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Back to the streets

Say NO to U.S. wars!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The United National Antiwar Coalition issued the call “Back to the streets! Say NO to U.S. wars!” for Oct. 15-22, and growing protests of people answered. UNAC’s goal is to “unify in collective action against the major perpetrator of war and injustice in the world: the U.S. government, along with its allies and proxies. (unacpeace.org)

The actions target U.S. aggression anywhere and everywhere — against China, Cuba, Iraq, Russia, Somalia or Syria, from Venezuela to Palestine to North Korea — any U.S. action against any country attempting to stay independent of U.S. claws.

Continued U.S. sanctions, as well as direct and proxy wars, are assaults on the oppressed and working people inside this country and across the rest of the world. In desperate moves to maintain its slipping capitalist dominance, the U.S. continues to accelerate such attacks.

The result? Today, working and oppressed people



Organizer Richie Merino, Bronx Anti-war Coalition, rallies the crowd at U.S. Recruiting Center, Bronx, New York City, Oct. 15.

in the U.S. face escalating costs of food and energy, growing insecurity in basic survival, the threat of recession and vicious attacks on efforts to unionize.

**Imperialism devastating workers worldwide**

Yet the imperialist foreign policy — devastating the lives and livelihood of 99% of the people — has been getting little attention during the current run-up to the U.S. elections.

Despite a lack of affordable housing that has workers sleeping in their cars, the Biden administration is delivering a total of \$1.6 billion in heavy and technologically advanced weapons to Ukraine, as well as brokering deals for weapons with NATO powers and nongovernmental entities. (“With high-tech weapons to Ukraine, U.S. escalates war,” Workers World, April 25)

Meanwhile, anti-migrant racism runs rampant in the U.S., with right-wing governors recently staging “show busing” of refugees from the South against

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Clarion call to the movement

Prepare for the biggest global capitalist crisis in history

By Larry Holmes

The writer is Workers World Party’s First Secretary.

According to the International Monetary Fund, most of the world, including the U.S., is either in or headed for a recession, or something worse, by sometime in 2023. All economic indicators are pointing to severe economic contraction. Businesses are being forced to rent more and more warehouse space to stockpile all the computers, televisions, furniture and other things that the workers can’t afford to buy.

This is no normal economic downturn. However long

and drawn out this economic crisis is and whatever events push it forward, it’s the development that many Marxists (as well as bankers and billionaires who are willing to utter words of truth) consider to be the biggest global capitalist economic crisis in history. The capitalist crisis that is under way is unique in that it is symptomatic of a dying system entering its end-stage.

**Federal Reserve declares war on the workers, oppressed of the world**

The Federal Reserve is shutting down the economy with rate hikes, not out of confidence or because they have a real plan. It is something that the Fed is doing out

of panic. It’s something that they are doing because they have run out of all other alternatives; and so, in a desperate attempt to save U.S. capitalism, they are opening the doors of hell. Wall Street thinks that workers who are living paycheck to paycheck and who cannot afford to pay their bills are inflationary.

The Federal Reserve Bank, the bank that all the other central banks either follow or get whipped back in line by, has declared war on the workers and oppressed peoples of the world. The Fed is raising the interest rates, faster than at any other time, to essentially force the layoffs of as many workers as possible, drive up the unemployment

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Albert Woodfox ▶  
memorialized

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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.

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

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. □

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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## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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# Philadelphia Museum of Art strike victory!

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Picket signs and bullhorns were enthusiastically put down Oct. 14, as Philadelphia Museum of Art workers celebrated a total victory and the agreement of their first union contract, after a 19-day strike.

Workers voted to approve the contract Oct. 16. Under the terms of the new agreement, which will expire June 30, 2025, workers won everything they were demanding: a \$16.75 minimum wage (up from \$15); a 14% across-the-board raise over the course of the three-year union contract, set retroactively to July 1; and full-time employees will receive a \$500 longevity bonus (\$250 for part-time workers) for every five years they work at the institution. And PMA employees will receive four weeks of paid family leave. What workers currently pay for their high-deductible health care plan will decrease, as the museum will raise its contribution from 90% to 95%.

The victory comes after over two years of fruitless talks, after filing a lengthy Unfair Labor Practice charge against museum management, after a 99% strike

authorization vote and after holding a one-day warning strike Sept. 16. Workers finally walked off their jobs Sept. 26.

**‘No contract, no Matisse!’**

Museum officials finally caved to PMA Union demands one day before workers planned to set up a militant protest Oct. 15, outside a gala celebration prior to the opening of the long-anticipated exhibition of over 100 works by Henri Matisse. Over 3,000 tickets had already been sold for the only U.S. showing of the exhibit, which is set to run Oct. 20 to Jan. 29, 2023. PMA workers were particularly incensed that museum management had brought in strikebreakers from other cities to prepare and set up the valuable works.

Since the 180 museum workers walked out, picket lines were marked by strong participation from area activists, including members of other unions and community groups, the Save UC Townhomes Coalition, and progressive city and state politicians.

**Impact on other organizing efforts**

Besides making major gains for the renowned museum’s workers, the strike invigorated the local labor movement, as evidenced by participation in the daily

picket lines by members of AFSCME, UNITE HERE, Teamsters and many others.

Based on the experience of the PMA Union’s victory, similar solidarity could be easier to garner at a number of area labor and community struggles currently being fought. These include Temple University’s Graduate Students Association (TUGSA), University of the Arts faculty and staff unions, Starbucks Workers United, Amazon workers, Home Depot organizers and UC Townhomes residents fighting eviction.

“This will have a huge impact on the workers at the museum, and I think it will also potentially have ripple effects outward to other cultural institutions,” said Adam Rizzo, President of Philadelphia Museum of Art Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 397, affiliated with AFSCME District Council 47. ([tinyurl.com/bddaac8x](https://tinyurl.com/bddaac8x))

As one of the oldest and largest art museums in the U.S., with over 240,000 works of art from around the world, the PMA Union’s victory could energize other museum workers across the U.S., where staff at dozens of museums have joined



Workers picket outside the Philadelphia Art Museum Oct. 8. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

unions in the last three years to fight for higher pay and benefits. Picketing outside museum events, one-day strikes and other worker protests have been held at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Carnegie International in Pittsburgh, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts and other cultural institutions.

Lee Saunders, president of AFSCME, with which the museum union is affiliated, released a statement: “This is why cultural workers at museums, libraries and zoos across the country have started a wave of worker organizing that’s taking hold of the industry.” ([tinyurl.com/4fvnkv6f](https://tinyurl.com/4fvnkv6f))

No matter how renowned the museum might be, workers can’t live off prestige alone. □

# Billy Bragg joins striking Starbucks workers in Buffalo

By Arjae Red

International progressive rock star and punk-folk musician Billy Bragg joined Starbucks workers on strike outside the first unionized U.S. Starbucks store Oct. 12. Outside the Elmwood Avenue store in Buffalo, New York, he played classic union songs and sent a strong message to the company. Hundreds of people were drawn to the event — the crowd spilled into the streets and occupied Elmwood Avenue for the afternoon.

As Billy set up to play his first song, he told the crowd, “I was thinking what song to play; I’ll start off with, how should I pitch this? Then I saw this banner behind me, and I said, ‘Oh yeah, that’s how I’ll pitch it.’” The banner, from Workers World Party-Buffalo branch, which read “Which side are you on? We fight for our class!” became the backdrop for the demonstration.

The timing was perfect. Starbucks

workers on Elmwood Avenue walked out on strike the previous Thursday over continued anti-union repression. Starbucks workers there were recently given retaliatory write-ups for rules that are nominally universal but not enforced at other stores in the district — only at union stores.

This is coupled with mass firings of union supporters, over 120 across the country, with at least 14 workers fired in Buffalo. Workers have won National Labor Relations Board cases against the company; Starbucks has been forced to rehire the seven union organizers fired in Memphis.

On the same day as the show with Billy Bragg, Starbucks was ordered by an NLRB judge to rehire four more fired workers with back pay in Kansas and Missouri, after the company was found guilty of ramping up its dress code enforcement and sending police to break up picket lines—a tactic also

used in Boston and other cities.

While these legal victories have been a morale booster for workers facing the brunt of the repression, Starbucks doesn’t seem deterred by the NLRB. Mass mobilizations like the one at the Elmwood store will be needed on a sustained basis to bring the union busters to their knees.

After the show, Bragg shared a message



Billy Bragg plays for a crowd of hundreds outside the first unionized Starbucks in the U.S. PHOTO: JOSEPH COOKE

to Starbucks customers: “I live on coffee — no coffee, no gig. But I am drawing the line today, I’m not going into Starbucks anymore because of the way they’ve been treating their workers all across the country. These people here in Buffalo have started a fire of organizing, a fire of unionization. I want to support that by not buying Starbucks coffee, and I want you to stop buying Starbucks coffee as well ... in solidarity with Starbucks workers, I draw the line.”

While the union has not officially called for a boycott, many coffee drinkers are deciding that supporting a company that treats its workers in such a vile way isn’t worth it.

*The author is a Starbucks worker in Buffalo, New York, a member of the SBWU Organizing Committee at their store, and a member of Workers World Party.*

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

## Paper workers demand a better life

WestRock Mahrt Mill paper mill workers in Cottonton, Alabama, represented by three Steelworkers (USW) locals, are fighting a lockout imposed Oct. 6 in retaliation for their rejection of the company’s latest contract offer. The Steelworkers rejected a \$28,000 signing bonus, which they saw as a bribe to keep working under unsafe, inhumane conditions.

Paper mill work is highly skilled, physically demanding and dangerous. Yet these workers pull mandatory 16-hour shifts, a hardship for them and their families. The company removed language that paid time-and-a-half for Sundays and for the whole shift when a worker works over 16 hours (known as the ‘Hog Law’ in that industry).

Now supervisors will try to take over

operations at WestRock, the second largest packaging company in the U.S., with 2021 revenues of \$19 billion. When asked if he thought salaried personnel and strikebreakers would be able to match their productivity, USW member Mike Davenport, a 40-plus-year paper worker and Mahrt Mill employee since 1993, was adamant: “Hell no.” ([tinyurl.com/2m5bzjps](https://tinyurl.com/2m5bzjps))

## Barnard College student workers need a union

Barnard College resident assistants (RAs) have filed with the National Labor Relations Board to be represented by Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 153. According to Aditi Misra, Class of 2023, “Unionizing will give us the power of having an equal seat at the table to transform the entirety of the position into something fair and equitable.”

Barnard College is a prestigious women’s college in New York City. Founded in 1889 as the first to offer university degrees to women, Barnard’s early graduates joined the fight for women’s suffrage. Despite this progressive beginning, Barnard administration is exploiting the RAs, undergraduate students who live in

a dorm as unpaid employees and oversee 20-70 residents, attend weekly mandatory staff meetings, hold monthly programs, create monthly bulletin boards and hold counseling sessions with each resident.

RAs are required to stay on campus through weekends and holidays and work weekly overnight shifts despite their academic schedules. “When you work where you live, you’re never truly off-duty. We are first responders, emergency contacts, and crisis hotlines. ... no one should have to work as hard as RAs do for no pay or real compensation,” says RA Katie Cherven. ([opeiulocal153.org](https://opeiulocal153.org))

## Rail workers reject Biden’s tentative agreement

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamsters (BMWED-IBT) members have voted to reject the Biden-orchestrated tentative agreement and send their representatives back to the bargaining table with the Class 1 Rail Freights. These workers build and maintain national railway tracks and bridges; they are the largest union to reject the offer so far, which keeps alive the possibility of a mid-November rail strike.

BMWED President Tony D. Cardwell

said, “Railroaders are discouraged and upset with working conditions and compensation and hold their employer in low regard. Railroaders do not feel valued. They resent the fact that management holds no regard for their quality of life, illustrated by their stubborn reluctance to provide a higher quantity of paid time off, especially for sickness.” ([tinyurl.com/2mjdpsj3](https://tinyurl.com/2mjdpsj3))

Two other large unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET-IBT) and the SMART-Transportation Division, who represent engineers and conductors, respectively, have yet to vote.

Lack of paid time off and unsafe staffing levels on freight lines are the rail workers’ main concerns; these issues are inadequately addressed in the tentative agreement. These skilled workers must give 30-days notice before taking a sick day, and they have been forced to be available 24 hours, because the workforce was cut to the bone before the pandemic.

The rail industry stands to lose billions daily if a strike happens; and a strike will heavily impact agriculture, perhaps ruinously. And most passenger rail would shut down, as Amtrak has to use the freights’ rail lines. □

# All out for Mumia hearing Oct. 26

By Johanna Fernández  
Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

A hearing scheduled for Oct. 19 to determine whether Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal will get a new trial on recently discovered evidence was rescheduled to Oct. 26 in Philadelphia’s Criminal Justice Center. The following commentary explains what is at stake regarding new legal filings by attorneys for Mumia Abu-Jamal. It first appeared in Workers World Jan. 4, 2022.

In her novel “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” Zora Neale Hurston wrote, “There are years that ask questions, and years that answer.”

With continued pressure from below, 2022 will be the year that forces the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office and the Philly Police Department to answer questions about why they framed imprisoned radio journalist and veteran Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys have filed a PCRA petition focused entirely on the six boxes of case files that were found in a storage room of the DA’s office in late December 2018, after the case being heard before Judge Leon Tucker in the Court of Common Pleas concluded. (tinyurl.com/zkyva464)



CREDIT: @MOON\_MODULE\_ART

The new evidence contained in the boxes is damning, and we need to expose it. It reveals a pattern of misconduct and abuse of authority by the prosecution, including bribery of the state’s two key witnesses, as well as racist exclusion in jury selection — a violation of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Batson v. Kentucky*. The remedy for each or any of the claims in the petition is a new trial. The court may order a hearing on factual issues raised in the claims. If so, we won’t know for at least a month.

The new evidence includes a handwritten letter penned by Robert Chobert, the prosecution’s star witness. In it, Chobert demands to be paid money promised him by then-Prosecutor Joseph McGill. Other evidence includes notes written by McGill, prominently tracking the race of potential jurors for the purposes of excluding Black people from the jury and letters and memoranda which reveal that the DA’s office sought to monitor, direct and intervene in the outstanding prostitution charges against its other key witness Cynthia White.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed and convicted 40 years ago in 1982, during one of the most corrupt and racist periods in Philadelphia’s history — the era of

cop-turned-mayor Frank Rizzo. It was a moment when the city’s police department, which worked intimately with the DA’s office, routinely engaged in homicidal violence against Black and Latinx detainees, corruption, bribery and tampering with evidence to obtain convictions.

In 1979, under pressure from civil rights activists, the Department of Justice filed an unprecedented lawsuit against the Philadelphia police department and detailed a culture of racist violence, widespread corruption and intimidation that targeted outspoken people like Mumia. Despite concurrent investigations by the FBI and Pennsylvania’s Attorney General and dozens of police convictions, the power and influence of the country’s largest police association, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) prevailed.

Now, more than 40 years later, we’re still living with the failure to uproot these abuses. Philadelphia continues to fear the powerful FOP, even though it endorses cruelty, racism and multiple injustices. A culture of fear permeates the “city of brotherly love.”

The contents of these boxes shine light on decades of white supremacy and rampant lawlessness in U.S. courts and prisons. They also hold enormous promise for Mumia’s freedom.

*Note: For information on the case visit mobilization4Mumia.com.*

# Elder and racial abuse in Pennsylvania prisons

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette

Abraham Cruz, an 81-year-old illiterate invalid imprisoned at State Correctional Institute Phoenix in Pennsylvania, was denied commutation on Aug. 3. He will continue his time behind bars, largely based on the recommendation of Board of Pardons member John P. Williams, M.D., psychiatrist.

Because Cruz only speaks Spanish and cannot read, Williams (who doesn’t understand Spanish) based his decision on a verbal interview with Cruz through a translator. Because of the many hurdles he faced, including being required to complete documents and submit tests available only in English, Cruz’s commutation was denied.

At the end of an interview I had with Bryant Arroyo on Oct. 7, Cruz’s case was held up as an example of “state-sponsored death by regulation” under the Pa. Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons. Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal calls Arroyo “the world’s first jailhouse environmentalist,” but he is also a skilled jailhouse lawyer.

Arroyo raised Cruz’s case for several reasons. “Even if Cruz could read, no DOC forms or documents are in Spanish,” Arroyo complained. “And as an invalid who poses no threat to society, the whole process was discriminatory and unjust for him as an elder. He should have been released.”

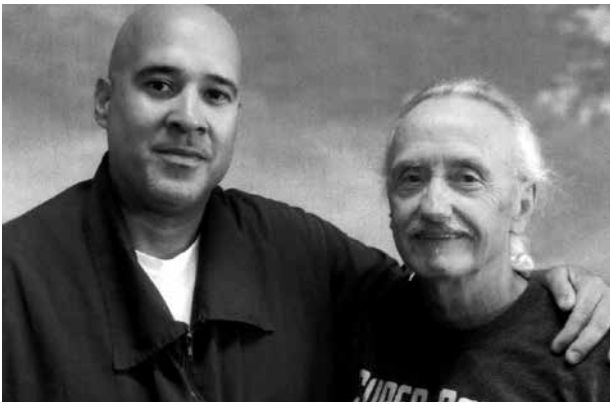
Pennsylvania leads the world in the number of people serving life without parole (LWOP) sentences, as well as in the number of incarcerated elderly people.

Arroyo has a successful case on his resume, winning the release of an ill and aged incarcerated person — Bradford “Bub” Gamble. He described how hard it was to win Gamble’s release: “On April 15, 2021, I was retaliated against by SCI Frackville officials and transferred to SCI Coal Township and eventually assigned to a cell just four doors down from Mr. Bradford Gamble’s.

“We routinely crossed paths every time Bub would come out of his cell. One day he asked to meet at the table, where I was constantly drafting up grievances and

working on my civil and criminal case. He revealed his unfortunate medical condition, which was colon cancer.

“Soon we were on a full campaign to contact attorneys from the Philadelphia Defenders Association, the Pa. Bar Association, Pennsylvania prison society and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project. The PILP referred me to former executive director Angus Love, who said he ‘wouldn’t take a losing case.’



Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette during visit in 2019.

“We continued on our legal journey and dogged pursuit, eliminating every viable avenue for an attorney that would represent Bub for compassionate release. As my frustrations escalated, I reached out to Joe Piette, who was finally able to get Abolitionist Law Center attorneys Bret Grose and Rupalee Rashatwar to represent Gamble. He was finally released on March 5 and passed away on Aug. 14, surrounded by his loving family, one of only 33 incarcerated people to win medical release in the last 13 years.” (workers.org/2022/08/66312/)

### Death by regulation

Senator Lisa Baker and her cronies gutted the former Title 61 Subsection 81, known as Illness of Prison Removal for Treatment Statute, and replaced and renamed it as Compassionate Release under Title 42, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Subsection 9777, put into effect in 2014. It categorically removed the entire jurisdictional aspect and statutory legal authority that formerly gave Pennsylvania state judges the power to humanely provide the necessary medical treatment for both county

and state prisoners, void of the bureaucratic red tape. Title 42 created a highly improbable bar to meet the criteria for compassionate release.

Existing in name only, and legally bereft of any right to legal representation for any prisoner that falls into the terminally ill category, this is Pennsylvania state-sponsored secret death by regulation.

There is absolutely nothing compassionate about the current statute. It should compel every tax-paying resident to call up their state senators to make known their objections and to get Senate Bill 835 passed, which would eliminate the bureaucratic red tape for terminally ill prisoners, 55 years and older, who have 25 years or more behind bars. They would become eligible to have a hearing before the Pennsylvania parole board. Given the fact that Governor

Wolf’s DOC budget of \$45.7 billion could be greatly reduced if elderly and ill people were released back to their communities, this should make economic sense for all taxpayers.

### ‘Puerto Rican, not white!’

The DOC’s English-only forms and documents and improper verbal test via a translator, which Cruz was obligated to take, were done in the context of the DOC’s troubling policy that classifies Cruz, Arroyo and other Latinx incarcerated people as white. It’s harder to charge racism against white officials if you’re Latinx but mislabeled as white. (See workers.org/2022/09/66832/)

That’s why Arroyo filed Grievance 994894 on Aug. 22, 2022, after he found out he was involuntarily reclassified as white in DOC records.

Arroyo explains, “So basically the Pa. DOC, the Pa. Justice Network and National Crime Information Center eviscerated my entire Latinx heritage by unconstitutionally fabricating and changing my race identity fraudulently and involuntarily by reclassifying me as a white man against my own volition,

culture and beliefs. This is an outright violation of the Equal Protection Clause and 14th Amendment of the Constitution, by specifically selecting and discriminating against my inextricable Latinx race and culture.

“And second, according to the NCIC, out of the races that they could have allowed me to choose under federal law, within the Census Bureau would have been these following races: Black, white, Asian, American, Indian and Pacific Islander. And out of all of those, they said the NCIC auto-generated the selection of what race they were going to fit us in.

“They labeled me as white, along with the rest of the Latinx population. I see that as no coincidence; because now, when you look at the statistics between the Blacks and the whites in the prison system, it almost makes it seem like there’s no longer a racial disparity.

“As a result of this change, I’ve experienced different inmates throughout the institution exhibiting a pattern of racial harassment, calling me racial epithets throughout the day by saying, ‘hey, white boy.’ The Pa. DOC, NCIC and the Pa. Justice Network don’t have a problem stripping you of your Latinx race, but they failed to provide you with the white privilege card for the new white race.

“I told my daughter, I have to explain to you that your dad is not who you thought he was. And she was like, ‘What do you mean?’ Well, I’m not Latinx. I’m white. So, she was like, ‘what the f — are you talking about?’ And I said, they changed my race to white, and if you go to Pa. DOC right now and look me up, I’m white; I’m labeled as white.

“This is not only troubling but imposing invasive, intrusive and outright cultural genocide towards the Latinx race. I feel like Malcolm X when he said, ‘I didn’t land on Plymouth Rock, Plymouth Rock landed on me.’ And I believe that I would be remiss not to state that this should compel all Latinx across the entire nation to use #I am my race. My race and ethnicity do not separate; one doesn’t go without the other.”

*Next: Wellpath profits cut health care for the incarcerated.*



# Albert Woodfox memorialized, New Orleans style

By Gloria Rubac

On a beautiful, sunny day in New Orleans, Albert Woodfox's loving family, members of the International Committee to Free the Angola 3, Black Panthers from around the country and supporters from around the world filled the historic Treme Center Oct. 8. They gathered in the hundreds to remember the life of Woodfox who died Aug. 4 from COVID-19 complications, just six years after he was finally released from Angola Prison.

As the event began, the processional into the auditorium was led by "Mardi Gras Indian and Big Chief of the Washitaw Nation" David Peters Montana, stunning in white feathers and beads from head to toe. New Orleans tradition honors the Native people who took in or hid people who escaped slavery.

Next, several dozen members of Woodfox's family walked down the aisle, led by his younger brother Michael Mable. Black Panthers from around the country followed the family.

As the Brother of Ceremony, activist Parnell Herbert welcomed the large gathering and introduced Rheneisha Robertson, who read a moving tribute to her uncle.

Calling from prison, political prisoner Kenny Zulu Whitmore gave a touching tribute to his friend and mentor. Zulu was 18 years old when, as he explains, "I was captured by the modern-day slave catchers," and thrown into solitary at Angola Prison. There he became comrades with



Now the sole survivor of the Angola 3, Robert King stands by a picture of Albert Woodfox.

the Angola 3 and joined the Black Panther Party.

"We've lost two of the Angola 3, two men who had beautiful souls filled with love despite the conditions of solitary confinement. Albert's spirit was filled with joy. His spirit was unbreakable throughout the 40-plus years in solitary. I'm glad that when he left us, he left a free man," said former U.S. Congressional Rep. Cedric Richmond.

Troi Bechet and Sula Spirit, longtime progressive singers in NOLA, gave a touching rendition of the famous Billie Holliday lyrical indictment of lynching, "Strange Fruit."

The Sister of Ceremony, Tuere Burns, presided over the second half of the memorial.

Malik Rahim, one of the original New Orleans Black Panthers who survived a shootout with police at the Desire Housing Project, met Woodfox while both were in the Orleans Parish prison. In his tribute he spoke about the long struggle to free Woodfox and the innumerable people who fought for the Angola 3. Rahim said there were many issues that all Panthers, as well as all people, face — and a crucial one is the destruction of the environment by those who only see profits and not a healthy world for all people.

Albert Woodfox loved the outdoors, the natural world he had been denied for so many decades. The second page of the memorial program has a large photo of Woodfox with an enormous smile, holding a fish he caught.

The surviving member of the Angola 3, Robert King, was given a standing ovation as he spoke. "Albert believed in democracy, a color-blind democracy. Anyone who tells you they are living in the U.S. in a democracy; that is not true. Look around this room — people of every human hue. This is the humanity Albert loved."

A good number of the speakers during the three-hour tribute were Black Panthers. Besides Rahim, they included Bill Jennings from Sacramento, California, John "Bunchy" Crear from Houston and Yusef Omowale from Chicago.

After the memorial, Woodfox's family released Woodfox's ashes into Lake Pontchartrain, where he swam as a child.

Herbert told Workers World "Albert didn't want a funeral with people grieving and crying, so this was planned as a tribute to honor him and celebrate him. He grew up down the block from the Treme Center; the Treme neighborhood was one of the first African American communities in Louisiana. Albert would have liked that we gathered in his home."

After Woodfox was released Feb. 19, 2016, on his 69th birthday, he and King spoke to countless audiences all over the world at universities, in community centers, to federal judges and school children.

Woodfox did innumerable press conferences and media appearances. He co-founded the Louisiana Stop Solitary Coalition, which has over 500 members. In 2019 he published "Solitary: Unbroken by Four Decades in Solitary Confinement," a biography telling the story of his youth, his politicization and relentless activism. The book was a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist.

Woodfox is survived by his four brothers, his life partner Leslie George, his daughter Brenda Poole, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He will be missed by hundreds of family and friends and the countless people he never met who are inspired by his life story.

As his brother Michael said, the way to honor Albert is to continue his work to end solitary, exonerate those wrongfully convicted and fight to end mass incarceration. □

# Cops, politicians push racist 'ShotSpotter' spy tech

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

Cleveland and Detroit are among the latest cities to adopt or expand the use of gunfire detection technology, known as "ShotSpotter." Their city councils voted Oct. 10 (Cleveland) and Oct. 11 (Detroit) to drastically expand use of the technology. Cleveland will increase the area of coverage from 3 to 13 square miles, to the tune of \$2.7 million; Detroit's costs will rise from \$1.5 million to \$7 million.

Founded in 1996, the ShotSpotter company claims its systems are in use in roughly 135 cities and 140 educational institutions. Audio sensors are placed on buildings and lampposts, about 25 per square mile. When the sensors pick up the sound of gunfire, police are alerted and dispatched to the location where the noise was heard.

The company says it "brings the power of digital transformation to law enforcement" and touts a "97% respond accuracy." (shotspotter.com) However, police departments that contract with ShotSpotter agree to withhold pertinent data from the public.

In 2021 the ACLU reported: "A critical report on the ShotSpotter gunshot detection system issued today by the City of Chicago's Inspector General (IG) is the latest indication of deep problems with the gunshot detection company and its technology, including its methodology, effectiveness, impact on communities of color and relationship with law enforcement.

The report questioned the 'operational value' of the technology and found that it increases the incidence of stop-and-frisk tactics by police officers in some neighborhoods." (tinyurl.com/3d68sne6)

Similar conclusions on the technology's implementation in Chicago were reached by Vice News, the Associated Press, Northwestern School of Law's MacArthur Justice Center, Lucy Parsons Labs, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Organized Communities Against Deportation. The MacArthur Justice Center "found that in Chicago, initial police responses to 88.7% of ShotSpotter alerts found no incidents involving a gun." (aclu.org)

Michael Williams was falsely held in the Cook County Jail almost a year after a ShotSpotter alert. Police responding to ShotSpotter killed 13-year-old Adam Toledo in 2020. A lawsuit filed in July seeks to halt its use in Chicago.

## Opponents charge racism

Sensors are typically deployed in Black and Brown neighborhoods in urban areas. An open letter to Cleveland City Council from concerned residents, initiated by Black Lives Matter Cleveland stated: "Majority Black, Brown and poor communities are already impacted by racist violence by police, and ShotSpotter technology helps further it." At a meeting of the Cleveland City Council Public Safety Committee Oct. 6, BLM Cleveland organizer Kareem Hinton called it "21st century stop-and-frisk."

Several African American council members spoke against ShotSpotter; the final vote of the committee was four in favor, two opposed and one abstention. However, only one of the 17 council members voted against the spy technology at the full council meeting Oct. 10.

Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb was a co-sponsor of the ordinance to expand

because the city budget isn't impacted. The Cleveland pilot program was funded by the Catherine L. and Edward A. Lozick Foundation, run by the billionaire heirs to the Swagelok company fortune, who are major Republican Party donors.

Detroit City Council, which twice postponed the vote, scrapped the use of federal COVID-19 funds but found other funding sources. The Detroit vote was closer than Cleveland's; only five out of nine council members voted for ShotSpotter.

"Cases from other localities show how the technology can be abused to infringe on citizens' First Amendment rights; and other localities are abandoning the technology, because it has led to more negative police/community interactions," said Council member Mary Waters. She was joined by Council President Mary Sheffield and Council members Gabriela Santiago-Romero and Angela Whitfield Calloway. All four no votes came from women of color.

The recent setbacks in Cleveland and Detroit in no way represent the end of the struggle. Many cities, most recently Dayton, Ohio, have dropped ShotSpotter. Voices against this racist use of surveillance technology are growing across the Midwest and beyond. □



Protest against ShotSpotter outside City-County building, Detroit.

ShotSpotter. The \$2.7 million bill will be paid with money taken out of federal COVID-19 relief funds. Apparently the federal government allows this use of funds, although it obviously will not prevent one single death from COVID-19.

The ShotSpotter company offers help to cities in obtaining federal funds and grant money — this assistance makes it easier to sell local officials on the technology,



# Clarion call to the movement: Prepare for th

Continued from page 1

rate, as well as lower workers' wages, and help companies like Amazon and Starbucks bust unions.

Because of what the bankers are doing, workers stand to lose their homes either through eviction or foreclosure, lose their pensions, have their cars repossessed and be unable to provide food for their families. The Fed's war is not limited to workers in the U.S.

It's an attack on workers and oppressed peoples everywhere. U.S. imperialism is once again weaponizing one of the remaining clubs that a crumbling empire holds over the world. The U.S. dollar is still, in effect, the currency of the world by virtue of U.S. imperialism's economic and military strength. Ninety percent of all trade in the world is done in U.S. dollars.

Raising the interest rates strengthens the dollar against every other currency, making food and essentials far more expensive everywhere in the world. Workers will pay a lot more for a loaf of bread in Italy or for groceries in Spain. But those who will be hurt the most are the poorest people, who live where 85% of the people on the planet live, in the Global South.

What the Federal Reserve is doing could quadruple the cost of food and medicine in most of the countries of Africa or in places like Pakistan or Peru. These are areas of the world where starvation is already a crisis. This will cause the poorest countries to default on their debt payments to the IMF, making life and survival much harder.

This is going to ignite social uprisings, the fall of governments, and revolutions.

Those of us who live at the center of world imperialism, here in the U.S., have a special obligation to foster class-based alliances with the poorest people in our global class. This goal must be very high on the agenda of the working-class movement in the U.S. It is not based on pity or paternalism but on the objective of realizing revolutionary internationalism. If the capitalist crisis enables the working class to make progress along these lines, it brings the whole world closer to socialist revolution.

## Crisis in the making for a long, long time

Apart from the reasons that the capitalist class gives for any capitalist economic crisis — reasons that are superficial, confusing and outright false — the fundamental causes are both historic, as well as contemporary. Capitalist economic catastrophes don't merely repeat each other; they get worse. What used to be considered cyclical crises give way to a systemic crisis that can be delayed, even hidden for a while, but no longer really stopped.

As the magnitude of capitalist overproduction grows exponentially with the vast changes to the productive forces of the economy, each subsequent capitalist crisis becomes wider, worse, more global and more difficult to control. The new technology of the digital age has made the crisis of capitalist overproduction a permanent feature of capitalism.

The amazing new generations of technology that make the world smaller, more connected, and should make hunger, homelessness, poverty and want things of the past, under capitalism tend to make the rich richer and everyone else poorer. The pandemic exposed capitalism as a system that actively harms society, blocks further social progress and development and poses an immediate and existential threat to the life of the planet.

This is the reason that so many young workers are demoralized and filled with hopelessness. Economic insecurity and capitalist climate armageddon have convinced many that they have no future. We must all



May Day march in New York City

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

work hard to turn this hopelessness into revolutionary anti-capitalist rage that fuels the class struggle.

## Shouldn't this crisis be the main issue for the working class?

How to prepare for this capitalist economic crisis should be the primary discussion among those who consider themselves Marxists; to think otherwise would be contrary to revolutionary Marxist theory. To the extent that this crisis has not yet become the main priority of the left is a reflection of the left and the working-class movement's ideological, political and organizational weaknesses. Setbacks and losses over an extended period of time have tended to weaken the most revolutionary forces and buttress the more numerous reformist and social-democratic forces.

In many left circles, talk of capitalist crisis leading to revolution is considered proven wrong by history, and talk of revolution is considered unrealistic at best. Unfortunately, these notions make it easy for a section of the capitalist ruling class, such as the Democratic Party in the U.S., to control the working class and keep it tied to capitalist-class interests.

The global economic crisis unfolding before us is going to

change all of this. Already, we have seen young radical workers breathe new life into the working class with organizing drives that are transforming the old traditional labor movement. Socialism is already more popular than it's ever been, and this capitalist crisis is going to explode the ranks of anti-capitalist militants.

## Why the whole capitalist economy is sitting on the biggest debt bubble ... ever

Today, the whole world's capitalist economy is sitting on the biggest debt bubble in history. Some believe that the debt bubble could be as big as 10 or even 20 times the size of the capitalist world economy! In many ways, it is the debt crisis that capitalists are the most horrified about. The only thing that scares the capitalist ruling class more is the prospect of the working class rising up and making socialist revolution.

How did this happen? As the crisis of capitalist overproduction has increasingly deprived the rich of their

desired profit margins, the capitalist system began moving away from prioritizing manufacturing and selling things as their only source of making profits. Capitalism has become more and more dependent on the manipulation of finance capital to satisfy its greed.

This is why the banks have come to play the dominant role in the global capitalist economy, along with financial markets. Why produce things that people can use when you can get richer by lending or investing and trading and buying stocks, bonds and the innumerable other ways that finance capitalism trades in paper and debts, while the living standard of the working class plummets.

Fidel Castro once said that, instead of meeting the real needs of society, capitalism had turned the world's economy into a giant Las Vegas casino.

The problem with "casino" capitalism is that, as in any Ponzi scheme, ultimately at the end of the day, there can be only a very few winners, with everyone else left in very, very big debt.

The creation of unimaginable and mostly hidden debt is a fundamental feature of a system that is dominated by finance capital. Fourteen years ago, something happened that made the capitalist debt crisis a million times worse.

The 2008 global financial crash began with the collapse of the mortgage loan business, an integral part of the capitalist financial system. Of course, the millions of workers who lost their homes were not bailed out. However, the financial system, minus a few players like Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns, was. Before the damage was partially and temporarily contained by some of the most extraordinary measures in the history of the capitalist system, the entire world financial system almost completely collapsed.

It would have collapsed, were it not for frantic meetings across the world and agreements, mostly secret, between panicked central bankers from New York and Washington, Germany, France, England, Japan and all the major banks in the world, to put the financial system on life support.

The whole capitalist system was so shaken by the crash of 2008 that they decided to do something completely unprecedented. The major central banks of the world, led by the Federal Reserve Bank, agreed that in order to prevent such an unimaginable crisis in the future, they would collectively lower interest rates to reboot financial markets.

But they went further. Under the label of "quantitative easing," the banks printed trillions in currency and funneled it into the financial system. The Federal Reserve pumped at least \$20 trillion into the financial system, not into the actual economy but into the big banks to use as they pleased.

In the early days of the pandemic, with the economy closing down and financial markets crashing, central banks led by the Federal Reserve pumped trillions more into the financial system and into the economy to prevent a worldwide depression.

The problem is all this money, that central banks printed to prevent the financial system from collapsing, had no relationship to anything of real value; and therefore, all this currency was virtually worthless. This is one of the main reasons why there is such a

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Protest against white-supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia, August 2017.



# The biggest global capitalist crisis in history

*Continued from page 6*

gigantic debt crisis.

The size of the debt crises is concealed until there's an economic crisis that is so big that the real value of things can no longer be hidden, and the extent of debt is exposed. This is the reality that is beginning to unravel. The central banks can't keep the financial system on life support forever; this reality is central to the crisis the system has entered.

In the capitalist financial system, currency, stocks and other kinds of paper may have a face value attached to it; however, that is misleading. In reality, the paper is either worth much less, or worthless, or actually really reflects hidden debt that will eventually be forced into the light of day.

Back in 2008, the thing that the bankers were worried to death about was contagion. The bankers understood that their banks and their financial system are a house of cards.

The contagion could start with a country defaulting on a loan payment or a bank somewhere, not even a big bank, collapsing. That is because bankers know that no matter how much they lie, it's likely that one or two events could have a "domino effect." Last week, Credit Suisse had to reassure its clients that the bank was solvent. Since then, the Bank of England has had to take measures to reassure financial markets that something in London wasn't about to go bust.

## War and fascism: What capitalism resorts to in a crisis like this

The war in the Ukraine, which is really a proxy war against Russia led by U.S. imperialism and its allies, has in a number of critical ways exacerbated the world economic crisis. Among other things, this war is about another attempt by the U.S. imperialist empire-in-decline to once again redivide the world in its interest. The main target of U.S. imperialism is China.

Some think that the U.S. has entered a post-nuclear epoch, where the use of nuclear weapons that could destroy the world is unthinkable and therefore off the table. When has U.S. imperialism been rational, especially if it is desperate? It reminds us of an important historical lesson: When a world crisis of the magnitude of the one that is developing is upon us, either the working class uses that crisis to further its own class and revolutionary goals, or the imperialists use the crisis to save themselves through either war or fascism.

We need not look anywhere else around the world to see the dangers of fascism. It is part of the political crisis facing the workers and oppressed peoples right here. The Democratic Party's abandonment of even the pretense of representing the workers and instead uttering empty rhetoric, about "how our great democracy is in danger," makes pro-fascist forces feel more emboldened. Recently Italy, which like most of Europe is in a deep recession, elected the leader of a neofascist party to be prime minister.

I'm not saying that now Italy is fascist. Yet this is another reminder of the price the working class pays, when instead of taking advantage of a crisis in its own class interest, it leaves a vacuum for others to fill.

## Is it a revolutionary period?

For the better part of several centuries, revolutionaries have debated whether or not either a country, a region of the world or the entire world was in a revolutionary period. It is often not an easy question to answer.

When the working-class movement is weak and the revolutionary forces or vanguard forces and organizations are weak, it seems that these facts alone answer the question. However, revolutionary periods are produced by complex and varied events and crises over a period of time. The capitalist crisis that we are facing is the kind of thing that creates revolutionary periods.

The working class can go through endless years and decades

of passivity, politically unconscious, unorganized and dormant, and, then all of a sudden over a relatively short amount of time, will wake up, become radicalized, organized and ready to change the world.

We would be mistaken not to see this potential in the period that the world is entering. Revolutionary forces



Stiscione, Italy, Oct. 2018.

in the working-class movement would be remiss in their duties not to see this and to prepare for it. The opportunity to do this is the reason why many of us became communists in the first place.

## The lessons of 2008: The working class must rise up this time!

It's important to review the lessons of the 2008 capitalist crisis. This is the crisis that gave us the "Great Recession." This recession made the poor even poorer, labor unions weaker and created more precarious jobs. The ruling class allowed the first Black person to become president, in the wake of the financial crisis, in part to take out insurance against rebellions. One of the main social and political consequences of the 2008 crisis is that it accelerated what is a global social process.

As Karl Marx and Frederick Engels predicted in the Communist Manifesto, the "Great Recession" pushed more college-educated young people, who thought that they would have a comfortable life, out of the middle class and into the working class. During that time, the labor unions held big marches against budget cuts and layoffs, gave platforms to capitalist politicians to sound militant, and then instructed union workers to return home, when many of us were agitating for workers to occupy things.

There were a few exceptions; in December of 2007, several hundred migrant workers in Chicago occupied the window factory that the bosses were closing down. The ruling class was so worried that the idea of occupying things would catch on that they sent top bankers to negotiate directly with the workers.

In early 2011, thousands of teachers, education workers and public workers occupied the state capitol

building in Madison, Wisconsin, to protest the governor's plan to essentially turn the state into an anti-union, "right-to-work" state. Workers World Party supported and participated in this brave and massive struggle. The Madison occupation should have started a wave of worker occupations across the country; the Democrats made sure that this did not happen.

Finally, in the fall of 2011, young people started the Occupy Movement in New York City that spread across the country. Actually, the Occupy Movement spread from Southern Europe to the U.S. The workers were intrigued by the Occupy Movement. But once again, labor leaders and politicians, who praised the occupations, worked overtime to insure that the workers would not follow its example. And so, an opportunity to open up a massive, militant workers' struggle on a wide basis was lost.

After the Occupy Wall Street movement, the Black Lives Matter movement came on the scene. This movement was in reality a working-class movement. However, it was not politically ready to declare itself as such. The inability of the working class to assert itself in a major, militant and sustained way in part laid the basis for the ascension of Trump. We must fight like hell to make sure that the working class doesn't miss the opportunity to do that this time.

## How to prepare for the struggle that's coming: A classwide uprising

How to prepare for the class struggle that the capitalist economic crisis is going to bring is the most important thing facing the entire working-class movement. It must be considered the most serious and consequential task. What alliances are possible? What strategies should be considered? This will take time and careful work to determine. Revolutionaries and all forces who want to fight and not be held back should be thinking about this. In lieu of these preparations, the broad political outline of what's necessary is already clear.

It's going to take a truly classwide movement, led by the most militant and revolutionary forces. What we mean by "classwide" is that the most oppressed workers must be in this struggle—more than in it, in the leadership of it. Migrant workers must be in it, not alone, like they are so many times, but with the broad support of unions and other progressive forces and movements.

The struggle against racism must be not peripheral to, but at the center of, this struggle. The young workers that are in the vanguard of the organizing drives underway at Amazon and Starbucks and Target, and many, many other places, must be in the leadership of this struggle, because they are brave, radical and hate capitalism.

This must be the kind of movement that stops marshalls from evicting people, that coordinates wider and wider workers' strikes, that occupies in mass, when ready, and shuts things down with the power of millions.

It must be a movement that goes beyond the usual demands and raises the question of workers' control. It must be a class-based movement that cannot be stopped by the Democrats.

It must be a movement that is anti-capitalist and impossible for those who are really against it to either tame or control it. It must be anti-imperialist, and it must be a movement that sees itself, in words and in bold actions, as part of the reawakening of a worldwide working-class upsurge. A development like this would be decisive, and it would help pave the road that leads to socialist revolution. □



Starbucks workers strike, Buffalo, New York, July 11.



# Say NO to U.S. wars!

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Northern cities and states with sanctuary policies.

There is no acknowledgement in the election debates that the migrants are seeking refuge from brutal U.S. sanctions on countries like Cuba and Venezuela and U.S. economic policies ravaging Central American countries.

The struggle over control, pricing and access to oil is at the heart of the current conflict in Ukraine — a struggle stretching over decades. In Sept. 25, 1997, WW managing editor Leslie Feinberg wrote, “U.S. imperialism has sent a firm message to potential rivals in Europe and Asia: the vast wealth of the central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union belongs to Wall Street. At least, that’s what the generals would want everyone to believe. Six hundred twenty U.S. paratroopers flew 7,700 miles from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to drop into Kazakhstan on Sept. 15.

“The message I would leave is that there is no nation on the face of the Earth that we cannot get to,” blustered Gen. John Sheehan, commander of the U.S. Atlantic forces. The maneuvers were coordinated by NATO. ... Thousands demonstrated in Ukraine in August [1997] against NATO maneuvers in that country.”

Now in response to UNAC’s call, actions are taking place across the U.S. and Canada and in Belgium, Germany, Spain, Sweden and elsewhere. Here are some snapshots.

## On the East Coast

The Bronx Anti-War Coalition, in partnership with UNAC and the International Action Center, organized a demonstration in the heart of the **South Bronx in New York City**. The rally on Fordham Plaza centered local community leaders speaking from La Peña del Bronx, TBS New Direction and United We Stand, United We Stronger, who proclaimed, “Where’s the \$60 billion+ for the Bronx?”

They vehemently criticized U.S. spending on the NATO proxy war against Russia at the expense of vital social services, such as housing, health care, schools, addiction treatment and refuge for people fleeing violence and instability caused by U.S. imperialism.

Protesters marched to the nearby U.S. Army Recruiting Center, where activists condemned military recruiters preying on Black and Latinx high school students through the “poverty draft.” Speakers concluded with calls to end the new cold war against China and Russia and motivated active solidarity with anti-imperialist and liberation struggles in Puerto Rico, Palestine, Haiti and Cuba.

Representatives spoke from organizations including Black Alliance for Peace, Amazon Labor Union, A Call to Action on Puerto Rica/Puerto Rico Not For Sale, Cuba Sí Coalition, Bronx Green Party, Haiti Liberté, People’s Power Assembly, Struggle La Lucha, UNAC, Workers Assembly Against Racism and Workers World Party.

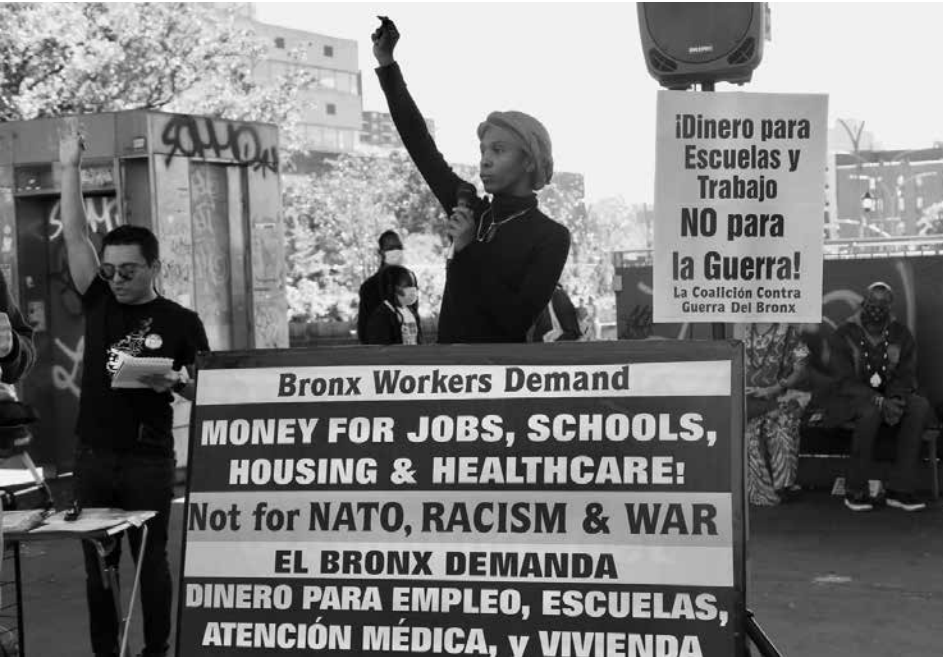
In **Philadelphia**, antiwar forces from the International Action Center and Workers World Party marched in Spiral Q’s annual People Hood puppet pageant, Oct. 15. Carrying three large antiwar banners, they spread the message: War and military spending drain resources for housing, health care and education from communities. Philadelphia Boriqua activists protested U.S. colonial occupation and destruction of Puerto Rico. Palestine Alliance members hoisted a large “Free Palestine” banner and carried a giant puppet of Handala, Palestinian symbol of resistance.



Portland, Oregon

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

*Continued U.S. sanctions, as well as direct and proxy wars, are assaults on the oppressed and working people inside this country and across the rest of the world. In desperate moves to maintain its slipping capitalist dominance, the U.S. continues to accelerate such attacks.*



Kris Cerisier, Black Alliance for Peace, the Bronx, New York City

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



Oakland, California

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

There was broad support along the winding route — from the historic Paul Robeson House to Clark Park — for the antiwar contingent and other anti-imperialist groups.

## ... and on the West Coast

In **Portland, Oregon**, an impressive group of protesters rallied at the Art Museum and marched through the city to hear from additional powerful speakers at a second rally. Daniel Shea, president of Portland Veterans for Peace, emphasized: “Endless imperialist wars are taking us to the brink of Armageddon via a possible nuclear war!” He hammered the fact that “the U.S./NATO proxy war with Russia has put Ukrainian lives on the line, like pawns in an international game of chess for power and imperial full-spectrum dominance.”

Sam, from People Organizing for Philippine Solidarity (POPS), said, “When U.S. imperialists call someone a terrorist, we need to ask ‘Who is the real terrorist?’ People who take up arms for peace and justice? Or those who profit from endless war?” Instead of funding wars, Sam said, “U.S. tax dollars could be used for housing in Portland, where about 15,000 people experience homelessness every day, or used to address the climate crisis — it’s not supposed to be 81 degrees here in October!”

Danny of Workers World Party exhorted the crowd, “U.S.-backed NATO has more than doubled since the Cold War ended in 1991. The U.S. uses NATO to help justify wars, sanctions and economic strangulation, inflicting long-term suffering on civilian populations around the world. Disband NATO, stop the endless wars! And challenge U.S. world domination.”

Speaking from POPS, Dana pointed out that the Biden administration is pouring tens of billions of dollars into a proxy war with Russia, provoking armed conflict with China and arming countless wars globally. She highlighted how war profiteers are a small fraction of 1% of the world population; “And the rest of us, the billions of masses, have so much to gain by toppling U.S. imperialism!” The Portland march was sponsored by the International League of Peoples’ Struggle, POPS, Resist U.S.-Led War Movement, Veterans for Peace and WWP-Portland.

In front of the Federal Building in downtown **Oakland, California**, activists from throughout the Bay Area chanted and spoke out against U.S. endless wars. The rally, co-chaired by Jeff Mackler of the United National Antiwar Coalition and Judy Greenspan of the International Action Center, had a wide range of speakers demanding an end to U.S./NATO wars abroad and the war at home against the working class.

Jack Heyman, retired leader of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and member of the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, tied the fight to free Mumia together with the decades-long history of Local 10 actions to stop U.S. imperialist wars.

Pierre LaBossiere, co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee, exposed the role of the U.S. in oppressing and exploiting the Haitian people. LaBossiere called on the crowd to oppose President Joe Biden’s current engineering of U.S. and European military intervention in Haiti. Demonstrators vowed to oppose all U.S. wars — from the war of police assassinations of Black and Latinx youth at home to the U.S./NATO-provoked war in Ukraine.

*Contributing to this article were Sara Flounders, Judy Greenspan, Lyn Neeley, Richie Merino, Betsey Piette and Brenda Ryan.*



# U.S. set to invade Haiti yet again

By G. Dunkel

Nearly 85% of the Haitian people live on \$5.30 a day or less. Severe malnutrition among young children is rampant, and the streets are overflowing with uncollected garbage. Potable water is scarce along with medical care — cholera, which is often spread through contaminated water, has broken out, with hundreds of cases reported in the last few weeks.

Access to education is spotty. The state has not fed or given water to prisoners since the beginning of the year, leading radio stations to run feed-the-prisoner campaigns; Haitian prisoners are dying from malnutrition.

It has been clear for months that acting Prime Minister/President Ariel Henry — appointed 16 months ago by the U.S. with the blessing of the Core Group — has not been able to control the rising, militant, hungry anger of the Haitian masses. The Core Group consists of the ambassadors of Canada, France, Brazil, Germany and Spain, along with representatives of the U.N. and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Since the beginning of August, hundreds of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets in increasingly militant



Down with Ariel!

demonstrations to express their total rejection of Henry’s government and U.S. imperialism.

On Oct. 10, huge demonstrations rose up in Port-au-Prince, Petit-Goâve, Jacmel, l’Île de la Gonâve, Mirebalais, Lascahobas, Cap-Haïtien and Gonaïves. In Cap-Haïtien, a massive demonstration was attacked by cops firing live rounds. One demonstrator was shot dead; in reaction the crowd attacked and ransacked businesses, including a branch of Unibank, one of two major Haitian banks, which was set ablaze.

Since their puppet Ariel Henry has proven to be hugely unpopular, the U.S. has apparently decided to try someone

else. A Disaster Assistance Response Team is currently in Port-au-Prince. DART teams generally consist of “experts” from the political arms of U.S. imperialism, who assess “needs” and organize the delivery of “aid.”

While in Port-au-Prince, DART is meeting with Acting Prime Minister/President Henry and members of his cabinet and the political parties in his orbit. DART, it seems, is interviewing replacement candidates.

The U.S. Coast Guard has assigned its largest gunship to patrol off Port-au-Prince and conduct maneuvers with the Haitian Coast Guard, with training to interdict people fleeing the current crises on sailboats.

**U.S. propaganda**

Ever since the U.S. used the assassination of Jean Vilbrun Guillaume Sam in 1915 — Sam was then president of Haiti — as a pretext to set up a de facto protectorate, it has selected individuals as targets, using their “perfidy” or their “evil deeds” as justification for its intervention and the destruction of the movements they led.

The U.S. current target is so-called “gangs.” A distinctive aspect of the social, economic, political, environmental and

cultural crises in Port-au-Prince and other major cities — all caused by imperialism — are groups the bourgeois press calls “gangs” that have been able to gain control of some neighborhoods, either in self-defense or to use as bases for kidnapping and other extortion.

Both self-defense groups and reactionary opponents have been struggling over the control of Cité Soleil, a large, extremely poor neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, which controls access to Haiti’s main fuel terminal Varreux. The shortages in food, medicine, electricity, gasoline and public transportation caused by the interruption of access to Varreux, are being used by the U.S. as justification for an international intervention.

The billions of dollars and a decade and a half of imperialist intervention didn’t suppress Haitian resistance the last time and won’t this time. The Haitian people will fight for the right to control their own country.

There are signs of response to this threat of intervention. In New York City, Fanmi Lavalas NY and KOMOKODA called a demonstration in Brooklyn’s Haitian community Oct. 17 against “the domination of the U.S., the U.N. and the Core Group.” □

# University owes Black community reparations

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

For weeks, students at the University of Pennsylvania have joined residents facing eviction from the University City Townhomes to demand the Ivy League university use some of its \$20.7 billion endowment to save the low-income residents’ homes. UPenn, they point out, played an historic role in gentrifying the Black communities in West Philadelphia, once known as the Black Bottom, where UC Townhomes is located.

Nearly 70 families face eviction at the end of 2022, as the property owner, Altman Group, is ending a decades-long HUD contract. Altman plans to demolish the homes and sell the land to developers for \$100 million.

Spokespersons for UPenn have loudly denied any link with the Townhomes or wrongdoing regarding gentrifying the Black Bottom, just as they have repeatedly denied any ties to enslavement — even as other Ivy League colleges have admitted their shameful histories.

But on Oct. 11, the Philadelphia Inquirer released a report titled “Indebted,” by Zoe Greenberg, that established direct historical links between the University of Pennsylvania and the slave trade. The report surfaced just days after the City of Philadelphia finally issued a formal apology for experiments conducted on mostly Black incarcerated people by a University of Pennsylvania researcher at Holmesburg Prison from the 1950s to the 1970s.

## 1899 UPenn trustees embraced slavery founding

Competing with other Ivy League colleges to stake claim to being the oldest U.S. university, in 1899 University of Pennsylvania trustees embraced Southern preacher and Georgia enslaver George Whitefield, whose followers owned a building in Philadelphia’s Old City. The trustees claimed the property as the original university campus established in 1740. Whitefield, who enslaved 29,000 people in Georgia, strongly advocated re-legalizing enslavement in all the original colonies.

And in 1919, UPenn unveiled a bronze statue of Whitefield. They only removed it a century later, in 2020, when the international Black Lives Matter movement was demanding the dismantling of monuments to white supremacy.

In 2018, Black UPenn student VanJessica Gladney and other students, organized as the Penn & Slavery Project, released reports on their investigation, which exposed the school’s connections to enslavement. While UPenn repeatedly claimed no “direct university involvement” with enslavers, the research done by the group disproved the story UPenn has painted. The university has not set aside money for restitution or even joined the large formal group Universities Studying Slavery.

The Penn & Slavery Project found historic tax records for UPenn trustees that dispute the innocence claims. The records show that over 75 of the university’s early

trustees, including the first provost, enslaved people and reported them as “property.”

**Financed by blood money**

The students found direct evidence, including written letters from an enslaved man forced to work at the university in 1757. In 1771 the university founders sent their provost William Smith — equivalent to today’s university president — on a fundraising trip to South Carolina to drum up donations. Smith visited 100 of Charleston’s wealthiest people and raised \$200,000 for the school. The single largest donor was Gabriel Manigault, who enslaved 300 people. After this successful fundraising trip, the trustees planned another trip to Jamaica in 1772.

The students from the Penn & Slavery Project note UPenn continues to deny this strong evidence.

But there is more. Some of the earliest students at UPenn’s medical school dissected cadavers stolen from Black burial grounds in Philadelphia. The university was a primary champion of debunked racist theories in the early 19th century.

## The Morton Collection

From the 1830s through the 1840s, Philadelphia-based physician and anatomy lecturer Samuel G. Morton collected over 1,300 human skulls, which he used to promote white supremacy based on the size of the crania. When Morton died in 1851, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia purchased and expanded the collection, later moving it to the University of Penn Museum in 1966.

In 2019 the Penn & Slavery Project research found that the collection included enslaved people’s remains, further documenting the university’s connection to enslavement and scientific racism. In 2020, in the midst of student protests over the police murder of George Floyd, the university put the collection in “storage.” But it was not until April 2021 that the UPenn Museum formally apologized for “unethical possession” of human remains and announced plans to repatriate or for the reburial of more than 50 skulls belonging to enslaved people from Cuba and the U.S.

## Inhumane experiments on Black prisoners

The City of Philadelphia finally issued a formal apology Oct. 6 to Black men and their families for subjecting them to unethical medical experiments while they were incarcerated at the city’s Holmesburg Prison from the 1950s through the 1970s. Most were awaiting trial and could not afford money for bail.

Prison officials let University of Pennsylvania researcher Dr. Albert Kligman conducted dermatological, biochemical and pharmaceutical experiments on about 300 men, exposing them to viruses, fungus, asbestos, and chemical agents including dioxin — a carcinogenic component of the defoliant Agent Orange. (AP, Oct. 6)

Kligman was a long-standing faculty member in UPenn’s



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Students and Townhomes residents disrupt UPenn convocation Aug. 29.

department of dermatology. Even after it was revealed that his experiments left many former prisoners with lifelong scars and health issues, UPenn continued to honor him with prestigious lectureships and travel awards. A 2000 lawsuit by several former prisoners against UPenn and Kligman was thrown out because of a statute of limitations. While the university established research funding for diversity in dermatologic research, it has paid no reparations to the men Kligman harmed or to their families.

## University City ‘Penntrification’

On Aug. 29, several university students joined UC Townhomes residents in disrupting the convocation for incoming students, in order to shine a light on UPenn’s role as a major agent of gentrification in former Black communities, especially the Black Bottom. Much of the area has been repurposed for continued university expansion and renamed University City.

As a nonprofit, UPenn pays no property taxes. Except for the years 1995-2000, it opted out of a voluntary payment program known as PILOTs that allows tax-exempt organizations to financially support local governments. Carrying a banner that read “Stop Penntrification,” the protesters shouted during UPenn President Liz Magill’s opening remarks to the convocation and demanded that the university use some of its \$20.7 billion endowment to pay \$62 million in PILOTs this year.

The students say UPenn has the money to help save UC Townhomes; however, the university instead chose to retaliate against nine students involved in the protest by threatening them with disciplinary hearings.

For decades UPenn has denied the evidence and refused to apologize for profiting off the labor of enslaved Africans. The billion-dollar Ivy League school continues to encroach into the surrounding predominantly Black working-class communities.

The time for apologies is long over. Reparations are in order — and who better to benefit than the descendants of enslaved Africans, who made their way to Philadelphia’s Black Bottom community, many of whom now live in UC Townhomes. □



# ‘A political con game’

Over the weekend of Oct. 7-9 during demonstrations calling for reproductive justice, chants included “vote them out” and “Roe, Roe, Roe your vote.” These chants were led by Women’s March organizers trying to channel the militant energy of young activists into working to elect Democratic Party candidates.

Understandably, millions of women, gender-oppressed people and allies will take part in the Nov. 8 election with the goal of defeating right-wing, misogynist and fascist politicians. In some states there are referenda on whether or not to enshrine abortion rights in state law. Many people, newly registered, will be voting for the first time.

But is a purely electoral strategy enough to restore and secure the right to abortion access — recently overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court? Or to protect the right to be safe from racist killer cops; the rights to a job, education, housing and health care; the right to be represented by a union; or even the basic right to vote? Will electing Democrats guarantee any of our rights currently under siege?

No.  
We take a Marxist view of the capitalist state, which the so-called “two-party system” is designed to uphold. Our view



March for Reproductive Justice, Atlanta, Oct. 2, 2021.

corresponds to that of the great revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin, who explained in “The State and Revolution” that “To decide once every few years which members of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament [or in our case Congress and state governments] — this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics.”

**‘Nothing but disguised hypocrisy’**

We would find common ground with Malcolm X, who, in the historic speech “The Ballot or the Bullet,” said Black people were “the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy.”

Speaking in Cleveland less than a year

before his tragic assassination, he explained, “They have got a con game going on, a political con game, and you and I are in the middle.” Later in the speech he added, “The same government that you go abroad to fight for and die for is the government that is in a conspiracy to deprive you of your voting rights, deprive you of your economic opportunities, deprive you of decent housing, deprive you of decent education.”

At that time the Democratic Party controlled the Senate, the House of Representatives and the White House — Malcolm X referred to President Lyndon Johnson of Texas as “a Southern cracker.” The party was home to white-supremacist, segregationist Southern “Dixiecrats.” At that moment the Civil Rights Act was subject to a filibuster by members of both parties.

Lenin was writing in 1917, and Malcolm X was speaking in 1964, but their words ring true today.

It’s not hard to dispel the myth that the Democratic Party is the party of working-class and oppressed people. At the local level, it’s often Democratic-led city governments and courts that act to strengthen the

repressive state apparatus — draining city budgets by spending money on jails and new equipment for the police, while declining to act against violent cops.

At the federal level, Democratic elected officials uphold the role of U.S. imperialism as the police of the world, handing over trillions of dollars to the Pentagon and most recently funding the war in Ukraine. The “most pro-union” President Joe Biden, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Biden’s appointees to the National Labor Relations Board have failed to block the blatant union-busting by Amazon, Starbucks and other big corporations.

As far as abortion rights go, it’s worth remembering that former President Jimmy Carter signed the Hyde Amendment, which denied coverage for abortions to low-income pregnant people on Medicaid. Reproductive rights activists say: It’s time to repeal the Hyde Amendment — but how long must we wait for some Democratic officials in Washington to accept the challenge?

Voting will not fundamentally alter the balance of power under the capitalist system of exploitation. Every gain that workers and oppressed people have made has been through class struggle. That has been and will remain true, regardless of who gets elected Nov. 8.

**Want change? Organize and fight for it! □**

## Ukraine Wage a class war against imperialist war

By John Catalinotto

The latest U.S.-NATO-Kiev aggressions in the Ukraine war theater — bombing the bridge to Crimea and the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines — have escalated the fighting, threatening a continental or even a worldwide conflagration.

The world’s richest bosses, bankers and billionaires, and their agents in Washington, London, Berlin and Brussels, have imposed the war in Ukraine on the world’s workers.

Since the U.S.-incited Maidan coup in 2014, which established a reactionary anti-Russian regime in Kiev to enable NATO’s expansion toward Russia’s borders, the imperialists created an existential threat to Moscow, making war nearly inevitable. (See articles at [workers.org/tag/nato,russia,ukraine/](https://workers.org/tag/nato,russia,ukraine/))

The war’s victims include the working class in Ukraine and Russia, who are paying in blood; the peoples of the Global South, who are denied normal sources of food; and the workers in Western Europe, who face enormous hikes in fuel and food costs and potential loss of jobs as their industry closes.

U.S. workers face higher prices for food and housing, plus the diversion of government funds from social programs to profits for the military-industrial complex.

Given the price workers pay for the war, anti-imperialists and others organizing for a socialist world must find an opening to organize against the war. In doing so, they must dismantle a serious obstacle.

**War propaganda**

The U.S. and NATO answered the direct Russian intervention with sanctions and by arming the Kiev regime. The capitalist media monopoly, as dominant as the Pentagon, perpetuated lies, distortions, exaggerations and absurdities, repeated a thousand times over, to shape the discourse.

The billionaire ruling class dominates ideology and imposes its war propaganda on the world. A major goal of this propaganda was to demonize Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president. This started long before the war and tripled after Russia’s intervention.

Putin’s demonization followed the pattern of earlier attacks on any leader Washington targets. To name only a few, Saddam Hussein of Iraq (twice), Moammar Gadhafi of Libya and Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia were all demonized before and during the time the imperialist military bombed and/or invaded their countries, destroying and tearing them apart. U.S. presidents



Rally outside the U.S. Recruiting Center in the Bronx, New York, Oct. 15.

PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

actually did to those countries what Putin is accused of doing in Ukraine.

In much of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the populations treated the imperialist war propaganda as the usual U.S. hypocrisy they had experienced many times before. And during United Nations’ votes to condemn Russia — introduced with the heaviest U.S. pressure — even the governments of dozens of these countries refused to go along, abstaining.

**The Big Lie in Europe**

In Europe, the corporate media’s Big Lie was that Putin threatened to reestablish a capitalist Russian Empire, with the old borders of the socialist Soviet Union, and even threatened neutral countries in Western Europe. The lie had an impact.

Up until this year, the antiwar movements in Finland and Sweden could mobilize quickly and militantly against joining NATO. Under the avalanche of propaganda, the rulers of those countries were able to apply for NATO membership with only token opposition.

Taking advantage of the initial confusion in the antiwar movement, the German regime doubled its military outlay, shipped weapons to Ukraine and switched from relying on relatively cheap Russian gas to higher-priced fuel — much of it fracked natural gas from the U.S. The German working class paid the price. London — of course — and Rome and Paris increased military outlays and sent weapons to the Kiev regime.

The politicians representing the German, French, Italian and British ruling classes, along with other capitalist politicians in Europe, have decided at this point to protect the class interests of the European bankers and billionaires by accepting the leadership of U.S. imperialism, as they have in nearly every crisis since 1945. The apparent goal of the European ruling class is to hang on

to their roles as junior partners in the U.S.-led imperialist gang that exploits the world’s producers.

When some in the German regime appeared to question the wisdom of rejecting long-standing agreements to buy Russian gas, someone blew up the pipelines carrying Russian gas to Germany and closed the question. As a recent Workers World article showed, only the U.S. military had the motive and means to do this — and they had U.S. and British ships near those pipelines at the time. ([workers.org/2022/10/66955/](https://workers.org/2022/10/66955/))

The challenge for those who oppose imperialist wars is to find a way to break the ideological hold of the ruling class and its dominant media on the working class. An important step is to join the defense of working-class interests to the battle against the war.

**Class struggle breaks out**

While antiwar demonstrations have taken place in many countries, the central country for an outbreak of class struggle has been France (see related article in this issue). Refinery workers, angry that fuel bosses are growing richer while they can’t afford monthly necessities, have struck. French President Emmanuel Macron, while delivering weapons to arm Ukraine, has attempted to cut workers’ pensions and conscript refinery workers to force them to work — breaking their strike. So far this has only spread the strike.

It is outstanding that organizations in France not only helped build the Oct. 18 union protests but joined the working-class struggle with the struggle against imperialist war in Ukraine. A demonstration of 140,000 people in Paris Oct. 16, demanding lower prices and more environmental protection, showed the potential for such a movement.

The antiwar movement in Portugal has called for demonstrations Oct. 26 in Lisbon and Oct. 27 in Porto.

In many protests around the U.S. on Oct. 15-16 against U.S./NATO aggression, slogans highlighted the class interests of the workers and how the war hurts them. At a rally in a neighborhood plaza in New York City’s poorest borough, speakers proclaimed: “Where’s the \$60 billion+ for the Bronx?”

While this embryonic international movement has a long way to go, the most conscious revolutionary actors should keep the same message alive that the Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin taught during World War I and which the French comrades reminded us of: The main enemy is the ruling class of your own country, and the goal is to turn the imperialist war (against the workers) into a war against the ruling class and for socialism. □



# Major escalation against Russia in Crimea

## Kiev, the EU and NATO take world to the edge

By Fadi Kassem, Georges Gastaud and Aymeric Monville

*This statement, by three leaders in the PRCF (Pole for Communist Renaissance, France), was published Oct. 9. Translation: Workers World*

Whatever its modus operandi, the terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge is a major provocation against Russia. Given the actual power of the Ukrainian army, this irresponsible operation indicates that NATO and the U.S.’s worst hawks are at the command post in Kiev with only one single objective: to provoke a major East-West confrontation, whatever the price for the population of Ukraine, for that of Russia, or even for the whole of Europe.

The goal now proclaimed by Washington’s neoconservatives is to smash Russia, then dismember Russia in order to dismantle Russian-Chinese cooperation, and then attack the People’s Republic of China, a country which Washington designated a long time ago as its strategic enemy (already under Obama).

Moscow is knowingly forced by the West and their Kiev subcontractors to confront a tragic dilemma: either to escalate, including perhaps the use of tactical nuclear weapons—which would entail a major risk to world peace, including the extermination of humanity—or to accept humiliation without reacting, which would encourage further aggression from the Euro-Atlantic alliance and the pro-Nazi regime of Kiev against Russia. The latter option is no less dangerous for world peace.

More than ever, true peace activists are those who explain, facts on hand, that the European Union–NATO has done everything it could since 2014 to torpedo the Minsk Agreements, allegedly guaranteed by Kiev, Paris and Berlin, and to pursue NATO’s relentless rush to the East. They contrast with those pseudo peace activists running in the pack of the holy alliance between the media and the politicians, promoted by the pseudo-left and backed

without the slightest restraint by the so-called “public service” media sector.

This rush began in 1991, during the unilateral dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, a dissolution initiated by the deceitful Mikhail Gorbachev, this false friend of peace, this true proponent of a new Munich capitulation.

However, beyond the differences that may exist on the responsibilities present in this “high-intensity conflict, which Biden, Macron and the Chief of Staff of the French Army announced, a conflict they were already preparing well before Feb. 24, 2022, personalities, who hold positions quite distant politically from the geopolitical analyses we uphold like the Gaullist Henri Guaino or the European Social Democrat Ségolène Royal, [which] demand that France, pathetically aligned today with Washington at the expense of our vital national interests, urgently find its independent voice to call for peace and negotiations.

Those who, on the “left,” like the leadership of the supposedly “radical” left and the electoral coalition NUPES (a coalition on its way to disintegration), preferred to wave the Ukrainian flag over “communist,” “green” or “socialist” town halls.

Those on the “left” who preferred rather to postpone any effective anti-NATO action, while aggressively calling for more and more weapons to be delivered to Kiev (i.e., to its neo-Nazis accomplices like those of the “Svoboda” party, an old Nazi Ukrainian party) — all those on the left who desisted from their responsibilities will have to carry the indelible stain of history, like the one carried by French, Russian, Belgian and German “socialists,” who in 1914 betrayed proletarian internationalism and the real interests of their own people, calling, under the guise of false patriotism, for the mass killings that became World War I.

More than ever, all those who understand that a continental or transcontinental war would necessarily be nuclear and lead to humankind’s extermination in our time, all those people must do

everything they can to demand negotiations, de-escalation and an end of arms deliveries and sanctions that are presently ruining the economies of European countries, while bringing economic and social chaos this fall throughout Europe for the sole benefit of U.S. imperialism and U.S. hegemonism.

But above all, it is time for the uninhibited intervention of truly communist activists and class trade unionists with workers, and as much as possible with struggles involving workers in enterprises (like in refineries, “Camaïeu,” Electric power providers, etc.). In this struggle, we do not forget the mass of wage earners who are prevented from living normally by the speculative price of gasoline and the de facto blocking of wages by Macron and their bosses.

There is a strong, even a vital connection of the defense of world peace, France’s return to an independent foreign and military policy, the defense of wages, of workers’ living conditions and social gains—in particular, guaranteed stable pensions.

The EU wants to cut these benefits, even as the self-proclaimed Empress Ursula von der Leyen relentlessly calls for an escalation of sanctions against Russia, for more weapons delivered to Ukraine and for senseless expenditures for more and more weapons as demanded by Washington, with, as a bonus, the powerful rise of German militarization with its historical interventionism on the Steppes of Russia.

From here on now, let’s bring sincere republican, anti-imperialist and antiwar slogans to the popular movement: money for wages and pensions, not for warmakers or stockholders! Stop ruinous “Sanctions,” and stop sending murderous and suicidal weapons! Stop the EU-NATO dictates that are leading France, Europe and the world towards chaos and a pan-European conflagration that could become global!

At a time when British transport workers (rail, road, docks) are moving towards a general strike and are valiantly facing the Thatcher-2 that is Cruella Truss, at a



**Attack on the bridge from mainland Russia to Crimea: An explosive charge placed in a vehicle or under the apron explodes at the passage of a fuel train, destroying three spans 64-meters-long on the lanes with traffic flowing north. The railway bridge, which also houses pipelines, was not seriously affected, despite the fire burning several tank cars.**

time when the peace movement is gaining strength in Berlin and Prague directly indicting the EU and NATO, the development of the anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggle is the main hope for the defense, not only of purchasing power and living conditions of working classes, but also for world peace and for the future of humankind and all living beings on earth.

This is all the more pertinent as the crisis of capitalist domination is worsening in Europe, where the Russian-Ukrainian conflict stirred up by Washington is undermining the European “Union” and ends up destabilizing the euro. While the French state apparatus is fracturing (see the massive protest at this very moment of judicial police officers against the Macron regime, or see how judges just sent Minister [Éric] Dupont-Moretti to face the Courts of the Republic for conflict of interests), Macron is even threatening to dissolve Parliament unless his reactionary project on delaying retirement is speedily approved ...

In 1914, Lenin already stated in essence that, in the face of the great global imperialist massacre that was to come, we must be prepared to replace the imperialist world war with the revolutionary offensive of Labor against Capital. Under very different conditions and forms, this salutary slogan, centrally associating class struggle with the defense of peace and humanity, is, in principle, more current than ever. □

# French workers resist increasing exploitation

By G. Dunkel

France is in turmoil: Gasoline shortages affect more than 60% of households; inflation is increasing; oil company profits are off the charts.

The pay of oil company executives has jumped 52%, but the bosses bitterly resist raising production worker salaries by 10%. While many European countries have had strikes and protests, France is where hundreds of thousands of workers have taken to the streets.

The oil refinery strikes began Sept. 27 and are now in their third week. The strikes have closed about a third of all French gas stations, when these ran out of fuel, and created hours-long waits at the open ones.

Workers in at least one refinery have been “requisitioned” — legally forced by the government to go back to work — but gasoline and diesel are still scarce.

Workers at the largest nuclear power plant in France have reduced their output by a third in solidarity with the refinery workers. In France, 70% of the country’s electricity is generated by nuclear power.

The General Confederation of Workers (CGT), whose chemical industry

section called the strike, along with Force Ouvrière, Solidaires, and some student and youth unions have called for a general strike Oct. 18 to defend French workers’ constitutional right to strike and to demand wages be indexed to inflation.

**The costs of sanctions against Russia**

In March 2022, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire held a press conference to announce that the total bill for France’s support of European sanctions would be 25 billion to 26 billion euros (\$27.5 billion to \$28.6 billion). (France24, March 3)

In mid-September, journalists on French television estimated that to avoid a 120% rise in the cost of energy over the winter would require 15 billion to 20 billion euros. Given the temper of the masses, that was a subsidy deal President Macron couldn’t pass up.

U.S. sanctions on Russia, which the U.S. pressured the European Union to adopt, caused a lot of turmoil in Europe because the EU relied on Russia for much of its energy imports. Changes in energy supplies have been rapid, convoluted and costly.

For example, Germany is short of natural gas, which it uses for its chemical industry and heating. France could easily

increase its imports, so it did and started to supply natural gas to Germany Oct. 13.

There have been a series of railroad strikes in Britain against the new prime minister’s anti-worker policies. In Germany, pacifist and ecologically minded youth are protesting. In Prague, the protests against the EU and NATO have been directed against the “boomerang” effects their sanctions have on people in Europe.

**France Unbowed marches**

France Unbowed (La France Insoumise), a left-wing populist French political party, called for an Oct. 16 march in early spring, with little consultation or endorsement by traditional unions. Despite that, about 140,000 people turned out to protest the current crisis in France, with a sea of red flags, competing sound systems and contingents from many towns and communities.

The rally demands had five main points: retirement at age 60; salaries to be raised to compensate for inflation; 1,100 euros given to every youth in France; prices, especially for gasoline, to

be frozen; the superprofits of energy companies clawed back.

The success of the FI rally indicates that the one-day general strike scheduled for Oct. 18 will be successful.

What the rally and the general strike have ignored is the overall context of the struggles against U.S. sanctions and the worldwide inflation those are creating. The sanctions are an imperialist tool, designed by the U.S. and NATO to break up Russia and, once that goal has been reached, take on China. □



**At the France Unbowed Party’s rally, Paris, Oct. 16, the sign reads ‘Our lives are worth more than your profits.’**





FOTO: GRANMA

Este y otro parque eólico en Cuba han permitido al país reducir el consumo de combustibles fósiles en 53.000 toneladas.

# Un huracán, dos sistemas

Las imágenes y los relatos dramáticos de la devastación causada por el huracán Ian siguen dominando las noticias. El número de muertos, que se acerca a los 100 en el momento de escribir este artículo, se espera que aumente.

Más de un millón de personas siguen sin energía eléctrica en Florida y cientos de miles sin agua. Las casas fueron arrasadas y las carreteras y puentes arrasados. Y otros horrores demasiado numerosos para enumerarlos.

Las vidas se han visto trastocadas por un huracán monstruoso, uno de los más potentes de los que se tiene constancia, con un diámetro que abarca toda la anchura de la península de Florida.

En los grandes medios de comunicación, las historias de yates y condominios de verano dañados parecen superar en número a los informes sobre el impacto desproporcionado de la tormenta en las personas de bajos ingresos y de la clase trabajadora, especialmente la gente de color. Pero la realidad no puede ocultarse: Un gran número de propietarios e inquilinos de bajos ingresos -que no pudieron pagar el seguro o que están luchando por

encontrar fondos para los deducibles requeridos para presentar una reclamación al seguro- están ahora sin hogar.

La división de clases bajo el capitalismo se revela de forma más brutal cada vez que un supuesto “desastre natural” se transforma de repente en un desastre económico para la clase trabajadora.

Estas crisis exponen el hecho de que el propósito principal del estado capitalista no es ayudar a la gente necesitada. Basta con considerar el número de muertes en el condado de Lee, que incluye a Fort Myers, que podrían haberse evitado si la evacuación se hubiera organizado mejor. La responsabilidad del mal momento recae en el gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, y en los funcionarios del condado de Lee.

Incluso después de que se emitieran las órdenes de evacuación obligatoria, el sheriff del condado de Lee, Carmine Merceno, se negó a evacuar la cárcel del condado con 457 camas, dejando a los presos en peligro. En todo el estado sólo se evacuaron unos 2.500 presos, de un total de 81.000. (Democracy Now!, 29 de septiembre)

## MUNDO OBRERO editorial

La división de clases bajo el capitalismo se revela de forma más brutal cada vez que un supuesto ‘desastre natural’ se transforma de repente en un desastre económico para la clase trabajadora.

# El autobús de los migrantes, el objetivo es el socialismo

Jugando con vidas humanas en una despreciable maniobra política, Greg Abbott, gobernador derechista de Texas, ha transportado en autobús a miles de migrantes indocumentados hacia el norte desde la frontera de Estados Unidos con México desde principios de agosto.

Los autobuses arrojan a personas sin hogar, sin trabajo y hambrientas -lejos de sus países, con pocos o ningún recurso- a la ciudad de Nueva York, Chicago o Washington, D.C. Eso si no son abandonados por su conductor en medio de la zona rural de Georgia, como casi le ocurrió a un autobús cargado.

El gobernador supremacista blanco Ron DeSantis se sumó a esta mezquindad el 15 de septiembre, llevando dos aviones cargados de inmigrantes desde su estado de Florida a la pequeña isla de Martha’s Vineyard, en Massachusetts.

Puede que la discusión en las redes sociales haya tentado a algunas personas a descartar estas acciones como un mero juego electoral entre los republicanos de extrema derecha del sur y los demócratas “liberales” del norte.

Pero esto es un “juego” político sólo si se olvida que las personas que están siendo “jockeadas” son personas que están siendo movidas por la mano del estado capitalista—ya sea que los demócratas o los republicanos ocupen el cargo.

En su lugar, preguntemos: ¿Cuál es el punto ideológico que estos derechistas están tratando de hacer a su base a través de la intimidación política?

### Ataque al derecho a la vivienda

La ciudad de Nueva York tiene una ley de “derecho al refugio” que garantiza un lugar seguro para dormir a todas las personas sin hogar, hombres, mujeres, niños y familias, vigente desde que la Coalición para los Sin Techo ganó el juicio Callahan contra Carey en 1979 y luchó por ampliar su cobertura desde entonces.

Massachusetts es el único estado de EE.UU. que tiene derecho a albergar a las familias sin hogar. Washington, D.C., y Chicago son “ciudades santuario” para los indocumentados.

Estos lugares tienen esas protecciones por el bien común de las personas que viven allí. Pero para los anticomunistas DeSantis y Abbott, estas protecciones son sospechosas: apestan a socialismo.

Abbott ha advertido de la batalla emergente entre el socialismo y el capitalismo en Estados Unidos, diciendo: “Texas es el líder del movimiento nacional por el capitalismo”. (Houston Chronicle, 6 de agosto de 2018)

DeSantis ha establecido un “Día de las Víctimas del Comunismo” en las escuelas públicas de Florida, exigiendo que los

Como la situación es tan grave, el gobernador DeSantis ha tenido que dejar de lado su ideología ultraderechista y solicitar ayuda federal. Sea lo que sea lo que el gobierno federal proporcione, puede ser más de lo que la gente de Puerto Rico reciba tras el devastador impacto del huracán Fiona, dada la historia de dominación colonial de Estados Unidos allí.

### Verdadera ayuda humanitaria, 90 millas al sur

Antes de llegar a Florida, el huracán Ian tocó tierra en el oeste de Cuba. Cuba estaba preparada: Se evacuó a la población, se construyeron refugios y se cerraron las escuelas con antelación.

La Cuba socialista es conocida en todo el mundo por su preparación ante los huracanes y sus respuestas diseñadas para minimizar el coste para las personas y los animales. Desde 1985, “el ‘Ejercicio Meteoro’ que se celebra cada año es un ejemplo de la determinación del gobierno cubano de aplicar medidas para proteger, en la medida de lo posible, la vida de las personas, los bienes y los recursos de la economía nacional frente a situaciones de desastre y se ha convertido en un factor clave en los esfuerzos nacionales en este campo durante las últimas tres décadas.” (Granma, 4 de mayo de 2016)

UNICEF informa de sólo dos víctimas mortales en Cuba.

La tormenta dejó fuera de servicio la red eléctrica de toda la isla. Inmediatamente las brigadas de trabajo comenzaron a restablecer la energía a los residentes,

estudiantes reciban “instrucción” sobre la “pobreza, el hambre, la migración, la violencia letal sistémica y la supresión de la expresión” que supuestamente ocurren bajo el socialismo.

DeSantis no reconoce que el 56% de los muertos por la policía de Florida en los últimos años eran personas de color—absolutamente víctimas de la “violencia letal sistémica.” En cuanto a la “supresión de la expresión”—¡él personalmente impulsó leyes para hacer ilegal cualquier discusión sobre la esclavitud, el racismo, la identidad de género y la sexualidad en las escuelas públicas del estado! (AfroCubaWeb.com)

Estos protofascistas están apuntando a las ciudades donde el “derecho al refugio” y al “santuario” han sido ganados por la lucha de los pueblos.

Estos programas son sólo un atisbo de la seguridad que el socialismo podría ofrecer a los trabajadores y oprimidos en nuestra vida cotidiana.

Los gobernantes y otros están maquinando para socavar la esperanza que ofrece el socialismo—dramatizando que algunos migrantes actuales son de Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela. Se supone que esto demuestra que la gente huye de la “represión” en países antiimperialistas abiertos—o ya en camino— al socialismo.

Convenientemente se omite el hecho de las acciones estadounidenses que matan—bloqueos económicos, sanciones

priorizando las áreas alrededor de los hospitales junto con los supermercados y las instalaciones de procesamiento de alimentos—con el fin de reemplazar los alimentos que tuvieron que ser arrojados durante el corte de energía.

Normalmente, el New York Times se centró en las protestas por la rapidez del proceso, pero este portavoz capitalista tuvo que admitir que las manifestaciones fueron “pequeñas”. El Times no puede ocultar el evidente contraste entre las respuestas a los huracanes en la Cuba socialista y en los Estados Unidos capitalistas.

¿A qué se debe esta disparidad? Los dos países tienen dos sistemas sociales diferentes. Estados Unidos es el país imperialista más poderoso del mundo, y el afán de lucro es lo que le ha llevado a serlo. De hecho, el afán de lucro impulsa la dependencia excesiva de los combustibles fósiles, que condujo a la catástrofe climática que está provocando desastres meteorológicos más frecuentes y graves.

Cuba es un país socialista, en el que la prioridad son las necesidades humanas y no los beneficios, a pesar del inhumano bloqueo estadounidense vigente desde 1961. Las prioridades socialistas de Cuba marcan la diferencia en el mundo. Como escribió Alejandra García en Resumen Latinoamericano el 30 de septiembre, “los cubanos demuestran que por muy duras que sean las circunstancias, la solidaridad, la esperanza y la voluntad de superar lo imposible permanecen intactas”.

Para la humanidad y para el planeta, el socialismo es el único camino. □



Migrantes, transportados en autobús desde Texas a la ciudad de Nueva York, llegan en Port Authority, el 25 de septiembre.

e intervenciones militares— contra cualquier país que intente afirmar su independencia de la mano brutal del capitalismo. El impacto mortal es la gran privación, el hambre, la agitación interna en muchos países—y la subsiguiente migración para sobrevivir.

Estados Unidos está llevando a cabo una guerra de clases global contra todos los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos, incluso en este hemisferio. Las estratagemas de Abbott y DeSantis son manifestaciones frías y odiosas de esos grandes ataques capitalistas contra la posibilidad del socialismo.

Sí, en Estados Unidos no estamos ni cerca del socialismo. La clase capitalista tiene el control de los gobiernos nacionales y estatales. Pero la creciente generación joven está ocupada en la unión a través de las líneas de nacionalidad, sexualidad, género, habilidades y lenguaje. Están ampliando las posibilidades de futuro.

Nuestra esperanza está en la conciencia que está surgiendo en los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos de todo el mundo, que están atrapados en las garras de las fuerzas de la producción y la explotación capitalista—la conciencia que iniciará la lucha por el socialismo, empezando ahora. □