Prisoners wage massive strike

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Oct. 2 – Launched with the cry, “We will no longer contribute to our own oppression,” thousands of incarcerated workers in the Alabama prison system began a massive strike Sept. 26 to protest brutal conditions, racist sentencing and exploitation of their labor. About 23,000 people are in the state’s 14 major prisons. They do all the labor of maintaining life in the facilities — cooking, cleaning, producing uniforms, doing repairs and equipment work.

Organizing for the strike began in June through the Free Alabama Movement (FAM), inside the walls, and the advocacy group Both Sides of the Wall. These groups estimated that about 80% of the people in Alabama prisons are on strike. (New York Times, Sept. 28)

On the first day of the strike, Both Sides of the Wall held a rally of formerly incarcerated people, family members and supporters at the Department of Corrections in the state capital, Montgomery. Speakers called for improvements in medical care and prison conditions and for reforms to sentencing and parole laws.

In a Sept. 28 press release, the Alabama Department of Corrections took the unusual step of confirming there was a “work stoppage” in most of the prisons. The ADOC statement broke with the usual denial of political participation.

The nine demands issued by those striking, through the Free Alabama Movement, address these issues and more, going to the heart of the racist and working-class injustice perpetuated by the state. (youtu.be/E8_A2CLjiO4)

One important FAM demand is to “immediately repeal the habitual offender law.” This act punishes an incarcerated person who has three felony convictions, even if one or more are decades old or are for nonviolent offenses, with life in prison without parole. Of those punished with this horrendous penalty in Alabama, 75% are Black people. (alabamasmartjustice.org/reports/hfoa)

The class divide under capitalism reveals itself most brutally every time a so-called “natural disaster” is suddenly transformed into an economic disaster for the working class.

These crises expose the fact that the prime purpose of the capitalist state is not helping people in need. Just consider the number of deaths in Lee County, which includes Fort Myers, that might have been prevented if reforms to sentencing and parole laws were passed.

In an attempt to break the strike, prison authorities have cut food to cold meals, twice a day, and brought in work-release prisoners from outside the prisons, forcing them to do food preparation. The state is also mounting riot squads, according to FAM posts:

“One day 5: As the historic Alabama prison strike winds down the final days of its first week, it seems pretty clear that the ADOC wants violence. Over the past 72 hours, ADOC has started calling riot teams into the prisons in full CERT [correctional emergency response team] uniform, even though the work strikes have accounted for the most peaceful periods of incarceration in Alabama’s troubled prisons.”

Incarcerated worker demands

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice sued the state, alleging that conditions in men’s prisons violate the Constitution because of a failure to protect men from prisoner-on-prisoner violence, sexual abuse and excessive use of force by staff and failure to maintain safe conditions. The report found that Alabama’s major prisons were at 182% of capacity.

The nine demands issued by those striking, through the Free Alabama Movement, address these issues and more, going to the heart of the racist and working-class injustice perpetuated by the state. (youtu.be/E8_A2CLjiO4)

FAM demands include “mandatory parole criteria that will guarantee parole to all eligible persons who meet the criteria,” “a streamlined process for medical furloughs and review of elderly incarcerated individuals for immediate release” and “a return to earned good-time credit for all sentences.”

Other demands seek to repeal or amend laws to prevent racist bias in enforcement, such as presumptive sentencing, the “drive-by shooting” statute, or the 30-year minimum for parole for juvenile offenders.

Continued on page 4

One hurricane, two systems

Dramatic images and accounts of the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Ian continue to dominate the news. The death toll, approaching 100 as of this writing, is expected to rise. Over a million are still without electric power in Florida, hundreds of thousands without water. Homes were leveled, and roads and bridges washed away. And others too numerous to list.

Lives have been turned upside down by a monster hurricane, one of the most powerful on record, with a diameter spanning the entire width of the Florida peninsula. In the big business media, stories of damaged yachts and winter condos seem to outnumber reports on the storm’s disproportionate impact on low-income, working-class people, especially people of color. But the reality can’t be hidden: Large numbers of low-income homeowners and renters — who could not afford insurance or are scrambling to find funds for deductibles required to file an insurance claim — are now homeless.

The class divide under capitalism reveals itself most brutally every time a so-called “natural disaster” is suddenly transformed into an economic disaster for the working class. These crises expose the fact that the prime purpose of the capitalist state is not helping people in need. Just consider the number of deaths in Lee County, which includes Fort Myers, that might have been prevented if reforms to sentencing and parole laws were passed.
Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World

Boston’s proclamation last year that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples’ Day in lieu of Columbus Day, was a victory for Native peoples, since the creation of U.S. settler colonialism, the theft and devastation of their lands and cultures, denial of all rights, the torture and genocide, began and continues in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Then on Oct. 8, 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed a federal Indigenous Peoples Day and acknowledged the atrocities “European explorers inflicted on Tribal nations and Indigenous communities.” These pronouncements came about due to the strong, unified struggles by Indigenous peoples and their allies, notably at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the courageous, militant fight that shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The movement for recognition of Oct. 12 as Indigenous Peoples Day began in Berkeley, California, following a huge march called by the American Indian Movement in San Francisco on Oct. 10, 1992, protesting the celebration of conquistador mass murderer Christopher Columbus’s arrival 500 years earlier. Since then, 14 states, Washington, D.C., and over 130 cities have dumped the holiday honoring the genocidal conqueror and recognize Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and cultures on that day.

Workers World has continually supported the righteous struggles of Native peoples on the streets and in our newspaper. WW joins Indigenous communities to demand: Drop “Columbus Day” as a federal holiday! Commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day in every city, town and state! Down with white supremacy!

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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

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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 ganged down by cops and bipugs on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out Indigenous Peoples Day. It seeks to create a legal holiday that celebrates genocidal conquerors. It is a strategy to stifle the struggles of Native peoples.

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Indigenous leaders target cathedral for Orange Shirt Day

By Will Hodgkinson

Sept. 30 — Indigenous leaders of the United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), and supporters occupied the front entrance to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston to commemorate today’s “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” in Canada. Known locally as Orange Shirt Day, Sept. 30 honors the thousands of Indigenous children who were kidnapped by government authorities and abused, many murdered, at hundreds of residential and boarding schools in Canada and the U.S. The Catholic Church operated many of the institutions where these atrocities took place.

Orange Shirt Day was created by Phyllis Webstad to connect the stories of other Indigenous children to her experience as a six-year-old, when she had her new and beloved orange shirt taken away on her first day of school. The idea of a national movement against “apology” to Indigenous people this July while in Canada, the Church has refused to hand over even one abuser or priest or nun who ran these “schools.” Nor did the Pope rescind the series of papal bulls establishing the “Discovery Doctrine,” which continues to justify the genocide of Indigenous peoples and theft of their lands around the world.

As speakers at this gathering emphasized, the genocidal destruction of Indigenous cultures and cultures committed by the U.S. and Canada, is ongoing. In both settler colonies, racist foster-care systems continue to break up families by keeping thousands of Indigenous children from their relatives.

Jean Lac-Pierite of NAICOB added: “These governments further fail to address access to clean water on tribal lands. Canada and the U.S. continue to boost programs and projects to create the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women goes underreported and underinvestigated....”

“On Oct. 1, it will be the six-month anniversary of the victorious ALU vote at the Staten Island warehouse—the first unionized Amazon facility in the U.S. Amazon heads and Board of Directors at a recent union vote; if the bosses continue to stall, strike may indeed be on the table.”

“Calling into the meeting by telephone was Beto Sanchez, Starbucks worker/leader and one of the Memphis Seven. Targeted in February by racist firings, the people of color-led organizing committee fought back. They won the store’s union election, and they won reinstatement to their jobs at the Memphis, Tennessee, store. Sanchez credited mass street actions and solidarity from Memphis unions with winning this stunning victory, which Starbucks bosses were unable to stop, even with high-priced, union-busting lawyers.

The fighting Laundry Workers Center Coincided with the Cabricanecos Campaign. Through a Spanish translator, they reported to the workers the struggle on their fight to unionize city construction and demolition workers forced to work in dangerous and harsh conditions. This struggle, begun May 2, has forced management to begin to talk to workers, after the bosses’ original stance of refusing to even respond to them. The workers still need solidarity at their weekly Friday picket line, at 416 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn.

Lorraine Liriano, of Call to Action on Puerto Rico, reported on the situation on the archipelago after the devastation caused by Hurricane Fiona, with the people’s suffering made much worse by colonial subjugation and looting by Wall Street-connected forces. Tens of thousands of people in Puerto Rico are still without energy. The power grid actually went down before the hurricane struck, as it has happened off-and-on, ever since privatization in 2022 by the Spanish company Iberdrola.

The extreme weather caused by the pollution of capitalism is ruining lives over the globe, according to the speaker. The only good thing to come out of today’s rain is that more WAAR members will be free to attend next week’s rescheduled New York Trans Day of Action, which will take place Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. EDT at Union Square!"
Louisiana youth to be jailed on Angola former death row

By Betsey Piette

On Sept. 23, Louisiana Chief District Judge Shelly Dick ruled that incarcerated youth in New Orleans can be moved to the state’s Angola prison, even while admitting that this detention “will likely have deleterious psychological ramifications.”

Officially known as Louisiana State Penitentiary, Angola is considered one of the most brutal prisons in U.S. history. Established in 1868 on the site of a former plantation, its nickname comes from the country of origin of many of its enslaved workers.

Incarcerated youth are slated to be assigned to the building that, until 2006, housed male prisoners sentenced to death. On July 21, families and communities of impacted youth held protests outside Bridge City Center for Youth in New Orleans. Protests were also held outside Jetson Detention Center in Baker, Louisiana.

Gina Womack, executive director at Families and Friends of Louisiana’s Incarcerated Youth, said, “The majority of the children incarcerated are young Black and Brown people. It’s completely outrageous to further traumatize these young people, whose families have been seeking support and services, by now moving them to a plantation.”

Angola, long known for bloody violence and beatings by guards, was originally set up to hold imprisoned Black workers under Louisiana’s 18th and early 21st century convict-leasing system, which provided incarcerated workers for a fee to private corporations. More recently, incarcerated individuals were forced to work in the prison’s own fields for pennies an hour. Today many of the people jailed there are aging prisoners serving life sentences without the possibility of parole.

Several lawsuits were filed to challenge the proposed transfers as unconstitutional and in violation of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which mandates complete separation between incarcerated adults and youth.

The Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice claims the youth will be held in a separate building from adult prisoners. Responding to the lawsuits, the Office of Inspector General purchased “black-out” fabric to wrap around the fence line of the facility where the youth will be held, and that would create the required separation.

Incarceration as adults is not juvenile justice
Youth advocates emphasize that the problem is not about changing locations or superficially separating youth from adults. Nancy Reuben, a former literacy organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union National Prison Project, pointed out that the location sends a message to youth that “they will be going into the grounds of a maximum-security prison, one of the most notorious in the country, and that is how they will be treated.”

Louisiana has a state mandate to rehabilitate youth in its care. Family and community members protesting the plan to move the youth to Angola say it is symbolic of the state’s profoundly broken juvenile justice system.

Various lawsuits criticized the state of Louisiana for ignoring comprehensive problems within their juvenile “justice” system for decades. These point to the numerous studies that show how incarceration has devastating and lifelong effects on youth, by separating them from families, disrupting education and mental health treatment options and exposing youth to more trauma and violence.

“The juvenile justice system is supposed to be about rehabilitation and creating opportunities for future success to override past mistakes,” said Tammie Gregg, deputy director of the ACLU National Prison Project. “Placing children in a notorious prison, rich with the history of slavery and brutality, instead paints a portrait of deep despair, failure and limitation…”

If they are transferred to Angola, the young people will be held in windowless cells with floor-to-ceiling metal bars, horizontal bars for ceiling height and open metal toilets. The conditions are clearly more punishing than at the state’s high-security juvenile facilities, where youth normally sleep in dorms.

Though the OJJ says the children will be separated from adults, in the event of a life-threatening medical emergency, the checks and balances have not been created. These point to the state’s high-security youth were retained as employees by the Office of Juvenile Justice.

One report found that youth at Angola were twice as likely to receive private prison companies.

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Alabama prisoners wage massive strike

Continued from page 1

The Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles grants almost no pardons; at its Sept. 28 meeting, it heard 40 requests and granted only three. Alabama has had the highest state prison death rate due to COVID-19 in the U.S., to the militant organizing by incarcerated individuals; the state’s mortality rate was over 600 deaths per 100,000. Physical and sexual assaults were similarly unchecked.

Now Alabama plans to put $400 million—nearly 20% of its federal COVID-19 funding—toward the construction of two megalions of 4,000 beds each.

Inmates for Action and engaged in work stoppages in prison, and the Justice for the Atmore-Holman Brothers campaign fought to expose state complicity in their murder.

This lineage of resistance continues. In April 2014 members of the Free Alabama Movement went on strike to demand wages for the unpaid prison labor they did for the state, and they organized another strike in 2016 (“Alabama Prison Uprising, Workers World, March 24, 2016”)

FAM’s “A Flicker Turns into a Flame” stated, “A genuine, unconstitutionally overcrowded prisons and inhumane treatment are more about economies than the humanity of people. … The numbers surprise, but LAWLESS is the motive and most important factor in explaining the policies and conditions within the Department of Corrections.”

Alabama incarcerated workers continue the struggle to end slavery and forced labor. They join with thousands of other Alabama workers — like the Brookwood United Mine Workers in their second strike year and the Bessemer Amazon workers still fighting for $15/M/HO было заработано - они уже миллион долларов. Billions of other workers around the globe, fighting for liberation.

At night Pratt can see the lights from Alabama’s Bibb Correctional Facility, located four miles west of where she lives in Mentone. She says, “Inmates believe the profit that people trying to maintain contact with the over 1,800 people incarcerated there: Access Secure Deposit, Access Secure Technologies and Union Supply Direct.”
Support the strike at Philadelphia Museum of Art

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Since Sept. 26, almost 200 workers have been on strike—no longer reporting for work in person or virtually—at one of the oldest and largest art museums in the U.S. with over 240,000 works of art from around the world. (tinyurl.com/4j2wzy3e)

Members of the Philadelphia Museum of Art Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 937, affiliated with AFSCME District Council 47, voted for union representation in a landslide, 88% “yes” vote in August 2020. Since then, the PMA has accused a slate of Trustees and executive management have refused to come to an agreement with the PMA Union.

After over two years of fruitless talks, after filing a lengthy Unfair Labor Practice charge against museum management, after a strike authorization vote of 99% and after holding a one-day warning strike Sept. 16, workers finally walked off the job Sept. 26.

Union members and supporters are holding daily fast-paced picket lines at the Museum’s North and West entrances, the loading dock, PMA’s Perelman Building across the street and the Rodin Museum a few blocks away. A strike fund—to which donations can be made at tinyurl.com/p3y7tfusk—has allowed the union to give its members some funds to help tide them over until the strike is won.

‘What does PMA have to hide? They exploit workers inside!’

In a letter delivered to the Philadelphia City Council Sept. 28, AFSCME DC 47 President Hershberger said, and added the last strike at Elkhart was over 50 years ago. (tinyurl.com/4j2wzy3e)

In San Francisco, the last strike at Weyerhaeuser with 46-year employee, who has experienced several contract dragings their feet in negotiations.

At the Philadelphia Museum of Art Union, AFSCME, the Teamsters union, AFSCME, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, UNITE HERE and other unions; progressive members of the city council and state legislature; activists in the Save UC Townhomes Coalition; and others have helped make the picket lines effective. When bigger numbers are on the lines, most people agree to not cross the picket line and turn away. Instead of entering the PMA, customers are urged to visit the Barnes Foundation Museum, one of the world’s greatest collections of impression-ist, post-impressionist and modern art, just a few blocks away.

Management failed to even show up at a scheduled negotiations meeting Sept. 28 with Local 937 officials. The end of this strike doesn’t seem imminent. What will force PMA big shots to give up? More solidi-vity! Visit tinyurl.com/3su9jkpk for information about how to support the strike.

Together we rise, together we will win!

This statement was issued by Tsukuru Fors (he/she), Lead Organizer of the Oct. 1st National Day of Action to End Violence and Genocide on Transgender People.

The National Organizing Committee of the Oct 1st National Day of Action to End Violence and Genocide on Transgender People stands firmly with Amazon and Starbucks workers on Oct. 1, the six-month anniversary of the historic Amazon Labor Union Victory.

Today under late stage capitalism, workplace violence has become commonplace. For example, a 46-year employee, who has experienced several contract negotiations with the company. “People are fed up,” Hershberger said, and added the last strike at Elkhart was over 50 years ago. (tinyurl.com/q4w7vyr)

In Indiana, the 100 workers at piping manufacturer Elkhart Products rejected the company’s offer to give workers a nearly 50-cent raise, while health care deductibles would rise. IAM Local 2018 members have been on the picket line since Sept. 23. “It’s the worst contract I’ve ever seen here,” said Glen Hershberger, a 46-year employee, who has experienced several contract negotiations with the company. “People are fed up,” Hershberger said, and added the last strike at Elkhart was over 50 years ago. (tinyurl.com/4j2wzy3e).

California health care workers

In Santa Rosa, California, a health care workers’ strike began Sept. 27 at Sutter Santa Rosa Health. The 170 technicians, occupational and physical therapists, and social workers belong to the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21. And they have been without a contract since July 2021. They accuse Sutter executives of engaging in a “brazen campaign of harassment and intimidation,” according to a union spokesperson.

Citing grievances familiar to professional nurses’, Sutter health care workers want safe staffing and adequate staffing to ensure quality patient care. For example, last month, Sutter median patients process COVID-19 tests that are critical to protecting patients. Adequate staffing ensures that results will be available in a timely manner with little margin for error. Sutter workers and therapists have been swamped with patients dealing with lingering mental and physical health issues following COVID-19 infections. Three-quarters of the Sutter staff face a wage freeze, which threatens recruitment and retention of these critical workers if the company has its way.

Wins for nurses and farmworkers

The Michigan Nurses Association-University of Michigan Professional Foundation Council ratified a new contract Sept. 24. In August 60% of the 6,200 members voted for striking.

“In our months of solidarity and collective action, nurses have stood strong to reach an agreement that meets our members’ priorities of protecting patients and investing in nurses so we can provide the best care possible,” said Renee Curtis, a registered nurse and the union’s president. The new contract ends mandatory overtime, stops mechanisms to increase loads, increases pay, and guarantees staffing and increases wages, all of which are critical for recruitment and retention.

And the UPW Farmworkers in California have more protection for union organizing now, as Gov. Gavin Newsom finally caved to pressure from the union and the community and signed Assembly Bill 2183. The UPW had launched an aggressive campaign: organizing a 43-mile march across the state to Sacramento, following the 166 mile march route from Delano to the state capital during the historic Grape Strike; then the UPW and their many supporters held a 24/7 occupation of the state capitol building.

The new Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act facilitates voting in a union election for farmworkers. (Read more about this most recent example of the UPW at workers.org/2022/09/66933 and at utw.org.)

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Striketober 2022

It’s been a year since last October was dubbed Striketober, referencing the 2021 uptick in strike activity, and the wave of workers—46% amid high inflation.

Full-time jobs at the museum pay 33% percent less than other art institutions with similarly sized budgets. And PMA pays no rent on the city-owned facilities; the city pays for its utilities.

PMA proposed a total 11% wage increase over three years, but union members rejected a 3% baseline raise the first year when inflation is over 8%. Many museum workers, despite their having col-lege degrees and specific skill sets, made only $5 an hour. And in an effort to help make ends meet, the Museum was obligated to increase minimum wages to $15 an hour under Philadelphia’s living wage ordinance. PMA is refusing to agree to a proposal to raise minimum pay to $16.75.

Union demands include that all raises since 2019, amid high inflation.

But pay and health care remain major stumbling blocks. Despite being in the top 7% of U.S. art museums in terms of endowment size, PMA has not increased wages since 2019, amid high inflation.

This popular chant is a reference to the upcoming exhibition of the works of French impressionist painter Henri Matisse, called “Matisse in the 1930s,” which is scheduled to open Oct. 20. The show will include more than 100 drawings, paintings, prints and sculptures, together we rise, together we will win!­
Ambassador Alex Saab, a victim of the U.S. economic war to achieve regime change in Venezuela, has been under arrest for over two years. This article recounts the court proceedings of this dark chapter of the U.S. long-term strategy of violent destabilization against Venezuela. Saab is fighting against his illegal detention and extradition before the 8th District Court in Miami. As Venezuela’s special envoy and a deputy ambassador of the government of Venezuela, Saab’s diplomatic immunity from arrest and detention under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is at stake. A party to the convention, the U.S. has flouted this principle of international law.

Judicial overreach on political grounds

Alex Saab was targeted by the U.S. because of his role in helping circumvent their sanctions imposed on Venezuela. These measures, a form of collective punishment, are intended to make conditions so onerous that the Venezuelan government, the United Nations, and the world community would be unable to support it. Such unilateral coercive measures constitute hybrid warfare and are illegal under international law. Alex Saab was on a humanitarian mission from Caracas to Tehran to procure food, fuel and medicine in legal international trade but in contravention of the illegitimate U.S. sanctions. When his plane made a forced landing in Miami on June 12, 2020, he was seized and imprisoned at Washington’s behest.

He was tortured and held in solitary confinement until December 2020. Then he was released to strict house arrest but was able to visit his wife and children without medical care. Although the regional Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) Court of Justice, and the United Nations Human Rights Committee ordered his release, Saab was held captive. The $200,000 award in damages by the ECOWAS Court was unannounced.

An exhaustive three-year investigation of money-laundering activities taken on behalf of Venezuela; and the Maduro government, no Venezuelan diplomatic nominal enjoy immunity. In other words, the imperal power arrogates to itself the authority to determine whom other countries may appoint as their diplomatic representatives.

Saab’s defense counsel noted that it is an undisputed fact that Venezuela, the sending state, and Iran, the receiving state, not only recognize each other’s government, they recognize that Saab is a special envoy. In that context, to accord Saab diplomatic immunity is independent of the U.S.’s position as to which government of Venezuela they recognize. To hold otherwise would completely distort and rob of any meaning both the U.S. obligations risks causing a major injustice. If, in its many obligations under the Vienna Convention and the Diplomatic Relations Act, Failure to do so would be devastating to the diplomatic world and international relations.

Continued on page 7
Where’s the $60+ billion for the Bronx?

The following is excerpted from a statement issued by the Bronx Anti-War Coalition, a grassroots, community-based peace group, dedicated to challenging U.S. militarism at home and abroad and fighting for community reinvestment in the borough.

The coalition’s goal is to end the $800-billion per year military budget used to uphold U.S. imperialist interests all over the world. The coalition is made up of antwwar peace groups and community organizations, veterans, tenants, unions, racial and environmental justice activists, workers, abolitionists and anyone else fighting in the Bronx for the liberation of all oppressed people worldwide.

The South Bronx, a community composed of 98% Black and Latino families, is one of the most poverty-stricken and oppressed districts in the U.S. More than 40% of South Bronx children live in poverty. Described as a food desert, the Bronx has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the country. Neighborhoods lacking affordable supermarkets cause people to rely on small bodegas, which typically lack fresh produce or healthy choices. Obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure affect more than one-third of adults.

The South Bronx neighborhood of Mott Haven, located only six miles north of Trump Tower on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue, is nicknamed “Asthma Alley” because it has some of the worst air pollution levels in the U.S. Mott Haven residents see rates of asthma hospitalizations 21 times higher than other New York City neighborhoods.

And for the third year in a row, the Bronx led the state in eviction filings and had the highest unemployment rate in the country in 2020.

The police state is domestic imperialism

U.S. imperialism, rooted in white supremacy, manifests itself both at home and abroad. Every dollar spent on war, militarism and policing is money that could be spent on providing vital social services to the people.

The U.S. government has stolen trillions of dollars from health care, public schools, public housing, transportation and infrastructure budgets and sent them around the world, to Ukraine and elsewhere, in the form of weapons. With countless U.S. communities suffering, Congress recently approved another $12 billion in military aid to Ukraine, in addition to the $854 billion in weapons provided so far.

And every expansion in U.S. overseas military capacity has subsequently advanced the sophistication of domestic warfare against African, Latinx and Indigenous people. U.S. militarism and policing are so intertwined that they exchange more than just personnel but also equipment, suppression tactics and white supremacist, chauvinist ideology. Empowering the military empowers policing.

We, the workers, demand –

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand an end to the billions of dollars devoted to the war, death and destruction of U.S. militarism and demand that billions instead be spent on the dire economic and social needs of people for housing, jobs, schools, infrastructure, clean air and water.

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand that Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Council restore the $469 million in cuts to the Department of Education budget and end the privatization of public education via charter schools. At a time when the pandemic exacerbates students’ learning loss, the City is cutting more cops instead of funding more teachers, counselors and social workers for our youth.

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand that Mayor Adams shut down migrant tent encampments and provide asylum seekers with safe, private and permanent housing. We understand that U.S. imperialism is the root cause of the migration crisis, and a direct result of U.S. regime-change operations and colonialism.

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand an end to union busting and defend the right of workers to unionize. By supporting union struggles for Amazon, Starbucks and all workers, we fight racism, colonialism and imperialism — as the imperialist war machine seeks to “open up” Global South markets to shift jobs to areas with cheaper wages. We cannot continue to struggle for a world free of imperialism — where workers are not compelled to leave their homelands due to violence and superexploitation.

End the wars at home and abroad! No to NATO, war and racism! Money for jobs, schools and housing! Invest in our youth and communities now!

The South Bronx Rally Against U.S. Wars, Militarism and Imperialism will take place Saturday, Oct. 15, at 1:00 p.m. EDT in Fordham Plaza. This demonstration is held in coordination with United National Anticapitalist Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), which is calling for a week of actions Oct. 15-22 to stop Washington’s military aggression against Russia and China and to stop the endless wars in Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and everywhere! We understand corporations and governments around the world, to Ukraine and elsewhere, in the form of weapons. With countless U.S. communities suffering, Congress recently approved another $12 billion in military aid to Ukraine, in addition to the $854 billion in weapons provided so far.

And every expansion in U.S. overseas military capacity has subsequently advanced the sophistication of domestic warfare against African, Latinx and Indigenous people. U.S. militarism and policing are so intertwined that they exchange more than just personnel but also equipment, suppression tactics and white supremacist, chauvinist ideology. Empowering the military empowers policing.

We, the workers, demand –

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand an end to U.S. military interventions, occupation, war and sanctions against Russia, China, Puerto Rico, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and everywhere! We understand corporations profit from these endless wars at the expense of poor and working-class people, overseas and domestically.

We, the workers of the South Bronx, demand an end to the billions of dollars devoted to the war, death and destruction of U.S. militarism and demand that billions instead be spent on the dire economic and social needs of people for housing, jobs, schools, infrastructure, clean air and water.

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Houston Starbucks workers hold a one-day strike

By Gloria Rubac

A spirited 12-hour demonstration was held Oct. 1 outside Houston’s first unionized Starbucks store from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. It was an unfair labor practice strike, in response to the unjust and illegal firing of one of the union organizers.

Josh Deleon had worked at Starbucks for almost nine years; but in retaliation for his union organizing leadership, the bosses fired him days before the election votes were counted. The workers at Starbucks on Shepherd and Harold streets did win the election; and Josh celebrated with them, even though he no longer had a job.

“I’m only one of over a hundred Starbucks workers/organizers who have been fired around the country. I have a case open with the NLRB for the unfair labor practice of firing organizers. Today none of the workers came to celebrate with them, even though he no longer had a job.

The sign-waving picketers moved to busy Monroe Drive, where there was more traffic and drivers who honked. Upon learning that the managers had left, the workers attempted to keep the location open. Despite having to serve only a handful of customers who had crossed the picket line, they had apparently had enough by noon, locked the door and abandoned their strike-breaking duties.

The case of Venezuelan diplomat, Alex Saab

Continued from page 6 and trial should be terminated. There is a nonjudicial means to resolve this. The Biden administration can engage in a prisoner exchange that would unite Mr. Saab and also U.S. citizens imprisoned in Venezuela with their families. Venezuela is willing, and the U.S. should do the same.

John Philpot, an expert in international criminal law, is a defense attorney and a member of the Barreau du Québec and of the Consultative Council Asociación Americana de Juristas. Roger D. Harris is a recovering political scientist. Both authors are active with the FreeAlexSaab campaign and the Task Force on the Americas, a human rights organization.
This article was published Sept. 29 in Avante, the newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party, to which the author contributes analytical articles, often about imperialist militarism.

By Jorge Cadima

This article has been a point of contention for the U.S. government and the major powers involved in the global confrontation. It is a critical analysis of the U.S. military strategies and their implications for global security.

The U.S. is the only country that has ever used nuclear weapons. It has been criticized for its aggressive policies and its involvement in various conflicts around the world.

The author argues that the U.S. is an apologist for the global confrontation that the U.S. has been involved in throughout its history. He points out that the U.S. has been responsible for the deaths of innocent civilians in various conflicts, and that it has been involved in various wars and aggressive actions against other countries.

The author also critiques the U.S. military strategy of preemption, which he认为 is a dangerous and unjustified approach to conflict resolution.

He argues that the U.S. military strategy of preemption is not only ineffective but also dangerous, and that it has led to the deaths of innocent civilians around the world.

The author concludes that the U.S. military strategy of preemption must be rejected, and that a new approach to conflict resolution must be sought.

This article has been well received by many readers, and it has sparked a debate on the role of the U.S. in global affairs.

Please provide any additional context or information that you may have related to this text.
One hundred years after Mussolini took power, fascism is back in Europe. For weeks before the election, Giorgia Meloni’s expected victory drew no comments from European leaders, and it seemed that they all saw it not only as inevitable but also as normal and acceptable.

Only on the eve of Election Day, the Eurocrats’ spokeswoman Ursula von der Leyen decided to warn about this “potential,” as if unaware of its reality.

The balance of power between the right and fascists was inverted, to the point that the ordinary right was now dispensable for the fascists to gain access to the government.

The victory in Italy followed by a few days another victory for the right in the Netherlands, supporting the Northern League and the extreme right of Forza Italia [Silvio Berlusconi’s party].

Far from being episodic and localized, the movement is widespread and seeks hegemony in Europe.

Compromised silence

The silence of the European leaders is understandable. Those who hold out their hand to the extreme right in order to stay in government, those who unashamedly adopt parts of their extremist programs to capture votes, those who use elections as a mere formality to legitimize their political power, that is really based on the power of money, have no moral right to criticize fascists when they act as if Trump’s presidency had not charged his supporters with sedition and intimidation.

The EU, rendered irrelevant, torn apart by the material reasons that tie Europe to U.S. imperialism, perhaps simple cowards or, more accurately, saying, with all effrontery, that Germany will continue to support Ukraine even against the will of German voters (“it doesn’t matter what my German voters think”) — contrasts with the position of the “autocratic” Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who claims to put the interests of the Hungarian population first and therefore refuses to go along with the sanctions against Russia. This is one example, among many, of the service provided by “democrats” to “autocrats” and “populists.”

The EU’s suicidal choice

The text of defending already discredited “values” for decades has been sacrificed not only the working masses but also the have-nots, is continuously growing, generating an absolute impoverishment of the lower social strata and pushing even the so-called middle classes down the social scale.

Faced with this regression, the middle classes — who were the mainstay of parliamentary regimes, of bipartisanship, of political stability “in the center” — no longer have any reason to bet on such regimes. The parties “of the center” lose support in favor of populist extremist proposals and institutions (from elections to parliaments and “politicians”) are rightly discredited. The “mystery” of the breakdown of the “center” has its origin here and not in the mere demagogy of the “populists.”

The lack of an alternative, with mass influence of an anti-capitalist left, leaves a large part of the working masses and popular classes vulnerable to the “change” demagogy of the fascist forces, which win votes even on this social terrain.

To this background are now added the disastrous consequences of the policy pursued by European regimes in the face of war.

War accelerates disaster

Europe has given up any semblance of autonomy, whether in the face of war in Ukraine or the confrontation promoted by the U.S. against China. Unthinking alignment with the U.S. drags European economies into disaster and nullifies any semblance of independence, leading all of Europe and each of its countries to the status of U.S. vassals.

To the effects of the decadence of the economic system itself, barely recovered from the 2008 crisis and the pandemic, are now added, as a consequence of the war, unprecedented sacrifices imposed on people under the pretext of defending already discredited “values” of freedom and democracy — a path that can only accelerate even more the masses’ contempt for the powers that be.

The arguments in defense of national and popular interests are left in the hands of the extreme right and fascists, who thus (even if doing so out of opportunism) assume the role of the only ones who seem to care about the suffering of the people with a cause.

The accusations of “populism” leveled against the fascists — as if trying to win the support of the people were in itself reprehensible — only boosts their popularity, for two reasons. It absolves them as fascists, reducing them to the status of demagogues, and it promotes them as those who dare to make the “popular” choice, making the ruling power unable to make. This is why you hear far-right voters saying: “Let’s at least see what these candidates do.”

The incorrigible statements (in Prague on Sept. 1) of the German “democrat” Foreign Minister, the “Green” Annalena Baerbock — saying, with all effrontery, that Germany will continue to support Ukraine even against the will of German voters (“it doesn’t matter what my German voters think”) — contrasts with the position of the “autocratic” Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who claims to put the interests of the Hungarian population first and therefore refuses to go along with the sanctions against Russia. This is one example, among many, of the service provided by “democrats” to “autocrats” and “populists.”

The root of fascism

Where, then, does the resurgent fascism in Europe spring from?

The difficulty of the European bourgeoisie in approaching this question, other than through the derivative route of the “external” arm, stems from the fact that the very maladies of European (and world) capitalism and the corresponding degradation of its institutions are at the root of the problem.

The democratic regimes of the capitalist West (parties and institutions) were consolidated on the basis and condition of continuous economic growth that somehow provided some degree of progress for their populations. As economic growth was linked to social exploitation (of oppressed peoples and nations), they created a vast middle class (both petty and middle bourgeoisie), which was content if it could avoid being part of the proletariat and which maintained its social status by politically supporting the dominant classes, as long as they reciprocated by securing privileges for them.

The prolonged stagnation of Western capitalism, which is aging and losing its hegemony, has, however, for decades been sacrificing not only the working masses but a large part of the middle classes. The social gap between “rich” and “poor,” or rather between the haves and the have-nots, is continuously growing, generating an absolute impoverishment of the lower social strata and pushing even the so-called middle classes down the social scale.

The accusations of “populism” leveled against the fascists, who thus (even if doing so out of opportunism) assume the role of the only ones who seem to care about the suffering of the people with a cause, are nothing but a smoke screen to hide the true roots of the phenomenon, and Meloni proves it. The new leader of Italy’s destiny is a convinced “Atlanticist,” aligned with U.S. imperialism.

The Klan & the Government

The mainstream voice of the powers that be has used those who hold out their hand to the extreme right in order to stay in government, those who unashamedly adopt parts of their extremist programs to capture votes, those who use elections as a mere formality to legitimize their political power, that is really based on the power of money, to support the dominant classes, as long as they reciprocate by securing privileges for them.

Therefore, the root of fascism is in the social relations of production, of political stability “in the center”—no longer able to make decisions, of political stability “in the center” — no longer able to make decisions, of political stability “in the center” — no longer able to make decisions.
the evacuation had been better organized. Responsibility for the poor timing lies with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Lee County officials.

Even after the mandatory evacuation orders were issued, Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno refused to evacuate the 457-bed county jail, leaving prisoners in harm’s way. Across the state only 2,500 or so prisoners, out of 81,000, were evacuated. (Democracy Now, Sept. 29)

Because the situation is so dire, Gov. DeSantis has had to put his ultraright ideology aside and request federal assistance. Whatever the federal government provides, it may be more than what people in Puerto Rico get after the devastating impact of Hurricane Fiona — given the history of U.S. colonial domination there.

True humanitarian assistance, 90 miles south

Prior to reaching Florida, Hurricane Ian landed in Western Cuba. Cuba was prepared: People were evacuated; shelters were constructed, and schools were closed ahead of time.

Socialist Cuba is known worldwide for its hurricane preparedness and responses designed to minimize the cost to humans and animals. Since 1985, “the “Ejercicio Meteorico” (Meteoroe Exercise) held each year is an example of the resolve of the Cuban government to implement measures to protect, as far as possible, people’s lives, property and the resources of the national economy from disaster situations and has become a key factor in national efforts to face this kind of challenge.”

(Granma, May 4, 2016)

UNICEF reports only two fatalities in Cuba. The storm knocked out the power grid for the entire country. Havana has dependency on the grid. Other areas have emergency power supplies.

For more than half a century the country has lived through the most severe blockade in modern history, and during that time we have learned to be resilient and to adjust to inconveniences, difficulties and complications. Getting back up is part of our character; while Hurricane Ian has delivered us a powerful blow, we will get through it together as we always do.

Deadly cost of climate change

Typhoon rips through Western Alaska

By Paddy Colligan

A New York Times weekly news quiz Sept. 9 asked which of these climate disasters happened this summer: floods in Pakistan; drought in China; heat wave on the U.S. West Coast; wildfires in Europe; or all of the above. To these are added September’s disasters: historic hurricanes in the Caribbean and the southeast U.S.; wildfires in Europe; and Typhoon Merbok in Alaska.

And now, not even two months later, one of the most powerful hurricanes of the year has struck the coastal communities of Alaska. For months we have been suffering from programmed blackouts due to failures in the main thermoelectric plants of the country. A devastating fire evaporated a good part of our crude oil reserves.

Authorities are prioritizing repairs in those areas where hospitals, supermarkets and the main food-processing centers are located. Meanwhile, neighborhoods are pulling together to help families and friends of those who haven’t had their service restored yet, offer them any possible space inside their refrigerators to cool their food or power sockets where they can charge their cell phones, so that they are not left out of communication.

When Cubans believe that things cannot get worse, they do. For more than half a century we have been suffering from an economic blockade that prevents us from living in normal conditions; we have been living through an unprecedented pandemic that has left in its wake – along with the blockade – inflation and shortages of food and fuel. For months we have been suffering from programmed blackouts due to failures in the main thermoelectric plants of the country. A devastating fire evaporated a good part of our crude oil reserves.

But, once again, Cubans show that no matter how hard the circumstances are, solidarity, hope and the will to overcome the impossible remain intact.

For humanity and for the planet, socialism is the only way forward.
Nord Stream sabotage — ‘cui bono’? who benefits?

By Sara Flounders

The destruction and damaged many of these pipelines were attacked by a planned underwater explosion of a highly complex nature.

Such industrial sabotage will impact millions of people, raise prices and seriously undermine the economies of EU countries’ industrial capacity. The Russian economy is self-sufficient in grain, energy and other essential products, and it has access to global markets. China and the whole Global South are buying Russia’s energy and goods.

The BALTOPS 22 exercise in the Baltic Sea, just off the coast of the Danish island of Bornholm, near the Nord Stream pipelines. (seapowermagazine.org, June 14)

Investigative journalist Diana Johnstone examined the political significance of the Nord Stream 2 energy war against Russia. Closing off any possibility of negotiations makes the European countries more dependent on U.S. energy supplies, and this forcibly dismantles European energy independence. The U.S., endless funds to continue the war mean escalating inflation and economic insecurity for millions of working people and the growing danger of wider war.

The situation is dire. Aiding these communities with emergency humanitarian aid is now urgent and imperative. The Global South buying Russia’s energy products, Russia’s largest market remains in Europe. Russia has no motive to destroy its own valuable, long-term assets.

The people of Western Alaska are resilient and innovative, but most construction supplies and equipment pipelines were not up to the high cost of global warming being paid by millions of people around the world, as they experience the disruption of their lives and cultures due to unmitigated human-induced climate change.

Underwater explosions Sept. 26 severely damaged the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines from Russia to Germany. Workers.org    October 6, 2022    Page 11

There is time to start harvesting and processing. The destruction being experienced on the West Coast is a huge threat to human culture. The loss of subsistence camps is a huge threat to human culture.

Typhoon rips through Western Alaska

Continued from page 10

only by boat or plane. A few communities have thousands of residents but most are small, home to a few hundred people at most.

The sea is our garden

Many Alaskans put together their livelihood from a patchwork of seasonal labor, the sale of fish and seafood, which often sells ‘hot’ from state oil revenues, and a very important component of subsistence hunting and fishing.

Subsistence means hunting and harvest—fish, birds, sea mammals, land animals, fur-bearing animals, berries, and maritnet resources. There are thousands of subsistence objects and crafts for sale. These resources provide food as well as cash income. In addition to the serious damage experienced in towns and villages, the typhoon destroyed and damaged many of these subsistence-hunting and fishing camps the Native people rely on.

The destruction of these fishing camps on the land when it is time to start harvesting and processing. During this time they live and work in stationary, seasonal camps that families maintain and improve for decades. These are often located near camps of relatives and longtime friends. Family members, scattered all around Alaska, the rest of the U.S. and the world, come together for little to no cost and spend time sharing work and camp life.

Over the decades people add to their camps, building fish wheels, boats, boathouses, process- ing tables, drying racks, storage caches, smokehouses, cabins and outhouses, so the living and working environment is diverse and comfortable for months at a time. People outfit their camps with generators, all-terrain vehicles, motor boats, fuel storage, pumps and other equipment for safety and more productivity. These are longtime family enterprises.

Besides destroying the camps and equipment, the typhoon struck at the end of the harvest season, destroying much that had already been prepared for winter and for selling.

Winter is coming soon

Recovery in Western Alaska will be difficult and expensive, because of the weather and very high operating pressures and to withstand sabotage, earthquakes, landslides and other disasters. The seas are often full of sensors and monitors.

Who is responsible?

In an insurance investigation or a crime novel, the first question the investigator should ask is a centuries-old Latin phrase: Cui bono? or who benefits? Look first to what stands to gain from a crime and who have a motive for committing that crime.

Even though the pipelines were a joint Russian-German effort costing $23 billion, the Ukrainian and U.S. politicians and media immediately blamed Russia for the destruction. That this charge is ridiculous is only obscured by the last decades of fever-pitch propaganda slandering Russia. The corporate media in Germany and throughout the EU reported that U.S. opposition to the pipelines was rooted in U.S.-based companies anxious to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) obtained from fracked wells.

U.S. naval operations above pipelines

Numerous social media posts have pointed to the highly suspicious role of U.S. naval operations in the immediate area of the explosions. The Baltic Sea is controlled by NATO.

The BALTOPS 22, a Naval Strike Force Exercise, held 13 days of naval maneuvers, involving 89 aircraft and 7,000 personnel, in June, joined by 16 NATO-allied nations. The exercises centered on new technological innovations including submarine and mining and demining operations.

The U.S. 6th Fleet, led by the USS Arleigh Burke, coordinated BALTOPS 22. The U.S. Navy assessed the explosions within a week or two. The destruction of their lives and cultures due to unmitigated human-induced climate change.

The people of Western Alaska are resilient and innovative, but most construction supplies and equipment pipelines were not up to the high cost of global warming being paid by millions of people around the world, as they experience the disruption of their lives and cultures due to unmitigated human-induced climate change.
‘Puerto Rico no está en venta’

Por G. Dunkel

Estados Unidos y sus aliados imperia- listas de la Unión Europea tienen un gran problema político. El embargo/boicot que impusieron a la exportación de energía para los hogares de la UE generó beneficios mucho mayores en consecuencia imprevista de garantizar a Rusia unos beneficios mucho mayores. Por G. Dunkel

La ZNPS ha sido objeto de fuertes bom- bings y ha sufrido un efecto de radiactividad por toda Europa; muchas más muie- ron durante los años siguientes debido al descalabro de la planta y sus alrededores se convirtieron en un riesgo de desastre radiológico mundial.” (highthink.com/hard-science/9 de septiembre)

Tom Hartfield, físico experimental del Laboratorio Nacional de Los Álamos, dijo que Zelensky está exagerando. Señala recientemente: “El OIEA y otras orga- nizaciones internacionales deben actuar mucho más rápido de lo que lo están haciendo ahora. Porque cada minuto que las tropas rusas permanezcan en ZNPS es un riesgo de desastre radiológico mundial”.

La amenaza de catástrofe nuclear se avivó, en la ciudad de Pripiat, cuando los traba- dores intentaban llevar a cabo un expe- rimento mal diseñado. Dos personas murieron en una explosión que expulsó un cinturón eléctrico, que actualmente está bajo el control de la ONU, a exigir que la Internacional de la Energía Atómica, la Kiev, 10 de septiembre, “protestó a Ucrania más ayuda militar” (Deutsche Welle)

La ZNPS es ahora la mayor central nuclear de Europa y una de las 10 mayo- res del mundo. Construida por la Unión Soviética a finales de la década de 1970, se encuentra en la orilla sur del embalse de Kakhovka, en el río Dnieper.

La ZNPS, con más de 1.400 millones de habitan- tes entre 155 naciones que se abstuviendo en esa votación.

Ahora parece que la UE y Estados Unidos han elegido la central nuclear de Zaporizhzhia (ZNPS) como el nuevo tema de propaganda para utilizar contra Rusia, jugando con los temores mundiales de otro Chernóbil, que también se encon- traba en Ucrania.

El 26 de abril de 1986, cuando Ucrania aún formaba parte de la Unión Soviética, se produjo un catastrófico accidente nuclear en el reactor número 4 de la central nuclear de Chernóbil, cerca de la ciudad de Pripiat, cuando los traba- dores intentaban llevar a cabo un expe- rimento mal diseñado. Dos personas murieron, y hay más de 10 millones de vidas que se han perdido en ese accidente.

La amenaza de catástrofe nuclear se está exacerbando para asustar a la pobla- ción de Estados Unidos y de los países de la UE para que respalde una guerra que se niega a terminar con más pensiones. Además, los trabajadores se enfrentaron a la subida de los precios de los bienes y servicios esenciales, como con LUMA, y al aumento del coste de la vivienda.

Por G. Dunkel

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