him antagonistic. But all of a sudden now we have corporations using quotes of his to promote or market things. It's stuff like that left a bad taste in my mouth when we decided to file for a union. And that's exactly why we filed on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Memphis, because when we had to witness a corporation that loves to promote Black Lives Matter, wearing Black Lives Matter shirts, but simultaneously firing Black workers for unionizing. At the end of the day, it just goes to show what Starbucks really cares about, which is their image.

Every single time you see something about Starbucks, they do their best to catch on to whatever is going on in the world and find a way to profit off of it. And at that point, it's something that is sad, distasteful; it's honestly pathetic if I think about it, because those are people that don't go through those issues. These billionaires never had a need for unions. And they always say that they don't want unions, because Howard Schultz himself is not working in unsafe working conditions. He's not suffering from wage theft. He's not worrying about what he needs to put on the table.

We are unfortunately at 17, 18, 19, we're already having those issues that we're having to worry about. How much can I spend on tuition for college while also being able to eat this week? And I believe that it's also COVID showing its true colors with corporations. And



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Left to right: Beto Sanchez and LaKota McGlawn speak at May Day rally in New York City, May 1.

We all remember that they never called Dr. Martin Luther King peaceful when he was still alive. They always called him radical. They always called him antagonistic. But all of a sudden now we have corporations using quotes of his to promote or market things. It's stuff like that left a bad taste in my mouth when we decided to file for a union. And that's exactly why we filed on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Memphis.

sometimes it takes something like a pandemic to give that push and show what corporations really care about, whether it's the workers or their profit. And Starbucks chose their profits.

WW: What's currently happening with your situation?

LM: We have had the National Labor Relations Board officially file against Starbucks to give us our jobs back because [their termination] was officially deemed illegal. Right now, we've had a lot of people have to get other part-time jobs, just so that they are able to still keep food on the table because we did lose our jobs. The mentality of those of us who are fired hasn't even dipped. Despite all that, we're still just as strong as ever.

Honestly, if we are not stronger, like each and every day we have these pushes where we're just — it just makes us angry. And I feel like if you check out like Nikki's social media, she's one of our biggest fighters through this and has really shown how as much as Howard Schultz wants to break us into pieces, we're stronger together because we really are a family. We get on each other's nerves like a family. But at the end of the day, we hug out our situation, and it's all good. I want it to be better. □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Beto Sanchez points up at Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz's NYC residence on May Day.

Tens of thousands tell SCOTUS ‘We will fight back!’

By Kathy Durkin

“We won’t go back!” was chanted by tens of thousands of protesters May 14 in 380 actions across the U.S. Participants in the “Bans Off Our Bodies” demonstrations denounced the attacks on the right to abortion, now facing an overturn by the right-wing majority on the U.S. Supreme Court. The court legalized this right in its 1973 decision in the Roe v. Wade case.

For almost 50 years, reactionaries have tried to overturn this historic ruling, won by a militant action-oriented mass movement, despite a then-majority of Republican-appointed justices. Conservative legislators have since implemented many obstacles to abortion seekers, despite the fact that the majority of U.S. residents support the Roe decision.

However, the goal has always been to get a majority of SCOTUS justices to overturn the court’s precedent ruling, and to outlaw abortions altogether. Former President Donald Trump obliged the right wingers and their big donors by nominating three members of the anti-abortion Federalist Society to sit on the top court.

Seizing the moment, reactionary state legislators proposed outrageous abortion bans, even punishing anyone who helps pregnant people get abortions. On Sept. 1, 2021, a six-week abortion ban with a bounty hunter scheme was implemented in Texas. Other state legislatures have enacted copycat laws, with no exceptions for rape or incest victims, including children!

Meanwhile, Mississippi officials took the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization to SCOTUS. On Dec. 1, 2021, the state’s lawyers argued for overturning the Roe decision, while thousands of people protested loudly outside.

A majority right-wing court will soon decide the legality of abortions. If this cabal rules for Dobbs, they will usurp the

rights of millions of women and other people who can become pregnant. They will lose rights to bodily autonomy, decision-making about medical care and whether or when to have children. But no matter what the laws prohibit, abortions won’t stop.

In early May, an opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito and signed by four other conservative justices was leaked. If this becomes the final decision, it ends the federal right to abortion and revives “states’ rights” to regulate or ban the procedure. If the SCOTUS majority agrees with Alito, half of the states will then ban abortions. Other legal rights could be endangered.

This “leaked opinion” set off emergency protests countrywide. Initiators of the May 14 protests fast-tracked the date for a national day of demonstrations. These groups include Women’s March, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, UltraViolet, MoveOn, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Abortion Rights Action League.

using medication, although reactionary politicians are trying to limit or outlaw those pills. Opponents are scheming how to stop abortion seekers from traveling to abortion-permitting states. Some proposed bans criminalize abortion patients, not only providers. Proposal of a national abortion ban is being floated in right-wing political circles.

Voting won’t stop the right wing in its zealous quest. What is needed to halt this assault on a fundamental human and medical right is a militant united struggle — with local and national actions — marches, rallies, picket lines, boycotts, job and school walkouts — and all types of creative actions together with allies.

This is an emergency! It was created by the far right in the capitalist class. In social-



New York City

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



Syracuse, New York



Seneca Falls, New York

WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

Then on May 11, the Senate voted 51-49 against the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would have codified legal abortions. Fury at reactionary senators and SCOTUS justices grew and so did mobilizing for action.

A war on people of color, low-income people

Sixteen states and Washington, D.C., have passed legislation protecting abortion rights if Roe is overturned. Some states are even allocating funds to help people travel to their states for abortions.

People who have resources can afford to go to states or countries where the procedure is legal. But people with low incomes — disproportionately Black, Latinx, Indigenous, migrants, disabled and other marginalized people — will be left with few, if any options, some dangerous. Already, Texas residents are appearing at border states hospitals with infections stemming from self-abortions.

Over half of abortions now occur by

ist and socialist-oriented countries, reproductive rights and health care are a priority.

There were major demonstrations in Austin, Texas; Chicago; Los Angeles; New York City; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. Here are highlights of some mobilizations on May 14. Crowds were multinational, multigender and multigenerational.

In **New York City**, thousands of people marched from Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn across the Brooklyn Bridge to Foley Square in Manhattan to protest the Supreme Court’s plan to overturn Roe v. Wade. Fogo Azul, the city’s women/trans/nonbinary drumline, drummed throughout the march, with its powerful cadence keeping people’s spirits high. The crowd was multinational, majority young and had participants from the LGBTQ+ community.

Workers World Party had a literature table at Foley Square and distributed copies of Workers World, a pro-worker, pro-socialist newspaper, to spark discussions. A

Center. Organized by Women’s March Syracuse and other groups, speakers included representatives from the New York Immigration Coalition, the state Queer Youth Assembly and members of the local Black community.

Passing cars honked to support the pro-abortion-access signs — a dramatic contrast to anti-abortion protesters nearby, who were repeatedly cursed and yelled at by passing drivers. The PP clinic here was the first freestanding abortion clinic nationwide in 1970, one day after the procedure became legal in New York State.

In **Seneca Falls**, New York, historic site of the first Women’s Rights Convention in 1848, over 100 people demonstrated May 13. Loud, militant chants included “My body, my choice!”

There was a big rally and march in **Buffalo**, New York, organized by local activists. The overwhelmingly young crowd roared over and over again, “We won’t back down; we won’t go back!” At a

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Jackson, Mississippi, May 6



Chicago



Los Angeles County, California



Buffalo, New York

PHOTO: EVE SHIPPENS

Tens of thousands tell SCOTUS: ‘We will fight back!’

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rousing rally downtown, a WWP member was among the speakers. Marchers ended on the federal courthouse steps to hammer home their nonnegotiable demand: “No abortion bans!”

Following a short rally at **Philadelphia’s** City Hall, a multinational, multigenerational group of 1,500 enthusiastic people marched around the building and down Market Street behind the banner, “Women’s rights are human rights.” Rally chairperson Sam Rise stated: “Access to abortion on demand, without apology, is liberation.”

Marty Harrison, a Temple University Hospital nurse, declared, “As long as profit drives the health care industry, Roe is not enough. We need free health care on demand.” Maya Amor, a Black Latinx and queer student who led a reproductive justice school walkout May 13, said she turned 18 only to find out “that as a



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Reproductive justice, abortion rights impact many other areas of our life including racial justice and health care.” (SisterSong Facebook)

After the rally, thousands of protesters marched to the Supreme Court building, chanting “Abortion is a human right”

north of Dallas, 200 people rallied against the probable overturn of abortion rights by SCOTUS. From youth to great grandparents, the multinational and multigender crowd heard from local speakers, including many people of color who are social justice activists. Alex Colwell, one of two



Monica Simpson, SisterSong, Washington, D.C.



Frisco, Texas

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC



Austin, Texas

woman, I didn’t have the rights to my own organs.” The fighting mood of the crowd was strong. The time calls for more walk-outs and work stoppages to drive home the power the women and gender-oppressed people hold in their hands.

At a **Washington, D.C.**, rally, Monica Simpson, executive director of SisterSong, a women of color reproductive justice collective, told the crowd: “Anti-abortion legislation isn’t pro-life; it is pro-white supremacy. Black women told y’all this was happening, when they built the Reproductive Justice movement—because when they come for our bodily autonomy, they come for our full liberation.

“We need to Trust Black Women. We as Black and Brown women do not have the luxury of fighting for single issues.

and “We will fight back,” while wearing T-shirts with the motto: “Keep abortion safe and legal.”

In the small town of **Frisco, Texas**,

WWP speakers, was well-received as she spoke as a trans woman and a socialist. Many at the event sought her out to tell her how important her words were and how

thankful they were that she spoke.

In **San Francisco** thousands of people gathered at the Civic Center and marched down Market Street demanding “Bans off our bodies.” The day began with a queer and trans-inclusive speak-out at 10 a.m., organized by the National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice-San Francisco. Speakers focused on more political demands than made by the mainstream “Women’s March-SF.”

Kristina Lee of Freedom Socialist Party emceed the speakout and stated: “We want to stop forced sterilization, say no to caged kids, end medical and environmental racism, and we have to defend queer and trans families.” At 11 a.m., a larger protest organized by the Women’s March gathered in the street surrounding the Civic Center and headed down Market Street. Thousands of people from all across the Bay Area, opposed to the attack on reproductive rights, chanted and sang loudly throughout the march.

In Oregon, over 1,000 protesters demonstrated in **Portland** and hundreds joined in actions in **Eugene** and **Ashland**, as part of the national Bans Off Our Bodies movement. Oregon is one of 16 states with laws that protect the right to access abortions. There were also demonstrations in small towns across the state, including **Florence** and **Sherwood**, while a protest of hundreds of people took place in **Vancouver**, Washington.

Contributing to this article were Paddy Colligan, Ellie Dorritie, Jesse Edwards, Marsha Goldberg, Judy Greenspan, Martha Grevatt, Lyn Neeley, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac and Brenda Ryan.



San Francisco

PHOTO: BROOKE ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Portland, Oregon

PHOTO: ADAM WICKHAM

Addictive drug use and reproductive justice

By Princess Harmony

There was a particular phrase current in the U.S. during the 1980s and ’90s: “crack baby.” A crack baby was the worst child a person could give birth to, as they were born hooked on crack cocaine and would be at a greater risk of having mental and physical disabilities and increased criminality as they grew up. They were called “a biological underclass” and “lost kids.”

Terrifying, right? What could be done about such a problem?

Well, nothing. Why? Because there was never such a thing as a “crack baby.” Yes, babies can get exposed to “crack” in the womb, but surprise! This doesn’t impact their lives.

What does impact these children is poverty and the harm it creates. While cocaine is not good for a fetus (or anyone), and it does cause the fetus to be smaller, studies have found these children reach

“normal” size in childhood and adulthood. (New York Times, Jan. 27, 2009)

An over 20-year-long study that tracked the development of so-called crack babies found that crack cocaine did not, in fact, stunt or otherwise harm the children in a permanent way. (NPR, July 31, 2013)

The study found that legal drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, were more harmful to fetuses and children than crack cocaine. Even the founding mythmaker of “crack babies,” Dr. Ira Chasnoff, acknowledged that so-called “crack babies” were not stunted and that their development was, indeed, normal. (National Drug Strategy Network NewsBriefs, September-October 1997)

There have been other studies that have shown statistically insignificant differences in IQ between babies exposed to crack cocaine and those who are not. But since the concept of an intelligence quotient is a product of eugenics and racism, it’s not worth noting that difference,

regardless. (Business Insider, July 23, 2013; Anti-Racism Daily, June 24, 2021)

Doctors and sociologists have claimed that people exposed to cocaine at birth will be irredeemably impacted. But the fact has become clear that it is poverty that creates the issues claimed to be the result of crack cocaine. During their childhood, their homes and neighborhoods were inspected. As they grew older, they were asked about violence they had seen or grown up with. When they had seen or lived near violence, their rates of mental illness rose.

Researchers did scans on both exposed and nonexposed children and found that there was no significant difference in attention span. All the different researchers could not find any major differences between the crack-exposed and the non-exposed. This led them to their conclusions about poverty as the primary cause. (Christian Science Monitor, July 25, 2013)

As a result of this research, Dr. Hallam Hurt, who was the chair of neonatology at Albert Einstein Medical Center and

later worked at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, was able to say, “Poverty is a more powerful influence on the outcome of inner-city children than gestational exposure to cocaine.” (Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, Oct. 21, 2013)

The racist, anti-poor ‘War on Drugs’

What can be done about poverty? One answer is to seize the wealth of the rich and distribute it to people in need. That’s only one idea!

But the capitalist-driven government of the United States is not interested in a War on Poverty. Its representatives seek only a War on Drugs. And the War on Drugs is truly a war on Black, Brown and poor white people.

The “War on Drugs” officially began June 1971, when President Richard Nixon declared drug abuse to be “public enemy number one” and increased federal funding for drug-control agencies and drug-treatment efforts. The reason? Not the long-term impact of crack cocaine on

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COMMENTARY

Smash white supremacy!

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was perpetrated. One of these is: Where will their food come from now?

The East Side of Buffalo, site of the attack and of generations of racist redlining, ghettoization and deliberate neglect, is a food desert. The Tops supermarket where the attack occurred is the only one in its neighborhood. While Tops has vowed to reopen its store, no one knows how long that will take.

A quarter of the children in Buffalo suffer from malnutrition — predominantly poor and Black children. A local charity, Buffalo Community Fridges, began a collection of food donations for distribution to the neighborhood in the early morning of May 15, but they had to stop collecting around midafternoon due to a lack of

storage for all the donations. This effort, while laudable, cannot duplicate the efficiency of a supermarket in the distribution of food to an entire community nor should it have to.

Adding to the dramatic disruption of day-to-day life in Masten Park, the Buffalo Police Department and New York State Police have set up blockades on the streets surrounding Tops. Billy club-toting cops stand around pretending to protect, after having taken nearly half an hour to show up when the massacre happened.



This banner in Buffalo answers ‘here’s your reparations!’ written on Payton Gendron’s assault rifle used in May 14 massacre.

WW PHOTO

months ago opened fire on a car driven by a disabled, partially paralyzed man, engaging in a dangerous high speed chase — because they found his tinted car windows “suspicious.”

But that’s the way cops arrest white-supremacist killers, like Dylann Roof after he massacred nine Black churchgoers as they sat at prayer in church. There is always the contrast with how cops murder Black people while arresting them for “crimes” — like

George Floyd for simply trying to buy cigarettes or Eric Garner for selling them.

In the memory of those we have lost, death to fascism. □

Buffalo 1981

Organizing against racist murder

By Sam Marcy

On May 14, a white supremacist in military gear launched an attack on people in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, killing 10 and wounding three. For a militant anti-racist answer to such attacks, here is a strategy statement from Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of Workers World Party — a communist party founded in Buffalo. The excerpt is reprinted from “The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?”

The Nazi Party announced it would demonstrate in Buffalo, New York, on January 15, 1981, Martin Luther King’s birthday. This came at a time when a string of shocking racist murders of Black men had occurred in this same city. A coalition of labor, progressive and community groups immediately called for a counterdemonstration. It was only then that the mayor of Buffalo banned all demonstrations. Two thousand people demonstrated anyway against two Nazis heavily guarded by police.

Lessons of Buffalo

The Buffalo experience has shown in microcosm what the bourgeoisie is capable of doing, when faced with a fascist threat. When the mayor of Buffalo was finally forced to take cognizance of the Nazi/KKK

demonstration, he and the capitalist establishment, with the complete cooperation of (if not in conspiracy with) the capitalist media, moved to ban the anti-fascist demonstration, under cover of banning both the right and the left.

This is a classic example of how a terrified capitalist city administration reacts when challenged by a neo-Nazi/KKK threat. First, they try to do nothing. Then they get their liberal friends and luminaries to ridicule the neo-Nazi menace and say that it doesn’t exist. And then when the menace shows determination to demonstrate in the heart of the city, they advise the workers and the oppressed to boycott it, ignore it in the face of racist murders which have yet to be solved.

When all this fails, and when a counterdemonstration against the KKK and Nazis shows promise of encompassing a broad coalition of civil rights, progressive and working-class organizations to effectively confront the KKK and Nazi thugs, then (and only then) does the capitalist city administration assume its posture of “fighting” against the Nazis. But how? By presumably banning both demonstrations, but in reality aiming to ban only the anti-fascist demonstration.

What was truly important about the Buffalo experience was that a militant and progressive coalition demonstrated a determination to go through with its

demonstration in the face of an illegal and unconstitutional ban. And finally, the mayor and the capitalist establishment were forced to abandon the ban in the face of this militant and inflexible determination to hold the demonstration and not surrender the right to freedom of assembly in the face of the combined threats by the capitalist government, the press and the police.

In a further effort to try to displace, discredit and frighten the mass of the people away from the militant anti-fascist coalition, the mayor and the city administration were obliged to sponsor their own government-supported and establishment-controlled rally to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Intransigence and the working-class struggle

Intransigence, which is so indispensable in any working-class struggle, did not alone account for the victory of the anti-fascist progressive coalition in Buffalo.

It was also careful assessment of the



Philadelphia, Jan. 9, 2021

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

political relationship of forces in the area and in the country. It was good, efficient organization, free from any dogmatic approach to the phenomenon of fascist violence, free from sectarianism. It was reliance on the mass of the workers and progressives, and attempts to achieve the broadest possible alliance with all elements willing, ready and able to put up a vigorous struggle.

Buffalo was a microcosm of what the ruling class can and will do in the face of a fascist menace.

It is also a microcosm of what can be done by the working-class movement to achieve victory in the face of what appear to be overwhelming odds. □

Nakba Day in Portland

By Danny O’Brien
Portland, Oregon

On May 14-15 Portland activists commemorated the Nakba — the day in 1948 that Israeli settlers and governmental forces brutally displaced Palestinians from their homeland. Nakba is Arabic for “catastrophe.”

On May 14, members of the Portland



WW PHOTO: DANNY O'BRIEN

Portland State campus, May 14

State University Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights (SUPER), International League of People’s Struggle (ILPS) and Workers World Party gathered on campus, under shelter from rain, to make signs for the Nakba. Along with sign making, SUPER members offered teach-ins of the history of the Nakba and told stories of their visits and their families’ visits to Palestine.

On Nakba Day, May 15, members of SUPER, ILPS, WWP, the Willamette Action Collective, and POPS (People Organizing for Philippine Solidarity) assembled at the World Trade Center building on the Willamette River waterfront.

They then marched through the streets of downtown Portland, chanting “Free Palestine” and rallied at City Hall for a round of speeches, including from a person who had known Shireen Abu Akleh, the Palestinian Al Jazeera journalist

recently killed by Israeli soldiers. Abu Akleh was deeply remembered and given tribute at the demonstration.

Following the rally, the groups continued marching to the Portland State

University Park Blocks, for more speeches. A raffle raised money for SUPER, in collaboration with numerous generous Palestinian and Middle Eastern businesses across the city. □



Downtown Portland, May 15

WW PHOTO: DANNY O'BRIEN

Israeli military murders journalist

Continued from page 1

attacked her family’s home in occupied East Jerusalem, confiscating Palestinian flags and preventing the playing of patriotic songs. (tinyurl.com/2p86wjpd)

Israel has yet to be held accountable for even one of these crimes.

Shireen Abu Akleh was a role model for many women journalists and beloved throughout the Arab world for the bravery that she showed during her more than 25 years as a journalist exposing Israel’s brutal military occupation of Palestine and ethnic-cleansing campaign. Because of her fearless work covering the second Intifada, she has become immortalized as a symbol of Palestinian resistance. Thousands of mourners gathered in Jerusalem to pay their final respects during her funeral.

During the funeral procession May 13, as Abu Akleh’s casket was being carried to a Greek Catholic Church for prayers, militarized Israeli police shocked the world by launching an unprovoked assault on pallbearers and mourners. The pallbearers carrying Abu Akleh’s casket were punched, kicked and beaten with batons, causing them to nearly drop her casket.

European Union officials decried the “unnecessary” and “disproportionate” use of force, while the Biden administration refused to condemn what was a blatant and unprovoked attack on Abu Akleh’s funeral, saying, “We regret the intrusion into what should have been a peaceful procession.”

As a journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh spent her adult life exposing Israeli brutality, died while exposing Israeli brutality and was buried amid Israeli brutality. This

latest round of crimes against humanity committed by apartheid Israel demonstrates that nation’s utter disregard for press freedoms, freedom of speech and assembly and all the other so-called hallmarks of democracy.

There should be no equivocations that Shireen Abu Akleh’s murder and the assault on mourners at her funeral by Israeli occupation forces constitute a war crime. Condemnation by world leaders and organizations is not enough, nor are calls for investigations.

No investigation by Israel or the West will provide justice for Abu Akleh or the thousands of Palestinians murdered by the Zionist occupation. The apartheid regime is a racist instrument of Western imperialism in the region. There is little to be gained by begging the West to hold it to account.

Zionists kill Palestinians with impunity; the complicity of the West signals it will never abandon Zionism. Ending the gross impunity that Israel again displayed this week requires a change in the equation of sovereign power.

Palestinians have a right to fight an occupation, to defend themselves and their land and ultimately to liberate Palestine by any means necessary. Armed resistance to occupier invasion and terror is an absolute right. Standing in solidarity with Palestine means defending their right to armed resistance and supporting their struggle to overthrow Zionist colonialism.

Workers World Party remains steadfast in our support of the armed resistance for the liberation of Palestine. □

‘From Shireen to Jenin, Justice for Palestine!’

By Betsey Piette

A “Philadelphia for Palestine” rally on the 74th anniversary of the Nakba drew hundreds of activists to Center City Philadelphia May 15. Many carried signs featuring pictures of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, murdered by Israeli soldiers May 11 while covering their raid in occupied Jenin. Several people held signs that read: “From Shireen to Jenin, Justice for Palestine!”

The multinational rally and march, hosted by several Palestinian, progressive Jewish and other activist organizations, began in Rittenhouse Square. Speakers included Rabbi Linda Holtzman with Jewish Voice for Peace and Deandra Price from Black Alliance for Peace.

As the event kicked off, Brice Patterson with Workers World Party started by acknowledging the people who have been martyred in Palestine since the beginning of 2022 saying: “Reading through the lists of names” evokes a “sensation similar to when I hear the endless names of Black and Brown people killed by militarized police in the U.S., many trained by Israeli forces.”

He compared the forced removal of Palestinians by Israeli occupiers to the encroaching impact of gentrifiers on Black, Brown and Indigenous communities in the U.S.

“That we have no right to our own



Hundreds fill the streets of Philadelphia, marching for Palestine, May 15.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

homes, we see mirrored not only in places like Sheikh Jarrah, or recently in Jenin, but literally blocks away in our own neighborhoods like members of the UC Townhomes [in West Philadelphia].”

After briefly blocking traffic in all four directions at the intersection of Walnut and 18th Streets, the march proceeded down Chestnut Street toward City Hall. Along the way, people passing by expressed solidarity, with many joining in. A popular chant was “There is only one solution, Intifada, revolution!”

Among those marching was an activist wearing a large puppet of Handala, the Palestinian defiance symbol, created with assistance from Spiral Q Puppet Theatre. The structure stood out above the crowd.

As the march approached the intersection at 15th Street, it was joined by several carloads and two sound trucks of protesters, many carrying large Palestinian flags. They had been unable to reach the

starting location due to traffic snarls. The momentum as dozens more demonstrators joined the march was palpable. Suddenly the march, which had occupied both traffic lanes, expanded to occupy sidewalks on both sides of the lanes.

The high level of energy continued as the caravan turned onto South Broad Street, stopping for a brief street rally. As the march circled City Hall, dozens more people leaped over low fences to join the street event.

The march concluded at City Hall with a rally that continued to occupy the streets, blocking traffic for another hour. Internationally renowned Palestinian author Susan Abulhawa was the first to address the crowd. She described Palestine, prior to the Nakba, as a place where “people of all religions lived together. It was multiethnic for over thousands of years, including people from every society.

“Palestine welcomed people from all over the world — Iraqis, Greeks and others — added to the rich tapestry of Palestine. When Israelis arrived, they weaponized this welcoming hospitality, instructing their people to befriend the Palestinians to gather intelligence. They used this knowledge to attack Palestinians and drive them from their villages.

“They planted bombs in orange trucks at markets and blew people up. They visited village after village where Palestinians lived, shot them and took over their homes and lands. The Zionists created 13 forced labor camps in 1948. This is our Nakba and why generation after generation we have not stopped fighting, even as they are still forcing us out of our homes.

“The video of when Israeli soldiers attacked the mourners at Shireen Abu Akleh’s funeral is very instructive, showing their unfathomable hatred when they attacked Palestinian mourners carrying her coffin, brutally beating people with batons. But when one person succumbed to the beating, another stepped up to hold the coffin.

“That is who Palestinians are. We will never give in or give up. We are the people of the land. We never left there. Our ancestors are buried there. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” □

Nakba is 74 years of resistance

By Judy Greenspan
San Francisco

May 14 — Fueled by recent attacks on the Palestinian people, today’s commemoration of Nakba 74 was a day to remember. Hundreds of protesters took over Valencia Street in the Mission neighborhood to “honor Shireen Abu Akleh and rise up for Palestine.”

As people gathered for an opening rally, they were handed signs demanding justice for Abu Akleh, an activist and Al Jazeera reporter cherished and loved by her people. She was assassinated by the Israeli government in Palestine May 11, while on the job reporting on the Israeli raid on Jenin refugee camp. And on May 13, Israeli

Defense Forces attacked Abu Akleh’s funeral procession in Jerusalem.

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement has issued a statement that in April of this year alone, the Israeli government killed 23 Palestinians and bombed Gaza. Shortly before the Nakba



Nakba 74 in San Francisco

PHOTO: SAVANNAH KUANG

anniversary marking the Israeli government’s 1948 expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homeland, the German city of Berlin announced a ban on all outdoor Nakba commemorations, including a memorial gathering for Abu Akleh. The U.S. continues to back Israel and its Zionist attacks on the Palestinian people.

After a short rally, as the demonstration surged up Mission Street through the heart of the Latinx community, many people waved and shouted their support of the protest. Chants of “From the River to the Sea — Palestine Will Be Free!” echoed loudly. Palestinians unfurled and carried a large Palestinian flag at the front of the march — a flag banned by Israel in Palestine. Several young men climbed

street poles and stood proudly over the march with their flags flying.

Speakers at the demonstration came from supporting organizations such as the Palestinian Youth Movement, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, the Middle East Children’s Alliance, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Gabriela and Jewish Voice for Peace.

Hatem Bazian, longtime Palestinian activist, author and professor at the University of California-Berkeley, captured the sentiment of the people. He first connected the racist police assassinations of Black and Brown youth in the U.S. and the IDF’s assassination of Palestinians.

Then Bazian stated: “We are commemorating 74 years of resistance, 74 years of return, 74 years of being audaciously brave.” He directed his closing words to Zionist supporters and leaders of the Israeli state: “We are coming back to Palestine whether you like it or not.” □

COVID-19, global warming, war can starve the world's poorest

By G. Dunkel

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, two-thirds of the families in the 70 poorest countries, the ones that the U.N. classifies as low- or medium- income, had their incomes drop so drastically that adults reported that they skipped eating so their kids could eat. Sometimes the adult fasts lasted for a day or more. (UNICEF-World Bank, March 9)

People living in the richest countries of the world, on the average, have had their savings increase during the same period, due to assistance from the governments like extended unemployment benefits or payroll protection plans.

The world's richest countries are generally those that have benefited and are benefiting from imperialism and neocolonialism, and the ones that are the poorest are the ones most oppressed by imperialism and neocolonialism.

According to the World Bank, between 119 and 124 million additional people entered extreme poverty in 2021, which means they live on less than \$1.90 a day.

Sixty percent of the 70 low-income countries are now at risk of default, which has been made much more likely given the rapid rises in the prices of fuel, fertilizer, transport, energy and food — especially wheat, a key grain — due to the conflict in Ukraine. Hunger has produced rising



People in line for fuel in Sri Lanka.

popular anger with millions of people coming out into the streets all over the world.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island of 22 million off the southern coast of India. Until three years ago, in the summer of 2019, it was extolled as “a jewel of investment.” Then when COVID-19 hit, Sri Lanka began its swift decline into the investment hell that led to its default in April.

Some of the bourgeois news sources covering Sri Lanka blame the incompetence and corruption of its political leadership but ignore similar financial and economic problems afflicting other countries in the area, such as Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

After a week of furious demonstrations in Sri Lanka, which involved physical attacks on government officials and their houses, the country's president appointed Ranil Wickremesinghe as prime minister May 12.

This is the sixth time Wickremesinghe, who is in the opposition, has been prime minister, so his appointment is not a complete break with past governments. In his inaugural interview with the BBC May 13 — Sri Lanka is a former British colony — he pledged to make every effort to ensure families get three meals a day.

The price of food has tripled in the past two months; fuel to run cars and electric generators and to cook is scarce. Even firewood is hard to find, as is medicine.

Sri Lanka had so much debt that between 2015 and 2019, 90% of its new borrowing was used to pay the interest on loans that were due at the end of 2014. Borrowing to pay interest is unsustainable. (Le Monde, May 9)

Pakistan

Pakistan presents a scenario very close to Sri Lanka's. It has a heavy debt load and not much economic activity; its currency is losing value while inflation is increasing, and its foreign reserves are diminishing rapidly. Its public debt has grown by 73% from September 2018 to February 2022, which is unsustainable. (Le Monde, May 9)

After a week of political turmoil in the middle of April, Pakistan's parliament ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and selected Shehbaz Sharif, who was in the opposition, as its new prime minister. Sharif is negotiating a major loan with the International Monetary Fund. As a condition of the loan, the IMF would

require Pakistan's government to remove subsidies on petroleum products, thus increasing the costs for energy and goods for Pakistan's population.

India, China and the global economy

India is currently experiencing a heat wave, which has produced day after day of temperatures over 100 F. While the winter wheat harvest in southern and central India has been completed, it is not clear how this heat wave will affect the crop in northern India. How the heat affects the harvest depends on when the kernels are formed.

India has a large stock of wheat in its reserves and was expected to be able to use its stockpile to replace the wheat normally exported from Ukraine and Russia. But to preserve its own food security, it suddenly announced it was almost totally limiting its exports.

While China does not export wheat, it grows a lot for its own use. The effects of global warming on China's wheat crop might lead it to make major purchases on the world market. These extra purchases could lead to an increase in the cost of wheat, leaving countries whose economies are weak unable to buy sufficient wheat.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is planning to impose interest rate hikes aimed at controlling inflation in the U.S. But this will tend to draw funds from lesser developed countries, since investors could then be attracted to the higher interest rates in the U.S.

Interest rate hikes tend to make the U.S. dollar stronger, which makes loans denominated in dollars harder for borrowers to repay. □

French elections in the face of the imperialist offensive

By Georges Gastaud

Gastaud is political director of Communist Initiative, the newspaper of the Pole of Communist Revival (PRCF), an anti-imperialist communist organization in France. Workers World is making his editorial, which provides an analysis of the French regime and its relation to the European Union and the aggressive nature of the U.S.-NATO offensive, available to U.S. readers.

Gastaud dedicated his editorial to 96-year-old Léon Landini, president of the PRCF, son of an undocumented Italian anti-fascist and member of the former FTP-MOI (a Partisan fighting force constituted of emigrant workers who fought Nazi occupiers in WWII). Landini was decorated by France and the USSR for acts of Resistance.

Translation: Philippe Gendrault, edited by WW

I am writing this without knowing the outcome of the presidential election or the level of West-East tension that will have been reached by the time this editorial is published, the confrontation between Moscow and the EU-NATO pushing for escalation in Ukraine. This degree of uncertainty stems less from the rhythm of IC's monthly publication than from a series of thresholds that our country is about to cross.

France is in the grip of an existential crisis, with capitalist Euro-globalization yielding to the hegemonism of Euro-Atlantic imperialism, the number one



Léon Landini, president of the PRCF and veteran Resistance fighter against the Nazi occupation of France, in 2021.

danger to world peace. How then can we [communists] ensure that we will always remain on the right side of the barricade in the fight for peace and for the future of our country?

On a global scale — and without vouching for Putin and the Russian army, who are far less than faithful heirs of the workers' and peasants' Red Army — the EU and NATO have since 1991 been building the conditions for a third world war. The expansion of the [U.S.-led] Atlantic EU has been harassing Russia, and the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul-Canberra alliance is provoking China.

Of course, the “BRICS” (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), whose emergence U.S. President Joe Biden wants to prevent, are politically very diverse. But above all, these large countries, of which Moscow is the military outpost and Beijing the industrial vanguard, objectively carry, not without contradictions,

the legitimate aspiration of the majority of human beings (who inhabit Asia, Africa and Latin America) to free themselves from the dollar, the Euro-mark — and the U.S. Army.

Large communist parties, or at least strong “red” traditions, carrying the world's hope of a new generation of socialism-communism, do remain active in these regions — the CPC's leadership in Beijing, the Russian CP embodying the popular alternative to Putin, the Party of South Africa with the ANC and Cuba who were the real winners against apartheid — and with communists in the lead of huge general strikes in India!

For us, proletarians of the West, it is our duty to remain firm on this observation: Western imperialism, more and more risking extermination, is ready to promote escalations leading to a nuclear war of annihilation to maintain the hegemony of Wall Street and its European vassals!

In France, the winner of April 24 [Emmanuel Macron] must be opposed without delay, whether it is Macron II, the proxy of the advancing European Empire (German Chancellor Scholz wants a “European federal state” that would put an end to French history) or Marine Le Pen, the figurehead of fascist Euro-nationalism.

Both Macron and Le Pen accept the euro, NATO, the EU, capitalism and Western imperialism and, to varying

degrees, court the police state. If Macron is already threatening France with rapid dissolution into the EU-NATO, Le Pen is dividing the working classes and would only bring triumphant state xenophobia to the country of Jean Jaurès and Victor Hugo.

While the decaffeinated French Communist Party of F. Roussel just displayed its impotence to carry a clear anti-EU and anti-capitalist line, while the beautiful dynamic of the “Popular Union” barely conceals the growing submission of the Mélenchon party's leadership to European imperialism, it is vital to rebuild a fighting communist party. It is urgent to give back to the world of labor its role as the driving force of a red and tricolored Alternative that assumes the nationalization of key sectors of the economy, the total break with the EU-NATO and a new impetus towards workers' power.

For this, let us strengthen the Pole for Communist Revival (PRCF). Let's work for the renewal of a trade unionism of struggle, as Communist Initiative [the PRCF newspaper] is doing.

Let us prepare the “great explanation” of the workers confronting the imperialist oligarchy, whether it flies the yellow-blue flag of the European Empire [Macron] or usurps the French flag to divide the country [Le Pen].

Let's reopen the future; let's seize the red and tricolor thread of our progressive history! □



Cómo opresión de clases impulsa crisis climáticas

UN COMENTARIO DE MO/WW

Por Mirinda Crissman

Publicado originalmente en Workers World/Mundo Obrero, el 30 de septiembre del 2020, este artículo es aún más oportuno después del Día de la Tierra de 2022. La guerra por delegación de Estados Unidos en Ucrania — y la continua crisis de COVID-19 — están siendo utilizadas por la administración de Biden para excusar el retroceso de las promesas ambientales de la campaña de 2020.

Después de prometer que Estados Unidos sería neutral en cuanto a emisiones de carbono para 2050 y de eximir a las tierras federales de la perforación, Biden ha subastado grandes franjas de aguas federales en el Golfo de México a empresas petroleras que buscan beneficios, ya que el petróleo ruso está sometido a sanciones por parte de Estados Unidos. Los problemas de la cadena de suministro mundial durante la pandemia están empujando la fabricación de nuevo a los Estados Unidos, con la consiguiente presión capitalista que afloja las salvaguardias ambientales. Crissman denuncia que esta “codicia y violencia de unos pocos nos precipita a todos hacia el colapso medioambiental”.

Las emergencias climáticas y el imperialismo estadounidense tienen bastantes coincidencias. Ambos están desplazando cada vez más a los vivos en casa y en el extranjero a una escala casi increíble.

Estas condiciones están creando migrantes y refugiados, que tienen que seguir en movimiento para sobrevivir. Para evitar la aniquilación climática inducida por la crisis capitalista, hay que dar prioridad a la administración de las tierras indígenas, a la soberanía alimentaria de las masas y a la abolición de las deudas.

Se culpa falsamente a los desplazados y a los migrantes en general de gran parte de la escasez mundial. Pero hay recursos más que suficientes para atender a todos. La escasez existe porque un puñado de personas posee, acapara y amasa la riqueza a costa de la gente que la creó. Aunque esta pequeña clase dirigente es la fuente de

mucho sufrimiento, cientos de años de condicionamiento social individualista en la sociedad capitalista ocultan el hecho de que hay más personas que están más cerca de la pobreza de lo que nunca estarán de convertirse en millonarios.

Los migrantes desplazados se enfrentan a la inseguridad alimentaria, al desempleo, a la falta de vivienda y a la falta de atención sanitaria, agua, electricidad y saneamiento adecuados, entre otros problemas. Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, se estima que 40 millones de personas en Estados Unidos — el país más rico del mundo — se encuentran al borde de la falta de hogar y se enfrentan a muchas de las mismas condiciones que los migrantes se enfrentan a nivel mundial.

Militares, policías y emergencias climáticas

Lo que el ejército estadounidense hace en el extranjero, las fuerzas del orden internas, como la policía, lo hacen con la gente en su país. Desplazan a la gente por la fuerza, ya sea mediante la fuerza armada o la notificación de desalojo, para que la clase dominante pueda ganar otro dólar. Las emergencias climáticas también desplazan cada vez más a quienes viven en el país y en el extranjero. El aumento de las temperaturas globales debido a la producción capitalista en tierras robadas — en particular la sobreproducción y la excesiva dependencia de los combustibles fósiles como el carbón, el petróleo y el gas natural — ha provocado un clima extremo. Los incendios forestales y los huracanes son cada vez más frecuentes y desplazan a los seres vivos.

Los pueblos indígenas practicaron con éxito la administración de estas tierras durante miles de años con quemadas controladas y agricultura sostenible. Su desplazamiento forzado fue un factor impulsor, si no el principal, de la producción de miseria para beneficiar a unos pocos.

La mala gestión de la tierra y el aumento de las temperaturas han provocado bosques más secos y desiertos preparados para los incendios y las tormentas de polvo, así como un aumento

de la energía térmica liberada a través de los huracanes. La excesiva producción capitalista de petróleo contamina y calienta el aire — que no tiene fronteras — y las aguas y la tierra. La fractura de la tierra, la ruina de los manantiales y acuíferos naturales, las inundaciones interiores, el deshielo y el aumento del nivel del mar son todos “regalos” de la mala gestión colonial de la tierra.

El ejército estadounidense es uno de los mayores consumidores de petróleo del mundo. Este cuerpo armado es culpable de desplazar a los vivos al impulsar la crisis climática en su consumo de combustibles fósiles — además de desplazar a los vivos mediante conflictos violentos y antagónicos.

Un reciente informe publicado por el proyecto Costs of War de la Universidad de Brown estima, de forma conservadora, que las guerras de Estados Unidos desde el 9/11 han desplazado por la fuerza a al menos 37 millones de personas en y desde Afganistán, Irak, Pakistán, Yemen, Somalia, Filipinas, Libia y Siria. Esta cifra supera a los desplazados por todas las guerras anteriores desde 1900, con la excepción de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Otros datos sugieren que el total de desplazados por las guerras estadounidenses posteriores al 9/11 podría estar más cerca de los 48 a los 59 millones de personas.

Se ha calculado que las muertes causadas por la intervención imperialista, además de los combates directos, ascienden a 3,1 millones, y que los heridos y traumatizados se cuentan por decenas de millones. (tinyurl.com/CostsOfUSWarOnTerror, 21 de septiembre de 2020)

La avaricia y la violencia de unos pocos nos está precipitando a todos hacia el colapso medioambiental. Cada vez más de nosotros encontraremos que nuestra situación se asemeja a la lucha de los migrantes a nivel mundial. Somos millones, incluso miles de millones, cuya supervivencia colectiva depende de nuestra capacidad para rehacer el mundo. Lo que ha sido construido por los colonizadores puede ser desmantelado.

Los capitalistas han sido “administradores” del planeta por la fuerza sólo en la historia reciente. Los pueblos indígenas fueron verdaderos administradores de la tierra, viviendo en armonía durante miles de años antes de toda esta destrucción. Y saben cómo hacerlo de nuevo.

¡Abolir la propiedad privada en tierras robadas! La tierra puede satisfacer las necesidades humanas básicas de todos. Teniendo en cuenta todo lo que estamos enfrentando con las muchas crisis del capitalismo, hay mucho trabajo por hacer. Mientras el trabajo esté dictado por lo que hace ganar dinero a los jefes y a la clase dominante, las necesidades de



El movimiento juvenil 'Fridays For Future' en Madrid, España, el 15 de marzo de 2019.

la gente no serán satisfechas. Y veremos más migración forzada y miseria.

El camino a seguir es comprometerse con proyectos explícitamente anticoloniales. Y podemos fijarnos en quienes han empezado a hacerlo con éxito, como Thomas Sankara.

Thomas Sankara y la agroecología

La Dra. Amber Murray explica: “La transformación revolucionaria del país de África Occidental Alto Volta en Burkina Faso (lo que se conoce como la Revolución de Agosto de 1983) se produjo durante una crisis neoliberal previa, la de la crisis de la deuda africana de los años ochenta. Sankara denunció con vehemencia y en público la odiosa deuda y animó a los líderes políticos africanos a hacer lo mismo. “La política y el liderazgo político de Sankara desafiaron la idea de que el sistema capitalista global no puede deshacerse. Durante cuatro años como presidente de Burkina Faso, trabajó con el pueblo para construir una política emancipadora informada por el bienestar humano, social, ecológico y planetario”. (Pambazuka News, 5 de mayo de 2016)

Uno de los muchos proyectos exitosos encabezados por Sankara en Burkina Faso incluyó la centralización de la soberanía alimentaria a través de un sistema de agroecología. La agroecología fomenta el cultivo comunal de alimentos “que dispersa y crea poder” y que mejora “la dignidad, el conocimiento y las capacidades de todos los implicados” y la regeneración del medio ambiente. (Del documental “Sur les traces de Thomas Sankara”, 2013)

Otros proyectos de éxito fueron la plantación de 10 millones de árboles en todo el Sahel, como medio para empezar a reparar la asfixia colonial que hizo más árida la tierra.

Sankara tuvo una muerte prematura, debido a sus ideas revolucionarias y sus formas de rehacer el mundo. Su espíritu y sus ideas siguen vivos en la lucha revolucionaria que se atreve a ganar un mundo más allá de los confines de la muerte inducida por el capitalismo. □



‘La justicia indígena es la justicia climática’ y ‘Mujeres somos fuertes’ en la protesta por la crisis climática 2021.

FOTO: ARCTIC ANGELS