

'Red Cup Rebellion'

# Starbucks workers strike 110+ stores

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

As striking members of Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) explained while on the picket line, Red Cup Day is "like Starbucks' Black Friday." All over the world the promotion draws a larger-than-average number of customers for the red cup giveaway.

But this year SBWU called a "Red Cup Rebellion" by holding one-day simultaneous strikes at over 110 stores on Nov. 17. These Unfair Labor Practice strikes called attention to Starbucks' union busting, its refusal to negotiate at over 250 unionized stores and the company's 900+ alleged violations of federal labor law.

Of the seven stores targeted by **Boston** SBWU for strike actions on #RedCupRebellion Day, six were locked down tight by barista pickets before 5 a.m. The only red cups served at those locations were outside, embossed with union logos.

Starbucks bosses tried to break the strike at the remaining store at 75 Mount Auburn St. in **Watertown**,



Watertown, Massachusetts.

PHOTO: BOSTON STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED

of workers — some with years of seniority at the location — who were talking with their regular customers at the door.

As the sun was coming up, with mobile and pickup orders causing a jam in the parking lot, customers lined up at the door. Boston SBWU immediately began organizing flying squadrons to reinforce the Watertown lines. By 10 a.m., supporters and strikers from stores at 874 Commonwealth Ave, Coolidge Corner and Cleveland Circle had formed a picket line spanning the entire property

entrance, successfully emptying the parking lot through customer solidarity turnarounds. By 11 a.m. managers threw in the scabby towel and

dumped dozens of uncollected orders down the drain after locking the doors.

Strikers celebrated the victory of their

militant, collective efforts by spot-composing and belting out a new union holiday classic, "The 12 Days of Red Cup Rebellion." Union leader Spencer Costigan's guitar blasted "Solidarity Forever" and "Wonderwall" — the local baristas' fight song — over Workers World Party's mobile sound system, making for more strike line singing and dancing in the empty parking lot.

Multiple stores were hit with strikes in the **New York City** area. Workers at the fancy tourist trap known as the Roastery in Manhattan have been on strike for a month over health and safety conditions — specifically mold in the ice machine and bedbugs in the workers' break area. Starbucks has yet to agree to meet with the workers and has offered nothing in writing to demonstrate any action in response to worker issues.

While not all of the 100 or so workers at the Roastery have joined the strike, it has had an effect on the store's bottom line, with hours of operation shortened since the strike began. A popular strike chant is the usual "What's disgusting? Union busting" followed by: "What's appalling? Contract stalling!"

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## Not one more massacre!

Another horrific massacre targeting the LGBTQ2S+ community began near the midnight hour between Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 — Trans Day of Remembrance 2022.

A heavily armed shooter murdered five and injured 18 patrons of Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Two brave customers were able to subdue and disarm the killer, preventing more lives from being lost.

Workers World Party extends our condolences and solidarity to those who lost loved ones and to the survivors of this terrible tragedy.

But we cannot contain our anger.

Colorado Springs, the second-largest city in Colorado after Denver, is home to the blatantly anti-LGBTQ2S+ group Focus on the Family. The city lies east of the state's

3rd Congressional District, where ultra-right bigot Lauren Boebert won reelection to the House by the slimmest of margins. Boebert's hate-filled tweets serve to foment violent attacks, such as the latest attack on Club Q.

The perpetrator of this hate crime, Anderson Lee Aldrich, is the grandson of California Republican state legislator Randy Voepel, who expressed sympathy with

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San Francisco

No symphony for apartheid Israel

By Judy Greenspan  
San Francisco

Nov. 6 — What do activists who support Palestine do when the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra comes to San Francisco?

They organize a strong picket line and demonstration in front of Davies Symphony Hall! Tonight the Palestine Action Network and supporting groups greeted ticket holders with the resounding chant, “Zionism is racism!”

On short notice, and on an evening that threatened rain, a large group of demonstrators turned up to protest a concert by the Israeli symphony. A large banner, “No symphony for Israeli apartheid,” was in the lead in a continuous, militant picket line in front of the hall doors. Chants demanding “From the River to the Sea, Palestine must be free” greeted concert goers.

A PAN flyer was distributed that detailed some of the crimes of the Israeli regime, including the assassination of Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian American journalist, the extrajudicial killings of 118 Palestinians in the West Bank and the continued evictions of Palestinians from

their homes. The PAN statement emphasized, “It is past time to stop Israel’s crimes against humanity,” noting the contradiction that the San Francisco Symphony welcomes the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra while Israel prevents Palestinian artists from traveling to other countries to perform.

The Palestine National Orchestra, established in 1936, was forced to disband in 1948 when the state of Israel was officially established. In 1993, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music was founded in Ramallah, and in 2010 the Conservatory revived the Palestine National Orchestra.

Many Bay Area organizations are part of PAN, including the Palestinian Youth Movement, Al-Awda, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, Middle East Children’s Alliance, Workers World Party, Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism, ANSWER and Jewish Voice for Peace.

The militant picket line, with its chants and noisemakers, drew attention to the Palestinians’ struggle for freedom and for return to their homeland. One of the most popular chants, “U.S., Israel, you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide!” summed up the message of the evening. □



Activists protest apartheid Israeli orchestra in San Francisco, Nov. 6.

PHOTO: PALESTINE ACTION NETWORK

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. □

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

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# ‘From West Philly to Chinatown, corporate greed is going down!’

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered Nov. 18 to demand billionaire David Adelman stop the predatory development of a new Philadelphia 76ers basketball arena in Chinatown. Organized by the Students for the Preservation of Chinatown, the rally and march linked the struggle of residents from West Philadelphia’s University City Townhomes fighting eviction with organizers from Chinatown, facing yet another effort by sleazy developers to destroy their community through major construction projects.

Protesters gathered in front of the University of Pennsylvania administrative building. Students and UC Townhomes residents have been demonstrating for months to expose UPenn’s historic role in the destruction of neighboring Black communities, through the decades-long expansion of University City. They are calling on the Ivy League university—which has avoided paying property taxes—to make reparations to the Townhomes residents from its multibillion-dollar endowment.

David Adelman is the CEO of Campus Apartments, which has been key to the university’s expansion through the construction of multiple high-rise student housing units, faculty condos and an extended-stay hotel. The company has more than \$2 billion in assets. Adelman and Brett Altman, who owns UC Townhomes, both sit on Drexel University’s Real Estate Advisory Council.

In July, it was announced that Adelman would chair 76 Devcorp, a new company responsible for developing 76 Place at Market East, the proposed new arena in Center City. In October, Adelman became co-owner of the 76ers and the New Jersey Devils.

The planned \$1.3 billion, 18,500-seat NBA basketball arena in Chinatown threatens to raise rents and overwhelm the area with traffic during games. The experience of other urban centers shows sports facilities drive away elderly and lower-income residents, who don’t want to live in an area that resembles the dead zone around arenas and stadiums.

Philadelphia’s Chinatown, which includes 4,000 residents and scores of

small businesses, is the last remaining community of color in Center City Philadelphia and one of the last vital and thriving Chinatowns on the East Coast.

Speaking at the rally, Deborah Wei from Asian Americans United described how many times over several decades residents have fought off efforts by developers to destroy their community through construction projects—a multi-lane expressway (1980), a baseball stadium (2000) and a casino (2009). As she spoke, Wei peeled off T-shirt after T-shirt with the same basic layout as today’s opposing the arena, each with a different developer’s end dream.

Kenny Chiu, a UPenn student, and organizer with Save the UC Townhomes, spoke of growing up in South Philadelphia but frequently spending time in Chinatown with friends and family. The displacement of Chinatown’s residents mirrors the displacement of the Black Bottom



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

**Activists from Students for the Preservation of Chinatown and Save UC Townhomes in front of Campus Apartments in Philadelphia, Nov. 18.**

neighborhood in West Philadelphia, where UC Townhomes residents have been fighting eviction by gentrifiers and developers for months.

The rally was followed by a march on UPenn’s campus, with a stop at Wharton School of Business, notorious for promoting developers. Demonstrators then marched to Campus Housing at Walnut and 41st Streets. A popular chant along the way was “From West Philly to Chinatown, corporate greed is going down!” □

## Court overturns Georgia abortion ban

By **Dianne Mathiowetz**  
Atlanta

On Nov. 16, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney ordered the restoration of abortion regulations that existed prior to the implementation of the controversial 2019 legislation, which banned nearly all abortions. This legislation, which went into effect in July following the Supreme Court’s striking down of *Roe v. Wade*, outlawed abortions as early as six weeks of pregnancy, if fetal cardiac development activity could be detected. Many people are not even aware they are pregnant at six weeks, thus the legislation essentially denies them any choice.

For now, the long-standing law prior to 2019 is restored with a 22-week window. The judge ruled that when the 2019 legislation was passed by the Georgia Assembly, the abortion guarantees of *Roe* were the law of the land; the Georgia restrictions were unconstitutional then and could not gain legal status three years later with a new ruling after a change in the Supreme Court.

McBurney stated that the General Assembly had the option to pass the restrictions again this upcoming session, if it chose to do so.

Almost immediately upon news of the judge’s ruling,



PHOTO: KELLY JORDAN

**Pro-choice demonstration outside state capitol building, Atlanta, Oct. 2, 2021.**

telephones at Atlanta’s clinics began ringing incessantly with requests for appointment times. Some callers had planned to go to other states but were relieved to not

have to spend the time and money to get the health care they wanted.

No Atlanta area clinic had closed since July, but the return of full services required restaffing and security preparation. However, since Nov. 16, dozens of procedures have taken place.

Although the state Attorney General immediately filed an appeal to the Georgia State Supreme Court to reverse Judge McBurney’s decision, there has been no indication of what that court will do. In Georgia, as throughout the country, the large majority of the population supports abortion rights.

Thousands rallied and marched in Atlanta and around the state following the Supreme Court ruling. Reproductive rights and justice have been a prominent feature of the recent elections, particularly in the U.S. Senate race between Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker with the runoff vote on Dec. 6.

Most anti-choice elected officials and politicians are keeping quiet on whether the legislation will get another try in 2023, since it only passed with a one-vote margin in the Georgia House three years ago. What is clear is that there will continue to be a growing movement to guarantee reproductive rights and justice. □

## Not one more massacre! We must protect our trans comrades

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the right-wing mob that attacked the U.S. capitol Jan. 6, 2021.

Club Q’s owners opened the bar in 2002 to provide a permanent safe space for the community and had planned to hold a drag brunch on Trans Day of Remembrance. The timing of the mass shooting is hardly a coincidence.

Democratic politicians—up to and including President Joe Biden—have expressed condolences and condemned this monstrous hate crime. But history shows us that they cannot be relied on to protect the LGBTQ2S+ community or any oppressed community from violence, hatred or discrimination. Many of us remember how Democrats have pushed for anti-LGBTQ+ repression, including the so-called “Defense of Marriage Act” and the military’s

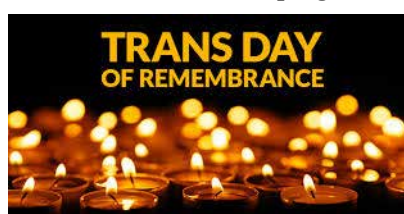
“Don’t ask, don’t tell.”

But that’s capitalist democracy, where even Boebert and Voepel and their murderous ilk can run for office and get elected.

A better example of working-class democracy in action would be the historic decades-long boycott of Coors beer, which originated in Colorado and united the LGBTQ+ community, the Chicanx community and the labor movement, pushed back bigotry and also eventually won union recognition at the Golden, Colorado, brewery.

It will take more organizing—and mass, grassroots, classwide solidarity like that—to beat back the ultra-right.

Mourn the dead and fight like hell for the living! □



By **Renée Imperato**

*The following remarks were presented at the Nov. 19, 2021, Trans Day of Remembrance event held by SAGE—Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders—at their New York City headquarters. One year later, to the day, an anti-LGBTQ+ bigot massacred five and injured 18 patrons of the Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

My dearest comrades in struggle,

As you all know, we have made significant progress in many ways. However, what has

become a danger to our community is the increasing prospective anti-trans legislation on the agenda in 17 states, much of it fueled by the bigotry of reactionary politicians and the comments of some

so-called “comedians” in the media on Netflix and others.

Oh, sure, we hear them whining about First Amendment rights.

Historically, we know, first are the jokes which lead to a climate of violence, which has caused the murder of countless trans people, especially trans people of color. We must protect our trans comrades from these racist, transphobic attacks.

Which leads me to this question, does the free speech of fascistic elements have priority over the very right of any oppressed community or people’s right to exist?

We must respond to these attacks on our community with a variety of options. Whether it be writing letters, rallies, demonstrations or even the possibility of civil disobedience, we must do all that we must do in the spirit of all those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. □



# Biggest academic strike in U.S. history UC system shut down

By Dave Welsh  
Berkeley, California

An unprecedented strike of academic workers that began Nov. 14 hit all 10 campuses of the University of California like a ton of bricks. This is the largest academic strike in U.S. labor history.

The 48,000 striking workers perform the majority of the teaching and research work at UC. Yet the pay and benefits for these workers, members of United Auto Workers Locals 2865 and 5810 and Student Researchers United-UAW, are far too low, especially for the high cost of living in California. That’s why a clear majority (36,558) voted to authorize an Unfair Labor Practice strike at mass meetings at UC campuses across the state.

“We’re fed up,” they said, citing the high percentage of academic workers suffering from “housing and food insecurity,” with many living in cars, or “couch surfing” for months at a time or putting up with long commutes to get to work every day. Unaffordable child care and rents were other key issues. (fairUCnow.org)

The UC Regents, who run the university and represent the most powerful business interests in the state, have so far refused to bargain over wages.

“What’s Outrageous? Poverty Wages!” is a popular strike chant. The UC system holds \$155 billion in

investment assets and some administrators have salaries around \$500,000.

Solidarity from other unions has been a big boost for the strikers. Two days into the strike, members of three construction unions stopped work on a new building at UC Berkeley. More construction workers honored UAW picket lines Nov. 18 at the UC San Francisco-Parnassus campus, after the Building Trades Council voted for strike sanction.

At another UCSF facility, Teamster-represented UPS drivers circled the block, honking continuously, and refused to cross the picket line. The Teamsters union’s national leadership has instructed workers that there would be no retaliation for honoring the picket lines. Even nonunion Federal Express drivers drove away without making deliveries.

On the other coast, 1,600 adjunct faculty at the New School in New York City, members of UAW Local 7902, have been on strike for better compensation since Nov. 16. □



WW PHOTO: DAVE WELSH

Day one of historic UC student workers’ strike, Nov. 14, Berkeley, California.

# On strike! Alabama coal miners ratchet up pressure

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Union coal miners in Brookwood, Alabama, on strike since April 1, 2021, are stepping up plans for resistance. The job for the United Mine Workers (UMWA) locals now is to break through Warrior Met Coal’s threat to starve them out — and to move forward at the bargaining table.

In what may become the longest coal miners’ strike in U.S. history, 1,100 workers walked out 20 months ago, with only 161 crossing the picket line. The miners gave serious wage and benefit concessions to save the company from bankruptcy in previous contracts — and then the company broke its “promise” to restore those cuts.

The pressure on the miners has been unrelenting. Scabs are escorted into Warrior Met by the Brookwood cops, who then harass the picketing workers with blue lights flashing. A state judge essentially barred strikers and supporters from bringing picket lines close to mine entrances.

With intense solidarity, the UMWA workers have fought back. They marched in Brookwood’s holiday parade last year wearing their carbide lamp hats and work overalls. They have traveled to New York City to rally and commit civil disobedience at Blackstone Financial, global investment backer of Warrior Met. They have picketed, held weekly rallies, given



PHOTO: KIM KELLY

Brookwood, Alabama, UMW miners, auxiliary members and supporters march, Nov. 8.

media interviews, rounded up supplies from food banks, connected to a country-wide labor network and more.

The first week in November, the miners made plans to block the road where scabs cross the picket line hiding behind local police escorts. Four members of the UMWA Auxiliary — three women who were former coal miners and current president Haeden Wright — volunteered to be arrested.

When news of the plan filtered out of the small Brookwood community, miners and supporters were threatened with fines of up to \$200,000.

The blockade was put on hold for the moment. Instead, on Nov. 8, a convoy of buses unloaded miners, auxiliary members and supporters near the mine heads, accompanied by UMWA President Cecil Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Brian Sanson.

To a soundtrack of union classics — from “Union Maid” to “Solidarity Forever” — the marchers made their way to the entrance of Number 4 Mine, chanting and waving yellow-and-black UMWA signs. Solidarity was strong as a busload of UMWA Local 2300 miners joined the crowd after a long drive down from western Pennsylvania.

Brookwood cop cars tried to herd the march and then formed a menacing ring around the protest. The strike has been smeared as “violent” in local media.

But Kris Mallory, special assistant to the UMWA president, told labor reporter Kim Kelly: “They’re painting this picture of us as, ‘These are people here to do violence.’ We’re just here to try to get a collective bargaining agreement.” (realnews.com, Nov. 7)

Mallory stressed that the union is planning to hold a new action weekly until they win their contract. UMWA, active in Alabama mines since 1890, has a long history of successful resistance.

UMWA Auxiliary, which organizes material support and movement solidarity, needs steady donations to help mine workers and their families stay strong during this showdown battle in class warfare. Send support to: Solidarity Santa: tinyurl.com/43r5fe4j and umwa.org/umwa2021strikefund. □

# Starbucks workers strike 110+ stores

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Workers at four unionized Starbucks locations in **Philadelphia** participated in the Red Cup Rebellion. The strike affected stores at Broad and Spring Garden and 20th and Market in Center City, 22nd and South in South Philadelphia, and 34th and Walnut in West Philadelphia. Huge, inflatable Scabby the Rat made an appearance at one store.

The 34th and Walnut store is in the heart of the University of Pennsylvania campus. Workers there held a spirited picket line in front of the store. Chants included, “Vente, mocha, grande, double, union busters you got trouble!”

In **Buffalo, New York**—where the coffee chain union drive began just over a year ago—four Starbucks stores went on strike. The Elmwood Avenue and Genesee Street stores were shut down the whole day. Management, preying on new hires who weren’t informed of the strike or the history of Starbucks’ union busting, forced other struck stores to open. But even at those stores, the picket lines remained strong throughout the day. Another Scabby the Rat joined the Elmwood Avenue picket line in the afternoon.

Two of the five unionized stores in

Greater **Cleveland** joined the one-day strike, including the Lee and Mayfield store in Cleveland Heights. Workers and supporters kept up a picket line from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. They explained to news reporters that Starbucks management had walked out of their first negotiating session and had since refused to meet with the union. “We want to cut into their profit line,” one striker said.

Knowing that no baristas — who voted 100% for the union — were going to cross the line, management closed the store for the day. Would-be customers honked, put thumbs up and wished the strikers good luck.

The original **Seattle** Starbucks store at 5th and Pike was busy; but once SBWU showed up, the customers cleared out fast. All the Pike Street store workers were striking and picketing, so the store was only kept open by two managers and a district manager.

Worker spokesperson Sara Pappin, a nine-year Starbucks worker, said that this was her fifth strike. “We’re tired of Starbucks walking out of bargaining sessions,” she said, “so we’re walking out on them.” Workers chanted, “What’s outrageous? Poverty wages! What’s disgusting? Union busting! What’s appalling? Starbucks stalling!”

Supporters joined the picket line as the loud demonstration attracted a lot of attention and was covered by at least two television stations. Starbucks workers struck at two other Seattle stores, as well as at stores in **Bellingham, Everett and Tumwater, Washington**.

Starbucks organizer Thomas Estling, who works at one of the three stores in **Portland, Oregon**, that went on strike,



Buffalo, New York



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Cleveland

spoke highly of his union. “The way we plan is really open and democratic. ... We can react really quickly. One of our partners was fired, and within a day we had a rally.” He stressed that, unlike some unions controlled by distant representatives, SBWU is truly worker-led. “The reps do very little; we’ve taken over it all.”

Estling also praised Starbucks workers in **Eugene, Oregon**, saying that they’re “very militant. One of their workers got fired and they shut down all seven stores for a week.”

Toni Arenstein, Steve Gillis, Maddi Johnson, Marie Kelly, Jim McMahan and Arjae Red contributed to this article.



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Portland, Oregon

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY



**Houston**

# Free Leonard Peltier!



The Brown Berets of South East Tejas held a banner drop over one of Houston's busiest freeways during 5 p.m. traffic on Nov. 18. The action was in solidarity with Indigenous activists who arrived in Washington, D.C., this week, taking their demand for the release of political prisoner Leonard Peltier to the White House. They had walked for 15 weeks and were met by supporters who rallied all along their route.

Since Houston was not on the route, the Brown Berets held their own solidarity action. On each side of a giant banner reading "Free Leonard Peltier" were two huge signs that said "Honk if You Agree!" For over an hour, the beeping of horns on the freeway below and people raising fists out of their car windows let protesters know that a lot of people in Houston — just like the millions around the world — support freedom for this wrongfully imprisoned Native leader.

— Report and photos by Gloria Rubac



## Just the tip of the iceberg

# Beating of Black man in Georgia jail goes viral

By Monica Moorehead

*As we go to print, three of the prison guards who beat Jarrett Hobbs have been arrested on charges of "Battery of an Inmate, and Violating the Oath of Office" according to a Nov. 22 statement from the Camden County Sheriff's Office. The same three were also fired.*

The savage beating of a 41-year-old Black man, Jarrett Hobbs, by five prison guards — four of them white — was captured on video tape Sept. 3. However, the videotape did not go viral on social media until Nov. 14.

The attack took place in a Camden County Jail in Woodbine, Georgia, located near the Florida border. Hobbs was incarcerated in the jail from the day of the beating until Sept. 30, for traffic violations and possession of a controlled substance.



ART BY GABY RAQUEL JULIA

The five guards have been placed on administrative leave until the Georgia Bureau of Investigation completes its "independent investigation." Hobbs's lawyers released three videos showing the five guards entering Hobbs's cell, grabbing his face and punching him in the head. They then drag him from his cell into the hallway and push him against a wall, where the beating continues. In one of the videos, Hobbs can be heard asking the guards why they are beating him while screaming in pain. It was reported that the guards yanked out one of his dreadlocks.

Hobbs's lawyers, Bakari Sellers and Harry Daniels, held a press conference Nov. 16, asking why there wasn't immediate action taken against the guards, instead of waiting over two months until the videos were released to the public. The lawyers stated that being

put on administrative leave falls short of holding these guards accountable.

Daniels stated, "These white officers were beating a Black man in the Deep South, reminiscent of 'old antebellum, Jim Crow' times." He added that his client told him he was having a mental health crisis and tried to avoid being dragged to the floor, because "no matter what, he knew if he went to the ground, he would be the next George Floyd, that he was going to die that day." (New York Times, Nov. 18)

Sellers said it is "absolutely clear that these officers beat Jarrett Hobbs like a dog for no reason other than they could."

Hobbs's probation officer claimed that before the beating Hobbs was kicking the door of his cell and that he allegedly attacked one of the guards, resulting in the guard having a bruised eye and a broken hand. There is no doubt that the jailers will attempt to paint Hobbs as the aggressor to justify beating him. It is highly unlikely that these guards will be charged, much less convicted for their

criminal assault on Sept. 3.

Hobbs is now in a Guilford County Jail in North Carolina, for alleged violation of probation related to a fraud conviction in 2014.

What happened to Jarrett Hobbs is no isolated incident. Incarcerated workers are at the mercy of guards every minute of every day. Many of the beatings, rapes and other physical and psychological assaults are videotaped, but rarely do they go viral — similar to police killings and assaults.

All too often these beatings lead to permanent injuries of a physical, emotional and psychological character. In notorious Rikers Island in New York City, where many detainees are held for months and even years due to high bails, a reported 16 people died in 2021 alone due to beatings and suicides.

Prisons in the U.S. are not only concentration camps but death camps for oppressed and poor workers. They must be abolished! □

# Poor medical care for incarcerated people leads to deaths

By Marie Kelly

Elisa Serna was only 24 when she died, due to medical neglect at a San Diego County jail in 2019. Serna was suffering from symptoms including vomiting and fainting, due to an intrauterine pregnancy and drug withdrawal. Her blood pressure was dropping. (Fox 5 San Diego, Oct. 26)

An investigation showed that despite Serna's obviously deteriorating condition, health professionals at the jail failed to provide lifesaving treatment. As a result of the investigation, both the nurse and physician on duty are charged with manslaughter.

Horribly, Serna's death is not an isolated occurrence. In a lawsuit filed against the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, it is noted, "Even though inmates are dying or suffering catastrophic injuries at an alarming rate at San Diego County jails, the medical and correctional staff whose actions or inactions cause the deaths are not investigated, not informed of their failures, not given further training or remedial instruction and are not monitored or closely supervised after these adverse events." (tinyurl.com/ynpmcsn)

Mass incarceration has resulted in overcrowded, inadequately maintained facilities throughout the U.S., and the carceral system denies the constitutional right to adequate health care of people held behind the walls. For-profit prison health care contractors are compounding the problem,

seeking to maximize profits by limiting resources available to adequately meet the health care needs of incarcerated patients.

Most states contract with private health care companies on a per-inmate, per-day basis. This creates an incentive to deny medical care in order to reduce costs. These private health care contractors will low-bid their competitors for state contracts. Of course, that reduction in the company's profit is passed on to the consumer, in this case the incarcerated people, through further reduction in health care provided.

According to a 2018 Columbia University study, 97% of incarcerated people with hepatitis C were not receiving the medication they needed. There are countless examples of an aging incarcerated population with a multitude of chronic illnesses not receiving adequate medical care. A recent WHYY report states that 40% of incarcerated people have chronic medical conditions. (tinyurl.com/3a42npf4)

In rare instances, physicians and nurses working in jails and prisons are charged with being criminally negligent when deaths are too horrific to ignore. Nevertheless, the day-to-day injustice in the medical care for incarcerated people is an ethical bind for physicians who take an oath to "first, do no harm" and nurses who are bound to take "action consistent with the obligation to provide optimal patient care," in accordance with Provision 4 of the American Nurses

Association Code of Ethics.

Investigation into the practice of shackling incarcerated hospitalized patients revealed that nurses and physicians routinely fail to follow their own professional and institutional standards around the safe use of restraints. Bradford Gamble, who was incarcerated in Pennsylvania before he received a compassionate release, described how he was shackled to a bed while hospitalized for terminal cancer. Mr. Gamble, prior to his death this year, made an impassioned direct plea to health care workers to treat every patient equally and justly.

### Nurses unions speak out

Recently, both the New York and Minnesota state nurses unions have gone public to decry the deplorable conditions within the carceral medical system.

In an article on the union's website, New York State Nurses Association members who work at Rikers Correctional Center spoke out about the health crisis there. The four nurses in the article have a combined work experience of 75 years at the facility. All four described the conditions as worsening.

Gene Thomas, RN, relates the difficulty in just keeping track of new patients: "The detainees who arrive at Rikers sometimes have been waiting on the prison bus for three to five hours. Some need emergency detox or insulin right away. In the Holding

Area, it is 'normal' to stay there for four or five days, and they are packed in like sardines. The overcrowding is so severe that some detainees circumvent the medical clinic where I work, because we are so backed up. If they miss their medical evaluation, we have no idea of their condition, and then they go to a housing unit without us knowing." (tinyurl.com/yz23cxnr)

Last year, the Minnesota Nurses Association organized a campaign targeting private provider MEnD Correctional Care, following the death of Hardel Sherrell in the Beltrami County jail. MEnD personnel at the jail failed to act when Sherrell became paralyzed and eventually died alone in his cell. The MNA held a rally outside the Minnesota Medical Practice Board, calling for action to revoke the medical license of Dr. Todd Leonard, who owns MEnD.

Leonard has been under investigation for years because of unethical practices resulting in deaths of incarcerated persons under MEnD care. The nurses union wrote to every county in the state to demand they cut ties with the company, stating: "As members of the health care team we know the need for, and believe in the right for, all patients to receive quality care ... It is our advocacy for patient safety and care that compels us to write to you ..." (tinyurl.com/mveyw3bp) □



# A hair’s breadth from escalation?

During the day of Nov. 15 the world came close to a rapid escalation of the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Soon, however, representatives of the U.S. government made statements that pulled back from the brink. For now. The events recalled some of the tense moments of the 20th century Cold War.

In the evening of that day, Warsaw time, a missile fell on Polish territory near the Ukraine border. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky immediately charged Russia with having launched the missile that hit Poland. His foreign minister demanded a NATO summit with Ukraine’s participation and asked NATO countries for modern warplanes and air defense systems.

Moscow denied having fired the missile, but for much of the day the corporate media in Europe ignored this denial and repeated the fake news that Russia attacked Polish territory with missiles.

Since NATO members, per the treaty, have the responsibility of defending any other NATO member that is attacked, the consequences of accepting Zelensky’s charges as true would be grave. NATO members would be required to aid Poland against Russia.

Poland’s President Andrzej Duda then stated he believed the missile hit was an accident. U.S. President Joe Biden confirmed this from Bali, Indonesia, where concurrent with the G20 conference, he

had just held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Biden administration, including some of the top generals, soon made it clear that they had no evidence that it was a Russian missile. On the contrary, they had evidence the missile was an anti-aircraft missile launched by Kiev’s armed forces that apparently went astray. In a news conference later in Arlington, Virginia, the head of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Mark Milley, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin confirmed that assessment.

In that same news conference, Gen. Milley warned Kiev that they were unlikely to be able to drive Russia out of Ukraine completely. Austin, who earlier this year

called for exhausting Russia with the Ukraine war, pointedly said he wouldn’t comment on what was possible. Their apparent disagreement is a warning to the people of the world that they can’t count on the U.S. government to avoid such an escalation in the future.

All the more is it important to heed that warning and mobilize popular, working-class forces against the continued participation of U.S. and NATO forces in the war. These imperialist warmakers are using Ukrainians as cannon fodder in a proxy war against Russia. And they are attacking the living standards of workers at home as they impose sanctions on Russia. □

## Dr. Mutulu Shakur: A steadfast revolutionary

By Mirinda Crissman

*This article was originally published in Workers World Aug. 4, 2021. Dr. Mutulu Shakur was granted parole Nov. 10, but remains in prison as of this writing.*

Despite being imprisoned for 35 years, the revolutionary and aging Dr. Mutulu Shakur remains a steadfast beacon in resistance to the oppressive capitalist system.

Born in Baltimore in 1950 to a Black woman who was blind, he learned early that the existing social system was not set up to benefit Black and other oppressed peoples.

After moving to Jamaica, Queens, New York City, with his mother and sister, Dr. Shakur worked with the Revolutionary Action Movement, a Black nationalist group fighting for Black self-determination and socialist change in the U.S. He worked closely with the Black Panther Party and the Puerto Rican Young Lords, among others.

Dr. Shakur was especially known for his critical work at Lincoln Hospital, built in 1839 to receive formerly enslaved people migrating from the South. “By 1970, it was the only medical facility in the South Bronx. It was a dilapidated brick structure from the previous century that had never been upgraded. It was known as the ‘butcher shop of the South Bronx.’ ... The Young Lords, with the participation of some Black Panthers, took over Lincoln Hospital and demanded better health care delivery for people in that community.” (The Abolitionist, March 15, 2013)

### Lifesaving community medical work

Mutulu Shakur became a political education instructor for the Lincoln Detox Community Program, which he eventually managed, introducing acupuncture to treat withdrawal symptoms from substance abuse. Interested in news accounts of success by Hong Kong doctors applying that treatment, he was stirred by the work of the so-called barefoot doctors providing basic, low-cost, grassroots medical care in revolutionary China.

### 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!**

(tinyurl.com/5atfnp8s)

The Lincoln Detox Community Program was recognized as the largest and most effective of its kind by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the National Acupuncture Research Society and the World Academic Society of Acupuncture.

“From 1978 to 1982, Dr. Shakur was the co-founder and co-director of the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America and the Harlem Institute of Acupuncture ... [and cared for] thousands of poor and elderly patients, who would otherwise have no access to treatment of this type.” (mutulushakur.com/about)

In a 2008 interview Dr. Shakur explained, “[then-President Richard Nixon and New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller] implemented what they called a Methadone Maintenance Intervention Program ... theoretically to get a person off of heroin but onto methadone monitored by methadone clinics and allegedly ... to detoxify a person addicted to chemical warfare off the methadone. ...

“But Methadone Maintenance came into the community as a requirement for aid to dependent children, a requirement if you wanted to get on welfare, a requirement for parole and requirement for probation. ... [The government] brought methadone into the community. In New York City, 60% of the illegal drugs on the street during the early 1970s were methadone ... coming in through Eli Lilly [pharmaceutical corporation] and the Brinks trucks delivering the drugs to the various methadone clinics. And instead of people being detoxified off of methadone, they were being increased in dosage.

“So acupuncture, in the hands of revolutionary-thinking Puerto Rican, Black, progressive white people, was an intervention that the government was not willing to accept, because that attacked and exposed the intention of the government to impose chemical warfare on a certain segment of the community. ... It wasn’t only that we were providing medical care, we were providing medical care and exposing chemical warfare.” (Sundiataacoli.org, July 2008)

### Politically motivated arrest

Dr. Shakur was arrested in 1986 and charged with eight counts under the U.S. conspiracy law known as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. His alleged crime was that he was part of a Brinks armored truck robbery in 1981, when a guard and two police officers were killed — the same Brinks implicated in bringing drugs into oppressed communities. The facts are “[a]t no time did the evidence show that Dr. Shakur killed anyone. At two trials the evidence indicated others were responsible for the deaths. (One witness [alleging his guilt] became a government witness in return for a sentencing deal).” (mutulushakur.com/case-facts/)

In the year 2021, incarcerated for 35 years, Dr. Shakur faces what many imprisoned people face — life-threatening medical neglect. This was already severe when Family and Friends of Dr. Mutulu Shakur released a 2019 legal and medical report on his case: “We know that Mutulu is suffering from extensive painful bone lesions, caused by a rapidly growing bone marrow cancer. ... In 2014, he suffered a stroke. ... He has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and vision problems from glaucoma.

“We fear for his survival and his life. Dr. Shakur’s legal team has filed a compassionate release petition because now his very survival depends on his release. He meets the conditions for compassionate release under federal law. He is a recognized advocate for human and civil rights, who poses no danger of committing any crimes against anyone. As evidenced by widespread support for his parole, he will be welcomed back into a community that will also provide for his financial and medical support.” (mutulushakur.com, December 14, 2019)

**Workers World understands that the only treatment for Dr. Shakur’s life-threatening illnesses — as in the case of other prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal — is immediate release. As with many political prisoners who aim to build a better world, Dr. Shakur has dared to expose the U.S. capitalist system’s harm to oppressed communities and dared to oppose that.**

Dr. Shakur began receiving stem cell-irrigation treatment in October 2020, the same month he was up for mandatory parole. He was given notice in January 2021 that he was denied parole and will not have another hearing until 2022. This was his ninth parole denial. (mutulushakur.com, February 24)

### Demand immediate release

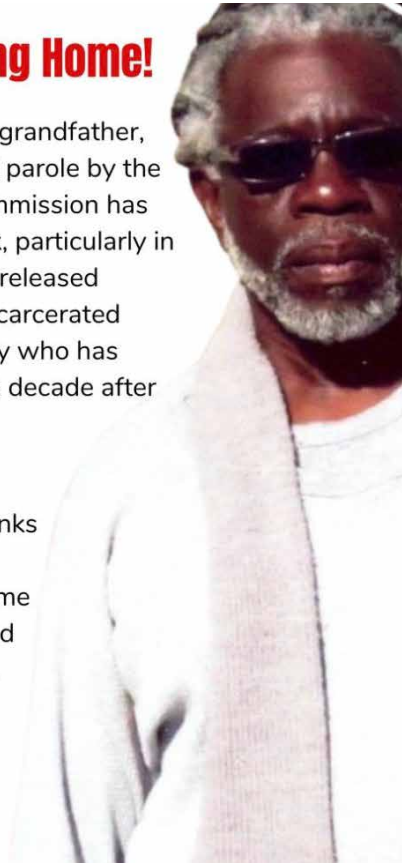
Workers World understands that the only treatment for Dr. Shakur’s life-threatening illnesses — as in the case of other prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal — is immediate release. As with many political prisoners who aim to build a better world, Dr. Shakur has dared to expose the U.S. capitalist system’s harm to oppressed communities and dared to oppose that. After having stolen several decades of Dr. Shakur’s life from him and his loved ones, the death-making apparatus of the prison industrial complex would rather kill him than release him to continue his work.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party calls for the immediate release of Mutulu Shakur and all political prisoners, particularly those who are aging rapidly.

Free Mutulu Shakur! Free Sundiata Acoli! Free Ruchell Magee! Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Free all political prisoners! □



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# On anniversary of historic victory

## The challenges Haiti faces today

By G. Dunkel

November 18 is the 219th anniversary of the Battle of Vertières, which sealed the victory of the Haitian Revolution, a glorious victory for the oppressed of the world. The enslaving class of Haiti was crushed, and it was made clear that the enslavement of human beings for the profit of a few was destined to end.

Haitian army members—half of whom were born in Africa—in four frontal assaults drove the French army, considered the best in Europe, from the field. Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the leader of the Haitian army, magnanimously gave the French army 10 days to leave.

In the over 200 years since the Haitian victory, the world’s imperialists have not ceased attacking Haiti for this “original sin.” And the attacks have grown more intense in the past year since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021.

The United States and its junior partner Canada have openly intervened in Haiti’s internal affairs, charging prominent politicians with supporting armed groups—which the U.S. and Canada invariably call “gangs”—and offering big rewards for the capture of the “gang” leaders responsible for the kidnapping of U.S. citizens.

Canada, in coordination with the U.S.,

has responded to the request of acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry for foreign intervention by soliciting CARICOM (Caribbean Community) for its support. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, told a local news site “such a move by any country could be seen by the Haitian people as propping up a government that the majority of Haitian see as illegitimate.” (tinyurl.com/32a455tt)

**Spread of cholera, deportations, hunger**

United Nations troops, part of a “peacekeeping” mission occupying Haiti, introduced cholera into Haiti Oct. 10, 2010. Nationally, a total of 820,000 cases of cholera, including 9,792 deaths, were reported between October 2010 and February 2019, when the Haitian public health system brought it totally under control.

The first new cases of cholera were reported Oct. 2 in Cité Soleil/Port-au-Prince, an area where the government and Haiti’s health system has great difficulty operating because it is broken up into competing neighborhoods, each controlled by different armed groups. So far eight of Haiti’s 10 departments have reported cases.

The acute hunger that 1.8 million Haitians face, according to the U.N.’s Food Program, makes cholera more

deadly.

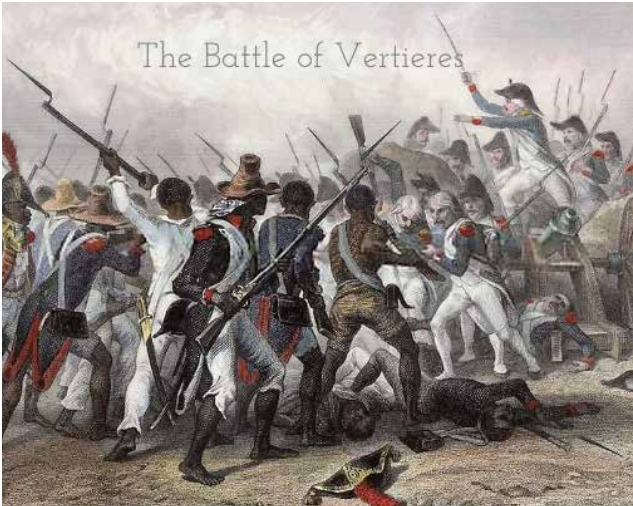
Given the economic devastation that earthquakes and hurricanes and a general lack of development have caused in Haiti, it is no wonder that the number of interdictions — immigrants on a boat stopped by the U.S. Coast Guard — has climbed to 139 this year, as compared to 54 in 2021.

Since September 2021, the U.S. has deported over 20,000 Haitians.

Currently the Department of Homeland Security has extended the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians until 2024. Bureaucratic restrictions make it difficult to get it, but it is a grudging recognition of the popular pressure to relieve the suffering of Haitians and Central Americans.

The Dominican Republic (DR) shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island. It is more prosperous than Haiti, and Haitian immigrants and their descendants supply much of the manual labor in its sugar and tourism/hospitality industries.

From Aug. 1 to Oct. 30, the DR



Depiction of Battle of Vertières

deported around 50,000 Haitian immigrants, Dominicans of Haitian descent and Black Dominicans to Haiti. On Nov. 14, a coalition of progressive organizations and parties in the DR, including the Socialist Workers Movement, issued a statement and began a campaign “to vigorously reject the structurally racist policies, more and more authoritarian and which violate human rights, of the Dominican Government, particularly their mass deportations.” (blackagendareport.com) □

# European workers fight for wages and rights

*This article was published in the Nov. 17 issue of Avante, the newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party, giving a roundup of struggles in Europe by the workers, whose living standards have been reduced as they are forced to pay the costs of the pandemic and the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine. Translation: John Catalinotto.*

In European countries — from Belgium to Greece to France, Spain and Britain — workers are demonstrating in protest against rising prices, demanding fair wage increases and guaranteed rights.

In **Belgium**, from Antwerp to Liege, from Charleroi to Ghent, from Mons to Genk, the Belgian working class sent a clear message on Nov. 9 with a general strike to demand a wage increase and the freezing of energy prices.

Many sectors were affected by this day of strike action to defend workers’ purchasing power: metallurgy, distribution, chemicals, transport, logistics, education and day-care centers: Hundreds of members of the Belgian Labor Party and student movements were with the pickets, showing solidarity with the union members and supporting the workers’ demands.

In **France**, on Nov. 10 a national day of strikes and protests took place, called by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and other union coalitions, demanding wage increases in view of the loss of purchasing power of workers, retirees and pensioners. It was the third mobilization in less than a month, after the struggles of Oct. 18 and 27, in a context of galloping inflation, now more than 6%. The strike and demonstrations in Paris and in cities across the country affected sectors such as public transport, education, health and the post office.



Paris, Nov. 10

The CGT is demanding, among other measures, an increase in the national minimum wage to 2,000 euros per month and the indexing of wages to inflation. And it rejects the change in the pension system that the government intends to implement, which includes increasing the retirement age.

In **Spain**, on Nov. 13 more than 600,000 people demonstrated in the capital in defense of the public health service and against the measures of “destruction” of the sector carried out by the right-wing government of Madrid. The demonstrators took to the streets to demand a public, universal and quality health service. They protested against the elimination of primary health care, against the long waiting times and against the precarious labor status of health professionals.

Thousands of doctors participated in the day of struggle to warn that they need more resources and to point out that the

situation is at its limit, after “years of putting up with excessive pressure.”

In **Greece**, a 24-hour strike and demonstrations took place on Nov. 9 in Athens and other cities to demand price control measures and wage increases. The actions were called by the most representative union confederations in

the country, the General Confederation of Greek Workers and the All Workers Militant Front.

In the capital, thousands of people filled the streets of the city center and, waving placards and banners, denounced the policies of the right-wing government and the European Union that “generate poverty, hunger and inequality” and “leave people frozen while they warm up the profits of big business.”

In **Britain**, most London Underground stations closed on Nov. 10 due to the strike of its nearly 10,000 workers—the sixth strike in the sector in 2022. The most recent 24-hour strike was called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union following the failure of negotiations with the TfL [Transport for London] company, which is responsible for running the British capital’s train and bus service.

The union is demanding that the employer back down on plans to cut 700 jobs and change the pension scheme. And it is ready to continue the struggle until a fair solution to its demands is found. □

### 100 Years Later

#### Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

**Contents:** From Marx’s view of social evolution to Lenin’s ‘Imperialism’ ♦ Social gains in the early years of Soviet power ♦ ‘Whose state? Our state’ — meaning all nationalities ♦ External and internal problems, strengths and setbacks ♦ To the 0.001 percent: You are cheering too soon

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Hebe María Pastor de Bonafini, activista argentina y presidenta de los fundadores de la Asociación de Madres de Plaza de Mayo, organización de madres argentinas cuyos hijos desaparecieron durante la dictadura de Jorge Rafael Videla, falleció el 20 de noviembre.

# Los dos partidos del sistema

14 de noviembre — En el momento de escribir este artículo, mientras se siguen contando las papeletas de voto en algunos estados, la composición del Congreso sigue siendo indeterminada. Es probable que los republicanos obtengan una escasa mayoría en la Cámara de Representantes, pero la “ola roja” prevista no se ha materializado. Los demócratas han conservado el control del Senado y podrían ganar un escaño tras la segunda vuelta electoral del 6 de diciembre en Georgia.

Los demócratas autocomplacientes y los medios de comunicación de tendencia liberal están embelleciendo este hecho. En una conferencia de prensa el 9 de noviembre, el presidente Joe Biden calificó la jornada electoral como “un buen día para la democracia”.

El respaldo del 45º presidente de Estados Unidos parece haber perjudicado a más candidatos republicanos de los que ayudó, ya que la mayoría de ellos perdieron, pero un portavoz de Trump insistió en que “fue una gran noche para los candidatos del presidente [Donald] Trump”. (foxnews, 9 de noviembre)

Se espera que Trump anuncie su entrada en la carrera presidencial de 2024 el 15 de noviembre. Algunos estrategas republicanos, reconociendo que Trump es un lastre, están considerando al gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, como el fascista preferido, supremacista blanco, transfóbico, homofóbico, negador del cambio climático y propagador

de COVID-19, para presentarse al cargo más alto del país.

Incluso sin el impulso que daría un “tsunami” o un “baño de sangre”, el ala fascista de la derecha política fue capaz de utilizar las elecciones de mitad de período para construir su base.

Las contiendas que perdieron fueron muy reñidas; los negadores de las elecciones de 2020 siguen siendo mayoría entre los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes. Sería un error catastrófico subestimar este peligro.

## Los referendos son un punto positivo

Los votantes progresistas hicieron oír su voz a través de referendos sobre una serie de cuestiones. En los cinco estados en los que el acceso al aborto estaba en la papeleta de votación -con propuestas a favor de la justicia reproductiva que ganaron en Michigan, Vermont y California, y propuestas en contra del aborto que fueron derrotadas en Kentucky y Montana-, la derecha se vio retrasada.

Entre las iniciativas exitosas a favor de los trabajadores que se aprobaron figuran el aumento del salario mínimo estatal en Nebraska, el fin del salario mínimo más bajo para los trabajadores que reciben propinas en Washington, D.C., la consagración de los derechos de negociación colectiva en Illinois y la provisión de almuerzos escolares gratuitos en Colorado, al mismo tiempo que se aumenta el salario de los trabajadores de los comedores escolares.

Tennessee, Vermont, Oregón y Alabama -este último con varias huelgas de trabajo en las cárceles- votaron para prohibir el trabajo involuntario en las cárceles, una forma de esclavitud.

Otras medidas aprobadas ampliaron los derechos de los votantes y despenalizaron la posesión de marihuana.

Ninguna de estas iniciativas progresistas habría llegado a la votación sin el duro trabajo de los activistas de la comunidad. La mayoría de los estados exigen un número extremadamente alto de firmas de votantes en una petición; muchas firmas son descalificadas por tecnicismos. Se necesita un ejército de peticionarios voluntarios para llevar una propuesta a los votantes.

Estas reñidas votaciones en referéndum, en contraste con la farsa bipartidista -donde ambos partidos representan alas de la clase capitalista- son más representativas de la voluntad democrática de las masas.

## No hay progreso sin lucha

Independientemente de cómo se desarrollen las cosas en el Congreso, estas elecciones tendrán poco impacto en la vida cotidiana de la clase trabajadora y los oprimidos. La clase dominante capitalista sigue en el poder, como lo ha hecho después de cada contienda anterior entre los dos partidos políticos capitalistas. Ni los demócratas ni los republicanos representan una amenaza para ese poder.

El capitalismo, el sistema basado en la explotación del trabajo por parte de los capitalistas, ha cargado a los trabajadores con la mayor inflación en

décadas. Incluso cuando la inflación se desacelera, las tasas de interés más altas se sumarán al costo de la vivienda, los automóviles y más. Empresas como Amazon y Starbucks están llevando a cabo una amplia represión de los sindicatos para negar a los trabajadores la posibilidad de opinar sobre los salarios y las condiciones de trabajo.

Ahora las empresas tecnológicas están despidiendo a un gran número de trabajadores. Esta es otra señal de que, como escribió el primer secretario del Partido del Mundo de los Trabajadores, Larry Holmes, en Workers World el 17 de octubre: “A medida que la magnitud de la sobreproducción capitalista crece exponencialmente con los vastos cambios en las fuerzas productivas de la economía, cada crisis capitalista subsiguiente se vuelve más amplia, peor, más global y más difícil de controlar. La nueva tecnología de la era digital ha convertido la crisis de sobreproducción capitalista en una característica permanente del capitalismo”. (workers.org/2022/10/67199/)

## Las elecciones no cambiarán esto

Como dijo el gran líder antiesclavista Frederick Douglass: “Si no hay lucha, no hay progreso”.

El movimiento debe canalizar en las urnas la misma energía de base que logró defender la justicia reproductiva. La lucha de clases -en el barrio, en el lugar de trabajo y en las calles- puede hacer retroceder la amenaza fascista y conseguir cambios reales que para los políticos son sólo falsas promesas electorales. □

## MUNDO OBRERO editorial

Mientras escribimos este editorial, abundan los rumores de que el ejército estadounidense ya se ha movilizado para tomar un aeropuerto en Haití. Los acontecimientos de los últimos meses hacen que tal rumor sea creíble.

Sí, creíble, pero aún así criminal. Es difícil imaginar una intervención más perjudicial para el pueblo de Haití. Las difíciles condiciones sociales actuales del pueblo de Haití fueron causadas por anteriores intervenciones de Estados Unidos.

Desde que el pueblo africano esclavizado de Haití se liberó con una heroica revolución que expulsó a los esclavistas colonialistas franceses en 1804, los gobernantes de Estados Unidos y Francia han hecho sufrir a los haitianos por este “pecado original”.

Los esclavócratas sureños, que dominaban los incipientes EE.UU. en 1804, estaban aterrorizados de que la lucha por la liberación de Haití se extendiera. Castigaron a Haití y a su pueblo por liberarse.

Washington expandió su poder, apoderándose de la mitad de México en 1848 y fijando el objetivo de dominar el hemisferio occidental con la Doctrina Monroe como guía. Las operaciones militares de Estados Unidos marcharon por toda América Central, al tiempo



Ira por la intervención de Estados Unidos en las calles de Haití.

que arrebatan Cuba y Puerto Rico de España (y de sus pueblos) en 1898.

Con los bienes de propiedad estadounidense en juego, en 1915 el imperialista Estados Unidos envió a sus militares a ocupar Haití. Las tropas permanecieron allí hasta 1934 y dejaron a los haitianos con un déspota en el poder, “Papa Doc” Duvalier, que gobernaba a través de la odiada y temida banda de milicianos “Tonton Macoutes”. En 1986 una revuelta popular expulsó finalmente al hijo de Duvalier, “Baby Doc”.

En 1990 los haitianos eligieron por abrumadora mayoría a Bertrand Aristide como presidente. El gobierno democrático y popular de Aristide acababa de empezar a mejorar la vida de los

trabajadores y agricultores haitianos, cuando los oficiales del ejército de Haití y los Macoutes lo derrocaron en 1991 con el apoyo de Estados Unidos.

Cuando los regímenes subsiguientes no consiguieron estabilizar Haití, Estados Unidos volvió a intervenir en 1994, y sus tropas fueron sustituidas por las fuerzas de Naciones Unidas en 1995. A Aristide se le permitió regresar bajo la tutela de Estados Unidos. Aunque su partido, Fanmi Lavalas, ganó escaños en el parlamento, Aristide se mantuvo fuera del cargo hasta que ganó otra elección para presidente en 2000.

Cuando Aristide no quiso ni pudo servir a los intereses de Washington y Wall Street, una unidad de las Fuerzas Especiales de Estados Unidos -que supuestamente eran guardaespaldas de Aristide- capturó al presidente haitiano el 29 de febrero de 2004 y lo llevó al exilio forzoso en la República Centroafricana.

Siguió una sucesión de gobiernos títeres de Estados Unidos, apuntalados por una fuerza de intervención de la ONU,

que después de 2010 consiguió introducir el cólera mientras aumentaba la policía de Haití. Mientras tanto, una sucesión de huracanes e inundaciones destructivas y un devastador terremoto en 2010 desestabilizaron aún más a la sociedad haitiana.

A pesar del papel de Washington en la creación de la agitación en Haití, Estados Unidos ha negado el asilo político permanente al pueblo haitiano, que huyó de esa agitación.

Mundo Obrero apoya la autodeterminación de Haití. Corresponde al pueblo de Haití determinar quién dirige su país y cómo lo dirige. La intervención militar de Estados Unidos puede tratar de proteger las propiedades de Estados Unidos, pero nunca ha traído a Haití prosperidad o incluso estabilidad. La dominación estadounidense es lo contrario de la autodeterminación.

La clase dominante estadounidense -junto con la francesa- le debe a Haití reparaciones por más de dos siglos de crímenes. Y se les debe hacer pagar esas reparaciones.

Mundo Obrero se une a las muchas organizaciones populares haitianas que dicen que Washington debe mantener sus manos fuera de Haití y sacar sus tropas ¡YA! □