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Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 64 No. 45 November 10, 2022

World condemns U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Monica Moorehead **New York City**

For the 30th time since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly 185-2 on Nov. 3 to end the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba. This historic vote was virtually absent from the big bourgeois media reporting, such as the New York Times and Washington Post.

The blockade, first implemented by the Kennedy administration on Feb. 2, 1962, has banned U.S. trade and financial transactions with the Cuban people, including medicines and other essential goods, since that date.

The blockade is the U.S. punishment of Cuba for carrying out a socialist revolution — led by the July 26th Movement – on Jan. 1, 1959, with the defeat of the U.S. puppet regime of military dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The U.N. vote is symbolic and nonbinding, since only the U.S. Congress can overturn the blockade. The vote does signal the deepening isolation of the U.S. from the rest of the world.

Not surprisingly, the only two countries who voted no against resolution A/76/405 – entitled "Necessity of putting an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" - were the United States and its staunch ally, the racist Israeli settler regime. Two abstentions came from Ukraine and the fascistic Jair Bolsonaro government in Brazil, recently defeated in national elections there.

Representatives from different countries spoke



In San Francisco, people march in support of Cuba, Nov. 3. More on 3.

express their support for ending the blockade, a human rights violation which runs counter to a number of U.N. declarations,

including the right to national sovereignty. Those speaking from around the globe

expressed their appreciation toward Cuba for the almost 60 health brigades the country has sent to over 40 countries, especially during the pandemic. Cuba has carried out these and many other acts of solidarity, despite the hardships the blockade has imposed on the Cuban people. There was also a call to remove Cuba from the U.S. state terrorist list.

Devastating impact of blockade

On Nov. 3, Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, presented a 25-minute report before the U.N. General Assembly outlinimpact of the blockade. He activists, present at the Nov. 3 vote. received much applause from

the delegates on his report.

According to Granma, the report stated "that only between August 2021 and February 2022, that unilateral policy caused Cuba losses in the order of \$3,806.5 million [over \$3.8 billion]. The figure is 49% higher than that reported between January and July 2021 and a record in just seven months.

"At current prices, the accumulated damages during six decades of the blockade amount to \$150,410.8 million [over \$1.5 trillion], with a great weight on sectors such as health and education, in addition to the damage to the national economy and the quality of life of Cuban families.

"In the first 14 months of the Biden administration alone, the losses caused by the blockade amounted to \$6,364 million [over \$6.3 billion], which is equivalent to an impact of more than \$454 million a month and more than \$15 million a day, according to the document." (Nov. 3)

U.S. human rights violations

When U.S. Political Coordinator, John Kelley, attacked Cuba for "human rights violations" following the vote, Cuba's representative to the U.N., Yuri Gala, offered a powerful rebuttal.

Gala stated, "Cuba does not need lessons on democracy and human rights, much less from the United States. If the United States government was really interested in the welfare, human rights and self-determination of Cubans, it could lift the blockade." (Reuters, Nov. 3)

Gala then cited U.S. human rights violations, using vital statistics in the areas of mass incarceration, including disproportionately those who are African Americans, migrants and minors, as well as police killings of people of color.

The writer was part of a delegation, ing the historic and present-day along with other Cuba solidarity



on Nov. 2 and Nov. 3 to The U.N. General Assembly vote – 185 'yes' to end the U.S. blockade, with two 'no' (the U.S. and Israel) and two abstentions, Nov. 3.

TEAR DOWN

Oldest prisoner released from Guantanamo

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Editorial Musk the Knife

Honor Day of Mourning Support Workers World

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 53rd National Day of Mourning Nov. 24, on so-called "Thanksgiving." On that special day, Native people pay homage to their ancestors and tell their true histories as the original inhabitants of this country, while exposing European colonialists' massive crimes against Indigenous people, including theft of their lands and food sources, obliteration of their culture, racism, oppression and genocide.

In 1970, the United American Indians of New England gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, site of the original "Pilgrim" invasion, and observed the first National Day of Mourning. Only Indigenous people speak at these solemn

WW has attended the Day of Mourning commemorations every year since 1981 and has reported firsthand on these events in our pages.

WW applauds Indigenous peoples in the U.S., and globally, who fight oppression and lead struggles to save lands, forests and rivers from capitalist destruction. Our newspaper hails courageous Native water, land and forest protectors who lead these movements, often putting their lives on the line to confront rapacious corporations, which in their reckless drive for profits harm the planet.

We honor those who have lost their lives in these struggles, including Indigenous organizer and Lenca leader, Berta Caceres, of Honduras.

We say "Free Leonard Peltier!" This member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians has been unjustly imprisoned for over four decades, far from his family and people. Recognized globally as a political prisoner, Peltier was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. The U.S. government has violated its own laws by denying parole to this ailing 78-year-old.

WW calls on our readers and supporters to support these movements and commemorate the National Day of Mourning.

Your donations matter!

Workers World relies on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded 45 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the website workers.org, where articles are posted daily and the PDF of the weekly paper is displayed.



National Day of Mourning, Nov. 25, 2021, with youth leader Kimimilasha James at the mic in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, and is a resource for political activists. Posted at the website are firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on U.S. union drives, along with reports on anti-racist and other progressive movements.

The pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to one a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 1/2-year health crisis. While WW's staff is voluntary, the printed issue and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

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We appreciate your support. \Box

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Koreans oppose U.S. military aggression

By Lyn Neeley

Five days of large-scale U.S.-South Korea joint military drills aimed at North Korea began Oct. 31 and were executed in collaboration with Japan and Australia.

The U.S. media repeatedly reported that "Operation Vigilant Storm" was in retaliation to four missiles fired by North Korea. These joint military drills were the largest in the history of such operations, with a display of about 240 warplanes including F-35B fighters, which conducted some 1,600 sorties.

But more transparent reasons for the joint exercises were published in the Aug. 19 Daily Beast: "The joint exercises between the U.S. and South Korea this month will culminate in a trial run of decapitating the North Korean leadership." (tinyurl.com/2ujhm5x3)

Ankit Panda of the Carnegie Endowment described how after the drills, Washington will carry out "Korea Massive Punishment and Retaliation," followed by "climaxing in the decapitation in which special forces snuff the target — one Kim Jong Un — in an intricately choreographed shock strike. Third is air and missile defense."

The U.S. maintains 73 military bases in South Korea with 28,000 U.S. soldiers, and more than 40 joint military drills take place each year. South Korea is forced to pay for this monstrous occupation, and now that country is being pressured to pay higher costs for hosting these troops.

Strategic balance struggle

Every show of force by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been to defend themselves against Washington's escalating aggression. Pak Jong Chon, a secretary of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, called the U.S. Air Force drills "aggressive and provocative," aimed at causing a collapse of North Korea. (AP, Nov. 1)

Koreans held a Nov. 4 press conference in Seoul to oppose the latest joint military drills. As Sara Flounders wrote in Workers World in August, "People's Korea wants peace but has been forced to develop nuclear weapons in order to defend themselves. Despite decades of threats and the harshest economic sanctions, they have refused to surrender." (workers.org/2022/08/66398)

China and Russia maintain that Washington's goal is to change the strategic balance in the region, undermine China's security interests and worsen



sanctions in certain areas and stopping joint military exercises." (Global Times, Nov. 2).

Koreans oppose U.S. military presence

In 2016, when the U.S. first deployed THAAD (the anti-ballistic Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system) in South Korea, farmers and supporters carried out daily anti-THAAD protests, waged a hunger strike and cut their fingers to write in their own blood: "We oppose THAAD with our lives!"

Some parents refused to send their children to school and vowed not to lose the land of their ancestors to THAAD. Then-President Hwang Kyo-ahn was pelted with eggs and water bottles by a crowd of

Top: South Koreans hold Nov. 4 press conference to denounce U.S. military drills held jointly with their country.

Left: Massive protest in Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 13, demanding the U.S. leave Korea.

over 3,000, forcing him to retreat into a government building.

This August tens of thousands of protesters chanted "This land is not a U.S. war base." According to the Korean Policy Institute, they "took direct aim at the heart of U.S. policy in Korea, with signs that read: 'No war rehearsal! No U.S.' and 'No Korea-U.S.-Japan military cooperation."

Asia News on Aug. 14 quoted a speaker at an August demonstration who said, "Conservative forces of Yoon Suk Yeol and those in the U.S. are frantically conducting aggressive war drills in sky, land and sea and are about to start large military exercises aimed at the invasion of North Korea. We must stamp out this behavior of anti-reunification forces."

Solidarity with anti-Pentagon protests in South Korea

New York City — Continuing military drills, organized by the U.S., directly threaten the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In South Korea huge street rallies denounced these military threats.

tensions. They say the main target of

this new Pentagon system is China. Da

Zhigang, China's director of the Institute

of Northeast Asian Studies, said, "This is

what the U.S. wants to see and is pushing

hard for, to turn China's neighborhood

Zhang Jun, China's representative to

the United Nations, said:"The tension on

the Korean Peninsula is mainly caused by

the U.S. Since North Korea took denucle-

arization measures in 2018, the U.S. has

failed to respond to Pyongyang's positive

measures, failed to address Pyongyang's

legitimate and reasonable concerns and

has not shown the due attitude of sin-

cerely resolving the issue. There are a lot

of things the U.S. can do, such as easing

into a powder keg."

A New York City demonstration, held outside the Consuls General of Japan and South Korea Nov. 3, protested discrimination against Koreans in Japan as well as the military drills. The action was organized by 6.15 New York Committee for Korean Reunification and supported by Nodutdol, New York Peace Action, Veterans For Peace and the International Action Center.

— Report and photo by Sara Flounders



Bay Area demands: 'Let Cuba live!'

By Judy Greenspan San Francisco

Nov. 3 — As the 30th United Nations General Assembly vote condemning the U.S. blockade against Cuba was taking place, angry protesters in the Bay Area gathered at the San Francisco Federal Building and took to the streets to demand "Let Cuba live!"

The demonstration, organized and endorsed by a broad coalition of organizations, specifically called out Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, elected from California. The rally demanded she work to end the blockade, remove Cuba from the U.S. "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list, reverse all U.S. sanctions, including Trump's 243 "coercive measures," and help Cuba rebuild from recent climate catastrophes.

Many speakers expressed their solidarity with Cuba, its revolution and its accomplishments. "We're here today because we stand with Cuba



Lujain Al-Saleh, a member-leader of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center in San Francisco, extends Palestinian solidarity to Cuba, Nov. 3.

and defend Cuba against the decades-long campaign launched by the U.S. through deadly sanctions, blockade and imperialist propaganda that attempt to villainize and isolate Cuba," stated Lujain Al-Saleh, member-leader of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center in San Francisco.

Al-Saleh recounted the long history of Cuban solidarity with the liberation of Palestine and called upon everyone to unite to "revive an anti-imperialist and internationalist front that challenges U.S. imperialism on every level."

The protesters then marched to the city's U.N. Plaza, where on the steps of the statue of Simón Bolívar the Liberator, people gathered to loudly chant: "Cuba Sí! Bloqueo No!"

Organizations delivering solidarity messages and organizing the action included the Task Force on the Americas, Black Alliance for Peace, National Lawyers Guild, AROC, Bay Area Cuba Saving Lives, ANSWER, Democratic Socialists of America and Workers World Party.

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Rhode Island activists demand local job funding

By mYia X and Phebe Eckfeldt Providence, Rhode Island

Oct. 19 — "Organize! Mobilize! Fightback!" The sound of the tenor drumbeat reverberated up the sweeping staircase and into the corridors of Providence City Hall as the voices of 40 community activists aligned and ascended towards the Mayor's office. They then held a press conference and speak-out focused on the city's failure to implement the First Source Ordinance for workers.

Established in 1986, First Source Ordinance mandates that 100% of new hires by companies that receive \$25,000 or more, in city loans, subsidies or tax breaks, and have four or more employees, must be Providence residents.

The activists were united in their determination to expose the rampant failures of the First Source Ordinance and force outgoing Mayor Jorge Elorza and the City Council to implement and increase the funding for the Ordinance. Rhode Island/Massachusetts Solidarity with the Incarcerated Workers Council (SWI) led the action.

For over 30 years, the working-class and poor communities of Providence have not been able to fully access the proposed benefits of the jobs. "I was here in these same halls in 1986 when First Source was introduced to the City Council," said Calvin Drayton from the George Wiley Center. Multiple speakers at the press conference reiterated that the ordinance has lacked and continues to lack enforcement.

"DARE has been working on this for years ..." said Anusha Alles from Direct Action for Rights and Equality. "We want job opportunities. And we want housing."

Rochelle Lee, a longtime community activist and SWI member said. "Like any other program in the city's purview, we depend on First Source to help people with employment and job opportunities."

The corporate profiteers who are receiving millions in tax breaks are not complying. The current city council and mayor have been pretending First Source does not exist and are totally neglecting it, despite a court order 10 years ago ordering them to enforce the law.

Community member Luis Muñoz noted: "We talk about equity; we talk about hiring practices, specifically around women and minorities here in the City of Providence ... [yet] when you look at unemployment rates, they are disproportionately impacting our communities of color. How does the language in the ordinance reflect equity? How does it reflect accountability in terms of the structures that are in place to force developers to hire?"



WW PHOTO: PHEBE ECKFELDT

On Oct. 19, formerly incarcerated workers demand the jobs promised by the city of Providence, Rhode Island, and mandated by court order 10 years ago.

Ray Two-Hawks Watson of the Narragansett Tribe and Providence Cultural Equity Initiative reiterated a salute to the Providence community and their commitment to keep exposing the systemic failures of prior administrations, by continuing to put pressure on those in political leadership.

The funds for First Source are required to come from corporations who receive tax abatements from the city. In tax year 2010, the city of Providence granted \$4.6 million in tax breaks to more than 30 companies.

(GoLocalProv.com, April 21, 2011)

Diego Arene-Morely, an independent candidate for a city council seat, pointed out: "Violations of the First Source Ordinance are grounds for removing TSAs [tax stabilization agreements] from the companies that receive them."

Daniel from the Providence Youth/Student Movement raised alarming truths concerning the crisis and impact of youth unemployment: "Youth are here now and are struggling to find jobs."

The speak-out and press conference culminated with words from mYia X of SWI, who opened with the chant "All POWER to the people!" and echoed the importance of continuing to build solidarity by bridging alliances, affirming that the people are putting the system on notice!

The collective of community members resoundingly chanted in unison: "We're fired up, won't take it no more!" Formerly incarcerated workers held signs demanding jobs, stating "People over profit." Additional speakers included Juan from DARE, Bella Robinson of Coyote RI and Phebe Eckfeldt of SWI.

John Prince, lead organizer with SWI, amped up the drumbeats on his tenor drum outside the door of the mayor's office, while reading each of the groups' demands

These included immediate enforcement of First Source, with opening of the books providing numbers hired and demographics and a fully accessible website, with a list of weekly updated job openings so people can easily apply. The city must advertise First Source by printing flyers in multiple languages and getting those out across poor and working-class communities.

Finally, the group called on the city to increase the \$250,000 allocated to First Source, as that is a 1980s figure and a pittance of what is needed.

"It makes me furious that Mayor Elorza ran on enforcement of First Source, but it was just a dog-and-pony show for him," stated Prince. "We now call on the new mayor, Brett Smiley, to enforce the First Source Ordinance." □

Potential railroad strike could 'shut it down'

By Martha Grevatt

U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, once a building trades union leader, has threatened the 12 unions that represent freight rail workers. Walsh said "failing new negotiated agreements, Congress would have to impose a contract on the unions as a way to keep union members on the job," according to CNN Nov. 5. "If 'for some reason [one of the unions] doesn't get to an agreement with the companies, then ... Congress will have to take action to avert a strike in our country,' he said."

In September, Walsh, President Joe Biden and the Presidential Emergency Board — an optional body under the dispute resolution procedures outlined in the 1926 Railway Labor Act — brokered a tentative agreement between the unions and the National Carriers Conference Committee. The NCCC represents six "Class One" freight rail companies.

The key issues are lack of paid sick time, last-minute scheduling and a ruthless absenteeism procedure. Rail workers often go to work sick and are unable to make or keep medical appointments, which has led to deaths. Excessive overtime has denied workers time with their families.

Two unions, representing 24,000 track workers (BMWED, Teamsters) and 7,000 signallers (BRS) have voted down the agreement so far. The day Walsh made his threatening statement, mechanics represented by the Machinists (IAM) narrowly approved a tentative agreement between the IAM and the companies; an earlier contract was rejected before the PEB announced the multi-union deal. (freightwaves.com)

The largest numbers of rail workers, 62,000 conductors and engineers represented by SMART-TD and BLET, respectively, finish voting around Nov. 20.

The track workers in BMWED could be on strike as early as Nov. 19. If one union strikes, all 12 unions will honor the picket lines.

This scenario has the capitalist class frightened. Roughly 30% of all freight is transported by rail. Over 300 corporate associations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, Alliance for Automotive Innovation, American Bakers Association, National Retail Federation and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, signed a letter Oct. 28 calling on

Biden to prevent a rail strike.

If the White House is unable to avert a strike, both Democrats and Republicans in Congress are prepared to pass legislation to keep railroad workers on the job.



PHOTO: WORKWEEK RADI

Rally in solidarity with railroad workers' contract fight, with support from International Longshore Workers Union Local 10, Oakland, California, Oct. 27.

This should shatter any illusions that the Democratic Party is the party of the working class. Walsh — Boston's former mayor whose March 2021 appointment was cheered by many union leaders — is now acting like an old-fashioned union buster.

Rank-and-file activists call for a "NO" vote

Railroad Workers United, a progressive caucus with members in all 12 unions, held a virtual "solidarity rally" and webinar Nov. 1 that drew over 250 supporters.

Members of BLET, SMART-TD and IAM all echoed RWU's call for workers to reject the PEB agreement. Gabe Christensen, a SMART-TD member and RWU co-chair, said the contract "didn't even touch the quality-of-life issues that we have out here. There's no sick days that were involved in that ... It's purely a job-slashing, what was given to the railroads, and it's going to actually make the quality of life for railroaders worse, because our schedules are going to be even more unpredictable." (youtube.com/watch?v=7gU-Vj_-IqY)

Rail unions have been trying to negotiate a just contract with the carriers for three years. Their last strike was in 1992; Congress forced them back to work. Since then, the workforce has been systematically cut from 500,000 to 130,000, with trained teams of only two people — which the companies want to reduce to one engineer — operating "mega-monster trains."

Workers are "doing more work faster," according to BLET member and RWU co-chair Ross Grooters. At best, the 22% raise offered over five years will barely keep pace with inflation.

Profits have skyrocketed. "Congress should not have to intervene. The railroads should provide paid sick leave to its employees," BMWED said in a statement. "They have the money to do it, and it literally would cost them a penny of every dollar of record profits to provide it. It's only 2% of what CSX, NS and UP spent so far this year in stock buybacks. It's literally nothing to them, yet they refuse to provide it."

If they strike, rail unions will be taking on the capitalist state apparatus, as well as the freight companies. Unlike the bulk of U.S private sector workers, they are not covered by the 1935 National Labor Relations Act. The Railway Labor Act, passed before the National Labor Relations Act and before the mass labor upsurge of the 1930s, has particular language attempting to limit the ability to strike. Congress can impose the PEB contract or order rail workers to continue working under their current contract.

On the other hand, as speakers on the virtual rally pointed out, the RLA was not impacted by the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act [that makes it unlawful for unions to engage in secondary boycotts]. Rail unions can legally engage in secondary boycotts — such as boycotting the companies that called on Biden and Congress to act as strikebreakers. Amtrak workers could stage sympathy strikes.

There is also the possibility of a West Coast dock strike by some locals of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Teamsters President Sean O'Brien and Association of Flight Attendants-CWA President Sara Nelson have held joint rallies promoting the idea of a general strike in transportation.

Railroad workers, even more so in concert with other workers, do have the power to "shut it down!" \square

Seifullah Paracha released from U.S. custody after 19 years

By Ted Kelly

Seifullah Paracha was finally reunited with his family in Pakistan in October for the first time since 2003, the year his life was turned upside down. Paracha has the dubious distinction of having survived — for almost two decades — some of the most notorious U.S. prisons and torture chambers of the 21st century.

Now 75 years old, when he was 24 Paracha first moved to New York City and studied at the New York Institute of Technology. For the next 15 years, he lived and worked as a businessman there. He met his spouse, Farhat, a graduate of New York University, and their son, Uzair Paracha, attended a Montessori school in Brooklyn. The young family moved back home to Pakistan in the late 1980s and settled in Karachi.

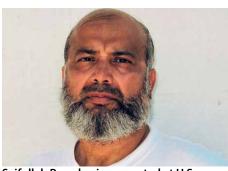
Then Seifullah Paracha was arrested in July 2003 by FBI agents operating out of a covert "Black Site" in Thailand, the site where former CIA director Gina Haspel personally oversaw the torture of prisoners. Paracha had set up a garment company based in New York City and had been visiting Bangkok to do business with representatives of Kmart department stores. Now he found himself facing vague accusations of "financing terrorism."

Paracha was then transferred to Parwan Detention Facility at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. He arrived only a few months after both Mullah Habibullah and Dilawar of Yakubi were tortured to death by U.S. military personnel. Paracha was incarcerated at Bagram at the same time as current political prisoner Aafia Siddiqui, who was shot in the chest by a warrant officer during her interrogation there.

After 14 months, Paracha was sent to Guantanamo Bay where he remained for the next 18 years. He has never been charged with a crime.

Hundreds imprisoned, tortured, without charges

Since a military prison was established at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in January 2002, just a few months following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as many as 779 adults and children are known to have been incarcerated there. All of them were Muslim, and many never knew the reason for their detentions, beyond their religion and national origins. In recent years, the vast majority—732 of them—were released without charges. Out of the 39 who remain under "indefinite detention," 27 have never been charged with a crime, and 14 have been cleared for release by the military tribunal, yet remain locked up.



Seifullah Paracha, incarcerated at U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

The military court at Guantanamo agreed to release Seifullah Paracha over a year ago, concluding that this grandfather, who suffers from diabetes and heart disease, was "not a continuing threat."

Paracha's son Uzair was also kidnapped and imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay for 18 years. He was arrested a few months before his father and sentenced to 30 years in prison. A U.S. district judge finally threw out his conviction 18 years later, saying in his decision that "allowing the defendant's conviction to stand would be a manifest injustice."

'Like being alive in your own grave'

Authorities gave no explanation for why it took so long for Seifullah Paracha to finally be freed. He described his time at Guantanamo in an interview before his release: "It's like being alive in your own grave."

One of Paracha's lawyers, Clive Stafford-Smith, said in recent months the 75-year-old took to humming the song "Hotel California" to him during their meetings: "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave."

The U.S. first established a naval presence on Cuba's southeastern coast during the U.S. Marines' invasion in 1898 and has maintained an illegal occupation force in Guantánamo Bay for over 120 years.

Pursuant to a 1903 "lease agreement," the U.S. continues to send a monthly \$4,085 rent check to Havana for the land. In his 2001 essay, "The Empire and the Independent Island," Fidel Castro wrote that since the 1959 revolution, the Cuban government has refused the payments as a form of protest. He once showed a television crew a desk drawer stuffed full of the uncashed checks. (Reuters, Aug. 17, 2007)

Castro wrote that the U.S. needs the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base "to humiliate and to carry out the filthy deeds that take place there. If we must await the downfall of the capitalist system, we shall wait." \square

In Pennsylvania prison, gender affirmation victory

By Marie Kelly

In an email thanking the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP), the first person — identified in court documents as Mx. Doe — to receive gender-affirming surgery, while incarcerated by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections,

"I had surgery today, still can't believe it is true. ... No one can take this from me. When I am able to find a mirror, I know it will finally be me who is looking back. Thank you all for tirelessly championing the rights of those of us who are existing on the margins. Thank you for showing me I matter ..." (pilp.org/news/doe-surgery)

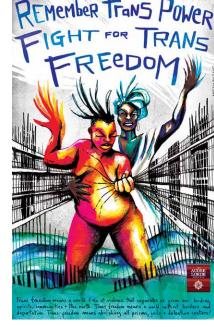
In 2017, PILP began advocating for Mx. Doe to receive necessary medical care, a constitutional right. Mx. Doe suffered under the carceral state when testosterone therapy was withheld, causing an exacerbation of gender dysphoria.

The Mayo Clinic defines gender dysphoria as "the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics." Denying care to an incarcerated individual with gender dysphoria is cruel and unusual punishment and a violation of the Eighth Amendment of the

U.S. Constitution.

PILP stated in a press release: "After five years of advocacy, the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project is pleased to announce that their client has become the first person in Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) custody to receive gender-affirming surgery. ... This gender-affirming surgery was essential for our client's well-being and is a historic step forward for transgender people in Pennsylvania's prisons and jails."

PILP will continue the lawsuit to sue for damages on their client's behalf and a further injunction to require the DOC to provide all necessary medical care. □



ART BY MICAH BAZANT WITH THE AUDRE LORDE PROJECT FOR TRANS DAY OF RESILIENCE IN NOVEMBER 2015.

Cleveland jail deaths

'This persistent neglect is intolerable'

The Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition issued the following statement Nov. 6 in response to three recent deaths in the jail, located in downtown Cleveland.

The Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition is grieved to report that within the past month, three people have died while in police custody inside the Justice Center [where the county jail is located]. On Oct. 11, Ashraf Hasan Nabeel Aljaf (33) was arrested, fell ill and died upon arrival at the jail.

Just this Tuesday [Nov. 1], Mark Turner Jr. (32) and Melissa Munson (47) both died within 24 hours of each other. Turner was found unresponsive in his cell after arriving the previous Friday, and Munson was found in distress only hours after being booked. Causes of their deaths are inconclusive. We would like to hold space for the lives lost and the loved ones they left behind.

No one should die in state custody, and yet these deaths make at least 16 total people who have died at the Cuyahoga

STOP THE INHUMANITY



at the CUYAHOGA COUNTY JAIL

CUYAHOGA COUNTY JAIL COALITION

County Jail since 2018. Countless other deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic are unreported, a violation of the Death in Custody Reporting Act. Despite preventative attempts, the jail continues to experience problems with overdoses, suicides and assaults on inmates and officers.

What is happening in this county is happening nationwide, as jail deaths increase in sync with the rise of the total incarcerated population. Someone in jail is more than three times as likely to die from suicide as someone in the general U.S. population; and since 2000, drug-related deaths in U.S. jails have almost quadrupled (Prison Policy, 2021).

These numbers alone highlight an infuriating flaw in our society. The historical and current response to health crises has been incarceration. As poverty has been criminalized, jails and prisons became places to dispose of people.

This persistent neglect is intolerable.

Cuyahoga County asserts its only solution is and has been to expand incarceration, despite the community call for alternatives.

The Jail Coalition will not stand for this injustice. We will not be silent. We continue to fight for lives and against atrocities associated with the County Jail. We advocate for the rights of all [who] suffer due to the circumstances that surround the County Jail.

We cannot continue to separate the jail from the criminal justice system and policing, as they are all connected together. When we transform the criminal justice system, we will drastically reduce the jail population. We hold local officials accountable for their policy choices that continue to induce harm. We must focus on building a more just future within our community, that centers care over cages. \square

WORKERS WORLD editorial

The pop and jazz standard "Mack the Knife," taken from Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's "The Threepenny Opera," describes the greed and violence of a London mob boss.

But Mack the Knife's ill-gotten gains were mere pocket change compared to those of the world's richest man. Elon Musk, whose father became rich as the owner of an emerald mine in South Africa during apartheid, is currently worth an estimated \$208 billion! As soon as he acquired Twitter for a cool \$44 billion, Musk the Knife laid off half the global workforce of 7,500 workers.

Many workers only realized their jobs were among those cut, when their company email accounts were abruptly deactivated without warning.

An email informing laid-off workers of their fate, impersonally signed by "Twitter," cynically insisted, "This action is unfortunately necessary to ensure the company's success moving forward." Musk's layoffs of U.S. workers may be in violation of the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires 60 days notice of

Musk the Knife takes Twitter by storm

mass layoffs, and several laid-off workers in California have filed a class-action lawsuit on that basis. (nbcnews.com, Nov. 4)

Coupled with the mass layoffs was a loosening of content rules — i.e. making hate speech permissible again. Openly racist tweets surged, and rumors spread that former President Donald Trump would have the suspension lifted on his Twitter account — proving true the warnings of civil rights groups that toxic messages would increase once Musk applied his notion of "free speech."

Musk's immediate cuts included Twitter's human rights and disability experience teams. The social media platform takeover raises questions: Will Musk, while he allows hate speech



to flourish, use his control of Twitter to impede its widespread use by union organizers at Starbucks and Amazon?

Sandra Sucher, a professor of management at Harvard University, called the suddenness of the layoffs "particularly inhumane." But Musk's brutality is par for the course under capitalism.

Cuba offers words of socialist wisdom

In the past few years, platforms like Facebook and Twitter have censored accounts which are alleged to have official ties to the Cuban government. Writing in "Granma," the official voice of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee, Michel E. Torres Corona explained the class character of these social media companies: "It was the naïve dream of some of the brilliant minds behind the creation of the internet: The digital extension of our pathetic physical existence would erase all contradictions, all inequities; it would place human beings on a plane of complete horizontality.

"But the human cannot run away from the human, not even when it is organized in the form of algorithms and binary codes. Power, that old problem of our species, which dates back to the times when we became 'political animals,' ended up infiltrating virtual Eden, like the serpent in Paradise. Its bite continues to poison the heart of modern society: The analogical springs of the exercise of power (property, authority, money, class) remained and even strengthened with the new technologies.

"A digital network such as Facebook or Twitter, which someone might think of as a refuge against despotism or antidemocratic behavior, is nothing more than a product of a transnational company, whose main interest, by nature, is to obtain economic benefits." (Oct. 28)

These mass layoffs may be just the tip of the iceberg, as recent job creation figures point toward a major economic slowdown. They may be a harbinger of things to come, as late-stage capitalism begins to approach the biggest crisis of overproduction in history.

Musk epitomizes the worst that capitalism has to offer. He is the product of a system driven to maximize profits at the expense of basic human needs.

The solution? Follow Cuba's example. Fight capitalism, win socialism. □

Disability justice is a right – and a demand!

By Disability Justice and Rights **Caucus of WWP**

Since its founding in 1959, Workers World Party has had a Disability Justice and Rights Caucus. From its beginning there have been WWP comrades who self-identify as people with disabilities.

We totally align ourselves with racial justice, reproductive justice, LGBTQ2S+ justice, women and oppressed genders' jus-

tice, Indigenous peoples' justice, and we totally embrace the principle of intersectionality—"An injury to one is an injury to all"— in our work.

Our caucus has worked to promote inclusion and access for folks with disabilities, inside and outside

the Party, and in the struggle for disabled liberation under our banner "From each according to our abilities, to each according to our needs" — first stated by Karl Marx in 1875. We have attended conferences of disabled peoples' organizations in socialist countries, including revolutionary Cuba.

One of the former leaders of this caucus was wheelchair user Betsy Gimbel. She was instrumental in helping make the

May 3, 1981, March on the Pentagon — 100,000-strong against war, racism and cutbacks - one of the first accessible demonstrations in the history of the U.S. anti-war movement.

The Disability Justice and Rights Caucus meets by Zoom every second Sunday, covering topics like the struggle to stop New York State from sending children with disabilities to the Judge Rotenberg Center in Massachusetts, to be punished and shocked



with the "graduated electronic decelerator." We support the unconditional right of all people of all disabilities to good-paying jobs, sufficient health care and other benefits, full access and independence.

We relate these rights to the righteous struggle of all workers with and without disabilities for a union, including the current organizing at Amazon and Starbucks. And we fight against the disproportionate killing of people with disabilities in

the U.S. by police, especially of disabled people of color and those with neurodivergent and emotional disabilities.

Coming up!

You are invited to our next 2nd **Sunday Disability Justice Dialogue** on Nov. 13 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. You can access the zoom link and numbers by emailing us at djrcwwp@workers.org.

In that Dialogue, we will be commemorating the upcoming 30th **International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec. 3.** The worldwide struggle by people with disabilities for equal rights led the United Nations to establish the IDPD on Dec. 3, 1992.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the U.N. in 2006. Some 177 countries have ratified it — but not the United States, which has failed to ratify human rights treaties defending women, children, migrant workers and Indigenous peoples.

The CRPD — unlike the Americans with Disabilities Act – does not include any specific or limited definition of disability nor require medical proof. It mandates for disability community advances in human, social and economic development and for

the abolition of poverty.

The CRPD makes the entire state apparatus, and not just the individual employer or landlord, responsible for providing access. Unlike the ADA, the cost of such access is not restricted to what is "reasonable" or inexpensive. The language of the CRPD affirms the right of all people with disabilities to live in the community and have sufficient support to guarantee such independence.

On December 2, Parents to **Improve School Transportation** (P.I.S.T.) will be making a musical statement in support of the CRPD and the Conventions on the Rights of the Child in an all-day hybrid global music party for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. There will be an in-person event from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the U.N. at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th Street at First Avenue, New York City, and then virtually over the next 10 hours. Details are at pistnyc.org/ events/globalmusic4idpd.

In New York City, the Peoples Power Assemblies plan to organize their seventh consecutive annual protest for IDPD on December 3 with more information and locations and times to be announced. \Box

Parents of police victim want cop indicted

By Gloria Rubac Houston

"Today is six months Jalen has been gone. We are still looking for answers. Time's up; it's time to do something," announced Tiffany Rachel, mother of 29-year-old Jalen Randle, who was shot to death by a Houston cop April 27. A crowd of Randle's extended family, his friends and many supporters gathered at Houston City Hall Oct. 27 to make their demands.

"Jalen was shot and killed by officer Shane Privette, shot in the back of the head, after the car he was riding in was pulled over by Houston police. We want [Privette] indicted. We want him fired. They need to get rid of him. We want him off the streets," said Rachel, responding to a question from the news media.

Jalen's father, Warren Randle, explained to the crowd and the media that this wasn't the first time Privette was facing charges for his dealing with civilians. "Privette has a case of excessive force on another minority person. That case is in federal court right now. It's a civil case. If the roles were reversed, and if a civilian had shot a police officer, there would have been an immediate response. They have had six months to review the body cam footage and see that before a command was even finished being issued, a fatal shot was fired."

As the rally was going on, the police chief, along with a group of cops, actually walked into City Hall. Some shouted for him to come give an update, but he

ignored the crowd. Later the family and several activists went in to try to talk with the chief, to no avail.



Tiffany Rachel, mother of Jalen Randle, speaks out for justice at Houston rally, Oct. 27.

As Rachel reported, "I marched right into City Hall and silently stood there with my sign and protested for justice for

Jalen Randle. Two officers marched up to me and told me I couldn't be protesting inside. One actually told me I was being silly and to go outside. I told them this was a public facility, and I was staying in there. I held my sign proudly as I faced all the officers."

Plans are being made for future actions to put pressure on the city to fire Privette, the killer cop who shot Jason Randle from behind, before he even finished giving Randle an order.

The real justice will come when the police of capitalism are abolished once and for all. Until then – fight them and their racist killings! □

Cherokee Nation

Broken treaties and Indigenous sovereignty

By Will Hodgkinson

The Cherokee Nation has renewed its long-standing demands that the U.S. Congress honor its treaty obligations by seating a nonvoting delegate from the Nation in the House of Representatives.

The right of the Cherokee Nation to have a congressional representative was a key concession in the 1835 Treaty of New Echota. Flunkies of President Andrew Jackson's administration coerced a minority of the Cherokee leadership into signing the treaty, thus forcing the Nation to surrender its sovereign territory. This gave the sham of "legality" to

the genocidal Trail of Tears death march to land in present-day Oklahoma. Over a quarter of the Cherokee population died on the Trail of Tears.

Now, 187 years later, the U.S. settler-colonial government continues to flout even the lopsided terms of the New Echota Treaty by refusing to seat a representative of the Cherokee Nation in Congress. "For two centuries, Congress has failed to honor that promise," said Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. "However, the Treaty of New Echota has no expiration date." (youtu.be/2ClBxXALQoc)

Although Hoskin and the Council

of the Cherokee Nation proposed Kimberly Teehee to serve as representative in 2019, the U.S. Congress has so far declined to recognize her nomination. However, increasing pressure by the Cherokee Nation and Indigenous activists has forced the House Rules Committee to plan hearings on the Cherokee representative for mid-November.

The refusal by Congress to honor its treaty obligations to the Cherokee Nation is not an isolated case. The United States has violated every one of the over 400 treaties it has made with Indigenous nations. \Box



November 10, 2022

A drum circle during the Trail of Broken Treaties occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building by the American Indian Movement, Washington, D.C., November 1972.

An essay on the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China

By Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein is a Venezuelan international relations expert, who was previously Director of the International Relations of the Presidency of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, his country's ambassador to Nicaragua and an advisor for international politics for TeleSUR. You can follow him on Twitter: @sergioroo701. Translated from Spanish by United World International.

Many important issues were discussed at the recently concluded 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Chinese and foreign analysts have written extensively on the subject. As almost always when giving an opinion about China, the analyses mostly deal with state issues that - in this case - were discussed at the event.

But if I were asked what was the highlight of this event, I would have no hesitation in affirming that the great event of the Chinese Communist Party had a keen orientation toward the internal strengthening of the organization, so that it can play its role as leader of the Chinese society on its way to socialism.

CPC part of a long process

highlight the strong ideological content of the debates in this Congress. It continued discussions held in the past and in previous similar events, and has presented a solid vindication of Marxism-Leninism as part of the support that has allowed the Communist Party of China "to comprehensively dominate the great struggle, the great work, the great cause and the great dream" ... that "has culminated in the historic task of completing the comprehensive construction of a society modestly well-off and the consequent fulfillment of the objective of struggle established for the first centenary (year 2021) and has undertaken the new expedition of the comprehensive construction of a modern socialist country toward the objective of struggle set for the second." (2049)

According to the documents debated in the Congress, the Communist Party of China occupies at this time a place understood as within a continuous process, based on the 5,000 years of existence of Chinese civilization, the almost 170 years

since the end of foreign occupation, the this process, but there is full certainty that country are based and [the] one that little more than 100 years since the founding of the CPC, the 73 years since the creation of the People's Republic of China and the 44 years since the implementation of the reform and opening policy.

they will reach the last victorious stage.

At this time, more and more, the Chinese model is viewed with admiration by many countries of the South, since socialism with Chinese characteristics



Congress of the Communist Party of China, October 2022.

With that last step, the party also began the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which is considered part of the evolution of socialism in the world. After the enunciation of scientific socialism by Marx and Engels 170 years ago, and its fusion with the labor movement that made possible the triumph of the In this context, it seems necessary to October Revolution in Russia in 1917, other nations in Europe and Asia, including China (at the end of the Second World War) also undertook the construction of socialism, creating a socialist camp that came together with the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial struggles of the 20th century to achieve a general balance in the world.

> But after the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp in the last decade of the last century, many countries of the South were forced to follow the Western political and economic model, which meant a great defeat for socialism.

Lenin: 'Struggle has only begun'

However, it must be understood that, as Lenin said when referring to the epic of October 1917 on the commemoration of its fourth anniversary, "The first victory is not the final victory. The struggle has only just begun." China has understood that it does not matter when, on what date and at what time the proletarians will complete is a banner of development of scientific socialism in the 21st century. China has proposed a plan to revitalize its socialism, so the CPC has shouldered the responsibility and has the confidence and ability to contribute to the development of scientific socialism.

For this, it is necessary to remain faithful to the aspirations that gave rise to the Party, as well as to its founding mission. In his speech, Xi Jinping stated that: "We are communists and revolutionaries, therefore we must not lose our revolutionary spirit.'

The CPC has refuted those views that it has gone from being a revolutionary party to becoming a ruling party. In this sense, Xi Jinping has emphasized the continuity of the struggle has led the Party to lead the Chinese people in the revolutionary war, in the construction of the first stage of socialism and in the reform and opening-up policy. And in this process, it has gone from being a party that led the people to take power to being a party that leads the people to hold power and govern permanently. It is, in short, a ruling Marxist party, as well as a revolutionary Marxist party.

Marxism fundamental

The 20th CPC Congress has highlighted that Marxism "is the fundamental guiding thought on which our Party and our

invigorates them. Practice has told us that the reason why the CPC is competent and socialism with Chinese characteristics is good is, in the last analysis, that Marxism is valid, and so is Marxism Chinese-ized and adapted to our times."

In this sense, the great partisan event has reached the conclusion that in the face of the different vicissitudes and difficulties that the world is going through at this time, China will only be able to respond successfully if it preserves "the exuberant vigor and thriving vitality of Marxism," integrated to the concrete reality of China and its culture, under the visions of dialectical materialism and historical materialism.

'Theoretical innovation based on practice'

To achieve this objective, the incessant promotion of "theoretical innovation based on practice" is necessary, which demands in the first instance "to correctly understand the conception of the world and the methodology of Xi Jinping's thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics of the new era." Likewise, the fundamental principles must be preserved and a systemic view must be maintained, accepting the multiverse nature of the planet in order to open up to a broader world based on the "Chinese-ization of Marxism and its adaptation to our times.'

Ideological struggle at the center

These definitions are extremely important because, without going back to the Cold War, they place the ideological struggle at the center of the global strategic confrontation. The struggles of the future, in particular those that the United States has unleashed against China, must necessarily be faced within a framework of systemic confrontation between development models that emerge from antagonistic ideological proposals.

Despite the fact that the West sang praises to the death of socialism after the disappearance of the Soviet Union. announcing that "history had ended," the People's Republic of China, its party and its people, in this Congress, have made it clear that "the people you killed seem to be in excellent health," recalling that famous phrase from the Spanish translation of the French comedy, "The Liar," written by Pierre Corneille. \square

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Colectiva Feminista en Construcción, San Juan, Puerto Rico, dos de junio, 2022.

Elecciones en Brasil

Los trabajadores y los más oprimidos derrotan al fascista Bolsonaro

Por Martha Grevatt

31 de octubre - El pueblo de Brasil ha demostrado un notable valor, frente al terror de la extrema derecha, al votar para destituir al presidente fascista Jair Bolsonaro. El ex presidente y líder obrero, y candidato del Partido de los Trabajadores (PT), Luiz Inácio Lula da

Silva derrotó a Bolsonaro por más de 2 millones de votos. Lula, como se le conoce cariñosamente, obtuvo el 50,9% de los votos frente al 49,1% de Bolsonaro en la segunda vuelta electoral del 30 de octubre, celebrada después de las elecciones generales del 2 de octubre con sus numerosos candidatos, que terminaron sin que nin-

Lula tuvo el mayor apoyo -más de dos tercios de los votos- entre los votantes pobres y rurales del noreste de Brasil. Cuando Lula fue presidente de 2003 a 2010, la pobreza se redujo, pero se ha disparado bajo Bolsonaro desde su toma de posesión el 1 de enero de 2019.

gún candidato obtuviera más del 50% de los votos.

Bolsonaro había declarado esencialmente la guerra a las más de 300 comunidades indígenas de Brasil, prometiendo imponer proyectos de presas hidroeléctricas y otros desarrollos que amenazan su cultura y soberanía. Bajo Lula y la sucesora de Lula, Dilma Rousseff, se establecieron 100 nuevos territorios indígenas. Esto se compara con cero bajo Bolsonaro y su predecesor Michel Temer, quien reemplazó a Rousseff cuando fue destituida.

El Grupo Internacional de Trabajo sobre Asuntos



Los ióvenes brasileños aplauden la noticia de que Lula ganó las elecciones presidenciales.

Indígenas informó que el gobierno de Bolsonaro "ha sido responsable de uno de los retrocesos más significativos en la demarcación de las Tierras Indígenas, promoviendo una visión integracionista que se centra en "civilizar" a los Pueblos Indígenas."

La violencia policial anti-negra es generalizada, impulsando un movimiento Black Lives Matter en Brasil, donde 15 millones de

personas en el censo más reciente se identificaron como "africanos" y el 43% de los 212 millones de habitantes del país como "mestizos."

Bolsonaro y Trump

Bolsonaro es una versión brasileña de Donald Trump. Su enfoque de la pandemia del COVID-19 fue un reflejo del ultraderechista estadounidense, lo que provocó casi 700.000 muertes. Al igual que Trump, el derrotado presidente de Brasil ha mostrado su desprecio por el medio ambiente y la crisis climática, promoviendo la deforestación en el Amazonas. Bajo el mandato de Bolsonaro, se destruyeron más de 16.000 millas cuadradas de la Amazonía, un área más grande que Suiza, según el Instituto Nacional de Investigación Espacial de Brasil, que rastrea los incendios en la Amazonía. (npr.org, 28 de octubre)

Los elementos pro-Bolsonaro emplearon la violencia y la intimidación en un esfuerzo por cambiar el resultado de las elecciones. Varios trabajadores de la campaña del PT fueron asesinados; los periodistas que cubrían las elecciones, especialmente las mujeres, fueron acosados repetidamente. En el noreste, la Policía Federal de Carreteras estableció bloqueos el 30 de octubre que impidieron que autobuses llenos de votantes rurales llegaran a las urnas. Esto fue una violación de las órdenes emitidas por el Tribunal Superior Electoral que prohíben tales acciones.

Este es el clima en el que Lula asumirá el cargo. Implementar sus reformas prometidas será difícil, con la composición de la legislatura donde los aliados conservadores de Bolsonaro tienen mayoría. Y un intento de golpe fascista sigue siendo una posibilidad, dada la gran base de apoyo de Bolsonaro, demostrada por los resultados electorales. Brasil estuvo bajo una dictadura militar respaldada por Estados Unidos desde 1964 hasta 1985.

Al igual que con las recientes elecciones de los presidentes de izquierda Xiomara Castro de Zelaya en Honduras y Gustavo Petro en Colombia, la victoria electoral de Lula no significa que la clase obrera tenga ahora el poder del Estado. Estos progresistas ocupan el cargo, pero el capitalismo y el imperialismo no han sido derribados. Esto crea un peligro siempre presente de una reacción de la derecha y pone límites a lo que cualquier presidente puede hacer.

Sin embargo, la elección de Lula en un clima de terror extralegal y patrocinado por el Estado es un resultado positivo. Se espera que Lula revierta la política de Bolsonaro de abierta hostilidad hacia los gobiernos de Venezuela, Bolivia y Cuba. Lula ofrece esperanza para los trabajadores, especialmente para los más pobres y oprimidos.

Siendo Brasil el quinto país más grande del mundo en cuanto a superficie y el séptimo más poblado, este desarrollo tiene ramificaciones para la clase obrera mundial. Sin embargo, para obtener logros significativos será necesario que el sector de la población brasileña que eligió a Lula se siga movilizando. □

editorial

MUNDO OBRERO Amenazas en semana electoral: parte de una larga y sangrienta historia

Esto es lo que está ocurriendo en el período previo a lucharon para liberar la tierra que las elecciones "democráticas" de mitad de período.

Cada pocos minutos, durante los partidos de béisbol de la Serie Mundial, se emitieron anuncios de odio contra los inmigrantes, las personas trans y los negros. Estos anuncios fueron financiados por "Citizens for Sanity", un grupo de extrema derecha cuyos financiadores van desde un heredero de la cerveza Schlitz hasta un magnate de

Los teóricos de la conspiración de la derecha han apostado en las urnas de Arizona. Armados y con equipo táctico de estilo militar, detuvieron y amenazaron a los votantes. Un juez federal dictaminó que esto no "entra en ninguna categoría tradicionalmente reconocida de intimidación de votantes". (huffpost.com, 28 de octubre)

Está claro que este juez ignoró la historia del voto en Estados Unidos: la fea, racista, violenta y mortal negación y supresión del derecho al voto de la gente oprimida y de color.

Tras el robo genocida de las tierras indígenas, el poder estadounidense luchó desde el principio para limitar quién podía votar. En la década de 1780, eso incluía generalmente sólo a los hombres blancos propietarios o que pagaban impuestos, alrededor del 6% de la población. Ninguna persona esclavizada ni ninguna mujer tenía derecho legal a votar. A través de una inmensa lucha de masas para conseguir enmiendas constitucionales, los hombres afroamericanos consiguieron el voto en 1870, y las mujeres en 1920.

Durante 10 años, tras el final de la Guerra Civil y la emancipación de los esclavizados, hubo una batalla tras otra en el campo y las pequeñas ciudades del Sur.

La población afroamericana, y algunos aliados blancos,

habían trabajado durante generaciones como mano de obra forzada, sin salario y encadenada.

Ganar el derecho al voto -en el que se basaba el autogobierno localera esencial para esta lucha. Con cada acto hacia esa libertad, la gente arriesgaba su vida y su integridad física. Un testigo relató haber visto Alabama, 8 de noviembre de 1966. a los votantes negros de Mississippi

marchando a las urnas "a la manera de los soldados, armados con palos y garrotes, algunos de ellos con viejas espadas y trozos de hojas de guadaña". (James Allen, "Reconstrucción: la batalla por la democracia 1865-1876")

Pero el derecho al voto siguió siendo negado ampliamente por los supremacistas blancos y los jefes capitalistas. A partir de la Guerra Civil, se aprobaron leyes específicas -pruebas de alfabetización, impuestos electorales, leyes Jim Crow- para impedir que la gente opri-

Las fuerzas estatales y de vigilancia amenazaron a los trabajadores ordinarios en las urnas con intimidación violenta y arrestos, a veces con linchamientos.

Sólo a través de la desobediencia civil masiva y el sacrificio sangriento de muchas vidas, el Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles liderado por los negros en los años 50 y 60 consiguió finalmente la Ley de Derecho al Voto de 1965, una ley que ahora está siendo sistemáticamente desmantelada por los reaccionarios racistas.

Aunque este país se llama a sí mismo una democracia, en realidad es una democracia capitalista. Todo el debate y las decisiones en las elecciones de Estados Unidos están



subordinados al dinero y al poder - y eso incluye el derecho al voto.

Los pobres, los trabajadores, las mujeres y las personas de género, la gente de color, los inmigrantes, las personas con discapacidades nunca estarán verdaderamente representados a través del sistema electoral de una democracia capitalista.

En unas elecciones burguesas en Estados Unidos, el ala derecha de

la clase dominante empuja la propaganda lo más a la derecha posible, para dividir e intimidar a la gente. Y quienquiera que salga elegido llevará a cabo la guerra y la represión de clase en beneficio de la clase dominante. Esto es lo que son las elecciones burguesas.

Defendemos el derecho a votar en las elecciones -al igual que defendemos el derecho a votar por un sindicato en un lugar de trabajo- como un acto básico de autodefensa de los trabajadores y los oprimidos.

Pero en el aluvión de propaganda electoral, los anuncios llenos de odio, la intimidación en las urnas, esta es la cuestión crucial: Durante los últimos 350 años en los EE.UU., ¿qué clase ha estado matando y esclavizando a la gente, tanto en la esclavitud como en la esclavitud asalariada? Tomando sus tierras, secuestrándolas de sus hogares, negándose a pagar cualquier salario o un salario digno, sacrificando a la gente en el trabajo a las lesiones, la enfermedad, el peligro, ordenando al Klan o a los policías que los maten si se rebelan o hacen huelga, negando la atención médica o la vivienda, degradando el medio ambiente hasta que estamos en crisis climática, o -

Añade tu propia acusación a esta lista. □