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53rd National Day of Mourning

Indigenous pride, power and protest!

By K. James

What are the United States’ founda-tional myths? Who created them, and who do they erase and harm? For the past 52 years, United American Indians of New England (UAINE) and supporters have gathered on so-called Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to ask these questions, confront settler mythologies and commemorate a National Day of Mourning for the Indigenous people murdered by settler colonialism and imperial-ism worldwide.

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 compli-mentary speech, singing the praises of the American set-tler-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



United American Indians of New England leads National Day of Mourning 2019.

WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

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 nation-wide, read: “What do we have to be thank-ful 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 geno-cidal 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,

Continued on page 6

Defend affirmative action!	3	Book review: Sanctions wreck economies	9
Unity vs. developers	3	Bed bugs and moldy coffee	9
Which way for antiwar movement?	8	Saladin Muhammad, ¡presente!	10
Tech bubble bursting	8	Editorial: The system’s two parties	10

Mumia: Will courts deny justice?
'Time-bar' injustice
Mutulu Shakur coming home
Voter suppression
targets parolees

4-5

Indigenous struggle never stops

◀ Peltier’s Walk to Justice 4
Stop stealing Native kids 6
Moonanum James:
'We are not conquered' 7

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♦ **In the U.S.**

Indigenous pride, power and protest! 1
Affirmative action must be defended. 3
Philly communities vs. destructive developers. . . 3
SCOTUS hands off Indigenous children! 6
Honoring Moonanum James 7
Technology speculation goes bust 8
Rally for Starbucks strikers. 9
Saladin Muhammad, ipresente!. 10

♦ **Around the world**

Demand ‘Negotiations’ or ‘Stop the Wars’? 8
‘Puerto Rico Not for Sale’ 8
Book review: Sanctions wrecking global economy . . 9
COP27 – Environmental fraud. 11
Haiti: Resistance confronts invasion threat. 11

♦ **Tear down the walls**

Peltier’s Walk to Justice. 4
Voter suppression targets parolees 4
Mumia: judge's plans to deny appeal 5
Mutulu Shakur coming home. 5
‘Time-bar’ injustice. 5

♦ **Editorial**

The system’s two parties 10

♦ **Noticias en Español**

Derecho al voto de los presos 12
Encarcelamiento y vivienda 12
Puerto Rico no se vende 12

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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With new legal attacks

Affirmative action must be defended

By Monica Moorehead

The Supreme Court of the United States is scheduled to rule sometime in 2023 on two cases threatening the very existence of affirmative action in higher education. Oral arguments were held before SCOTUS on Oct. 31 on both of these cases that stem from “race-based” admissions at 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 discriminate against white and Asian students.

If SCOTUS were to rule in favor of the plaintiffs in these two cases, it would endanger the right of oppressed students to access education at privileged colleges and universities throughout the country. It could have a similar political impact as the overturn of Roe v. Wade — the denying of the right to access abortion on a federal level — had in June. Not since the historic anti-Bakke decision in 1978 has affirmative action been in so much peril.

Allan Bakke, a 34-year-old white engineer, twice applied to medical school at the University of California at Davis. He was rejected both times. The medical school had only 100 openings each year, yet in 1972 there were more than 3,700 applicants. The special admissions program reserved 16 of its openings for students of “disadvantaged” backgrounds. These special admission slots had been filled each year by people of color.

Bakke filed suit against the university, charging “reverse discrimination.” The California Supreme Court ruled in favor of Bakke, saying it was unconstitutional to favor students of color, and that special admissions programs which consider race a factor do represent “reverse discrimination.”

SCOTUS, despite being dominated by Republican appointees, overturned the California Supreme Court ruling on June 28, 1978, in a 5-4 decision upholding the right to quotas in colleges and hiring practices. Behind this historic anti-racist decision was a mass mobilization two months prior of 35,000 mainly Black students in the streets of Washington, D.C., on April 15, 1978, to say no to racism.

A year later in 1979, SCOTUS ruled 5-2 in favor of an affirmative action program established by the United Steelworkers with a 50% quota for Black workers in Kaiser Aluminum’s skilled-craft program. Brian Weber, a white steelworker, sued the USW, charging “reverse discrimination.” Black workers had been systematically discriminated



Black and Asian activists support affirmative action in Washington, D.C., during Oct. 31 oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court.

against in whites-only, union skilled-craft jobs.

The 1978 Bakke decision was legally based on the unanimous SCOTUS 1954 ruling in Brown v. the Board of Education that outlawed segregated public schools because they denied Black students equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

The 1979 Weber decision was based on Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in virtually every employment circumstance on the basis of race.

The erosion of affirmative action

There have been many legal challenges to affirmative action on a local and statewide basis over the past decades since 1979 under various U.S. administrations. None of these cases should be viewed in isolation.

Affirmative action is not about charity, nor is it a moral question. First, it is a recognition that racism and national oppression, which victimize people of color, permeate every aspect of the capitalist system in the areas of jobs, education, health care, housing and more. Second, quotas are one necessary remedy to, in a limited way, provide for those who have been historically locked out of opportunities due to white supremacy.

White supremacy is rooted in the legacy of the brutal theft of Indigenous lands, the enslavement of African peoples and oppression of Latinx people — who, along with many Indigenous nations such as the Puebloan nations, lost a large part of Mexico, now known as the U.S. Southwest, in a bloody, genocidal war with the U.S. in 1848.

The massive Civil Rights struggles in the South and righteous rebellions of Black people against poverty and unemployment in the Northern urban areas, and

especially on the West Coast in 1965 in the Los Angeles Watts section, forced the U.S. government to give more than just lip service to the idea of affirmative action.

It was the Nixon administration in 1969 that established the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, in consultation with Philadelphia contractors, that was authorized to establish numerical ranges for hiring African Americans. For instance, contractors were to hire 5% to 9% Black ironworkers, with additional increases each year after 1970 — until Nixon quickly backtracked on this policy.

Solidarity is key

The Committee of 100, a Chinese American group, issued an Oct. 31 statement in defense of affirmative action, stating in part: “We must not allow the current litigation before the Court to drive apart the Chinese American or broader minority communities. We must stand with each other as we have on issues such as anti-Asian hate and violence.

“While we acknowledge the genuine angst and concerns of many Chinese American students and parents, who pursue educational opportunities as their pathway to realizing the American dream, race-conscious admissions policies make it possible for students of all backgrounds, including poor and disadvantaged students from the Chinese American community, to access higher education and ultimately contribute to a stronger, more diverse and more inclusive union.”

The forces that will profit from the total decimation of affirmative action will be the racist billionaire bosses and their puppet politicians, who will use every dirty scheme in the book to divide the multinational working class to maintain capitalist class rule.

In light of the growing global economic crisis that is causing so much pain, suffering and uncertainty for billions of people, international solidarity is key to defending 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 provide 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 profound now as ever, in terms of uniting and fighting to not only defend but expand affirmative action. □

Philadelphia communities unite against destructive developers

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Close to 150 people, representing over a dozen diverse multinational, working-class Philadelphia neighborhoods, 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.

Participants 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 forests, destroying important habitat for wildlife and threatening nearby waterways.

At FDR Park where the rally began, a spokesperson for Save the Meadows reported how 55 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 plans are underway to destroy 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 rally. 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 development is expanding on the environmentally hazardous site. A sign by Sienna Place developers advertised luxury homes there starting at \$600,000. A “buyer beware” notice should have been posted.

Strength in numbers

Further down Penrose at 26th Street, demonstrators spread out to take over the entire intersection and blocked multiple traffic lanes in all four directions for half 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 sections of this high density area.

Since that refinery’s demolition, neighbors organized with Philly Thrive to uproot 154 years of environmental racism; they have demanded that any redevelopment include their input and that it invest in surrounding neighborhoods. However in March 2021, Hilco Redevelopment Partners was able to purchase the 1,300-acre site for \$225.5 million for a “mixed-use site” called The Bellwether District.

It is unclear what, if any, voice neighborhood residents



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Activists from Save Chinatown address rally, as it blocks major intersection in South Philadelphia, Nov. 12.

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 2023, 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 participants seeking environmental and housing protections.

This coming together of multiple multinational, working-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 when they join forces and fight together. Today’s action demonstrated the potential to make all these movements stronger through unity. □

Defend prisoners’ right to vote!

By Monica Moorehead

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

WW COMMENTARY

There have been at least 20 cases of people arrested and charged with 2020 voter fraud — really, 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 and then shared with the New York Times. An

African American, Tony Patterson, asked cops on one of these videos why he was being arrested for two counts of felony for voting “illegally” in the 2020 elections, when he was told then that his right to vote had been reinstated. Patterson said, “What is wrong with this state, man? You all put me in jail for something I didn’t know nothing about. Why would you all let me vote, if I wasn’t able to vote?” (New York Times, Oct. 19)

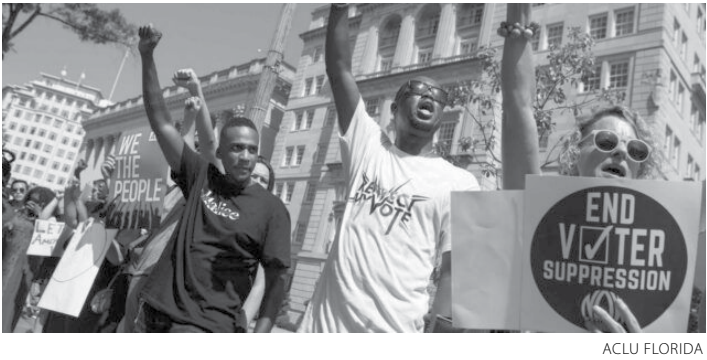
Robert Lee Wood, who is Jamaican and one of the 20 arrested, had his voter fraud charges dismissed by a Miami-Dade County judge. When Wood was arrested during a 6 a.m. raid, his lawyer, Larry Davis, explained how his client was treated: “The house was surrounded with police that had automatic weapons. They wouldn’t even let him get dressed, and they took him to jail.” (New York Times, Oct. 21)

The dismissals of these charges won’t deter these racist attacks on the most oppressed. They are the norm, not the exception. Former prisoners, just like prisoners behind the walls, are criminalized, marginalized and demonized, especially if they are people of color. They not only find it almost impossible to find a decent job but also affordable housing,

education, health care, respect and dignity.

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 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 Hedgecock

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 now 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 misused, 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 to urge 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. □



March to Justice in Washington, D.C., Nov. 13.

OTHER VICTORIES & ONGOING BATTLES
IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam exonerated

In 1966, the two were falsely convicted for the assassination of Malcolm X. Activists and lawyers have persuaded the New York State Supreme Court to vacate their convictions. Mr. Islam died in 2009 at the age of 76. Mr. Aziz is 83. Both were paroled in 1985. New York State has been ordered to pay the families over \$35 million in damages.

innocenceproject.org

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 detainment 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.

workers.org

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 legal to enslave a person if they have been convicted of a crime. A similar measure was on the ballot in Louisiana but was defeated.

peoplesdispatch.org

Pennsylvania prisoner wins gender-affirming healthcare and surgery

Mx. Doe, an incarcerated person in the the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, has become the first person to win the right to gender-affirming survey 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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1/3

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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 41 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 surviving major 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 31-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 NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Brett Grote from the Abolitionist Law Center represented Abu-Jamal. Assistant District Attorney Tracey Kavanagh was scheduled to represent the state, but Assistant DA Grady Gervino appeared instead. Gervino has a long reputation

as a hack who argues for procedural barriers to avoid any appeal claims with merit, which works to prop up corrupt decisions enabling decades of police, prosecutorial and judicial misconduct.

Claims evidence not 'material'

Judge Clemons dismissed the documented request for money by the state's eyewitness Chobert as not "being material," meaning it would not have affected the jury's verdict. She dismissed all the records showing that McGill had dropped existing cases pending against Cynthia White as irrelevant. In doing so, Clemons is following in the footsteps of her predecessor, "Hanging Judge" Albert Sabo, who prevented evidence questioning



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Pam Africa explains importance of the newly discovered evidence, outside court hearing in Philadelphia, Oct 26.

Chobert's or White's credibility from being heard during Abu-Jamal's earlier PCRA hearings.

At the time of the shooting that Chobert claims to have witnessed, he was on probation and did not have a license to drive his cab. Photos from the Philadelphia Bulletin, taken by photographer Pedro Polakoff, prove that his cab was not parked directly behind the officer's car, as he had claimed. But PCRA hearings allow judges to dismiss critical evidence through a time-bar limitation clause.

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

hearing. (Polakoff's photos are available at tinyurl.com/yemaszuy.)

At a 1996 PCRA hearing before Judge Sabo, Veronica Jones, a police informant who was working as a sex worker at the crime scene, testified that police had coerced her and Cynthia White to claim they had witnessed the shooting, even though they were nowhere near the scene. Sabo had Jones jailed immediately after the hearing ended.

Striking Black people from the jury

The most disturbing of Clemons's actions was her dismissal of the evidence that Black potential jurors were struck from the jury on procedural grounds without addressing the merits of the claim. Noelle Hanrahan from Prison Radio stated: "Clemons adopts the prosecution position that the defense had the opportunity to receive these notes by merely asking the prosecution or cross-examining ADA McGill in prior court proceedings."

"This is a key and deliberate misreading of the record. At no time were these crucial notes and the motivations that guided ADA McGill ever available to the defense. McGill struck Black jurors at a 71% rate, significantly higher than the strike rate for white jurors. His reasons for seating some white jurors and not seating nonwhite jurors were not on the record; they were in his notes."

Citing the procedural "time-bar" rule, Clemons also questioned the timeliness of the evidence. Prohibiting a new hearing denies Abu-Jamal's attorneys the opportunity to question Chobert and McGill about the newfound evidence. By upholding Sabo's patently unconstitutional misconduct, Clemons is showing that racism reigns unabated

in the U.S. justice system. Her decision exposes how the cops, courts and prosecutors have conspired to make sure the truth in this case doesn't see the light of day — in particular, the issue of racism in jury selection. □

'Time-bar' used to deny Abu-Jamal justice

By **Jerome Coffey**
Philadelphia

Judge Lucretia Clemons repeatedly used procedural rules — rather than allowing for an examination of the new evidence — in her 31-page decision dismissing Mumia Abu-Jamal's petition for a new trial on Oct. 26, 2022.

One of the procedures frequently cited was "time-bar." Where did the rule originate and why?

This legal statute was proposed, voted into law and codified to thwart incarcerated people in their attempts at filing appeals litigating their innocence.

On Nov. 17, 1995, Pennsylvania lawmakers passed the Post-Conviction Relief Act 42 Pa.C.S. §9545. Jon Perzel — a Mumia-hater presided over the [Pennsylvania] Legislature at that time. He was indicted

and convicted some years later of a variety of corruption charges.

One of the bill's components addresses the time limit for filing a petition. It stipulates that there must be a one-year period of limitation to submit new evi-

dence once the 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

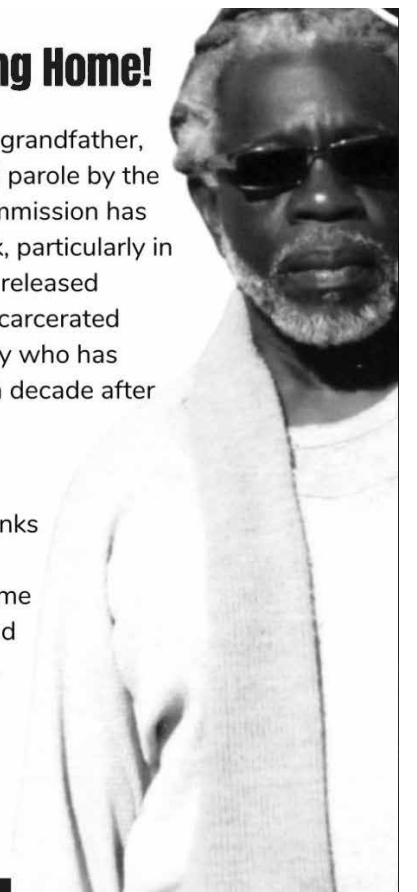
sponsored by U.S. Senator Robert Dole and was affirmed on Mumia's birthday — thus sending a message, reinforced by the fact that Maureen Faulkner stood on the

Dr. Mutulu Shakur Is Coming Home!

Today, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, a 72 year old grandfather, respected healer, and elder was granted parole by the U.S. Parole Commission. The Parole Commission has recognized that his release poses no risk, particularly in light of his medical condition. He will be released shortly. Mutulu is one of thousands of incarcerated older people in state and Federal custody who has been repeatedly denied parole for over a decade after completing his minimum sentence.

Mutulu is deeply grateful for the broad expression of trust and support, and thanks everyone who has helped him over the years. We ask that he have space and time to be with family when he is released and to continue receiving medical treatment.

We welcome him home with great joy!



Jerome Coffey

CREDIT: CINDY LOU

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 statutes are 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.

SCOTUS hands off Indigenous children!

By William Hodgkinson

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments Nov. 9 on the case of *Haaland v. Brackeen*, which could overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Passed by Congress in 1978, ICWA has given Native nations jurisdiction over the foster care placement and adoption proceedings of children with tribal citizenship living on their sovereign territories. This has offered Indigenous families a measure of protection from the U.S.’ ongoing settler-colonial genocide, which has targeted them for centuries.

In the two centuries prior to ICWA’s passage, U.S. authorities kidnapped thousands of Indigenous children and either sent them to boarding “schools,” where abuse was rampant, or trafficked them to white, predominantly Christian households through sham “adoption” proceedings. Often, these children were “bought” and “sold” as commodities, through a network of state and religious organizations. A 1952 letter from one such human-trafficking agency, “The Tekakwitha Indian Mission,” thanked a white couple who “adopted” a Native child for \$10.

During this period, racist social service agencies removed up to 35% of all Indigenous children from their families. Of those children, 85% ended up with non-Indigenous families, even in cases where relatives were ready and willing to adopt them.

Although ICWA contains crucial protections, Indigenous families remain at risk of family separation, which the United Nations unequivocally recognizes as genocide. Article II of the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as including “forcibly transferring children of the (targeted) group to another group.”

Today, 15% of Native children enter the

U.S. foster system before they turn 18, compared with 5% of white children. Without ICWA’s protections, Native children would have no recourse at all against the U.S.’ continuing genocidal mass kidnapping regime.

Haaland v. Brackeen serves as the stalking horse for the campaign to expand this regime and, by doing so, destroy tribal sovereignty. The plaintiffs in this case are a non-Native couple, the Brackeens, who are trying to “adopt” a Navajo child, against the wishes of the Navajo Nation.

Behind the racist lawsuit

Representing the Brackeens pro bono is Gibson Dunn, a corporate law firm whose paying clients include MGM Resorts, Chevron and Shell—as well as Enbridge and Energy Transfer Partners, the companies behind the Dakota Access Pipeline. For decades, the gaming and fossil fuel industries have led the forces of capital in attacking Indigenous sovereignty. Tribal-owned casinos make tens of billions in revenue annually, while sovereign Indigenous lands contain up to one-third of all fossil fuel reserves claimed by the U.S. By striking down ICWA, casino and Big Oil interests intend to seize access to the resources and revenues they have long coveted.

The Brackeens’ lawyers allege that ICWA violates the U.S. Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause because it discriminates on the basis of race, and the bourgeois media has repeated this reactionary “reverse racism” lie in their coverage of the case. In reality, under ICWA, tribal citizenship — a political rather than a racial classification — determines adoption and child custody. In 1977, SCOTUS ruled in *United States v. Antelope* that



PHOTO: NATIVE NEWS ONLINE

Protest outside U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C., Nov. 9

“federal legislation with respect to Indian tribes is not based on impermissible racial classifications.”

As Ian Gershengorn, an attorney defending ICWA, emphasized during Wednesday’s oral arguments, even the U.S. Constitution admits that Indigenous nations are sovereign entities, with inherent power to self-govern and establish their own political categories, such as citizenship.

“From the very first moments of our constitutional history, Congress has legislated for Indians,” Gershengorn said. “The idea that somehow doing so violates the Equal Protection Clause or is an impermissible racial classification just seems to me impossible to square with [the Constitution’s] text.”

A few justices showed signs of agreement with Gershengorn’s arguments. Elena Kagan acknowledged that “Congress said things like, there’s no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of Indian tribes than their children.”

However, if a majority of the reactionary-dominated Supreme Court accepts the Brackeens’ “reverse racism” claims, its ruling could annul tribal sovereignty altogether. As an article by The Lakota People’s Law Project explains, such a

decision “would position ICWA as the first domino to fall, potentially leading to the erosion—or total erasure—of Native rights in the only homeland Indigenous North Americans have ever known.” (lakotalaw.org/news/2021-09-17/icwa-sovereignty)

Defend tribal sovereignty!

This unprecedented threat to tribal sovereignty has prompted massive Indigenous-led resistance across the continent, with 486 Native nations and 59 Indigenous

organizations submitting amicus briefs in defense of ICWA. The day SCOTUS heard arguments in *Haaland v. Brackeen*, hundreds of Indigenous activists and allies rallied on the steps of the Supreme Court. Many expressed frustration at the profound ignorance of Indigenous sovereignty, shown by most of the justices who will decide ICWA’s fate.

“Three hours of agonizing arguments and they do not understand the basic concept that we have inherent sovereignty and rights to the future of every single Native child born into this generation,” said Fawn Sharp, President of the National Congress of American Indians.

Inside the Court, guards tried to remove Samantha Maltais, a citizen of the Aquinnah Wampanoag, claiming her traditional regalia was “a political statement.” Maltais refused to leave, and the guards backed down, letting her stay.

The high court will likely not hand down a ruling on ICWA until June 2023. That its fate remains uncertain underscores the need for full solidarity with Native nations in their battle against the genocidal U.S. settler-colonial project and in their ongoing struggle for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. □

Indigenous pride, power and protest!

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, the patron saint of England. 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 AIM 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 indict the hypocrisy 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 court case and settlement led to the installation of two plaques, one that marked the origin and purpose of the National Day of Mourning, the other commemorating Metacombet (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 (MMIWG2S); the ongoing anti-colonial struggle in Puerto Rico; and

clemency for longtime Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

As Moonanum James, son of Wamsutta

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 protestors liberated the bones of a 16-year-old Wampanoag girl from the Pilgrim Hall Museum.

Frank James and the late co-leader of UAINE, said to the crowd at the 2019 National Day of Mourning:

“We will continue to gather on this hill until corporations and the U.S. military stop polluting the Earth. 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. When the homeless have homes. When children are no longer taken from their parents and locked in cages. When the Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy Israel has denied them 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 insulin is free. When union busting is a thing of the past. Until then, the struggle will continue.” □



Wamsutta Frank James at Day of Mourning in 1972.

In memory of Moonanum James

‘We are not vanishing, we are not conquered’

By Moonanum James

Moonanum James, a co-leader of United American Indians of New England, died on Dec. 4, 2021 at the age of 70. In honor of his memory, WW reprints a talk he gave at the 49th Annual National Day of Mourning on Nov. 22, 2018, in Plymouth, Massachusetts.



Moonanum James

WW PHOTO: K. 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. Today marks the 49th time we have come here — in all kinds of weather — to mourn our ancestors and speak the truth about our history.

Those who started National Day of Mourning could not 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 spirits guiding us today.

Forty-nine “Thanksgivings” ago, my father, an Aquinnah Wampanoag named Wamsutta Frank James, was invited to address a gathering celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims. When asked by the organizers to provide an advance copy of his speech, Wamsutta agreed. When they saw 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, “[T]he 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. The end.

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 cannibalism or have them dress up as starving people in class plays. Pilgrims and Indians are a much more marketable story.

Second, the Pilgrims came here as part of a commercial venture. They didn’t need religious freedom; they already had that in the Netherlands. The Mayflower Compact was merely a group of white men who wanted to ensure they would get a return on their investment.

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 were able to carry. 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 dispossessed 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.

The first official Thanksgiving did not take place in 1621 when the Wampanoag provided a harvesttime meal to the Pilgrims. Instead, it was officially proclaimed by Gov. John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637 to

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 hewed to pieces, others run through with their rapiers ... they thus destroyed about 400 at this time. It was a fearful sight to see them thus frying in the fire ... horrible was the stink and scent thereof, but the victory seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave the prayers thereof to God, who had wrought so wonderfully for them ... For the next 100 years, every Thanksgiving

Day ordained by a Governor will be in honor of the bloody victory, thanking God that the battle had been won.” And yet the history books call us the “savages.”

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’ arrival marked the beginning of the end.

Those of us who managed to survive this genocide are treated as quaint relics of the past, forever relegated to this 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 vanish. The fact that other people — having seen through the Pilgrim myth — join us every year in the struggle to destroy that mythology 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, who 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 still demand this today. Native nations should not need federal oversight to govern ourselves or take control of our own lands.

#StandwithMashpee

Recently, the Department of the Interior ruled that the Mashpee Wampanoag should not be able to take their own ancestral territory into trust. In other words, the Mashpee are threatened with having their very own land ripped away from them for a 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 Mashpee and support pending legislation that would give Mashpee

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 after 1934.

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 peoples 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, now more than ever. 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 perpetrated 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 peoples from their ancestral homelands.

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.

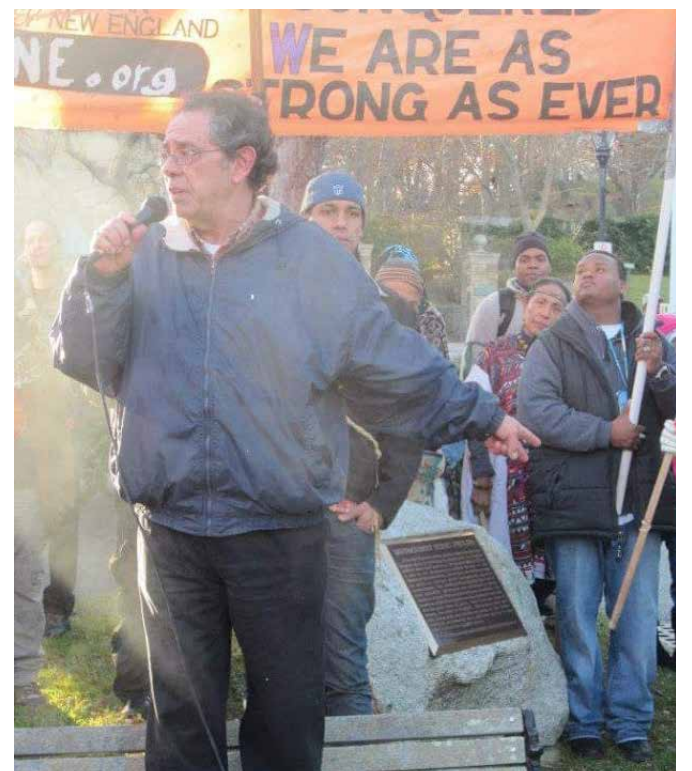
Today on liberated territory we will correct the history of a country that continues to glorify butchers such as Christopher Columbus, makes slave-owning presidents such as Washington and Jefferson into godlike figures, even carving their faces into the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota.

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” — intervening 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 Peltier 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. □



Moonanum James at Day of Mourning in 2019.

WW PHOTO

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 recession and growing inflation 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 who brought on this ominous war and who are still pressing forward with it? Shall we demand an END to the wars? An end to the robbery of trillions of dollars to fund endless wars?

Or should the antiwar movement seek to be acceptable and unchallenging to Congressional forces who are loyally voting for every military appropriation while asserting their full support for U.S./NATO intervention in Ukraine and calling for victory?

These are serious questions for anti-imperialist activists. Increasingly the call is being debated for U.S. officials to assert that they favor some form of negotiations. There will of course be negotiations. Every war involves some form of negotiations. That is hardly the issue.

But if we make negotiations the central slogan of an antiwar movement — as some antiwar groups are discussing and raising — will that clarify who is the main enemy of peace, especially here in the center of world imperialism?

President Joe Biden claims negotiations are completely up to the Ukrainians. Yet the Zelensky regime has no independent existence. It was established by and is funded, trained and equipped by the U.S. and NATO, the U.S.-commanded military alliance. Volodymyr Zelensky complies in this charade by demanding that Russia first entirely surrender to Ukraine’s control the areas that have already voted to join Russia.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have many decades of experience of dragging wars on for years and carrying out horrendous bombing campaigns, all while “negotiating” with the country under attack.

During the Vietnam war, the U.S. engaged in five years



PHOTO: ALINA DUARTE, TELESUR

March against NATO on 70th anniversary, in Washington, D.C., 2019.

of negotiations, from 1968 to 1973, with Vietnamese liberation fighters attempting to stop the bombardment of their country. During this time they escalated to over one-half million troops and carpet bombed using white phosphorous, napalm, and agent orange and other deadly herbicides, while arming and maintaining a corrupt proxy force.

The U.S. bombing of Syria, arming of tens of thousands of mercenary and extremist forces, went hand in hand with a so-called Peace Process in Paris, Geneva and London. Every effort was made by the U.S. and NATO countries to shape a Syrian opposition and demand that the elected Syrian government resign. The process has stretched on for 10 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 antiwar 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 between two contending forces.

Is there anything to be gained by making enormous and moderating concessions at the launch of a new movement? Every worker engaged in negotiations with a boss knows just how unequal the bargaining always is. But they also know that it is first essential to rally around clear demands.

STOP THE WARS!

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

These and other U.S. imperialist wars must be at least raised and denounced to confront corporate media propaganda. If Ukraine is raised in isolation, then responsibility for the war can more easily be dumped on Russia.

The entire movement gains a wider perspective if the continuing U.S. war in Syria, the nonstop war drills and “decapitation 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 expansion of NATO membership altogether provide an understanding of what is going on. When these other wars are raised, it provides a context for understanding the war in Ukraine.

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, saps the power from any struggle. It gives political cover to those who support the war and its aims.

Rather than tie the movement 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 antiwar and anti-NATO demonstrations are growing across Europe. Most important is that youth in the U.S. are organizing on the job, engaging in strikes and walkouts, conscious of their uncertain future. Let’s raise more combative demands that will speak to these emerging forces. This will build international 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 Microsoft?

According to the trade group CompTIA, some 175,700 workers have found jobs in the technology sector this year. At

the same time, Meta, the e-commerce giant and parent company of Facebook, has announced it is laying off more than 11,000 workers, about 13% of its employees. Twitter, currently in the news after the far-right billionaire Elon Musk takeover, 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.

Intel, the major U.S. chip manufacturer, is tied to the personal computer market. They announced, due to forecasts

of a sharp decline in PC sales, that they will reduce their costs by \$3 billion in 2023 and \$8 to \$10 billion in 2025, which implies major layoffs to come.

The Meta layoffs go along with a tremendous decline in its stock value. Valued at \$1 trillion only a year ago, the value of the company, measured by its price on the stock market, dropped to a quarter of what it was at its peak. According to the Nov. 10 New York Times, “Stocks like Meta, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple have suffered staggering losses [in market value] this year.”

Large losses in stock market values shake the capitalist economy. In what it claims is its goal of controlling inflation, which is higher now than at any time since the 1980s, the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates and has made it clear that the price of borrowing money, otherwise called interest, is going to remain high for a while.

The Fed’s strategy makes it more expensive for capitalists to speculate, bursting the speculative bubbles of corporations operating at a loss. It can lead to a recession, which punishes workers as they often lose their jobs. Losing a job hammers workers, who, more likely than not, live from paycheck to paycheck. They often lose substantial benefits, in addition to their health care coverage. Facebook, for example, provided free meals, dry cleaning and car service to take tech workers home when they worked late.

The number of layoffs is important. When massive layoffs take place across an industry, it is much harder for laid-off workers to find any new job.

In the search for superprofits, when there have been changes in technology

that increase productivity, capitalism has an innate tendency to produce more goods than can be sold at a profit. The first companies to adopt the changes can make big profits if they increase sales. This forces others to adopt the new technology. (See “Capitalism at a Dead End,” by Fred Goldstein, for a discussion on the impact of dramatic technological leaps on the capitalist economy.)

For a tech company, the changes in technology flow from the skills its employees have or develop. One way for a tech company to ensure it had employees who could develop new technologies was to hire any qualified people it could for research and development, as well as sales representatives who could sell what was produced. This meant they hired many workers, speculating they might need them if sales increased.

Now that there is less demand for what they produce, tech companies aim to reduce costs to operate at a profit. They are doing this by eliminating workers. Unemployment figures are still low, but the mass layoffs in technology indicate the coming recession will be sharp. □

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 educating them on the terrors of U.S. colonialism. The contingent marched in the parade wearing costumes and waving banners to inform the public of the realities of colonial conditions in Puerto Rico created by U.S. capitalist exploiters. The reception by both the march participants and spectators was exceptional. They took pictures of us and asked meaningful questions, while enthusiastically taking our flyers. Even a man dressed

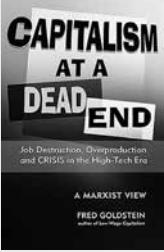
as a jíbaro, with a kettle and a cart selling coconut ice cream, joined our contingent and joined us in chanting, “Puerto Rico not for sale!” We understand that it’s important to spread a decolonial and anti-imperialist message in unlikely and mainstream spaces with creativity and conviction. ¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre! □



PHOTO: LORRAINE LIRIANO

Capitalism at a Dead End

By Fred Goldstein



Fred Goldstein uses Marx's laws of capitalist accumulation, and the diminishing rate of profit, to demonstrate why global capitalism has finally reached a tipping point.

To download a PDF version, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

Book review

‘Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy’

By Otis Grotewohl

When the U.S. and its Western European allies declare 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 View Forum and SanctionsKill Campaign, an activist project in which International Action Center actively participates. “Sanctions” is an anthology of articles written by veteran anti-imperialist activists and revolutionary organizers, 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 and oppressed

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 “is one of the most sanctioned countries in the world, having been subject to sanctions 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 1988.

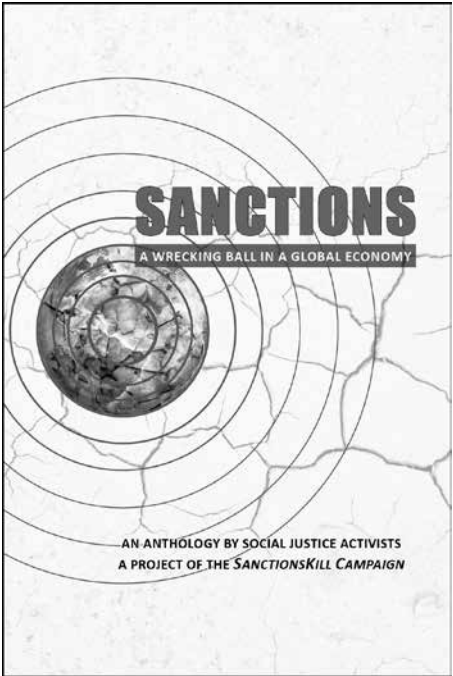
An article by Ann Garrison and John Philpot discusses how many African countries have faced outright retaliation for having decades-long relationships with Russia that has continued 30 years after the counterrevolution against the Soviet Union.

Garrison and Philpot point out how in April 2022, the U.S. House passed H.R. 7311, known as “the Countering Malign 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 March 26.

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



The book is available for purchase at www.IACenter.org/sanctions-book

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. □

Rally supports striking Reserve Roastery workers

By Mary Owen
New York City

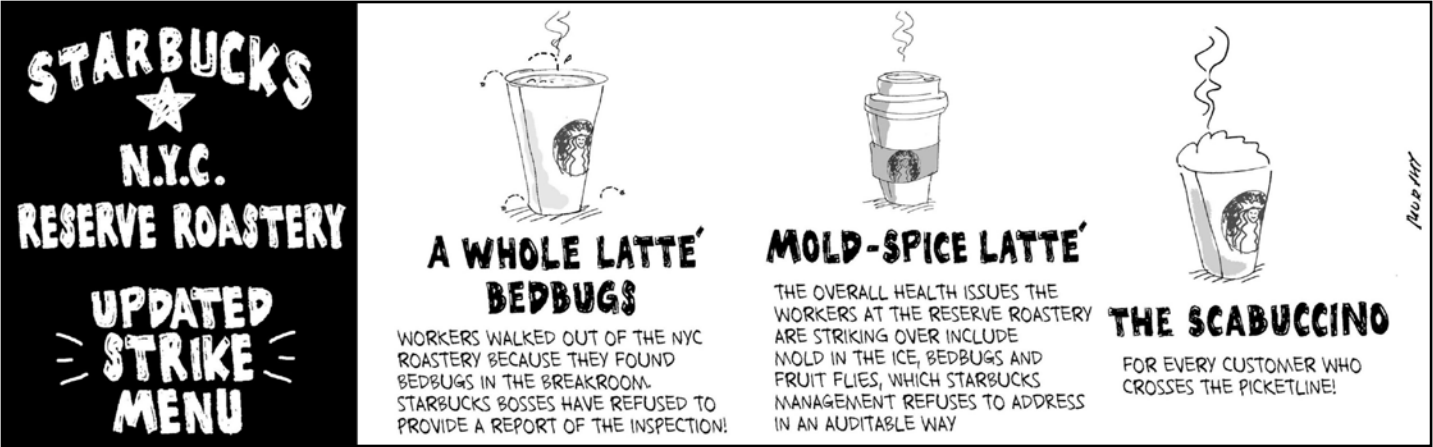
The sidewalk was packed Nov. 10 as union, student and community supporters rallied in solidarity with striking Starbucks workers outside the company’s Reserve Roastery in Manhattan. Since the Roastery workers won their union election in April, they have faced workplace safety and health issues from mold in their ice machine to bedbugs in the break room that infested their clothing and personal items. These conditions prompted the workers to walk out on Oct. 25, and they want proof from management that the bedbugs and mold have been treated before they go back to work.

Supporters swelled the daily picket line outside the Roastery on 9th Avenue at 15th Street, displaying a giant inflated rat, the well-known “Scabby the Rat,” which is used by unions to expose anti-union employers. Many creative chants rang out including “Bedbugs, bedbugs, biting me, no more coffee, no more tea! Moldy, moldy, moldy ice, this is why we’re on strike!”

Speaking at the rally were representatives of Starbucks Workers United, Communications Workers (CWA) from Verizon, Teamsters from UPS, Columbia University Student Workers Union, Workers Assembly Against Racism, Internationalist Group, Democratic Socialists of America and several New York City Council members.

To show solidarity with Starbucks Roastery workers:

- Join the daily picket line at 9th Avenue and 15th Street in Manhattan;
- Sign the “No Contract, No Coffee” pledge at crm.broadstripes.com/ctf/SJIDoH;
- Follow Starbucks Roastery workers on Instagram @nycroasteryswu; and
- Donate to the NYC Starbucks Roastery Hardship Fund at gofundme.com/f/nyc-roastery-hardship-fund. □



Roastery workers’ sign shows bedbugs and moldy ice.

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 have retained control of the Senate and may gain a seat after a Dec. 6 runoff election in Georgia.

Self-congratulatory Democrats and liberal-leaning media are embellishing this nonevent. 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 majority of them losing, but a Trump spokesperson 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 as a liability, are considering Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the preferred white-supremacist, transphobic, homophobic, climate-denying and COVID-19-spreading fascist to run for the country’s highest office.

Even without the boost that a “tsunami” 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 catastrophic mistake to underestimate 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-reproductive justice proposals 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 minimum 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 Alabama — the latter having had several prisoner work strikes — voted to ban involuntary prison work, a form of enslavement.

Other measures approved expanded

voter rights and decriminalized marijuana possession.

None of these progressive initiatives would have made it on the ballot without the hard work of grassroots activists. Most states require an extremely high number of voter signatures on a petition; many signatures are disqualified over technicalities. An army of volunteer petitioners 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 wings of 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 inflation 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 capitalist overproduction grows exponentially with the vast changes to the productive forces of the economy, each subsequent capitalist crisis becomes wider, worse, more global and more difficult to control. The new technology of the digital age has made the crisis of capitalist overproduction a permanent feature of capitalism.” (workers.org/2022/10/67199/)

Elections won’t change this.

As the great anti-enslavement 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 neighborhood, the workplace and the streets — can push back the fascist threat and win real changes that for politicians are just phony election promises. □

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 events.

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. Peltier has been nominated several times for the 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.

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 once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 ½-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.

Join the WW Supporter Program

Can you donate \$50, \$100, \$200 or more per year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to 12 print issues a year, a pdf of all weekly issues in your email inbox, and, upon request, a copy of the book “What road to socialism?”

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth to more readers. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011.

We appreciate your support. □



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

Saladin Muhammad, labor leader, honored at memorial



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

UE 150 organizers in salute to Saladin Muhammad, Nov. 12.

**By Monica Moorehead
Whitakers, North Carolina**

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

Muhammad was a longtime revolutionary leader of Black Workers for Justice, founded in 1983. BWFJ has been leading the way to organize low-wage Black workers in North Carolina, a “right-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 promotes social unionism as opposed to business unionism, and the Southern Workers Assembly, presently helping to organize workers throughout the U.S. South, including Amazon workers. Speakers included Ashaki Binta and Ajamu Dillahunt from BWFJ, who recounted the various local and international campaigns Muhammad contributed to; Angaza Laughinghouse, UE 150; Obenewaa White-Ra, Muhammad’s daughter; and Reverend William J. Barber II, founder of Moral Mondays.

BWFJ’s cultural group, Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble, performed two selections.

BWFJ’s Executive Committee stated: “His leadership and guidance, upon which thousands around the country and the world relied, is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed by all of us. Saladin was active in the struggles for justice and liberation for more than 50 years. Saladin Muhammad, ipresente!” □

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, held Nov. 6 to 18. 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 20 million impoverished people — or any other 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 there 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 “greenwashing.”

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,



The activist group, Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change protests during the COP27 climate conference, Nov. 13.

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 \$11 billion in climate aid.

Less than \$1 billion was actually allocated in the fiscal year 2022 U.S. Congressional budget. But more than \$60 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 conference area. (middleeasteye.net, Nov. 8) Egyptians defying threats of torture and imprisonment are using

the public arena of the international gathering to speak out against the brutal el-Sisi dictatorship.

Especially heroic are those Egyptians within the COP27 conference raising the name of political prisoner Alaa Abdel Fattah, who is on a water and food strike to challenge these dire conditions.

The demand for the release of more than 60,000 political prisoners — those estimated to have been jailed since el-Sisi overthrew Mohamed Morsi, the country’s first democratically elected president, in 2013 — has gained international attention because of the organized actions.

Food crisis

Egypt is the world’s largest importer of wheat; almost 70% of its population of more than 100 million are totally dependent on subsidies to feed their families. 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 electricity, 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 megameeting 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 — to this very day.

In the past when the U.S. intervened in Haiti, U.S. forces and its imperialist allies had the guns, and Haitians had machetes — 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 blockades 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 Oct. 28 assassination of Eric Jean-Baptiste, a prominent politician, former presidential candidate and general secretary of the Rally of Progressive National Democrats, along with his bodyguard/driver. 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 cholera introduced by U.N. soldiers.

The United States and the international bourgeois media immediately blamed this 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.N. Security Council claimed 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, accusing them 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 Armored Personnel Carriers, which appear from videos to be very 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 APCs to remove the blockade held by an armed group on Haiti’s petroleum port, Varreux, 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 to be removed for gas and diesel fuel to move freely. Meanwhile, at least one Maltese 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. Nearly 1.3 million don’t get enough food of any kind.

The last bourgeois election in Haiti was in 2019, and almost all electoral mandates have expired. De facto Prime Minister Ariel Henry was essentially appointed



PHOTO: ODELYN JOSEPH

Haitian police, attached to the de facto, neocolonial government of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, attempt to break up a protest where Haitians are in opposition to an international military force, Port-au-Prince, Oct. 24.

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. (Oct. 26)

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

In addition to the Haitian flag, the flags of the People’s Republic of China and of Russia are often displayed in the people’s protests to indicate their rejection of U.S. intervention.

If the U.S. intervenes directly, it will first have to figure out how to overcome the armed rejection of intervention by the vast majority of Haitians — citizens of the first country in the modern world where enslaved people liberated themselves and declared their land independent. □



FOTO: ACLU FLORIDA

Una manifestación contra la Ley 90 sobre la supresión de votantes en Florida. Abril de 2021.

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\$1

¡Defiende el derecho al voto de los presos!

A menos de dos semanas de las elecciones de mitad de período, ha habido al menos 20 casos de personas arrestadas y acusadas de fraude electoral, — en realidad, votar siendo negro en el estado de Florida.

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

Las acusaciones provenientes de las elecciones de 2020. Todos los arrestados habían sido encarcelados previamente por asesinato o delitos sexuales y están actualmente en libertad condicional.

El gobernador de Florida es el conocido Ron DeSantis, un intolerante de ultraderecha, abiertamente racista, antitrans, anticomunista y antiobrero. Y Florida tiene el mayor número de ex “delincuentes” per cápita de cualquier estado.

Una enmienda constitucional estatal, aprobada por los votantes en 2018, restableció 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, ¿cuántos ex presos conocen siquiera 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 vídeo una ronda de algunos de los detenidos en Florida y la compartió con el New York Times. Un africo-americano, Tony Patterson, preguntó a los policías en uno de esos vídeos por qué le detenían por dos delitos graves por votar “ilegalmente” en las elecciones de 2020, cuando le dijeron entonces que se le había restablecido 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?”. (New York Times, 19 de octubre)

A Robert Lee Wood, que es jamaicano y uno de los 20 detenidos, un juez del condado de Miami-Dade le retiró los

cargos de fraude electoral. Cuando Wood fue arrestado durante una redada a las 6 de la mañana, su abogado, Larry Davis, explicó cómo fue tratado su cliente: “La casa estaba rodeada de policías que tenían armas automáticas. Ni siquiera le dejaron vestirse y le llevaron a la cárcel”. (New York Times, 21 de octubre)

La desestimación de estos cargos puede ser un revés legal para DeSantis, pero no disuadirá de estos 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, marginados y demonizados, 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 aterrorizar a las personas y aterrorizar 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 restaurado 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 enmiendas de esta ley histórica, que se ganó con la sangre, el sudor y las lágrimas de los africo-americanos.

Negar a cualquier preso o ex preso el derecho al voto continúa la histórica privación de derechos de los africo-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 muchas otras luchas y cuestiones. La unidad de clase ayudará, en última instancia, a derrotar a la clase capitalista y a sus portavoces reaccionarios como DeSantis, que trabajan horas extras para mantener a la clase obrera multinacional dividida y confundida sobre quién es su verdadero enemigo de clase. □

Cuando el encarcelamiento es política de vivienda

UN COMENTARIO DE WW

Por Ted Kelly

En 1987, el notorio racista Frank Rizzo intentaba volver a la alcaldía 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 tirano 10 años antes.

¿Cuál era el tema estrella de su campaña? Arrestar a todos los sin techo de la ciudad por vagabundeo. “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 las calles.

“Es un acto humano sacarlos de las calles”, dijo Rizzo a la estación radial, Radio KYW ese año. “No podemos tenerlos tirados en la calle”.

Pocos se creyeron la sangrienta táctica de Rizzo de impulsar los encierros masivos. Su candidatura a la reelección fracasó y murió pocos años después, tras sufrir un infarto masivo después de caminar por uno de los distritos históricamente negros de Filadelfia. Pero sus recetas políticas le sobrevivieron.

Sólo en 1987, más de 100.000 personas estaban encerradas en prisiones y cárceles del condado en todo el estado de Pensilvania. Según las propias estadísticas del estado en aquella época, en promedio

una persona detenida allí permanecía bajo llave durante 443 días, más de un año.

Treinta años después, policías y sheriffs desde Filadelfia hasta Los Ángeles están cometiendo la crueldad policial de Rizzo, al llevar a cabo las llamadas “redadas de indigentes”. Incluso los defensores de mentalidad liberal de este traslado forzoso de los miembros más pobres de nuestra clase afirman que las detenciones se realizan por compasión, así como por seguridad pública. Pero esa retórica humanitaria de doble cara no cambia la inhumanidad de la política.

Y ningún defensor de este enfoque de la crisis de la vivienda, al estilo de Rizzo, puede responder a esta sencilla pregunta de los desalojados: “¿Dónde se supone que vamos a ir?”

Sabemos que las cárceles de todo el país están llenas de personas en espera de juicio, cuyo único delito es no poder pagar la fianza. El ingreso medio anual de las personas que se encuentran en las cárceles de Filadelfia es de \$4.500, según un podcast de Citations Needed.

El encarcelamiento no es la solución a la falta de vivienda. Es una de las causas.

Cuando una persona va a la cárcel, aunque sea por una noche, corre inmediatamente el riesgo de perder su trabajo y su casa.

En California, en 2018, había casi 92.000 personas que no tenían ningún tipo de refugio o vivienda; el 70% de ellas —casi 65.000 trabajadores pobres— habían sido encarcelados en algún momento de sus vidas. Se estima que más de 25.000 personas que han salido de la cárcel en el año anterior estaban viviendo en la calle. (California Health Policy Strategies, 2018)

Podemos extrapolar esta cifra a la totalidad de EE.UU. En todo el país, las personas excarceladas tienen 10 veces más probabilidades de quedarse sin hogar que el resto de la clase trabajadora. Unos 5 millones de personas pasan por las prisiones, cárceles y centros de detención de Estados Unidos cada año. La Alianza Nacional para Acabar



Indigentes y simpatizantes, defendiendo un campamento en la Avenida D y la calle Novena, fueron arrestados cuando la policía pasó a demoler el espacio vital en el East Village, Nueva York, el 6 de abril.

con el Sinhogarismo calcula que hay más de medio millón —582.000 personas— de trabajadores sin hogar y sin vivienda en Estados Unidos en todo momento dado.

Rebecca Jackson, directora de Cameo House, un programa de alojamiento con sentencia alternativa para mujeres en la zona de la bahía de San Francisco, declaró a Los Angeles Times: “Somos pobres, somos negras y tenemos antecedentes penales”, dijo. “Apiladas contra apiladas”.

Las mujeres y las personas no conformes con el género tienen muchas más probabilidades de quedarse sin hogar debido al encarcelamiento que los hombres; todas las personas negras y latinas tienen más probabilidades de quedarse sin alojamiento que sus homólogos blancos. (prisonpolicy.org)

Según el diario Los Angeles Times del 2 de agosto, “los inquilinos suelen estar a merced de los propietarios privados que realizan comprobaciones de antecedentes penales. Las normas restringen el acceso a las viviendas subvencionadas por el gobierno federal a las personas que han sido condenadas por determinados delitos, incluidos los de drogas y los sexuales”.

Por lo tanto, podemos estar seguros de que dos cosas son ciertas en Estados Unidos: que el encarcelamiento se correlaciona con la falta de vivienda en el futuro, y que la falta de vivienda es un delito por el que se puede ser arrestado. Esto no es sólo una paradoja. Es una política. □

También por Halloween Puerto Rico no se vende

Por Lorraine Liriano

1 de noviembre— Anoche 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 educarlos dando volantes y desfilando en disfraces y pancartas para expresar las realidades de las condiciones coloniales de nuestro pueblo.

La recepción tanto por las personas reunidas para desfilar, como para ver el espectacular del desfile, fue excepcional, nos tomaron fotos y hacían preguntas y nos tomaron los volantes con entusiasmo. Hasta un señor vestido de un jíbaro con una pava y un carrito de vender helado de coco se unió a nuestro contingente y exclamaba con nosotros las consignas “Puerto Rico no se vende. Puerto Rico is not for sale.” Necesitamos seguir con nuestro mensaje en todos los espacios con creatividad y convicción que “¡Viva Puerto Rico libre!” □



FOTO: LORRAINE LIRIANO

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