Yesterday we walked the woodland paths and sandy pride. “Our spirit refuses to die,” wrote Wamsutta. The speech contained a powerful message of Native American fate of the Wampanoag at the hands of settlers. The atrocities committed by the Pilgrims, but also reflected upon the committed by the Pilgrims, but also reflected upon the destiny of Native Americans.

The pride and power of Wamsutta Frank James were becoming clear that Native Americans, like African Americans and other oppressed peoples, were saying “no more!”

The National Day of Mourning protest was founded by Wamsutta Frank James, an Aquinnah Wampanoag tribal member. In 1970, Wamsutta had been invited by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to give a speech at a banquet commemorating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. The organizers of the banquet imagined that Wamsutta would give an appreciative and complimentary speech, singing the praises of the American settler-colonial project and thanking the Pilgrims for bringing “civilization” to the Wampanoag.

However, the speech that Wamsutta wrote, which was based on historical fact instead of the hollow fiction portrayed in the Thanksgiving myth, was a far cry from complimentary.

The pride and power of Wamsutta Frank James

In his speech, Wamsutta not only named atrocities committed by the Pilgrims, but also reflected upon the fate of the Wampanoag at the hands of settlers. The speech contained a powerful message of Native American pride. “Our spirit refuses to die,” wrote Wamsutta. “Yesterday we walked the woodland paths and sandy trails. Today we must walk the macadam highways and roads. We are uniting… We stand tall and proud; and before too many moons pass, we’ll right the wrongs we have allowed to happen to us.”

When state officials saw an advance copy of Wamsutta’s speech, they refused to allow him to deliver it, saying that the speech was too “inflammatory.” The speech contained a revolutionary spirit, clearly inspired by the fledgling “Red Power Movement,” which demanded equal rights and self-determination for Native Americans. This without a doubt frightened the state officials, whose minds were likely drawn to the 1969 Occupation of Alcatraz, a 19-month-long protest involving Native Americans and supporters taking over the abandoned federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island in California. The Occupation of Alcatraz was the first inter-tribal protest that garnered national attention, and it had struck fear into the hearts of the ruling class, because it was becoming clear that Native Americans, like African Americans and other oppressed peoples, were saying “no more!”

Attempted suppression of defiant speech

Clinging to the Thanksgiving mythology, the state officials told Wamsutta that they would write a more “appropriate” speech for the banquet, but he refused to have words put into his mouth. His suppressed speech was printed in newspapers across the country, and Wamsutta decided that something had to be done to ensure that the truth about the Pilgrims was still heard. He and other local Native activists began to plan a protest.

The flyer for this protest, which was circulated among Native people nationwide, read: “What do we have to be thankful for? The United American Indians of New England have declared Thanksgiving Day to be a National Day of Mourning for Native Americans.”

First National Day of Mourning

Members of the American Indian Movement (AIM), such as Russell Means and Dennis Banks, as well as Native people from all over the country, traveled to Plymouth for the very first National Day of Mourning. On Nov. 27, 1970, a crowd of around 200 Native Americans and supporters gathered on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth. Native American leaders made speeches about the deplorable conditions Native Americans faced, the genocidal actions of the United States government and the devastation caused by the Pilgrims.

The group went down to the waterfront, where they buried Plymouth Rock in sand and painted it red. A small group of protesters made their way to the Mayflower II, stopping to deliver a message to the crew: “We are not conquered.”

Indigenous struggle never stops

Continued on page 6
Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist organization that firmly believes in 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!

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Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the working class 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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The Supreme Court of the United States is scheduled to rule sometime in 2023 on two cases threatening the very existence of affirmative action. Oral arguments were held before SCOTUS on Oct. 31 on both of these cases that stem from “race-based” admissions to Harvard University, and the University of North Carolina. The cases, both initiated by Students for Fair Admissions, claim that quotas set aside especially for Black and Latinx applicants unconstitutionally discriminates against white- and Asian-skilled workers. By Parks and Recreation to build new sports facilities, Philly's FDR Meadows and wetlands have been clear-cut for Save the Meadows reported how 55 acres of South the Cobbs Creek area. The developer clear-cut 100 acres Department continues to sell off public land for private construction of a new basketball arena in Chinatown. By Monica Moorehead

With new legal attacks

Affirmative action must be defended

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The Bellwether District.

Redevelopment Partners was able to purchase the 1,300- ing neighborhoods. However in March 2021, Hilco became sick and died, including from cancers, the homes owned by the Sunoco Oil refinery. After many residents was built on land contaminated by leaks from oil tanks found now as ever, in terms of uniting and fighting to not maintain capitalist class rule. In light of the growing global economic crisis that is causing so much pain, suffering and uncertainty for bil- lions of people, international solidarity is key to defend- ing affirmative action and other programs won through mass struggle. As a key organizer of the April 15 March in Washington, now Workers World Party First Secretary, Larry Holmes stated at a New York City meeting in 1978: "What is so significant is that this anti-Bakke march has inspired thousands all over the country and could possibly pro- vide the energy for a rejuvenation of the anti-racist and anti-imperialist movement." (WW, April 14, 1978)

Fast forward 44 years later, his words are just as pro- found now as ever, in terms of uniting and fighting to not only defend but expand affirmative action. ☐

Philadelphia communities unite against destructive developers

By Betsy Piette Philadelphia

Close to 150 people, representing over a dozen diverse multinational, working-class Philadelphia neighbor- hoods, rallied together at FDR Park in South Philly Nov. 12 to demand a say by residents in what developments are allowed by the city. The “Democracy Over Development” march took on the historic refinery redevelopment in South Philadelphia, the threat of evictions of U.C. Townhomes residents in West Philadelphia and the fight to stop the construction of a new basketball arena in Chinatown.

Redevelopment Partners also raised the destruction of old growth forests and wetlands, as the city’s Parks and Recreation Department continues to sell off public land for private development. A member of Cobbs Creek Environmental Justice described the sale of 100 acres of public land for $1 to a suburban developer expanding a golf course in the Cobbs Creek area. The developer clear-cut 100 acres of old growth forest, an important habitat for wildlife and threatening nearby waterways. At FDR Park where the rally began, a spokesperson for Save the Meadows reported how 35 acres of South Philly’s FDR Meadows and wetlands have been clear-cut by Parks and Recreation to build new sports facilities, including professional soccer fields. Philadelphia has been chosen as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and park developers plan to invest an additional 90-100 acres of habitat vital to wildlife.

Other organizations that participated in the rally and march included Save the U.C. Townhomes, Save Chinatown, Vietlead, Asian American United, Philly Thrive, Party for Socialism and Liberation, ACT UP and Workers World Party. A lively march, led and energized by a dynamic drumming group, followed the marchers. It first stopped at the intersection of Passyunk and Penrose to remember the plight of former residents of the Passyunk Homes, a low-income public housing project near there, which was built on land contaminated by leaks from oil tanks owned by the Sunoco Oil refinery. After many residents became sick and died, including from cancers, the homes were torn down 20 years ago.

Speakers noted that despite the risks, new develop- ment is expanding on the environmentally hazardous site. A sign by Sienna Place developers advertised lux- ury homes there starting at $600,000. A "buyer beware" notice should have been posted.

Strength in numbers

Further down Penrose at 26th Street, demonstra- tors spread out to take over the entire intersection and blocked multiple traffic lanes in all four directions for more than an hour. This stop was near the site of the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery, where in June 2019 a chemical explosion and fire endangered refinery workers, people living nearby and potentially major sec- tions of this high density area.

Since that refinery’s demolition, neighbors organized with Philly Thrive to uproot 154 years of environmen- tal racism; they have demanded that any redevelopment include their input and that it invest in surround- ing neighborhoods. However in March 2021, Hilco Redevelopment Partners was able to purchase the 1,500- acres for $225 million for a "mixed-use site" called The Bellwether District.

It is unclear what, if any, voice neighborhood residents will be given in this project and just how much cleanup will actually occur there.

The timing for this march was no coincidence. In November 2022, all seats on the Philadelphia City Council are up for election, as is the position of mayor. The election just past has demonstrated the power of grassroots organizing to pass referendums protecting abortion rights. This lesson was not lost on rally partic- ipants seeking environmental and housing protections. This coming together of multiple multinational, work- ing-class communities, who are fighting displacement and environmental destruction by billion-dollar investors, marks an historic first in Philadelphia. After decades of fighting on their own, these communities are learning they have more power than ever to defend their homes. Today’s action demonstrated the potential to make all these movements stronger through unity. ☐
Defend prisoners’ right to vote!

By Monica Moorehead

WWW COMMENTARY

This edited commentary first appeared online Oct. 26 as an editorial.

There have been at least 20 cases of people arrested and charged with 2020 voter fraud — mostly, voting while Black in the state of Florida. All those arrested had been previously incarcerated for murder or sex offenses and are currently on parole.

Florida’s governor is the notorious Ron DeSantis, an ultra-right-wing bigot, who is openly racist, anti-trans, anti-communist and anti-worker. And Florida has the highest number of former “felons” per capita of any state.

A state constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 2018, restored voting rights to many former prisoners, but others were left out, leaving many uncertain or misinformed about their eligibility to vote. The amendment excludes people convicted of murder or felony sex offenses and requires them to apply separately to have their voting rights reinstated. But how many former prisoners are even aware of who can and cannot vote once they are released?

A roundup of some of those arrested in Florida was videotaped this past August by The Tampa Bay Times. They are released? Their voting rights reinstated. But how many former prisoners are even aware of who can and cannot vote once they are released?

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The arrests are meant to terrorize individuals and to terrorize any person of color who attempts to exercise their democratic right to vote — especially but not exclusively in the Deep South. This right was violently stolen after the overthrow of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period and is not restored until the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Right-wing maneuvers in the state legislatures and the courts have eroded various amendments in this historic law, which was won by the blood, sweat and tears of African Americans. Denying any current prisoner or former prisoner the right to vote continues the historic disenfranchisement of African Americans.

Leonard Peltier’s Walk to Justice rallies in D.C. for clemency

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

The Leonard Peltier’s Walk to Justice marched over 1,100 miles from Minneapolis to Washington, D.C. — a march to demand President Joe Biden release 78-year-old Indigenous political prisoner and Native elder Leonard Peltier. On Nov. 13, marchers and supporters marched to the Washington Monument and rallied at the Lincoln Memorial. The march was organized by the American Indian Movement’s Grand Governing Council. AIM members walked at least 20 miles a day for 15 weeks, supported by rallies along the way.

Leonard Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, is recognized around the world as a political prisoner. Peltier, who was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, has been in prison for 46 years for a crime he did not commit. The U.S. government has repeatedly refused him parole in violation of its own statutes.

International efforts grew to seek legal clemency in 1993 after all court venues to obtain his release were exhausted; these efforts have been blocked by the FBI. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark used blunt words to describe Peltier’s trial and conviction: “There was no evidence that he did it, except fabricated, circumstantial evidence, overwhelmingly misguided, concealed and perverted.”

Former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds, who was the government’s prosecutor in Peltier’s trial, sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging clemency. Reynolds argued for Peltier’s Clemency Petition “as being in the best interests of justice considering the totality of all matters involved.”

Worldwide supporters who have called for freedom for Leonard Peltier include Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger, the National Congress of American Indians, Amnesty International, a working group of the United Nations Human Rights Council and tens of thousands of activists.


Prison enslavement outlawed in four states

Voters in Tennessee, Vermont, Alabama, and Oregon passed ballot measures this month that eliminate all legal exceptions prohibiting involuntary, forced, and unpaid labor. This is a challenge to the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which holds that it is illegal to enslave a person if they have been convicted of a crime. A similar measure was on the ballot in Louisiana but was defeated.

Seifullah Paracha freed after 19 years in Gitmo

Seifullah Paracha, the oldest remaining prisoner at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base has been released after 19 years of detention without charges. Now 76 years old, Paracha was arrested in 2003 by FBI agents operating out of a CIA black site in Thailand. Paracha’s son, Uzair, was also imprisoned at Gitmo from 2003 until his release in 2005.

Pennsylvania prisoner wins gender-affirming healthcare and surgery

Mx. Doe, an incarcerated person in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, has become the first person to win the right to gender-affirming surgery in the state’s history. The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project released a statement from Mx. Doe who said, “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.”

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Movement for Mumia: We need to mobilize against judge’s plans to deny appeal

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

It is nearly 40 years since Mumia Abu-Jamal was first arrested Dec. 9, 1981. Ever since he has been subjected to a racist frame-up and unjustly sentenced to solitary confinement on death row. He has spent the last 10 years surging on his health crises, while imprisoned without a chance of parole.

A Black Panther Party veteran, community activist and revolutionary journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed for the murder of a Philadelphia cop. His original hearing and initial appeals were fraught with errors, fabricated police testimony, prosecutorial misconduct and overt judicial bias by racist trial Judge Albert Sabo. He continues to maintain his innocence. Now he awaits a decision in what may be his last appeal.

The Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia held a hearing on his case Oct. 26, where Judge Lucretia Clemons was scheduled to render her decision on whether new evidence found in December 2018 was sufficient to warrant a new Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA) hearing.

Clemons ended the hearing by producing a 32-page notice of her intent to dismiss the defense petition. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys were given 20 days to respond, after which the Commonwealth has 10 days to reply. The next court date is set for Dec. 16.

Judge Clemons only considered three narrow arguments, based on evidence found in 2018 in six hidden file boxes in the District Attorney’s office, which had never been previously disclosed to the defense. A letter from the prosecution’s key witness Robert Chobert, to Prosecutor Joseph McGill, indicated Chobert expected to receive money from the Commonwealth in exchange for his testimony. McGill extensively tracked and monitored another key witness, Cynthia White, whose pending criminal cases were all dismissed following her testimony for the prosecution.

The defense petition also documented the abhorrent and unconstitutional practice of striking Black jurors from Abu-Jamal’s original trial in 1982. McGill’s handwritten notes, found in the hidden files, showed he was tracking prospective jurors by race.

At the hearing, Judith Ritter, Sam Spital from the Abolitionist Law Center represented Abu-Jamal. Assistant District Attorney Tracey Kavanagh was scheduled to represent the prosecutor, who never used McGill’s notes for cross-examination. McGill’s reasons for striking Black jurors from the jury were never shown in any court.

In 1981, Polakoff offered his photos as evidence to the prosecutor, who never used them. As a result, the photos were never shown in any court.

One of the procedures frequently cited was “time-bar” — that again, there will be a one-year period of limitation to submit new evidence once a conviction becomes final.

On April 24, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. This statute also declares (in part) that again, there will be a one-year period of limitation to submit new evidence once a conviction becomes final.

Arlen Specter, the senator from Pennsylvania, drafted this bill. This federal legislation was also sponsored by U.S. Senator Robert Dole and was affirmed on Mumia’s birthday — thus sending a message, reinforced by the fact that Maureen Faulkner stood on the platform while Clinton signed.

Both federal and state legislation language are pretty much identical.

Today, 26 years later, as we see in the latest Mumia dismissal by Judge Lucretia Clemons, the time-barred statute is being applied to the appeals of Mumia. We are incessantly told to use the court system to attain justice. However, our overlords have played with and twisted the rules of the injustice system so as to make true justice unattainable.

Jerome Coffey is currently incarcerated at SCI Pine Grove in Pennsylvania. His own murder conviction is currently under appeal.
Indigenous pride, power and self-determination!

Continued from page 1

a replica of the original Mayflower, and boarded the ship. They climbed the rigging and tore down the flag of Saint George, which the police for wearing an upside-down American flag draped over her shoulders. They tossed a wax statue of the captain of the Mayflower, Christopher Jones, overboard, along with the flag of Saint George.

The protesters then made their way to a “re-creation” of the first Thanksgiving dinner, where they flipped over tables saying that “they would not eat the white man’s food.”

One leader would later say of the first National Day of Mourning that it “is a day American Indians won’t forget. We went to Plymouth for a purpose: to mourn since the landing of the Pilgrims the repression of the American Indian; and to inflict the hypocrisies of a system which glorifies that repression. We fulfilled that purpose and gained a spirit of unity that spread across the land.” (Russell Means Recounts NDOM, 1971)

Mourning, indicting and protesting the repression of Native peoples

Every year since the first protest in 1970, protesters have gathered on Cole’s Hill to observe a National Day of Mourning. At the 1972 National Day of Mourning, a young woman was attacked by the police for wearing an upside-down American flag draped over her shoulders. At the 1974 National Day of Mourning, Wamsutta and protesters liberated the bones of a 16-year-old Wampanoag girl from the Pilgrim Hall Museum. In 1997, National Day of Mourning organizers and protesters were attacked and brutalized by the Plymouth police, who arrested 25 protesters. The resulting case and settlement led to the installation of two plaques, one that makes reference to the origin and purpose of the National Day of Mourning, the other commemorating the Metacomet (King Philip), who led resistance against English settlers in 1675.

The settlement also ensured that charges were dropped against all 25 protesters and protected the right to march without a permit each National Day of Mourning.

Protesters will gather on Cole’s Hill on so-called Thanksgiving Day this year just as they have for the past 52 years. Key issues to be addressed include the potential overturn of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWGA2S); the ongoing anti-colonial struggle in Puerto Rico; and clemency for longtime Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

As Moorman James, son of Wamsutta Frank James, and the late co-leader of UAINE, said to the crowd at the 2019 National Day of Mourning: “We will continue to resist the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past. When the homeless have homes. When children are no longer taken from their parents, when police are locked in cages. When the Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy and self-determination they have been denied for the past 70 years. When no person goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. When insula- tion is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. When insula-
In memory of Moonanum James

‘We are not vanishing, we are not conquered’

By Moonanum James


Once again on the fourth Thursday in November, United American Indians of New England and those who support us are gathered on Cole’s Hill to observe a National Day of Mourning. Until then the struggle will continue. In the 49th year we have come here—in all kinds of weather—to mourn our ancestors and speak the truth about our history.

Those who say that the Pilgrims or Thanksgiving have not been able to have envisioned that generations would still be here, year after year, carrying on this tradition. Many of the elders who stood on this hill and organized the first Day of Mourning are no longer with us. But we feel their spirit guiding us today.

Forty-nine “Thanksgivings” ago, my father, an Aquinnah Wampanoag named Wamunutta Frank James, was asked to speak to a crowd celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. When asked by the organizers to provide an advance copy of his speech, Wamunutta Frank James said, “When I hear the speech, the planners told him he could only speak if he was willing to offer false praise of the Pilgrims. The organizers were even willing to write a speech for him. After all, they said, “The theme of the celebration is brotherhood, and anything inflammatory would be out of place.”

My father refused to have words put into his mouth. Then, the National Day of Mourning came into being as a result of his refusal. Instead of speaking at the banquet, he and a group of Indigenous peoples and allies from throughout the Americas gathered on this hill and observed the first National Day of Mourning in 1970.

‘Thanksgiving’— ‘thanks-taking’

What really happened at the first Thanksgiving—or what some of us call the first “thanks-taking”? According to popular myth, the Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, landed on Plymouth Rock. The Indians welcomed them with open arms, then promptly faded into the background. Everyone lived happily ever after.

Here is the truth. First, the Pilgrims are glorified and mythologized because the circumstances at Jamestown, the first colony in North America, were too ugly to hold up as an effective national myth. We can’t teach schoolchildren about the first Thanksgiving, or about the Philippines, or about slavery, or about black people, or about the death of the Wampanoag, or about those who are still dying, or about the loss, or about the genocide, or about the other Indigenous peoples who have been disposessed.

When the Pilgrims arrived on outer Cape Cod—not on that pebble down the hill—one of the first things they did was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of their winter provisions of corn and beans as they could carry away. The colonists’ own writings describe these actions.

The next part of the mythology is true: My Wampanoag ancestors welcomed the Pilgrims, not knowing that they and other Indigenous peoples would be disposessed, and killed by their guns and hanging ropes, as well as by their diseases. What did we get in return for this kindness? Genocide, the theft of our lands and never-ending repression.

My Wampanoag ancestors welcomed the Pilgrims, not knowing that they and other Indigenous peoples would be disposed of and killed by their guns and hanging ropes, as well as by their diseases. What did we get in return for this kindness? Genocide, the theft of our lands and never-ending repression.

Celebrate the massacre of over 700 Pequot men, women, and children on the banks of the Mystic River in Connecticut.

Holiday myth covers up genocide

Gov. Winthrop wrote of this event: “Those that escaped the fire were slain with the sword; some sewed pieces, others broken up with their rapiers … they thus destroyed about 400 at this time. It was a fearful sight to see them thus fying in the fire … horrible was the stinking and smoking of the bodies. But the feast that followed seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave the prayers thereof to God, who had brought so wonderfully for them … For as much as there was no thanksgiving.”

Why does any of this matter? When people perpetuate the myth of Thanksgiving, they are not only erasing our genocide but also celebrating it. For my ancestors, the Pilgrims arrived long before the end.

Those of us who managed to survive this genocide are treated as quaint relics of the past, forever relegated to the one point in history. But we did not simply fade into the background, as the Thanksgiving myth says. We have survived and thrived. We have persevered.

The very fact that you are here in Plymouth is proof that we did not simply vanish. Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books and the mythmakers. We will remember and honor all our ancestors who went before us in the struggle. We will speak truth to power as we have been doing since the first Day of Mourning in 1970.

The first Day of Mourning was a powerful demonstration of Native unity. Today is a powerful demonstration of not only Indigenous unity, but the unity of all people who want to speak truth to power. They want the truth to be told and who want to see an end to the oppressive system brought to these shores by the Pilgrim invaders.

Sadly, the conditions which prevailed in Indian country in 1970 still prevail today. Then we demanded an end to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. We demand this today. Native nations should not need federal oversight to govern themselves or take control of our own lands.

#StandwithMaspee

Recently, the Department of the Interior ruled that the Maspee Wampanoag should not be able to take their own ancestral territory into trust. In other words, the Maspee are not allowed to own the very land that was ripped away from them for the second time! This decision is an attack on the self-determination and sovereignty of all Native Nations throughout the country, especially those who were federally recognized after 1934.

I hope you will stand with the Maspee and support pending legislations that would give Maspee Wampanoag the right to petition for land to be taken into trust. Tell your congress members that this legislation should also be applied to other tribes in Massachusetts and elsewhere that were federally recognized.

Those who started National Day of Mourning also spoke of terrible racism and poverty. That continues. Some reservations, such as Navajo, do not even have clean drinking water for thousands of their people. Native youth suicide and school-dropout rates continue to be the highest in the nation.

However, Native Nations continue to display resilience in the face of ongoing settler-colonial oppression and work hard to ensure to take care of our communities and find solutions to problems that we face. We know that racism is alive and well, but more than ever, we are fighting.

All of us are struggling under the oppression of a capitalist system which forces people to make a bitter choice between heating and eating. We will continue to gather on this hill until the U.S. military and corporations stop polluting the earth and until we dismantle the brutal apparatus of mass incarceration. We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past.

The struggle will continue

We won’t stop until the homeless have homes, until no person goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. Or until union busting is a thing of the past. We won’t stop until people from Mexico, Central and South America are no longer demonized and targeted by politicians in search of a scapegoat or until Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy that Israel has denied them for 70 years. Until then the struggle will continue.

We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism perpetuated by all governments and organizations against innocent people worldwide.

As we did in 1970, we mourn the loss of millions of our ancestors and the devastation of the land, water and air. Since the invasion of Columbus and the rest of the Europeans, Native people have been nonstop victims of terrorism. From the colonial period to the 21st century, this has entailed torture, massacres, systematic military occupations and the forced removals of Indigenous people from their lands.

Let us not forget that this country was founded on the ideology of white supremacy, the widespread practice of enslavement of African peoples and the policies of genocide and land theft. Let us not forget that underneath the pipelines, skyscrapers, mines and oil rigs lie the interred bones, sacred objects and villages of our Native ancestors.

Today on liberated territory we will correct the history of a country that continues to glorify butchers such as Christopher Columbus, makes slave-owning presidents such as Washington and Jefferson into godlike figures, even carving their faces into the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota.

On our program today there will only be Indigenous speakers. This is one day when we speak for ourselves—without non-Native people, so-called “experts”—interpreting to interpret and speak for us.

Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books, the profiteers and the mythmakers. We will remember and honor all our ancestors in struggle who went before us. We will speak truth to power. We will remember all our sisters and brothers, including Leonard Peltrie and Mumia Abu-Jamal, who continue to be imprisoned.

In 1970 very few people would have thought that the Indigenous people of this hemisphere do not look upon the European invaders’ arrival as a reason to give thanks. Today thousands stand with us in spirit as we commemorate the 49th National Day of Mourning.

In the spirit of Crazy Horse, in the spirit of Metacom, in the spirit of Geronimo—and above all—to all people who fight and struggle for real justice, we say: We are not vanishing! We are not conquered. We are as strong as ever.
Which way for the antiwar movement? Demand ‘Negotiations or Stop the Wars?’

By Sara Flounders

As the war in Ukraine grows more protracted and dangerous, its consequences will arouse fear among many and opposition among those making the greatest sacrifices. The economic consequences of the war continue to be felt in the U.S. and the far greater disarray in the European Union, caused by imposing sanctions on Russia, will create the basis for a popular movement in the United States and in Europe.

The fundamental question is: Should we seek to arouse anger and outrage at the political and economic forces that make this war possible, or seek to negotiate an end to the war in the name of the realities of colonialism. The contingent that normally has little to no information about the conflict decides to take its audience to New York City this year, the Puerto Rico Is Not For Sale campaign decided to take an audience on a so-called Peace Process in Paris, Geneva and London.

Every effort was made by the U.S. and NATO countries to stop the Syrian opposition and demand that the elected Syrian government resign. The process has stretched on for ten years, and U.S. troops of occupation are still in Syria. U.S. jet aircraft and drones continue bombing missions. Iraq is still “negotiating” with the U.S. to get U.S. troops out of Iraq. And the U.S. provides a continuing stream of weapons and support to the Israeli state, while endless negotiations continue with the Palestinian people.

Of course, every country is forced into unequal negotiations with the U.S. regime and its numerous arms and proxy forces. Loans and interest payments must be endlessly negotiated with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and whole consortiums of bankers.

It is a dangerous illusion to consider negotiations a “Road to Peace.” Negotiations are another form of continuing imperialist pressure. As an antigwar slogan, “Negotiations” immediately limits the understanding of the war and who is responsible for NATO expansion and arming of fascist forces in Ukraine. It makes an equal sign hang between two conflicting forces. Is there anything to be gained by making enormous and moderate concessions at the launch of a new movement? Every worker engaged in negotiations with a boss knows just how meaningless the process is always. But it also means that it is first essential to rally around clear demands.

STOP THE WARS!

The role of a political opposition, an antigwar opposition, is to demand an end to U.S. military intervention, for all the many wars that U.S. imperialism is engaged in.

For example, it is imperialist U.S. policy that raised and denounced to confront corporate media propa-
ganda. If Ukraine is raised in isolation, then responsi-
bility for the war can more easily be shifted. The entire movement gains a wider perspective if the continuing U.S. war in Syria, the nonstop wars and decimation exercises against the DPRK, the expanding sanctions on 40+ countries, the weekly parades of U.S. destroyers through the Straits of Taiwan, the “Regime Change” operations in Venezuela and Iran, and the continuing U.S. war in Iraq are presented as part of a world-wide policy.

This more honest direction educates millions.

A movement is based on a growing consciousness of the urgent need to respond. Vague generalities about a hope for peace, which everyone claims to be for, sups the power from any struggle. It gives political cover to those who support the war and its aims.

Rather than an effort to move to the most cautious demands acceptable to the Democratic Party, let’s turn our attention to the enormous changes rumbling beneath our feet. The whole world, especially in the Global South, is rejecting U.S. demands for sanctions. Angry antwarz and anti-NATO demonstrations are growing across Europe.

Most important is that youth in the U.S. are organizing on an explosive basis. They are bringing a whole new future. Let’s raise more combative demands that will speak to these emerging forces. This will build interna-
tional solidarity and new alliances.

Technology speculation goes bust—tens of thousands laid off

By G. Dunkel

Tens of thousands of workers in the technology sector have been laid off this year. Estimates vary, depending on when you start counting — January or June — and how you categorize the workers. For example, can an order picker for Amazon be considered a tech worker? Or a driver for Uber?

According to the trade group CompTIA, some 175,700 workers have found jobs in the technology sector this year. At the same time, the e-commerce giant and parent company of Facebook, Meta, has announced it is laying off more than 11,000 workers, about 13% of its employ-
es. Twitter, currently in the news after the far-right billionaire Elon Musk take-
over, has cut around 3,700 workers. Lyft, Uber’s main competitor, laid off 700 from its administration. Stripe, a big online payment company, another 1,100.

In the last week of October, the world’s largest chip manufacturer, Intel, cut 1,000 jobs.

As the war in Ukraine grows more protracted and dangerous, its consequences will arouse fear among many and opposition among those making the greatest sacrifices. The economic consequences of the war continue to be felt in the U.S. and the far greater disarray in the European Union, caused by imposing sanctions on Russia, will create the basis for a popular movement in the United States and in Europe.

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as a jihabo, with a kettle and a cart selling coconut ice cream, joined our contingent and spread its anti-war message in unlikely and mainstream outlets and media. We understand that it’s impor-
tant to spread a decolonial and anti-impe-
rialist message in unlikely and mainstream spaces with creativity and conviction.

Puerto Rico Is Not For Sale

By Lorraine Liriano

At the Halloween Parade in New York City this year, the Puerto Rico Is Not For Sale campaign decided to take an audience that normally has little to no information about Puerto Rico by surprise, by educ-
ating them on the terrors of U.S. colo-
nialism. The contingent marched behind the march partic-

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When the U.S. and its Western European allies wage war or drop bombs on another country, it is common for progressive-minded individuals to collectively organize some type of protest out of anger.

When the same imperialist forces unleash “sanctions,” also known as “economic warfare,” against another country, there isn’t always the same level of response—not for lack of concern, but rather, in large part, for lack of understanding of what economic sanctions are and how they operate.

The book “Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy” does a terrific job in explaining how sanctions and economic blockades are as harmful toward the planet’s population as any drone strike or person-to-person combat. The book is published by World Vision Forums and Sanctions Kill Campaign, an activist project in which International Action Center active patriots participate. “Sanctions” is an anthology of articles written by veteran anti-imperialist activists and revolutionaries, who are knowledgeable on the subject and its brutal consequences for more than 40 sanctioned countries.

The book opens with a dramatic update. U.S.-imposed economic sanctions on Russia and China have boomeranged on the economies of the U.S. and European Union, creating supply-chain chaos, inflation and a possible recession and threatening U.S. hegemony. To avoid sanctions, the Global South is using other currencies—the yuan, ruble and rupee—in world trade. This challenges dollar supremacy.

The first section starts with a teaching tool, providing slide show-style images and basic definitions, explaining that “sanctions are commercial and financial penalties applied by one or more countries against another government, group or individual” that are “a weapon of economic war, resulting in chronic shortages of basic necessities, economic dislocation, chaotic hyperinflation, artificial famines, disease and poverty. It is the most vulnerable populations who suffer the most.” The impact on Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua is a particular focus.

Sanctions hurt the global working class as intended

The second section of the book goes into detail about countries suffering from U.S.-led sanctions, starting with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The DPRK is the most demonized country in the world, and as Erica Jung points out, “it’s one of the most sanctioned countries in the world, having been sanctioned since its foundation in 1950.” Jung describes how the U.S. originally placed it on the State Department’s State Sponsors of Terrorism list in 1989.

An article by Amy Garrison and John Philpot discusses how many African countries have faced outright retaliation for having decades-long relationships with Russia that has continued 30 years after the counterrevolution against the Soviet Union.

Garrison and Philpot point out how in April 2022, the U.S. House passed H.R. 7311, known as “the Countering Magnitsky Russian Activities in Africa Act,” which was in retaliation after 17 African nations abstained from voting on a United Nations resolution condemning Russian intervention. Eritrea proudly voted “no.”

Almost all countries in the Global South have pushed back against U.S. sanctions on Russia. This has hindered Washington’s naïve expectations of swiftly removing Russian President Vladimir Putin from office, as U.S. President Joe Biden openly said in a speech at the G7 in June 2021.

Imperialist provocations from the U.S. and its partners such as NATO have strengthened relations between Russia and People’s China in recent years. Many critics of U.S. foreign policy believe the intention of destabilizing Russia is ultimately to prepare for war with socialist China.

The book features three articles about the People’s Republic of China.

There is an article about restrictions against Iran, followed by one on Afghanistan. Those two countries are especially important to understand, considering the bombardment of Western propaganda that constantly accuses leaders of those countries of “human rights violations,” particularly around women’s rights and gender oppression.

It is understandable for progressives to have concern about the conditions of women and LGBTQ+ people in Iran and Afghanistan—or any country for that matter. At the same time, folks should cautiously avoid taking a position that endorses imperialist intervention of any sort—and this book does a good job of explaining why.

“Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy” examines the attacks on Syria and Yemen, both of which were begun covertly by the Obama-Biden administration and escalated under the Trump administration. While the Biden administration has not changed course regarding Syria, the book explores how it has shifted its approach rhetorically toward Saudi Arabia’s war on Yemen and what that means to the Yemeni people.

Near the end of the second section, one article expresses solidarity with Zimbabwe, an African nation that has faced retaliation from U.S. and European imperialists ever since it won independence from white settler rule in 1980. Another article reveals how several African countries, such as Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, are affected by the sanctions on Russia in addition to the challenges they already face.

The second to last article is about Venezuela and its request for an investigation by the International Criminal Court on whether or not U.S. sanctions constitute war crimes. The last article in this section assesses the impact sanctions have on access to food and medicine supplies for the Palestinian people living in occupied Gaza.

A primer of clarity to counter confusion

The final section provides the reader with tools of resistance. The section begins by sharing the founding statement of the “Sanctions Kill Campaign,” which is signed by nearly 100 international activists, along with several organizations that represent hundreds more from around the world.

There are other statements urging the U.S. and others to lift sanctions, highlighting the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has caused.

“Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy” is especially crucial in refuting the false information being spread by the Western press regarding the current proxy war against Russia. Unfortunately, there are many people on the left who are misinformed about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine—which was instigated by the U.S. and Britain through NATO—and are reaching erroneous conclusions.

This book should be read and studied by anyone who is serious about defeating imperialism, once and for all. It can be purchased at: IACenter.org/sanctions-book.
Saladin Muhammad, labor leader, honored at memorial

A packed room of 200 people gathered Nov. 12 to celebrate the life of Saladin Muhammad at a memorial tribute held at the Franklin Center at Bricks, near Rocky Mount. Muhammad was 76 when he died Sept. 19 after a long illness.

Muhammad was a longtime revolutionary leader of Black Workers for Justice, founded in 1983. BWJ has been leading the way to organize low-wage Black workers in North Carolina, and its “vote-to-work state,” where public workers are denied the right to collective bargaining, Muhammad is a founding member of the United Electrical Workers Local 150, a rank-and-file union that speaks at these solemn events in our pages. WW honors 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, electrical activists. Posted at our website are firsthand reports from political activists. Posted at the website are firsthand accounts by worker-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.

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Honor Day of Mourning, Support Workers World

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 53rd National Day of Mourning Nov. 24, a 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 colonizers’ 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 events.

WW has attended the Day of Mourning commemorations every year since the first one, and has reported first-hand on these events in our pages.

WW acknowledges 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, electrical activists. Posted at our website are firsthand accounts by worker-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.

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The system’s two parties

Nov. 14 – As of this writing, as ballots are still being counted in some states, the makeup of the Congress is still undetermined. The Republicans are likely to gain a slim majority in the House, but the predicted “red wave” has not materialized. Democrats retained control of the Senate and may gain a seat after a Dec. 6 runoff election in Georgia. Some believe Saunders Democrats and liberal-leaning media are embellishing this nonzero event. At a press conference Nov. 9, President Joe Biden called Election Day “a good day for democracy.”

Endorsement by the 45th U.S. president seems to have hurt more Republican candidates than it helped, with a major- ity of them losing, but a Trump spokes- person insisted “it was a big night for President [Donald] Trump’s candidates.” (foxnews, Nov. 9)

Trump is expected to announce his entry into the 2024 presidential race Nov. 15. Some Republican strategists, recognizing Trump is the only candidate, are con- sidering Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the preferred white-supremacist, transphobic, homophobic, climate-de- nying and COVID-19-spreading fascist to run for the country’s highest office. Even without the boost that a “tsu- nami” or “bloodbath” would give, the fascist wing of the political right was able to use the midterm elections to build its base. The races they lost were very close; 2020 election deniers remain a majority of House Republicans. It would be a cata- strophic mistake to understate this danger.

Referendums a bright spot

Progressive voters made their voice heard through referendums on a range of issues. In all five states where abortion access was on the ballot — with pro-re- productive justice提案 winning in Michigan, Vermont and California and anti-choice proposals defeated in Kentucky and Montana — the right wing was pushed back.

Successful pro-worker initiatives that passed included raising the state mini- mum wage in Nebraska, ending the lower minimum wage for tipped workers in Washington, D.C., enshrining collective bargaining rights in Illinois and providing free school lunches in Colorado while raising pay for school cafeteria workers. Tennessee, Vermont, Oregon and Arizona — the latter having had sev- eral prisoner work strikes — voted to ban involuntary prison work, a form of enslavement.

Other measures approved expanded voter rights and decriminalized mari- juana possession. None of these progressive initiatives would have made it on the ballot with- out the hard work of grassroots activists. Most require an extremely high number of voter signatures on a petition; many signatures are disqualified over technicalities. An army of volunteer petition- signers is needed to bring a proposal to the voters.

These hard-fought referendum votes, in contrast to the two-party charade — where both parties represent what the capitalist class — are more representative of the democratic will of the masses.

No progress without struggle

However things shake out in Congress, these elections will have little impact on the everyday lives of working-class and oppressed people. The capitalist ruling class remains in power, as it has after every previous contest between the two capitalist political parties. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans pose a threat to that power.

Capitalism, the system based on exploitation of labor by capitalists, has saddled workers with the highest infla- tion in decades. Even as inflation slows, higher interest rates will add to the cost of housing, cars and more. Companies like Amazon and Starbucks are engaged in widespread union busting to deny workers a voice on wages and working conditions.

Now tech companies are laying off large numbers of workers. This is another sign that, as Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes wrote in Workers World Oct. 17, “As the magnitude of capita- list overproduction grows exponentially with the vast changes to the productive forces of the economy, each subsequent capitalist crisis becomes wider, more global and more difficult to control. The new technology of the digital age has made the crisis of capitalist overprodu- ction a permanent feature of capitalism.” (workers.org/2022/10/07999/)

Elections won’t change this. As the great anti-en enslaver and labor leader Frederick Douglass put it, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” The movement must channel the same grassroots energy that succeeded in defending reproductive justice at the polls. Class struggle — in the neighbor- hood, the workplace and the streets — can push back the fascist threat and win real changes that for politicians are just phony election promises. □

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COP 27: greenwashing, repression, food crisis

By Sara Flounders

Nov. 13 — More than 40,000 people registered as participants at the 27th United Nations Climate Conference (COP27) gathering at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in early November. One hundred world leaders, top-level delegations and leaders from nongovernmental organizations, civil society and major businesses are in attendance.

Sharm El-Sheikh is an exclusive, isolated Red Sea resort at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Its luxury hotels, convention centers, restaurants and spas are far from Cairo — one of the world’s largest cities with hundreds of thousands of people squashed into another large population center. Its artificial, air-conditioned environment is hardly an example of carbon neutral planning.

At this gathering, there have been grand speeches, projections, pleadings and dire warnings. But past climate meetings have broken promises to lower emissions and failed to deliver reparations to developing countries, which are on the front lines of the climate catastrophes of floods, landslides, famines, droughts and raging fires on a warming planet.

Here were no firm commitments from the wealthy imperialist countries, the world’s biggest climate polluters, historically most responsible for global warming. COP27 is merely where world leaders and international organizations come to see and be seen. Expect nothing from their gaudy diversions in a burning world.

In fact, many have condemned the gathering as a cynical display of business as usual.

Ignoring the elephant

At this international conference, where carbon is the focus, every country knows the biggest polluter on the planet is the U.S. military. That’s the elephant in the room.

The 1992 Kyoto Accords committed states, 30 years ago, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But the U.S. demanded its military equipment and emissions — aircraft, naval fleets, 800 military bases around the world, training missions and drills, even if jointly held — be exempt from all climate calculations.

President Joe Biden — on his way to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting in Cambodia and the G20 meeting in Indonesia — made a flyby visit to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Biden made a vague promise of $1 billion in climate aid.

Less than $1 billion was actually paid out in the fiscal year 2022 U.S. Congressional budget. But more than $660 billion for the U.S. NATO proxy war in Ukraine was rammed through Congress this year.

Repression, surveillance and climate crisis

U.S. military and political support for the dictatorship of former General, now President el-Sisi influenced the choice of Egypt as host country. The repressive military dictatorship in Egypt has conducted constant raids, roundups and torture of political opponents.

Up to 1,000 Egyptian people have been arrested in recent weeks. Journalists, lawyers and young people were targeted, according to Ahmed Attar, executive director of the Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR). Egyptian police and military have blanketed the country, defying threats of torture and imprisonment are using surveillance, repression and climate justice must be bound together.

That is what will build the strong bonds of international solidarity so needed for winning against the forces of global capitalism and its damages to the biosphere and climate. Another greenwashing megaweek won’t save the planet — or us who live here on Earth.

Haiti

Stubborn resistance will confront foreign intervention

By G. Dunkel

The U.S. has attempted to assert control over the sovereignty of Haiti for over 200 years — from the 1804 economic sanctions imposed when Haitians freed themselves from enslavement and established an independent country to the 2004 kidnapping and exile of democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In the past when the U.S. intervened in Haiti, U.S. forces and its imperialist allies had the guns, and Haitians had marched — and the guns won. Over the past few years, Haitians have acquired hundreds of thousands of guns, some of them high-powered, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Over 200 armed groups are operating in Haiti. Some of them are engaged in kidnapping and extortion, while others are defending their neighborhoods and providing some security, something the state does not do. Road blocks are common. Official United Nations resolutions, official U.S. statements and the worldwide bourgeois media refer to these groups as “gangs,” which is a racist smear.

How does the U.S. try to intervene?

One impact of these weapons was seen in the assassination of Edwigi Jean-Baptiste, a prominent politician, former presidential candidate and general secretary of the Rally of Progressive National Democrats, along with his bodyguard/drivener. They were driving in Jean-Baptiste’s armored car, which was flipped over by the force of the weapons used to kill them. Jean-Baptiste was deeply connected to the financial aspects of the struggle against the U.N. occupation and the struggle against the cholerla introduced by U.N. soldiers.

The United States and the international bourgeoisie media immediately blamed the attack on local armed groups, with no possibility that this was a destabilization attempt backed by the U.S.

The last week in October, the U.S. Security Council decided the security and stability of Haiti could be “improved” by allowing actions to be taken against individuals and groups. Immediately, the United States, acting on its own, imposed sanctions on two prominent Haitian senators, accusations of ties to armed groups “running drugs.” A major U.S. Coast Guard cutter is now on patrol off of Port-au-Prince.

While the U.S. by some accounts doesn’t appear to have many “boots on the ground” in Haiti, it has in fact been flying in Armed Personnel Carriers, which appear from videos to be similar to light tanks. Once these are at the Port-au-Prince airport, the U.S. turns them over to the Haitian National Police.

Around Nov. 5 the police used one of these APOS to remove the blockade held by an armed group on Haiti’s petroleum port, Vauxelles, which is in Cite Soleil. The international media hailed this as a great victory.

But some drone videos on YouTube estimate there are at least 20 blockades in Cite Soleil, the poorest neighborhood of Port-au-Prince — blockades that would have had to be removed for gas and diesel fuel to move freely. Meanwhile, at least one Matelasse tanker with fuel from Curaçao was docked at a different terminal.

The Haitian masses say ‘no’ to intervention

Hundreds of thousands of people have repeatedly demonstrated in the streets of Haiti since August. These demonstrations ignited when the unelected government doubled the price of fuel.

The demonstrators have raised other issues: hunger; the nearly total absence of any government services; widespread public violence including extortion, kidnapping and carjacking; the rise of cholera and other epidemic diseases; the high cost of basic necessities like fuel and food. Most schools have closed, health care is scarce, sanitation nonexistent except in well-off neighborhoods.

Food insecurity is high; 4.5 million Haitians don’t get enough wholesome food and nearly 1.2 million don’t get enough food of any kind.

The last bourgeois election in Haiti was in 2020, and almost all electoral mandates have expired. De facto Prime Minister Ariel Henry was essentially appointed by the neocolonial and imperialist Core Group, made up of ambassadors from the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, the European Union and the U.N. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian A. Nichols explained on PBS that the United States firmly supported Henry because he ended the subsidies on fuel and food.

No matter that this action drove the mass of people into the streets! Henry was saving the bourgeois money.

In addition to the Haitian flag, the flags of the People’s Republic of China and of the People’s Republic of Korea — two countries of more than 1.3 billion people — fly over the government buildings. Bread riots and cuts in the national food subsidy have led to many past governmental upheavals, including the Arab Spring overturning of the Mubarak dictatorship in 2011, to uprisings in 2007 and 1977.

Egypt is the country that recorded a workers’ strike more than 3,000 years ago during the reign of Ramses III (1170 BCE), which was fueled by outrage over slow delivery of grain rations.

Now Egypt has agreed to tough austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund. A devaluation of Egyptian currency to gain an emergency $3 billion IMF loan means that prices of basic commodities and food prices will soar. Millions who depend on food rations will be on the edge of starvation.

How will they be helped by COP27, the latest climate crisis conference?

The overlapping struggles on the ground at the conference all confirm that struggles for human rights, workers rights, reparations and climate justice must be bound together.

That is what will build the strong bonds of international solidarity so needed for winning against the forces of global capitalism and its damages to the biosphere and climate. Another greenwashing megaweek won’t save the planet — or us who live here on Earth.

Haitian police, attacked to the de facto, neocolonial government and foreign military forces, are breaking up a protest where Haitians are in opposition to an international military force, Port-au-Prince, Oct. 24. PHOTO: COLOMBIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
¡Defiende el derecho al voto de los presos!

A menos de dos semanas de las elecciones de mitad de periodo, ha habido al menos 20 casos de personas arrestadas y acusadas de fraude electoral. Algunos han sido arrestados por sus opiniones sobre políticas sexuales y están actualmente en libertad condicional.

La gobernadora de Florida es el conocido Ron DeSantis, un intelectual de ultraderecha, abiertamente racista, antitrans, anticommunista y antiabortista. Y Florida tiene el mayor número de ‘ex-delinuentes’ per cápita de cualquier estado.

Una enmienda constitucional estatal, aprobada por los votantes en 2018, restauró el derecho al voto de muchos ex presos, pero otros quedaron fuera, dejando a muchos en la incertidumbre o desinformados sobre su elegibilidad para votar. La enmienda excluye a las personas condenadas por asesinato o delitos sexuales graves y les exige que soliciten por separado la restitución de su derecho al voto. Pero, a pesar de los esfuerzos para que eligen estas distinciones de quién puede y quién no puede votar una vez que son liberados?

El pasado mes de agosto, The Tampa Bay Times grabó en video una ronda de algunos de los detenidos en Florida y la compartió con el New York Times. Un africano-americano, Tony Patterson, pidió a los policías en uno de esos videos por qué le detenían por dos delitos graves por votar “ilegalmente” en las elecciones de 2020, cuando le dijeron que se había estrellado el derecho al voto. Patterson dijo: “¿Qué pasa con este estado, hombre? Me han metido en la cárcel por algo de lo que no sabía nada, ¿Por qué me dejaron votar si no podía hacerlo?”.

La desestimación de estos cargos puede ser un revés legal para DeSantis, pero no dinamizará de estas ataques racistas contra los más oprimidos. Son la norma, no la excepción. Los ex presos, al igual que los presos tras los muros, son criminalizados como marginados y desesperanzados, especialmente si son personas de color. No sólo les resulta casi imposible encontrar un trabajo decente, sino también una vivienda asequible, educación, atención sanitaria, respeto y dignidad.

Las detenciones tienen como objetivo atemorizar a las personas y aterrizar a cualquier persona de color que intente ejercer su derecho democrático al voto, especialmente, pero no exclusivamente, en el sur profundo. Este derecho fue robado violentamente tras el derrocamiento del periodo de Reconstrucción posterior a la Guerra Civil y no fue restablecido hasta la firma de la Ley de Derecho al Voto en 1965. Las maniobras de la derecha en las legislaturas estatales y en los tribunales han erosionado varias eminencias de esta ley histórica, que garantiza la sangre, el sudor y las lágrimas de los afro-americanos.

Nagar a cualquier preso o ex preso el derecho al voto continúa la historia privativa de derechos de los afro-americanos.

Aunque el elegir a un demócrata no significa fundamentalmente mejores condiciones para las masas, defender a los que se les ha negado el derecho al voto puede conducir a la solidaridad de clase en torno a otros asuntos. La unidad de clase ayudará, en última instancia, a derrotar a la clase capitalista y a sus portavoces racionales como DeSantis, que trabajan horas extras para mantener a la clase obrera multinacional dividida y confundida sobre quién es su verdadero enemigo de clase.

Indigentes y simpatizantes, defendiendo un campamento en la Avenida D y la calle Novena, fueron arrestados cuando la policía intentó desalojarlos del campamento en el East Village, Nueva York, el 11 de abril.

Por Ted Kelly

En 1987, el norberto racista Frank Rizzo intentaba volver a la alcabala de Filadelfia. Había perdido su reelección como alcalde siete años antes. El programa electoral de Rizzo podría haber sido redactado por el Ku Klux Klan, grupo que había apoyado al policía tano 10 años antes.

¿Cuál era el tema estrella de su campaña? Arrestar a todos los sin techo de la ciudad por vagabundear, “Gente de ventilación”, los llamó. “No pueden tomar sus propias decisiones”.

En ese momento había 15,000 personas sin vivienda en Filadelfia. Las desastrosas políticas de austeridad neoliberal del entonces presidente Ronald Reagan habían contribuido a dejar sin trabajo a casi 7 millones de personas en todo el país. Filadelfia era una de las muchas ciudades destruidas por la desindustrialización. El desempleo, la pobreza y la ira eran visibles en todas las calles. “Es un acto humano sacarlos de las calles”, dijo Rizzo a la estación radial, Radio KWK ese año. “No podemos tenerlos tirados en la calle”.

Pocas se creyeron la sangrienta táctica de Rizzo de impedir los encierros masivos. Su candidatura a la reelección fracasó con el menudo infarto masivo después de caminar por las calles, dijo Rizzo a la estación radial, Radio KYW ese año. “No podemos tener a los hombres de Filadelfia y sacarlos de sus hogares”. Incluso los defensores de la mentalidad liberal de este traslado forzoso de los miembros más pobres de nuestra clase afirmaron que las detenciones se realizaban por seguridad pública. Pero esa retórica humanitaria de doble cara no cambia la inhominidad de la política.

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Rebecca Jackson, directora de Cameo House, un programa de alojamiento con servicio alternativo para mujeres en la zona de la bahía de San Francisco, declaró a Los Angeles Times: “Somos pobres, somos negros y tenemos antecedentes penales”, dijo. “Apiladas contra apiladas”. Las mujeres y las personas no conformes con el género tienen muchas más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili-

Por Lorraine Liriano

Suministros de las personas reunidas para desalojar el Desfile del Desfile de Nueva York la campaña Puerto Rico No Se Vende decidió tomar por sorpresa a una audiencia que normalmente no tuviera información sobre Puerto Rico para educar a las personas sobre sus vidas. Se estima que más de 25.000 personas pasan por las prisiones, cárcel y centros de detención de Estados Unidos cada año. La Alianza Nacional para Acabar con el Sindicarismo calcula que hay más de medio millón –582.000 personas- de trabajadores pobres y dependientes de viviendas subvencionadas por el gobierno.

En 2018, en California, había casi 92.000 personas que no tenían ningún tipo de refugio o vivienda; el 70% de ellas –con 65.000 trabajadores pobres- habían sido encerrados en los 112 centros de encierros que existen en el estado, según el director del Centro de Información para las Casas, un programa de alojamiento con servicio alternativo para mujeres en la zona de la bahía de San Francisco, declaró a Los Angeles Times: “Somos pobres, somos negros y tenemos antecedentes penales”, dijo. “Apiladas contra apiladas”. Las mujeres y las personas no conformes con el género tienen muchas más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili- dades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabili- 

También por Halloween

Puerto Rico no se vende

Por Lorraine Liriano

1 de noviembre—A lo que en el Desfile de Halloween en Nueva York la campaña Puerto Rico No Se Vende decidió tomar por sorpresa a una audiencia que normalmente no tuviera información sobre Puerto Rico para educar a las personas sobre sus vidas. Se estima que más de 25.000 personas pasan por las prisiones, cárcel y centros de detención de Estados Unidos cada año. La Alianza Nacional para Acabar con el Sindicarismo calcula que hay más de medio millón –582.000 personas- de trabajadores pobres y dependientes de viviendas subvencionadas por el gobierno.

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