

Fight for reproductive rights, smash racism!

By Kathy Durkin

When the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortions June 24, the top judicial body declared war on millions of women. The court upended the fundamental right of individuals to make decisions about their own bodies and to access essential health care.

The six-justice conservative majority declared that states could and should legislate laws concerning abortion, including total bans. In so doing, they transferred the innate rights a pregnant person has to bodily autonomy to the state.

The court's right-wingers pushed through this racist, sexist and classist ruling. It was immediately clear that the severest impact of these bans would fall primarily on Black, Latinx and other women of color, im/migrants and those with low incomes. Women with disabilities, youth, people of various gender identities and rural residents would all be impacted.

Since the SCOTUS decision, 14 states, mostly in the South, have enacted abortion bans, some with no exceptions for rape, incest or the health of the pregnant person. More bans are expected. After the ruling, the Texas Legislature enacted a more repressive ban than it had implemented Sept. 1, 2021. There are legal challenges to some states' bans.

Abortion seekers living in states with bans have to travel out of state, often hundreds of miles, which is costly. They must take days off from work; and since



Seattle, Oct. 8.

most of them are parents, they need child care. The economic impact is greatest on women of color who have the lowest wages. For many, the avenue to obtaining an abortion is now closed.

Even those with pregnancies with severe fetal anomalies or serious health problems are having trouble accessing abortions in states with bans; many have to leave the state. Doctors and hospital officials fear prosecution, so they are reluctant to perform the procedures, even when people with wanted pregnancies are faced with health- or life-threatening crises.

And there is the danger of further criminalization of those who seek abortions or who suffer miscarriages and

"poor pregnancy outcomes," especially Black, Latinx and other women of color.

Dana Sussman, acting director of the National Advocates for Pregnant Women explained, "Pregnancy loss prosecutions were already rising under the protections of Roe. ... Now that the Supreme Court has stripped away the constitutional right to abortion, legal experts expect that prosecutions may continue to increase. Our data shows 1,700 cases [involving pregnancy loss] since 1973 and a rapid acceleration in the past 15 years." (NPR, July 3)

For many reasons, the focus of reproductive justice activists must be on defending, protecting and advocating for the reproductive rights of Black, Latinx and other women of color, who are under siege by anti-abortion reactionaries, in and out of government. Fighting the racism inherent in this attack is a priority.

As Sister Song, the Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, stresses on Facebook: "With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, reproductive rights are coming under increasing attack. However, the mainstream political discourse about reproductive rights and access to abortion too often narrows this discussion in a way that replicates systemic oppression and white supremacy."

Signs of resistance

Protests have taken place since Texas implemented a six-week abortion ban last year. A large, multinational rally was held in front of SCOTUS on Dec. 1, 2021, when the state of Mississippi argued for the overturn

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COME TO
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Indigenous Peoples Day-Boston march on the Massachusetts State House, Oct. 8.

PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS



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Leonard Peltier 5

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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 continued 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!

Your donations matter!

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

Workers.org contains news and an analysis of global and U.S. struggles and is a resource for political activists.

The website posts firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on U.S. union drives, along with reports on anti-war, anti-racist and other progressive movements.

Unforeseen circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 ½-year health crisis. While WW’s staff is voluntary, both the printed newspaper and the website require that monthly expenses be paid. Although many online publications require fees to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

But WW needs your help! Join the WW Supporter Program! Can you give \$50, \$100, \$200, \$300 or more per year? For a contribution of \$50 or more, you will receive 12 print issues a year and a weekly email of the online issue. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” by notifying us. By donating, you help class truth reach more readers.

Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org.

We appreciate your support.



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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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Fight for reproductive rights, smash racism!

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of Roe in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case. Many nationally coordinated and local demonstrations have taken place since then, demanding an end to all bans and the legalization of abortions.

The Aug. 2 electoral victory in Kansas, where the majority of voters chose to keep the right to abortion in the state constitution, buoyed pro-choice forces countrywide. Even though this was a win through the ballot box, it was nevertheless a meaningful step forward in this struggle.

Activism in the streets and a Planned Parenthood legal challenge caused an Arizona court Oct. 7 to put a stay on a draconian abortion ban dating back to 1864 — when the U.S. Army was stealing the territory from the Apache Nation and other Indigenous nations. And it was decades before women could even vote!

Networks of abortion providers, funders and advocates are aiding pregnant people in going out-of-state or in obtaining medication abortions (pills). Eight states have legalized abortion in such a way as to enable out-of-state abortion seekers to get the medical care they need.

Some ingenious work-arounds to the bans are being proposed. For instance, by the end of this year, Planned Parenthood plans to utilize a 37-foot recreational vehicle as a mobile clinic to travel around the Illinois border to assist abortion seekers from neighboring states with abortion bans.

The Women's March

The Women's March organization called for nationally-coordinated actions from Oct. 7-9, and its organizers projected 400 cities would have demonstrations, with a national protest in Washington, D.C. Oct. 8. From New Jersey to Arizona and Alabama to Colorado, thousands of people demanded nullification of SCOTUS' ruling and reinstatement of the right to access safe, legal abortions.

The AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers, the Service Employees Union and a host of organizations endorsed these protests.

The Women's March was initiated to organize mass opposition to the presidency of misogynist and bigot-in-chief Donald Trump. On Jan. 21, 2017, the day after his inauguration, millions of



Washington, D.C.



Syracuse, New York WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT



New York City



Cleveland

women and their allies marched all over the country. There were solidarity actions in other countries.

In January 2020, the fourth annual Women's March Global was held under the slogan of "Women's rights are human rights." Despite a change in leadership and some policies, protests took place in 250 U.S. cities to decry Trump's cruelty and bigotry and in 23 countries on various issues.

Many reproductive rights activists are

looking to the coming U.S. midterm elections, hoping Democratic candidates win offices, to regain legal abortions. Rally speakers reinforced this strategy. But it should be remembered by those fighting for legal abortion and reproductive justice, that it was a militant mass movement, not politicians, that pressured the majority Republican-appointed Supreme Court to legalize abortion 49 years ago.

Some reactionary politicians and their backers are pushing for a total national abortion ban. This is dangerous; the threat must be taken seriously and strongly opposed.

This makes it urgent that the movement for abortion rights and reproductive justice use every arena and every tactic, legal or otherwise — sit-ins, boycotts, picket lines, demonstrations, job actions — to fight for this human right. An independent grassroots movement is needed, composed of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Arab, low-income individuals, organized and unorganized workers, migrants, people with disabilities, youth and seniors to push back this attack on millions of people. And with the most oppressed in the leadership.

Here are a few march highlights:

In **Syracuse, New York**, people, mostly young women, met in Forman Park in the heart of the city to unite for action for reproductive freedom and access to abortion and contraception. Those attending ranged from Democratic Party organizers to young socialists, but all joined in chanting energetically: "Pro-life is a lie! They don't care if women die!" The crowd marched over a mile to the Hanley Federal Building to conclude with a round of rousing speeches.

Over 200 Clevelanders, mostly young, attended a rally Oct. 8 at Market Square Park called by Women's March **Cleveland**. A number of elected officials and activists, the majority of them African American, spoke out against attacks on abortion access. A spirited march followed the rally on the city's Near West Side.

That politicians are feeling pressure around this issue was shown by more than their presence at the demonstrations. A Hamilton County Common Pleas judge ruled in favor of Planned Parenthood and Ohio abortion providers who sued to block enforcement of a six-week abortion ban passed by the state legislature. The bill is on hold now, and the previous law allowing abortions up to 22 weeks of

pregnancy is back in effect.

Over 100 protesters, including many from the Latinx community, marched through **San Antonio, Texas**. Judy Lerma, of Workers World Party and a nurse, told the crowd that all women should have a right to access every type of health care, including abortions.



Birmingham, Alabama



San Antonio, Texas



Phoenix, Arizona

In **Seattle**, 500 people energetically marched from Carol Anderson Park 1½ miles to the Pike Place Market downtown. During the entire march, protesters chanted: "Back up, back up, we want freedom! All your sexist politicians, we don't need them!"

The Seattle Education Association had a contingent and carried their banner. Bystanders enthusiastically responded to the march. Fists were raised, and people photographed and videoed the action. Demonstrators responded with enthusiasm to distributions of Workers World newspaper.

WWP members also attended local actions in **Boston, New York** and **Philadelphia**.

Martha Grevatt, Gloria Rubac, Jim McMahan, Minnie Bruce Pratt contributed to the article.



The New Jersey Shore



Colorado contingent, Washington, D.C.

Fires break out at Amazon, workers organize

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The dangers of working for megacorporation Amazon are now well-known: repetitive motion injuries to workers monitored for measurable, robotic movements; serious urinary tract infections in workers denied sufficient break time to get to a bathroom; heat exhaustion; heart attack; loss of pregnancy while on the job. Six workers died recently after management refused to evacuate the warehouse, even as a tornado bore down and hit. And on and on.

According to an Occupational Safety and Health Administration report issued in May, worker injuries increased 64% in Amazon warehouse and logistics facilities in New York State from 2020 to 2021 — based on the company’s self-reported data. A shocking 89% of the injuries were so serious, the workers couldn’t continue at their job assignment. (tinyurl.com/4bk7y42b)

The rate for the most serious injuries at Amazon facilities is 40% higher than at non-Amazon facilities of a similar nature.

One terrifying and omnipresent danger of Amazon work — in facilities crammed with thousands and thousands of cardboard shipping boxes — is fire. During the week of Oct. 3, three different Amazon facilities, in New York State and Alabama, had serious fires.

At a unionized Amazon warehouse

On Oct. 3, at **JFK8 in Staten Island, New York**, a shipping dock compactor went up in flames. JFK8 is the first-ever U.S. unionized Amazon warehouse, organized by the Amazon Labor Union, which won a union representation election in April.

Fumes filled the building; and though managers sent



CREDIT: @ISSASMAILLWORLD, TWITTER

At JFK8 in Staten Island, New York, 650 Amazon workers marched and occupied the break room to protest fire danger and unsafe conditions, Oct. 3.

the day shift home, the night shift was required to sign in and work, despite no proof the building was safe.

About 650 workers marched in protest and occupied the break room to strategize. After no response, 100 defiant workers occupied management and human resource offices. They issued demands that the company put workers’ lives before profits, make raises that keep up with inflation and recognize the ALU. This was in effect a stay-in strike, recalling the sit-downs of the 1930s. (tinyurl.com/46hraen2)

On Oct. 4, Amazon suspended about 100 workers, including ALU’s entire JFK8 executive board and other worker leaders. Amazon continues to refuse to recognize the ALU.

During the organizing drive, Amazon argued there was no need for a union, because the company had an “open door policy” to address worker concerns. In a Twitter post, the ALU noted: “Hundreds of workers used

it at once, and we were all threatened and suspended.” (@amazonlabor, Oct. 6)

More fires in New York state and Alabama

Another fire broke out the evening of Oct. 5 at **ALB1 warehouse in Schodack, near Albany, New York**. This time an Amazon spokesperson stepped in to say that “out of an abundance of caution,” the company had sent night-shift employees home with pay and canceled the next day shift with pay. (tinyurl.com/5dbs59rz)

This phony “caution” was like a transparent mask to hide the company’s union-busting brutality. ALB1 workers are scheduled to vote later in October on representation with the Amazon Labor Union.

Anticipating that vote, management tried to woo workers with false compassion and a day off with pay, in the face of a dangerous fire. Amazon’s callous response to the JFK8 fire shows its true attitude toward workers.

Meanwhile at the **Madison HSV1 warehouse, near Huntsville, Alabama**, a fire broke out Sept. 27. Then when workers returned Monday, Oct. 3, a worker said: “Our plant caught on fire again. This time it was in the same area, but it was a couple aisles over. ... We opened up Sunday after being closed for almost a week [after the last fire]. You could still smell smoke in there. Half the warehouse was off-limits.”

The worker noted he and others felt fear, mistrust and “a majority of us, we don’t feel safe.” (tinyurl.com/3w2xfuep)

The current drive to unionize Amazon began in 2021, at the **Bessemer, Alabama**, warehouse. These fires make it clear again that the only way for workers to stay safe and protect themselves on the job is through union strength and solidarity with each other. □

Britain: Rail strikes challenge inflation and job cuts

By Betsey Piette

British railway workers demanding wage increases to keep pace with decades-high inflation have spearheaded a wave of industrial job actions across that country since this summer.

Their strikes brought a nearly complete shutdown of the rail network, coupled with a national strike by 115,000 postal workers and industrial actions at the country’s largest ports in Liverpool and Felixstowe on Oct. 5.

The rail unions have been staggering and dividing industrial actions since July, with demands targeting assaults on pay, jobs, and terms and conditions of employment. Over 21,000 train drivers are members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), which represents workers in passenger and freight train operating companies, the London Underground and some light-rail services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, train operating companies were given 16 billion pounds of public money, equivalent to \$17.82 billion. Meanwhile workers have been denied pay increases for three years, even as inflation has risen over 12.3%.

The wave of strikes was fueled by the Tory government plans to reprivatize the rail system as the “Great British Railways,” which would involve 2 billion pounds worth of cuts in jobs and services.

Over 9,000 train drivers at 13 train operating companies joined the Oct. 5 national strike action, calling for

wage increases after three years of a government-backed pay freeze. That national strike by ASLEF was the fourth work stoppage since the summer and the largest by train drivers in 25 years. ASLEF drivers have been joined by 40,000 signallers and crew represented by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) and members of the Transport Salaried Staffs’ Association (TSSA). Another day of strikes was planned for Oct. 8.

The strikes have been the rail sector’s biggest work stoppages in decades, and more are expected. The series of one-day strikes by railway workers have led to a wave of industrial actions across Britain by workers in legal services, ports and telecommunications in recent months.

Enough is enough!

Protests over the cost-of-living crisis brought out over 100,000 people in over 50 British cities Oct. 1. The massive mobilizations were against the Tory government (Conservative Party) for its failure to tackle the ongoing economic crisis, which has left millions of working people dealing with pay cuts coupled with an all-time high rate of inflation. On Oct. 2, unions and leftists participated in a demonstration called People’s Assembly Against Austerity outside the building where



British rail workers strike, Oct. 5.

the Conservative Party was holding a conference in Birmingham.

The demonstrations included members from all the major trade unions in Britain, including RMT, ASLEF, Communication Workers Union, the Junior Doctors movement and cadres from several left parties. At the protest rally at King’s Cross in London on Oct. 1, RMT leader Mick Lynch said, “We’re going to create a mass movement of working people. We’re going to change this country and win for our people.” (People’s Dispatch, Oct. 3)

Lynch is one of the initiators of the “Enough is Enough” movement, organized in early August to address the growing fuel crisis that threatens to leave millions without heat this winter. The campaign has support of Labor Party politicians, including MPs Zarah Sultana and Ian Byrne.

While sanctions against Russia imposed by the EU and the U.S. and the ongoing war in Ukraine have exacerbated the soaring fuel prices, workers point to profiteering by multinational energy producers and suppliers for making matters worse. The campaign is demanding a real pay increase, major cuts in energy bills, an end to food poverty, decent and affordable housing for all and taxing the rich.

Truss’s budget fiasco

The railway strikes are taking place against a background of increasing financial crisis and chaos under the leadership of Britain’s new Prime Minister Liz Truss, who took over from Boris Johnson in September. The new British government is proving to be an economic disaster — symbolic of a global political crisis.

Shortly after taking office, Truss unleashed a currency and bond market crisis, when she proposed a budget that contained \$48 billion in tax cuts for high-income earners. She promised to borrow money to fund the cuts, potentially putting pension funds and national health care at serious risk.

Truss’s mini-budget sent the pound to historic lows and sparked further market chaos. With Britain’s public debt already at 100% of GDP, something has to give.

The rich in Britain, as in other capitalist countries, get richer. Weapons manufacturers and energy companies are making record profits. Meanwhile, working people can’t afford to heat their homes or put food on the table. It is no wonder that the strength of the railway strike movement is growing and spreading to more industries.

Following the flu pandemic in 1918, there was a general strike in 1926. Are conditions ripe for that today? Time will tell. □

Spreading news about Amazon and Starbucks

By Dave Welsh
San Francisco

As part of a countrywide campaign, people picketed the Amazon-owned Whole Foods store in San Francisco’s Noe Valley neighborhood Oct. 9. Neighbors said they support the workers who are fighting to unionize Amazon and Starbucks in the face of vicious union busting by these corporate giants.

The action was organized by a local coalition including the Support Amazon Workers Network, United Front Committee for a Labor Party and the International Action Center.

The San Francisco Labor Council passed a resolution Sept. 12 to “support the upsurge in union organizing at Amazon, Starbucks and other nonunion workplaces, by endorsing and participating in actions organized this fall by the Support Amazon Workers Network and



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

others ...” The resolution highlighted “a national wave of union organizing ... the biggest upsurge of worker organizing since the 1930s and ’40s.” □

‘Leonard Peltier’s Walk to Justice’ — halfway to D.C.

By Stephanie Hedgecok

Longtime political prisoner “Leonard Peltier’s Walk to Justice” has marched 500 miles in four weeks, as of Indigenous Peoples Day Oct. 10, in a 2½-month demonstration, putting pressure on President Joe Biden to grant executive clemency and release Peltier after 46 years in prison.

The Los Angeles Sentinel reported Aug. 11 that the American Indian Movement (AIM) had called the 1,100-mile march through eight states. Frank Paro, AIM Grand Governing Council national chairperson, said, “The purpose of this walk is to raise awareness to the case of Leonard Peltier, who was wrongfully convicted in 1977. Leonard’s attorneys petitioned President Biden to grant him clemency, so that he may not die in prison for a crime he did not commit. So, please pray for Leonard’s health and that his prayers are answered for clemency based on compassionate grounds.”

The AIMGGC held a rally Aug. 31 in Cedar Field Park, Minneapolis, to launch the march. The Walk to Justice is planned to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 18. Rallies are planned in cities along the way. (See map: tinyurl.com/43du3dv4)

Organizer Rachel Thunder told Native News Online: “The walk and prayer for Elder Peltier has been heartfelt, heavy and healing. Our walkers are out every day at 5 a.m. to make sure the 20-plus miles are covered to get this message to Washington, D.C., to free Leonard Peltier. As AIM, we are asking for justice — Justice for Leonard Peltier and justice for our people as the original people of Turtle Island.”

Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, turned 78 years old Sept 12. Peltier is recognized around the world as a political prisoner; he was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In violation of its own statutes, the U.S. government has repeatedly refused him parole.

The U.S. suppressed hundreds of thousands of pages of documents which would indicate Peltier’s innocence, including ballistic evidence, in a 1975 shoot-out at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Two FBI agents opened fire on a tiny village, while children, elders and adults slept in their homes. In the resulting firefight, a Native man and the two agents died. U.S. prosecutors publicly admitted that they do not know who actually fired the shots that killed the agents.

“The day of the shoot-out in 1975, the FBI created a narrative that some super soldier killed two FBI agents,” Dr. Nick Estes of The Red Nation said to the Minneapolis rally. “They don’t tell you that the vast majority of people at that shootout were under the age of 18.” (tinyurl.com/3pcc6rsv)

The U.S. Department of Justice’s suppression of a massive amount of evidence in Peltier’s favor was done in order to extradite him from Canada, even though his two co-defendants, Bob Robideau and Darrell Butler, had been acquitted on grounds of self-defense. (freeleonard.org/case/)

An international effort grew to seek legal clemency in 1993, after all court venues to obtain his release were exhausted. In 1994 the FBI issued a memorandum outline to counter that campaign, according to Leonard Peltier Defense Council spokespersons.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark used blunt words to describe Peltier’s trial and conviction: “There was no evidence that he did it, except fabricated, circumstantial evidence, overwhelmingly misused, concealed and perverted.”

Clark said in a speech in 1997

that Peltier “should have never been in there in the first place — never. While Leonard Peltier is in prison, we all are.” (tinyurl.com/y32wm9ju)

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

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

Peltier suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure and a heart condition. The time for justice is short. □



“LEONARD PELTIER’S WALK TO JUSTICE”

8/31/2022–11/18/2022

Opponents of new Cuyahoga County jail win a round

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Since 2020 in the Midwest, at least 23 county jails have been built or designated for building on toxic sites. Many sites are in Black-majority cities like Cleveland and Detroit and in neighborhoods with higher-than-average air toxin levels, close proximity to hazardous facilities and lower-than-average life expectancy.

“This practice is an amplified case of environmental racism,” said David Pellow, director of the Global Environmental Justice Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara. (tinyurl.com/2ar396fh)

This blatant disregard for the lives and health of incarcerated people extends to state and federal prisons, one-third of which are located within three miles of federal Superfund sites, which still require extensive environmental cleanup.

Pushing back against this trend, Cleveland activists scored a victory Oct. 4 when the Justice Center Steering Committee voted down a proposal to build a new Cuyahoga County jail on a contaminated site that was a Standard Oil refinery for over a century.

The site would have exposed incarcerated people to benzene, a known carcinogen, and methane, along with toxic dust from a nearby cement-crushing facility. In addition, it is hard to reach by public transit.

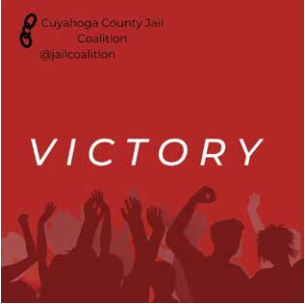
The Steering Committee, composed of various elected officials and an attorney representing public defenders, was created to review and make recommendations on proposals related to the current Justice Center complex, where the county jail is now housed.

Organizing is key

The Cuyahoga County Council still has to vote on the committee’s recommendation, but has put the vote on hold until after the November election when a new County Executive will be chosen.

The Cuyahoga Jail Coalition has been organizing against a new jail for over a year, speaking at numerous Steering Committee and County Council meetings. Coalition members have called the jail a poor use of county funds; they have stated those funds should be used for jobs, education, housing, public transit and mental health services. They argue the focus should be on keeping people out of jail to begin with, by addressing the money bail system that holds poor people in jail who can’t afford bail.

Original cost projections had county taxpayers paying over \$500 million for a new jail; more recent estimates range from \$750 million to almost \$1 billion. But with interest paid to banks and bondholders on a proposed 40-year bond, the full cost would be closer to \$2 billion — paid for by extending a 0.25% county jails tax until the jail debt is paid. Yet costs could be reduced by renovating the existing jail.



Imam Jamil Al-Amin’s birthday protest

To mark the 79th birthday of falsely imprisoned Imam Jamil Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown, supporters rallied in front of CNN in downtown Atlanta Oct. 4. They demanded that corporate media report on the withheld confession of Otis Jackson, who has repeatedly said under oath that “I shot the cop” — the cop Al-Amin was convicted of killing.

There are numerous other discrepancies that substantiate Al-Amin’s claim of innocence. Yet he, like other liberation fighters, continues to spend decades in prison under inhumane conditions. For more: imamjamilactionnetwork.org.

— Photo and caption by Dianne Mathiowetz, Atlanta



Boston demands ‘Indigenous Peoples Day, now!’

By Will Hodgkinson
Boston

Over 100 Indigenous activists and allies marched through Boston Oct. 8 to demand the state of Massachusetts abolish Columbus Day and instead recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Today’s action was part of a decades-long, Indigenous-led movement to end the racist glorification of Christopher Columbus, whose 1492 voyage to the Caribbean began the ongoing settler-colonial genocide of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and shortly afterward led to the opening of the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved peoples. The action was organized by United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), Cultural Survival, the New Democracy Coalition and Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples Day.

Speaking on the Boston Common, Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of UAINE, denounced Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who just the day before “caved in to racism,” by declaring Oct. 10 as “Italian American Heritage Day.” (UAINE on Twitter @mahtowin1)

The movement for Indigenous Peoples Day had scored an historic victory when on Oct. 6, 2021, Mayor Kim Janey, Boston’s



Mahtowin Munro of UAINE on Boston Common with other leaders of UAINE and NAICOB, Oct. 8.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

first Black and first woman mayor, signed an executive order declaring “the second Monday of October every year to be Indigenous Peoples Day ... in lieu of Columbus Day.” (tinyurl.com/ycxfhb2s)

As Munro and other speakers emphasized at today’s action, the cowardly and insidious attacks this week, by Democratic politicians from President Joe Biden to Wu against full Indigenous Peoples Day recognition, cynically replaced Columbus’ murderous actions with “Italian heritage.” This underscored the need for the Massachusetts Legislature to pass bill H.3665, which would establish Indigenous Peoples Day as a statewide celebration. (indigenouspeoplesdayma.org)

Jean-Luc Pierite, president of NAICOB, put it clearly to the assembled media:

“Sign the bill that says Indigenous Peoples Day replaces Christopher Columbus Day! Repeal any form of Italian American Heritage Day that is on our day!”

Munro urged the Massachusetts Legislature to ban racist Native mascots for sports teams, to create Indigenous curriculum content for Massachusetts public schools and to protect Native funerary objects and other sacred articles from desecration. These demands are embodied in proposed state House and Senate bills: “An Act prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth”; “An Act relative to celebrating Native American culture and history”; and “An Act to protect Native American Heritage.”

As Indigenous activists occupied

the Massachusetts State House front entrance, they called for the full restitution of Indigenous lands and sovereignty.

“The destruction of our people started here,” said Raquel Halsey, Executive Director of NAICOB and a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. “We want our land back. It’s more than Indigenous Peoples Day; it’s access to tradition. We fight for reproductive justice, our language, our children.”

Other speakers demanded justice for the thousands of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirits (MMIWG2S) in the U.S. and Canada and stressed the importance of solidarity between the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island and the Palestinian people in their struggle against the Zionist settler-colony of Israel.

At the close of the rally, protestors marched from the State House to Faneuil Hall carrying banners and chanting “Indigenous Peoples Day now!” They demanded the name of the hall be changed; Peter Faneuil was a trader in enslaved people.

The marchers performed a Round Dance to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day and to honor the ongoing resistance of Indigenous nations in combatting settler-colonial genocide and in struggling for self-determination. □

Indigenous Peoples Day in Houston

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Activists in Houston celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day Oct. 9 with music, dance, poetry and food.

Participants made an altar with photos, food and the traditional cempasuchil flowers. One of the photos was of Berta Caceres, the Honduran environmental activist and Indigenous leader assassinated in 2016. Another photo was of long-time Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

Hosted by the Brown Berets de Southeast Texas, the multigenerational crowd gathered at Chicano Parque, aka Moody Park, to honor the Indigenous people who have lost their lives protecting land and water.

The all-woman group, Cancega Xicas Unidos, drummed and sang numerous songs in different Native languages. One

song they sang in the language of the Lakota people was “Why We Do These Things.”

Johnny Torres, a published poet and member of the Berets, read several poems, including one about his uncle, Joe Campos Torres, who was murdered by Houston cops in 1977, and one entitled La Llorona (The Weeping Woman).

Houston’s Aztec Dancers, in their stunningly beautiful Native dress with colors that came alive in the light of the afternoon sun, danced and drummed for over 30 minutes for the delighted crowd.

A speaker gave a report about political prisoner Leonard Peltier and the Walk to Justice from Minnesota to Washington, D.C. Peltier’s supporters are journeying to demand the U.S. government grant clemency for this leader of the American Indian Movement, who has been wrongfully imprisoned for 46 years.

As the event was ending, every person

present was given a live cempasuchil plant to take home. The plant’s name is from the Nahuatl (Aztec) language; in Mexico it is believed that the petals of this flower form an orange-carpeted path that guides souls on the Day of the Dead.

For more on “Leonard Peltier’s Walk to Justice” visit the facebook group of the same name and workers.org/2022/09/66785/. Sign a petition for Peltier’s freedom at Chng.it/xChWLc5vT6. Watch a presentation on the case atyoutu.be/Me1MiqRECfA.

Top: Aztec Dancers.
Bottom: All-women group, Cancega Xicas Unidos, sang and drummed.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAS



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAS

Philadelphia Trans March for safety, inclusion ‘for all’

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Hundreds of trans people, family members, friends and supporters joined the 12th Annual Philly Trans March on Oct. 8. They proudly carried signs and banners and through Philadelphia neighborhoods, chanting slogans to demand “a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone.” The rally was organized by members of Philadelphia’s trans, nonbinary, Two-Spirit and gender-variant communities, as well as accomplices,

A short rally on the famous Rocky Steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art highlighted trans youth and athletes as a

response to the anti-trans legislation that has been introduced and passed in the U.S. and in Pennsylvania.

Lia Thomas, the first openly trans athlete to win a NCAA Division championship in any sport by winning the 500-yard freestyle in swimming, explained to the crowd the importance of sports to her as she grew up. She said she felt lost as she realized

she was transgender, until she came out publicly and was lucky enough to find support from her family, friends and the trans community.

She criticized “state legislators who continue to pass incredibly cruel and transphobic bills that are often only targeted towards trans children, preventing them from competing in their sports with their friends and peers. Depriving them of the opportunity to have sports and to learn and grow is unjust and is very wrong, but I have faith in our community to fight this.” She ended her talk to loud applause, with “Trans equality means equality in all aspects of life, and that includes athletics.”

A march through the Museum, Fairmount and Spring Garden neighborhoods paused at Community College of Philadelphia, Starbucks, the city’s Board of Education, the new Police

Headquarters and the Ninth Police Precinct to raise how transgendered people are treated at those institutions.

Circling back to the Rocky Steps, participants heard striking Philadelphia Museum of Art Union member Alexa explain a main reason they have been on strike for two weeks: “The health care plans the PMA offers are already so expensive, they effectively lower our already low salaries. My colleagues are going into debt or are foregoing medical care altogether. The Museum refuses to budge.

“I will say it plainly, any attempt to curtail the accessibility of health care, either through eligibility requirements or costs, is inherently transphobic. It is an attack on trans people. For many of us, medical interventions, including but not limited to hormone replacement therapy and surgery, are literally lifesaving. If we can’t access the care we need, we will suffer and we will die.” □



The 12th Annual Philly Trans March was held Oct. 8. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Bolsonaro is a full-fledged neofascist, Lula is millions of times preferable to Bolsonaro

By Narciso Isa Conde

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The following is a guest commentary by an historic leader of the revolutionary movement in the Dominican Republic. Translation: John Catalinotto

It seemed, not only that [Luis Inácio Lula da Silva] Lula was going to win, but also that he was going to win comfortably in the first round. That did not happen, and that is regrettable, because of the risks that a second round always implies, despite the five-point lead.

Neofascism, when it captures large masses, is extremely dangerous; and if its previous victory has been a tragedy, it would be even more so if it manages to continue usurping the government on the basis of strengthening all conservative fundamentalisms.

Brazilian society and Nuestra America [Our America] deserve Lula to be their next elected president and all their petista [Workers Party] and democratic forces, all their social and cultural energies, should be fully employed to achieve it in this second opportunity. They deserve it to stop the tragedy and chaos and to open new routes to less degrading stages.

Bolsonaro

Jair Bolsonaro is a spawn of the crisis of decadence of world capitalism and of the Western imperialist system in its Brazilian expression.

He is the Brazilian Trump, without excusing Biden, who in terms of international warmongering is as cruel and grotesque as the former, if not more so.

In Bolsonaro is condensed reactionary militarism, religious fundamentalisms, racism, machismo, homophobia, the fiercest factions of lumpen bourgeoisie, hard-core neoliberalism, ecocidal greed ... and even undiscovered conservatism; all this combined with a good dose of cunning and audacious stupidity.

Bolsonaro is a full-fledged neofascist, joined to this current in the world. He is a growing danger.

Lula

Lula is something else.

He is neither a Biden nor a Trump.

He is no longer a revolutionary or transforming leftist.



The battle for education rights is only one of the struggles against the Bolsonaro regime. 'Vote for defenders of education' reads the poster.

He was not during his administration.

He did not sponsor and does not sponsor major structural changes.

He is not what he was.

He stopped being critical of capitalism.

Some time ago he renounced socialism, as did his Articulation Current within the Workers Party (PT).

The PT is a moderate variant of the so-called progressivism and continental independentism, located between center and center-left positions.

It assumes a line for a State that favors a less unfair distribution of income, to some extent capable of counteracting extreme poverty and unproductive latifundia, with public policies impregnated with a bold welfare program and valuable initiatives against racist, sexist and age discrimination.

Even in this context, welfare is extremely vulnerable and avoids more stable solutions that are more in line with qualitative development and the rights of human beings.

In simple terms: It is the difference between giving away fish and teaching how to fish, or between temporary handouts that encourage parasitism and decent jobs or decent self-employment.

On another level, Lula is a defender of the democratic spaces conquered and a supporter of the new independence of Our America.

In his governmental role, he took on important levels of Brazilian and Latin Americanist self-determination, in the interest of strengthening the autonomy of the emerging Brazilian imperialism and of allying himself with blocs not under the tutelage of the United States. His contribution to the formation of the BRICS alliance [the developing countries of Brazil,

Russia, India, China and South Africa] has been very positive.

An ally of the varied continental progressive range, without joining the ALBA [Bolivarian Alliance for America] bloc, he was able to defend Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia from imperialist aggressions and blockades and to strengthen solidarity and mutual cooperation with those brotherly countries

and their heroic peoples.

Lula promoted and contributed to consolidate the BRICS space, together with other large states not aligned with the U.S. and the European Union.

A victory for Lula, PT and allies significantly expands the bloc of countries not subordinated to the U.S. strategy of domination and war.

It strengthens the BRICS.

It reduces and weakens the influence of the right wing and extreme right-wing rulers of the continent.

It helps to open new routes of change

An ally of the varied continental progressive range, without joining the ALBA [Bolivarian Alliance for America] bloc, he was able to defend Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia from imperialist aggressions and blockades and to strengthen solidarity and mutual cooperation with those brotherly countries and their heroic peoples.

and favors the contested social movements and the grassroots church in Brazil.

It weakens conservatism inside and outside the country.

For all these reasons, in the face of Bolsonaro's continued power, Lula and

his PT should be preferred a million times over.

I reiterate: I have no doubts about the imperious need for all the PT and the democratic and anti-fascist forces of Brazil and of Our America to multiply our efforts to guarantee his victory in the second round.

Mistakes that should not be repeated

I take this position in spite of the past mistakes made by Lula and the high leadership of the PT, among which, due to the lessons they teach, it is valid and opportune to recall the following:

1. The significant participation of the Brazilian Army, together with the U.S. Pentagon's Southern Command and other countries, in the nefarious military intervention in Haiti, under the mantle of the U.N. (MINUSTAH 2004-2017);
2. Political interventions at the international level in favor of the transnational consortium Odebrecht, subsequently involved in electoral financing and corruption scandals; [and]
3. Considerable tolerance of corruption practices and right-wing political practices, both in the State and in the governing party. ... [including in the Dominican Republic.]

It is our conviction that in the case of Lula, none of these questioned aspects were due to personal corruption but rather to bad alliances, maneuvers and political concessions that weakened his image and exposed him to false accusations and perverse plots, which were finally defeated.

We hope that Lula will reflect on the inappropriateness of these initiatives and political attitudes, so that his new administration will be free of them.

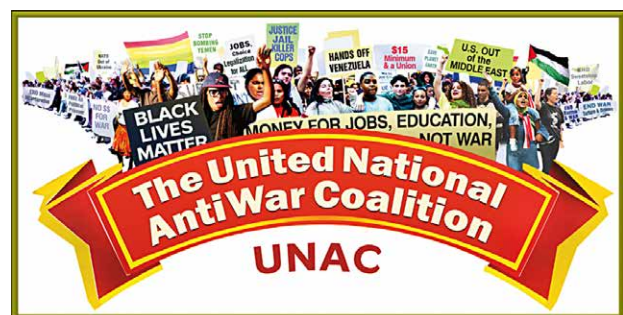
We hope that precisely when another imperialist military intervention against the self-determination of the Haitian people is underway, he does not make the mistake of committing Brazil to this unworthy adventure.

I insist: It is extremely important that Lula, his people and the forces in solidarity with his anti-fascist struggle push aside Bolsonaro and what he represents.

Brazil, Our America and the world deserve it! □

Join antiwar actions Oct. 15-22!

The United National Antiwar Coalition issued this statement Oct. 7.



Back to the streets! Say NO to U.S. wars!

Stop Washington's war moves toward Russia and China. Stop endless wars: Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, everywhere.

Join us in protest during the week of Oct 15-22. Organize an action in your local area or join one.

Today working people face escalating costs of food and energy, recession, growing insecurity and attacks

on efforts to unionize. The continuing wars and military provocations have brought us to the brink of nuclear war.

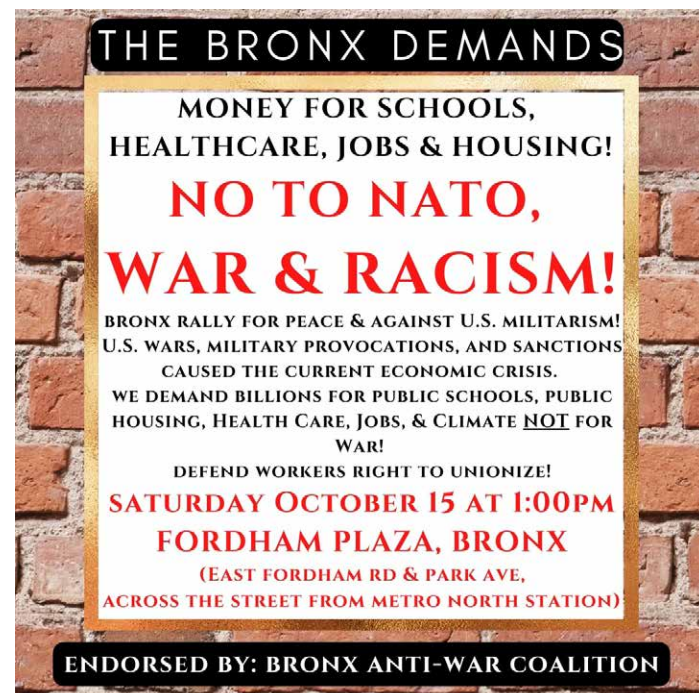
Yet, during this election period, imperialist foreign policy has been getting little attention. It is time for us to be back in the streets to demand an end to U.S. wars and provocations.

While the U.S. pours more weapons into the proxy war in Ukraine — holding open the possibility of direct confrontation with nuclear-armed Russia — the war fanatics in Washington seem determined to start even more fires around the world.

Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan; hints that the U.S. may be moving toward confrontation with China as well as strikes against Iran; and reports that new U.S./South Korea war games will practice a "decapitation" strike against the north (DPRK) — all show the urgent need to speak out.

Stop U.S./NATO wars and sanctions — from Cuba and Palestine to Russia and China.

We need \$billions for housing, health care, jobs and climate — NOT for war profiteering. □



In the Bronx, one of the 70+ UNAC actions, Oct. 15.

Another damning sports report

Yet another disturbing investigative report was released Oct. 3, exposing years of abuse of women athletes. The 300-plus page report, commissioned by the U.S. Soccer Federation and conducted by former U.S. Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, found rampant abuse including sexual misconduct within the National Women’s Soccer League.

The NWSL is a professional soccer league of 12 Division 1 teams, featuring national team players from around the world.

The report focused specifically on former Racing Louisville coach Christy Holly, former Portland Thorns coach Paul Riley and former Chicago Red Stars coach Rory Dames. All three are men.

The summary states: “Our investigation has revealed a league in which abuse and misconduct — verbal and emotional abuse and sexual misconduct — had become systemic, spanning multiple teams, coaches and victims. Abuse in the NWSL is rooted in a deeper culture in women’s soccer, beginning in youth leagues, that normalizes verbally abusive coaching and blurs boundaries between coaches and players.” The full report can be found at tinyurl.com/jurch75c.

U.S. Women’s National Team midfielder Lindsey Horan, a member of the Portland Thorns since 2016, told the media Oct. 7: “I also want to say that this isn’t just it. It’s not just the NWSL. This is women’s football in general. It’s women in general.

“We have these problems all over the world. It’s a global, systemic problem. So I don’t want that to be the end point — this investigation came forward, and obviously we’re thankful for that, but it took way too long. This whole thing was prolonged incredibly, and I sit here and I’m like, ‘It’s not done.’ This is all over the world, and, being a player in Europe right now, I know that.” (ESPN, Oct. 7)

Horan said it best when characterizing the report as not just isolated to women’s soccer but as a worldwide

A common theme running through all three of these developments is that many of the survivors and victims, who attempted to talk to authorities about the emotional, physical and mental anguish they experienced, were first met with either disdain or outright dismissal.



Women’s soccer teams from U.S. and England unite to show support for victims of sexual abuse before their Wembley game, Oct. 7.

problem for women and gender-oppressed people.

There is the recent scandal within the National Basketball Association’s Phoenix Suns organization in September, when billionaire majority owner Robert Sarver was suspended for a year for racist and misogynistic behavior. He is in the midst of selling the team due to pressure from prominent NBA players, corporate sponsors and within the Suns organization. (Read workers.org/2022/09/66767/)

And then there was the U.S. gymnastics sexual abuse legal suit against Dr. Larry Nassar, who is serving multiple life sentences after being convicted of child molestation of 150 female gymnasts.

Misogyny and capitalism

At least 500 teenage and adult gymnasts were part of a civil lawsuit, explaining in graphic terms when, where and how they were traumatized by this doctor, whose job was to prepare these athletes for Olympic competition.

In December, the gymnasts agreed to a \$380 million settlement from those who put Nassar in the position

to abuse them — like the U.S.A. Gymnastics, the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Michigan State University. (Read workers.org/2018/01/35215/)

A common theme running through all three of these developments is that many of the survivors and victims, who attempted to talk to authorities about the emotional, physical and mental anguish they experienced, were first met with either disdain or outright dismissal.

Former officials with the NWSL did not cooperate with the investigation and actually protected coaches like Riley and Holly by reassigning them to other coaching jobs.

It is capitalism that reinforces sexism, misogyny, racism and other ills of class society that must be eradicated, root and branch, to stop the vicious cycle of men using their positions of power to treat women and gender-oppressed people as exploitable objects.

In the end, it is capitalism — a system that promotes profits over human beings in every institution, including sports — that failed these players and countless others. □

WW COMMENTARY

Drug harm reduction and the proletariat

By Princess Harmony

Heroin (and by connection fentanyl analogues) are in the hands of the proletariat. People are using these to numb feelings of oppression and feelings of anger at their oppressed conditions. Marx famously said, “Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”

Now opium derivatives, like heroin, are once again the actual opium of the people. People use heroin and fentanyl analogues to escape oppression temporarily. Black Panther Michael Cetewayo Tabor documented in “Capitalism Plus Dope Equals Genocide” that heroin was cut and sold to Black people in the internal colonies of the U.S. in the 1960s because it offered the youth an illusion of escape from their conditions of neoslavery.

Now, in 2022 the chickens have come home to roost, as Malcolm X said. White people have experienced the tragedy, the loss, the chaos of drug addiction. This return came differently from former years, though. The U.S. government was directly responsible for the addiction of Black youth to heroin.

This time around, it was the drug manufacturers — Purdue Pharma, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson — who masterminded the drug epidemic. The Sacklers, owners of Purdue Pharma, had their names torn down in a revolution from below against this addictive process, their name cast as low as the bodies in the ground.

People’s harm reduction

In the chaos of the drug epidemic, addicts have been working together to form drug-user unions and organizations that help to fight the scourge of overdoses. In Seattle the People’s Harm Reduction Alliance and the Urban Survivors Union, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Washington, did research into what would happen if intravenous heroin users



were given a specially designed pipe for smoking heroin. (tinyurl.com/498uw5s9)

Prior to this study and the intervention of the PHRA and the USU, there was no singular pipe for heroin users to smoke from. (It’s more accurate to say “vaporize,” however, as direct fire destroys opioids.)

In 2019, Dr. Tom Fitzpatrick — one of the authors of the scientific paper written about this phenomenon — found that the people who were given specially designed pipes were less likely to use heroin intravenously.

Specifically, the number of people who exclusively injected heroin dropped to 32%, down from 43% before the heroin pipes were distributed. Additionally, the number of people changed who used both intravenously and through smoking, up to 45% of those users from 36%. This suggests that the pipes had helped push people away from intravenous use somewhat.

Of all the people involved in this study, 44% of the respondents used the pipes to get high, with 34% saying that the pipes reduced their frequency of injection. The study itself says, “The proportion of SSP [Syringe Service Programs] clients who exclusively injected heroin was lower by a quarter, while the proportion who both injected and smoked heroin was higher by over a quarter after heroin pipe distribution began.” This means that more addicts were smoking than intravenously using it, even if they didn’t stop intravenous injection altogether.

Harm reduction benefits

The benefits of having a specially designed heroin pipe, are threefold:

1. It decreases the chances of overdose, as not all of the drug will be received via smoking;
2. It decreases the need to reuse dirty needles and syringes; and
3. It decreases the risks of exposure to HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and HCV (hepatitis C).

The importance of harm reduction is not to be

understated. Hundreds of thousands of people have died of an opioid overdose since the invention of OxyContin (oxycodone) and since heroin, fentanyl and other relatively inexpensive opioids have taken center stage.

Harm reductionists agree on two important areas: safe supply (giving addicts access to a safe supply of opioids) and the need to expand safe syringe programs and their distribution of the newly devised heroin pipe.

These advocates also tend to think that pushing President Joe Biden and other politicians to end or change the War on Drugs is the pathway to saving lives.

But that’s not true. Although the work being done on the ground for addicts is a baby step; what the addict needs is a revolution — a socialist revolution.

Needing a revolution

Why? Because the system is incredibly corrupt. There are politicians and attorneys general who quit their positions to work for Purdue Pharma. The Food and Drug Administration — supposed to manage health — failed to do its job in relation to drugs, until mass outrage made clear there would be consequences for not correcting OxyContin’s “only 1% chance of addiction” lie.

The doctors and “pain clinics” gave away OxyContin like candy. Get headaches? Take an OxyContin! Got a toothache? OxyContin! There were parties celebrating the “wonder drug.” When it was reported that some people were getting addicted, one prominent doctor said it was “pseudoaddiction” and the treatment of that was — OxyContin! There’s more than this, so much more. (tinyurl.com/4u744sr)

Almost 1 million people are now dead from this opioid epidemic. Some of them were friends of this writer: Paul, Jessika, and others. This generation is being ravaged by drugs, legal or illegal. Some of us live in poverty, like those in Appalachia that had tens of thousands, or perhaps more, pills sent to their pharmacies to fill the orders signed by shady doctors who were in it for money.

Comrade Michael Cetewayo Tabor — addicted before he was 20 and then freed by political struggle and the Black Panther Party — said: “It is the youth who make the revolution, and it is the youth who carry it out.”

Let’s hope he’s right and this nightmare can end. □

Armenia and Azerbaijan

U.S. divides to conquer

By Arjae Red

The imperialist U.S. government is actively looking to open up new fronts in its current proxy war in Ukraine, in addition to targeting Russian economic infrastructure and turning up the pressure on NATO subordinates.

On Sept. 12, fighting broke out on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, when Azerbaijan began shelling Armenia. The fighting took place this time on Armenia’s eastern border, rather than the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave inside Azerbaijan.

Cease-fires have been reached and occasionally broken in the days that followed. In response to the latest round of fighting, Western-oriented media has focused its attention on protesters who are demanding the withdrawal of Armenia from the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The CSTO is a defense pact made up of six former Soviet Republics including Russia. Armenia is a member of the CSTO; Azerbaijan is not.

Western media has been heavily critical of Russia for not coming to the defense of Armenia militarily against Azerbaijan and instead choosing to broker cease-fire negotiations between the two countries. The media has painted this as a “betrayal” by Russia of Armenia and a violation of the mutual defense pact.

This effort by the U.S. to pull Armenia out of the orbit of Russian influence, out

of the CSTO and gradually into the orbit of NATO, is likely to be used as another springboard for a new front in the proxy war. With Ukrainian armed forces struggling to make and keep gains, as well as find a source of weapons and ammunition, and with the mobilization of hundreds of thousands more Russian troops on the way, the U.S. may need for a new front to open to turn the tide in its favor.

Russia had previously deployed peace-keeping troops to stave off fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. But with the war in Ukraine in full force, Russia is not likely to be able to send troops to intervene. After the latest round of fighting, rather than mobilizing troops against Azerbaijan, Russia’s response was to facilitate cease-fire negotiations between the two countries.

The irony of this being painted as a “betrayal” by the U.S. is clear when one considers what the U.S. media might be saying if Russia had intervened militarily. Surely the U.S. would condemn Putin as a bloodthirsty warlord out to gobble up more territory.

U.S. divides to conquer

The U.S. can play both sides of the conflict to paint Russia into a corner. If Russia intervenes, this splits its forces and risks overcommitment. If Russia does not intervene militarily, the U.S. can posture as the stronger friend to Armenia and gradually wear away at its political

friendship with Russia.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Armenia after the September attacks to do exactly that kind of posturing, trying to cozy up to Armenia the same way she did with Taiwan, speaking of defending “freedom and democracy.”

Again as in Ukraine, Taiwan and Armenia, the U.S. does not insert itself to “defend” these countries but to exploit them for imperialist interests.

In a speech to the Commonwealth of Independent States — which includes both Armenia and Azerbaijan — Russian President Vladimir Putin said: “Following their goals, our geopolitical adversaries, our opponents, as we said just recently, are ready to expose everyone, any country, to turn it into the epicenter of the crisis, provoke a color revolution and unleash a bloody massacre.

“We have seen all this more than once. ... We also know that the West is working out scenarios for inciting new conflicts in CIS space. But we have enough of them anyway. It is enough to look at what is happening now between Russia and Ukraine, what is happening on the borders of some other CIS countries.” (tinyurl.com/2xvdn4s3)

These remarks present the reasoning behind Putin’s calls for restraint, regarding the ongoing conflict in Armenia, rather than an escalation, which would only benefit the U.S. war drive—with Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the crosshairs.



All these developments are happening in Europe and Central Asia with countless billions being spent by the U.S. government on war, which benefits only a few military contractors and finance capitalists.

With the U.S. sending more than \$50 billion to Ukraine to fuel this proxy war, what do U.S. workers have to show for it? Not health care, housing, decent jobs or education. What do the workers of Ukraine have to show? Nothing but a steep death toll and a bleak future. When will enough be enough?

It is the world historic role of the working class to extinguish the flames of capitalist-imperialism before the whole world is scorched irreparably.

A socialist revolution in the U.S., the core of imperialism, could bring the cycle to an end. The process of the struggle toward that revolution can construct a system based on the fulfillment of human need and the nurture of a healthy planet. □

Protests and anger intensify in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

Beginning in late August, on the date commemorating the start of the 1804 revolution that liberated Haiti, hundreds of thousands of Haitians throughout the country have repeatedly taken to the streets to demand that the regime of acting President Ariel Henry be uprooted — a process Haitians call dechoukaj.

In general the protests demand an end to the misery that the huge hikes in the price of fuel — gasoline and diesel — has engendered. The government sets these prices and has raised them twice since Henry took over — the price of gas is up by 128%; kerosene and diesel are up 90%.

Most Haitians live on less than \$2 a day. Inflation rising by 30% means that more are going hungry.



Translation for sign in Port-au-Prince: ‘Don’t push people into misery.’

concerned about violence in Haiti, federal agencies need simply enforce U.N. embargoes on exporting weapons to Haiti.

Washington shows no sign it will commit to a plan to even alleviate the current crisis. Daniel Foote, senior U.S. diplomat and special advisor to Biden on Haiti who resigned when Biden’s administration began deporting thousands of Haitian refugees at the end of July, has,

along with Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader, publicly pushed for the U.S. to intervene militarily. Currently the number of Haitians who have been deported is over 20,000.

While Haiti doesn’t have the ability to resist a U.S. military incursion, its political history shows that it has a deep-rooted, long-standing opposition to any form of neocolonialism. In the 15 years of U.N. intervention in Haiti from 2004 to 2019, it was unable to overcome this resistance and set up a stable regime.

There is an economic development company called CODEVI (an acronym from the French version of Industrial Development Company), located in Ouanaminthe, twinned with the Dominican city Dajabón. CODEVI employs over 20% of the production workers in the country. (HaitiLibre, Sept. 29)

On Sept. 29, some Haitians were trying to get into Dajabón, and they got into a scuffle with the Dominican border authorities, who then called in the Dominican army. Videos uploaded to Twitter show armed Dominican soldiers patrolling the streets of Ouanaminthe, while the sound of gunfire can be heard. HaitiLibre and the Haitian Times report some arrests were made.

The sensitivity to foreign troops on Haitian soil is clear.

Prisoners in Haiti are starving

About 80% of prisoners in Haiti are awaiting trial. A report to the U.N. in the last week of September states that 50 or so deaths in Haiti’s prisons in September were due to “malnutrition,” from not having enough food.

There was a jail break in the only women’s prison in Haiti at the end of September. The prisoners tied up the guards and escaped, after cops from the local police station coming to retake the prison ran into a roadblock and lost the ensuing firefight. □

Ucrania: ¿Cómo evalúa la guerra?

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del país, “se quejan de grandes pérdidas, falta de municiones y retraso tecnológico con respecto al ejército ruso”.

El diario de la capital imperial citó a un soldado que dijo que casi todos sus compañeros en un total de 120 “resultaron heridos, muchos de gravedad”. Lo achacó a la necesidad de ahorrar munición, pero también afirmó que cuando disparaban “era difícil acertar por problemas

con los sistemas de guiado de las armas antiguas”.

El Post concluye afirmando que “muchos combatientes de las Fuerzas Armadas de Ucrania dudan si el intento valió la pena [ante] tales pérdidas”.

Unos días antes que esto aconteciera en el campo de batalla, Zelensky junto a su esposa posaron para la revista Vogue, cuyo último titular fue: “Todas las tendencias en minifalda para este otoño e invierno 2022”.

Tratar la guerra como si fuera un hecho banal y de la farándula y suponer que la muerte de tantos jóvenes quedará impune por la irresponsabilidad política de los líderes europeos, formará parte de las próximas crónicas que habrán de escribirse cuando concluya esta historia. Pero no creo que sean minifaldas las que van a usar los soldados ucranianos que combaten cuando se aproxima el temido invierno boreal. □



Coda de Familias, Cuba,
25 de septiembre, 2022

Ucrania: ¿Cómo evalúa la guerra?

Por Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

El autor es Consultor y analista internacional venezolano, ha publicado artículos en Revistas especializadas de Puerto Rico, Chile, Bolivia, Perú, Brasil, Venezuela, México, Argentina y España así como en diversos periódicos e innumerables páginas de Internet. Fue Director de Relaciones Internacionales de la Presidencia de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Contact: Twitter: @sergioroo701

7 de septiembre. Aunque sea insuficientemente conocido, tal vez haya pocos científicos sociales que hayan teorizado tanto y tan bien sobre la guerra como Vladimir I. Lenin. Al estudiar la primera guerra mundial dijo que: “el proletariado lucha y luchará siempre indefectiblemente contra la guerra, pero sin olvidar ni por un momento que solo podrá acabarse con las guerras cuando se acabe totalmente con la división de la sociedad en clases...”. El líder soviético también enseñaba que: “En la guerra vence quien dispone de más reservas, de más fuentes de fuerza, de mayor apoyo en el seno del pueblo”.

De la misma manera, uno de los más brillantes estrategias militares contemporáneos, el general vietnamita Vo Nguyen Giap exteriorizaba que las victorias en los combates estaban estrechamente vinculadas con “la producción, la comunicación, el transporte, las actividades culturales, sanitarias y otras”. Así, el general Giap consideraba que la victoria multilateral “[...] es el resultado de la lucha heroica de todos los compatriotas en todas las ramas, servicios y regiones que dedicaron sus prodigiosos esfuerzos, desafiaron bombas y balas y superaron innumerables dificultades”.

Es necesario comprender entonces, que el fenómeno de la guerra es muy complejo, sobre todo porque el factor subjetivo interviene de manera decisiva para forjar victorias cuando hay carencias o insuficiencias de los elementos materiales que configuran su aspecto objetivo.

En la modernidad, aunque los instrumentos tecnológicos juegan un papel cada vez más relevante, la herramienta principal y concluyente sigue siendo la del componente humano que participa en el conflicto. Por mucho que se haya desarrollado la técnica, el objetivo de la guerra sigue siendo el de ocupar territorios y eso solo es posible cuando los soldados de un ejército y los oficiales que los comandan, toman posición efectiva del espacio geográfico.

Sólo el que haya participado en una guerra conoce la barbaridad que ella entraña, en el conflicto bélico se desata lo mejor y lo peor del ser humano, lo mejor porque la decisión de entregar la vida por algo en lo que se cree, rebasa cualquier análisis acerca de la subjetividad que pudiera motivar tal actuación. Por cierto, esto no es válido para mercenarios y asesinos a sueldo que solo combaten por el dinero y los emolumentos que pudieran obtener. Pero la guerra desata también lo peor de la condición humana que es la necesidad de matar para sobrevivir.

Un político común o un estadista

Es sabido que lo que distancia a un político común de un estadista es básicamente su capacidad para manejar exitosamente los elementos atinentes a la defensa y la seguridad, en primer lugar, ser capaz de dirigir a las fuerzas armadas; así mismo es básico poseer el genio y habilidad para conducir la política exterior y las relaciones internacionales. Lo otro, lo puede hacer cualquiera, sobre todo si está bien asesorado. Tuve la posibilidad de conocer al comandante en jefe Fidel Castro, el mayor genio militar del siglo XX en América Latina y sé de lo que hablo.

Toda esta larga disquisición viene a cuenta de la

dirección de la guerra en Ucrania y el elemento decisivo que significa la conducción y el mando estratégico en el conflicto que no sólo se desarrolla en el terreno bélico. De un lado, el presidente de Rusia, Vladimir Putin que ha dado muestras claras de su capacidad para manejar la guerra “como continuación de la política por otros medios”.

No se puede decir lo mismo, de los que gestionan la guerra desde la otra trinchera. Cuando el jefe de la “diplomacia” europea Joseph Borrell afirma que el fin del conflicto se producirá en el terreno militar y posteriormente, en fecha más reciente asegurara que “Rusia ya ha perdido la guerra y está a la defensiva ante Kiev” a pesar que Rusia ya ha conquistado el 27,2% del territo-



En Madrid, miles de personas protestaron contra la OTAN y la guerra promovida por Estados Unidos en Ucrania, del 28 al 30 de junio.

rio ucraniano –en los que por cierto, en buena parte de ellos, la vida transita hacia la normalidad bajo control de Rusia – nos damos cuenta que estamos ante niveles de ignorancia y estupidez muy peligrosos. Sobre todo, porque esta visión de los hechos conduce a decisiones profundamente erradas que traen como consecuencia el sacrificio innecesario de miles de soldados en función de intereses políticos ni siquiera vinculados a la retórica y la parafernalia tradicional de Occidente.

Cuando se observa sobre el mapa de operaciones militares, la reciente y muy cacareada “contraofensiva” ucraniana en el sur, cuesta pensar que tal acción fuera planeada por militares profesionales: una penetración en un sector de la defensa rusa dejando los flancos abiertos y avanzando en profundidad hasta hacer imposible para la logística poder cumplir su misión de garantizar los abastecimientos combativos necesarios para el éxito.

Estas acciones presagiaban el desastre... y así fue: 152 tanques, 151 vehículos de combate de infantería, 110 vehículos blindados de combate, 56 camionetas blindadas, 17 vehículos especiales, 11 aviones caza de diferente designación y 3 helicópteros destruidos, y lo que es peor, 3100 soldados aniquilados entre el 29 de agosto y el 6 de septiembre es el saldo de esta locura, solo motivada en la necesidad de mostrar resultados para justificar la llegada y el incremento de ayuda occidental, aunque sea evidente que es una causa perdida.

Vale decir que los medios de prensa occidentales se apresuraron masivamente a titular este desastre como “Victoria épica de las Fuerzas Armadas de Ucrania” engañando impunemente a sus lectores.

Mientras ello ocurre, el ejército ruso sigue centrando sus esfuerzos en recuperar el control de todo el territorio de Donetsk, manteniendo las regiones liberadas de las provincias de Kherson, Kharkov, Zaporozhye y Nikolaev.

Al mismo tiempo, el presidente Putin, el ministro de defensa general Shoigú y el jefe del Estado Mayor General de las Fuerzas Armadas de Rusia general Guerasimov, se trasladaron al extremo oriente del país para inspeccionar in situ la realización de las maniobras militares Vostok 2022 que se desarrollaron en siete polígonos y en los mares de Japón y de Ojotsk y en las que participan unos 50.000 soldados, más de 5.000 unidades de armamento

pesado, 140 aviones y 60 buques de Rusia además de Argelia, Armenia, Azerbaiyán, Bielorrusia, Birmania, China, India, Kazajistán, Kirguistán, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Siria y Tayikistán.

Las transnacionales de EE.UU. hacen pingües ganancias

En el caso de la “ofensiva” ucraniana en el sur del país, los líderes políticos (Zelensky, Biden, Johnson, Scholz, Macron, Borrell, Stoltenberg y compañía), que no saben nada de la guerra, le impusieron a las fuerzas armadas la obligatoriedad de una operación militar que desde su inicio no tenía las menores posibilidades de éxito y que costó la vida a 3100 jóvenes ucranianos que creían que se estaban inmolando por la Patria, cuando en realidad lo hicieron por los intereses comerciales de las grandes transnacionales energéticas y de armamento de Estados Unidos que están haciendo pingües ganancias con esta guerra.

La verdad viene dada en opiniones de expertos, ninguno de ellos amigo de Putin o de Rusia. Leamos lo que dicen algunos. Cuando la guerra recién comenzaba, en una larga entrevista realizada a Jacques Baud, coronel del ejército suizo, experto en inteligencia militar y adjunto en la OTAN y la ONU, ante la pregunta de ¿Cómo evalúa la ofensiva rusa?

Baud contestó: “Atacar a otro Estado va en contra de los principios del derecho internacional. Pero también se debe considerar el trasfondo de tal decisión. En primer lugar, hay que dejar claro que Putin ni está loco ni ha perdido el contacto con la realidad. Es una persona

metódica y sistemática, es decir, muy rusa. Creo que era consciente de las consecuencias de su operación en Ucrania. Evaluó, obviamente con razón, que, si realizaba una operación “pequeña” para proteger a la población de Donbass o una operación “masiva” a favor de la población de Donbass y de los intereses nacionales de Rusia, las consecuencias serían las mismas. Entonces, fue a por la solución máxima”.

‘Podría ser mejor comenzar las negociaciones ahora’

Por su parte, el martes pasado en un artículo para The Wall Street Journal el general de brigada de las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos, Mark Kimmitt afirmó que: “Comenzar un acuerdo diplomático sería desagradable y tal vez aparentemente derrotista, pero hay pocas posibilidades de salir del atolladero actual, por lo que podría ser mejor comenzar las negociaciones ahora que más tarde”.

Kimmitt recordó que la OTAN ya no puede hacer frente a la necesidad de mantener el ritmo de abastecimiento de armas a Ucrania, porque las fuerzas de ese país las pierden con demasiada frecuencia en el campo de batalla. El general estadounidense expuso que creía que la reducción de los suministros occidentales a Kiev tendría un efecto “desastroso” para el ejército ucraniano.

Finalmente, el general retirado y exsubsecretario del Consejo de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional de Ucrania, Serhiy Krivonos mostró su consternación por las pérdidas “monstruosas”, del ejército de Ucrania que según él se cuentan por “decenas de miles, e incluso podría llegar a cientos de miles”.

Al cuestionarse sobre las causas de esta situación y la negativa de hablar del asunto por las autoridades y los medios de comunicación occidentales, Krivonos manifestó: “Los cuentos de que ahora no es el momento de hablar de ello no es más que un intento de nublar la memoria, borrar la historia. ¿Pero cómo se puede borrar la sangre de los muertos, que ya van por cientos de miles? ¿Quién responderá por ello?”.

Mientras ello ocurre, el Washington Post en un reporte del martes 6 de septiembre se vio obligado a decir que los militares ucranianos que participaron del intento de contraofensiva en la región Kherson en el sur

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