

Starbucks worker militancy forces legal victories

By Arjae Red

Recently, Starbucks workers achieved some significant wins in the form of National Labor Relations Board complaints and judgments against the company. Workers are waiting to see if these will materialize into meaningful changes in what is now a year-long, union-busting campaign waged by the company.

The NLRB filed a complaint Aug. 24 over Starbucks’ illegal withholding of pay raises and other benefits from workers who were unionized or in the process of organizing.

Since the beginning of the union drive, Starbucks has been announcing a number of perks for workers who decide not to unionize, including a pay raise which took effect Aug. 1. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz claims that the company cannot legally offer these same wages and benefits to unionized workers, because these are terms of employment subject to bargaining at union stores.

In fact, Starbucks has stalled bargaining at the vast majority of the 220+ stores that voted for Starbucks Workers United!

Schultz is distorting the truth. Stores that are unionized clearly have a right to bargain over their employment terms; however, the right to bargain does not equate to an automatic denial of these new terms before bargaining has even started. It just means workers will have a say in whether or not new terms are adopted. Obviously, the workers would most likely favor raises and other benefits, which would not be something the union would try to block.

It would be one thing if the company tried to make changes and the union



Memphis Seven in front of the Poplar and Highland store they were fired from, during Poor People’s Campaign stop in Memphis, Tennessee, May 23.

refused them and insisted on an alternative; but in this case, the increased benefits were never extended to union workers to begin with.

These discriminatory raises and perks are clearly a bribe by the company to curb the ever-growing interest in organizing.

The NLRB has ordered Starbucks to give the benefits to the workers who were denied them — including back pay, corporatewide training for managers and supervisors on federal labor rights and a letter of apology and video from Howard Schultz directly addressing the workers.

Rehire the Memphis Seven now!

In addition to this NLRB complaint, workers are awaiting the result of a federal judge’s Aug. 18 order for Starbucks to rehire the Memphis Seven, the fired organizing committee at a store in Memphis,

Tennessee. Initially, the judge ruled the firing was illegal and mandated the workers’ jobs be offered back with the same rate of pay and scheduled hours as before, giving the company five days to follow the order. Starbucks has since appealed the decision — which was also a racist attack on Black and Brown workers — dragging the case out past the five-day deadline.

Starbucks has now been given more time to plead its case. The company is arguing that it would be “unfair to the other workers” to rehire the Memphis Seven, claiming that those who currently work at the store don’t want them rehired and that they would have to give up hours to accommodate them. Workers at the store responded by drafting a statement in support of rehiring the Memphis Seven, saying that the fired workers are an “asset, not a hindrance” to the store.

It is laughable that Starbucks would speak on behalf of these workers and claim to be concerned about cutting workers’ hours in Memphis, when all around the country workers have been having their hours slashed in retaliation for union activity. Some workers believe that Starbucks has intentionally overstaffed this store, simply to make hours scarce and focus the blame on the Memphis Seven.

Workers World spoke to Nabretta Hardin, one of the fired Memphis organizers, who explained that even though headlines are claiming victory for the Memphis Seven, the battle is far from over. “We aren’t done yet. We still have over ten ULPs [Unfair Labor Practices] to fight for, and we have to rejuvenate the union movement in our city. We’re nowhere close to being done — we have a lot of things to rectify. We haven’t won a contract yet. We haven’t even been contacted for bargaining, and we won our election in June. We are still out here fighting, full force.”

With more than 85 fired Starbucks workers across the country, the case for the Memphis Seven remains at the center of the fight. Workers are still fighting, still organizing and still winning. With more than 220+ stores winning union elections and an over 80% success rate in votes, the campaign has proven to be not just a short-lived trend, but a militant movement that’s here to stay.

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.

BATTLE FOR ABORTION ACCESS

- Michigan ballot initiative3
- Louisiana: Nancy Davis case3

Buffalo solidarity with Palestine3

WORKERS IN MOTION

- Therapists protest dangerous delays3
- Kent, Washington, educators strike6
- UE Local 150: 25 years of struggle6
- Franky Velgara ¡PRESENTE!5
- End methadone stigma, social control7
- Editorial Make education free8

TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS

Yvonne Swan Wanrow

Momentum builds
against new jail

Albert Woodfox,
a warrior

4

Cuban Revolution celebrated in New York City and Portland, Oregon 6

On Labor Day, hail workers in motion!

Support Workers World

Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper cheers on the Amazon and Starbucks workers who are leading struggles to unionize their workplaces. These mainly young people of many nationalities and genders are in the forefront of the class struggle in the U.S. Their bold actions have sparked an upsurge of worker-led union drives in other companies and industries. Their bravery in defying vicious corporate union busting is inspiring workers around the country.

This newspaper has closely followed and featured reports on the organizing drives of Amazon and Starbucks workers and recent unionization campaigns at Trader Joe’s, Chipotle, REI, Apple and other companies.

On this year’s Labor Day, WW expresses solidarity with these workers, all those celebrating union pride on this day, and the unorganized and low-wage earners who are fighting for workplace rights and a union. We laud the workers, especially young people, women, other gender-oppressed and LGBTQ2S+ people, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and immigrants, who are fighting for all workers.

Since Workers World’s first issue in 1959, the newspaper has featured coverage of workers’ struggles. Our newspaper is partisan, siding with workers and oppressed people fighting for their rights against capitalist bosses. The struggles of our class are covered in our pages and in our biweekly column “On the Picket Line.” Not only does WW write about worker organizing, but our writers and staff members join picket lines and rallies!

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.

Unforeseen circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to



PHOTO: GABBY JONES

Workers World attended this New York City rally on Oct. 21, 2021, in solidarity with Amazon Labor Union’s petition for an NLRB election at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, New York. The ALU won this historic victory!

once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 ½-year health crisis. And while WW’s staff is voluntary, both the printed newspaper and the website entail monthly expenses. Although many online publications require fees to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

Workers.org contains news and analysis of global and U.S. events and struggles and is a resource for political activists. The website posts firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on key U.S. union drives.

For a donation of \$75 to \$100 to \$300 a year, members receive a year’s subscription and one, two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us of your request.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

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

We’re grateful for your support.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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

National Office
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
 New York, NY 10011
 212.627.2994
 wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
 PO Box 18123
 Atlanta, GA 30316
 404.627.0185
 atlanta@workers.org

Austin
 austin@workers.org

Bay Area
 P.O. Box 22947
 Oakland, CA 94609
 510.394.2207
 bayarea@workers.org

Boston
 284 Amory St.
 Boston, MA 02130
 617.522.6626
 boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
 335 Richmond Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14222
 716.883.2534
 buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
 (Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
 centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
 cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
 919.322.9970
 durham@workers.org

Houston
 P.O. Box 3454
 Houston, TX 77253-3454
 713.503.2633
 houston@workers.org

Minnesota
 minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
 P.O. Box 34249
 Philadelphia, PA 19101
 610.931.2615
 phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
 portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
 801.750.0248
 slc@workers.org

San Antonio
 sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia
 WestVirginia@workers.org

MUNDO OBRERO

WORKERS WORLD

this week

In the U.S.

Starbucks worker militancy forces legal victories . .	1
Mich. ballot initiative for reproductive justice . . .	3
Louisiana case: human toll of abortion bans	3
Therapists protest delays in mental health care. .	3
Buffalo solidarity with Palestine	3
iFranky Velgara Valentin PRESENTE!	5
Portland movement celebrates Cuba.	6
Cuba solidarity activists restore mural	6
Kent educators’ strike opens school year	6
UE Local 150: 25 years of struggle.	6
Methadone clinics: ending stigma, social control. .	7

Around the world

Colombia and Venezuela reestablish relations. . .	5
Vietnam advances LGBTQ+ rights	7
Hungry Haitians have had enough	7
Oil piracy: U.S. and Israel bomb Syria again . . .	8
Bolivia: massive rally counters new coup plot . . .	9

Tear down the walls

Yvonne Swan Wanrow and self-defense cases . . .	4
Momentum builds against new Cleveland jail . . .	4
Albert Woodfox, a warrior	4

Editorial

Make education free	8
-------------------------------	---

Noticias en Español

Palestinos se resisten.	10
Filadelfia: Resistencia al desalojo	10

Workers World
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
 New York, NY 10011
 Phone: 212.627.2994
 E-mail: ww@workers.org
 Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 64, No. 35 • September 1, 2022
 Closing date: August 31, 2022

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2022 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.



Michigan Ballot initiative huge advance for reproductive justice

By Martha Grevatt

The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade was undeniably a gigantic setback for reproductive justice. It has already caused tremendous harm across the country.

Nevertheless, the fight for abortion access is far from over, with activists pushing back creatively, courageously and with fierce determination. That tremendous energy has put an initiative on the Michigan ballot to enshrine the right to access abortion in the state constitution.

Michigan law requires over 425,000 valid voter signatures to place an initiative on the ballot. Reproductive Freedom for All collected well over the legal minimum in a short period of time, submit-

ting petitions with 753,288 signatures in July. The issue is urgent, as state courts are currently considering whether to reimpose a 1931 law banning all abortions except to save the life of the pregnant person; under that 90-year-old law, doctors who perform abortions could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

Reproductive Freedom for All, a partnership of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, ACLU of Michigan and Michigan Voices, explains: “This proposal will affirm that every Michigander has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which involves the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care and childbirth.”

(mireproductivefreedom.org) The army of petitioners collected more names than on any ballot initiative in Michigan’s entire history.

The Michigan Bureau of Elections ruled against efforts by a right-wing misogynist group to keep the initiative off the ballot over a printing error, which omitted some spaces between words on the petition.

This makes Michigan the fourth state where voters will decide in November whether to protect or deny reproductive rights. Progressive initiatives are on the ballot in Vermont and California, while Kentucky voters will vote on a right-wing anti-abortion proposal similar to what Kansas voters resoundingly defeated Aug. 2. More states are expected to vote



Supporters of Michigan Reproductive Freedom for All petition after submitting over 753,000 signatures in Lansing, Michigan, July 11.

on the issue in 2023.

Whether through mobilizing mass protests, the arduous task of filing petitions or the dangerous work of building networks to help women, girls and other pregnant people travel to states where abortion is legal, the reproductive justice movement is determined to secure the basic right to bodily autonomy by any means necessary. □

Louisiana case shows The human toll of abortion bans

By Kathy Durkin

Nancy Davis has been confronted by a terrible dilemma. She and her fiancé, Shedrick Cole, who have three children, wanted to have another child. They were very happy about her pregnancy. But instead of looking forward to having a healthy baby, the couple was shocked to get the devastating news in August that Davis was carrying a fetus with acrania, a fatal anomaly.

This medical catastrophe left Davis with the terrible choice of carrying this fetus to term and delivering a baby with little chance of survival, or traveling hundreds of miles to obtain a safe, legal abortion. Her story has become national news, as she is one of the first women to come out publicly with her story about how she and her family have been affected by a cruel, horrible abortion ban.

Davis had made the difficult decision to have an abortion, and she was referred by her physician to a clinic which had performed abortions. But the U.S. Supreme

Court’s reversal June 24 of the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortions has confused doctors, hospital administrators and government officials over what conditions allow exemptions to newly passed state abortion bans. The high court’s ruling has created chaos in states with these bans.

Administrators at the Women’s Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Davis had received medical care, declined her request for an abortion there, as they were afraid of being prosecuted by the state if they did so. The officials’ decision was made in spite of the fact that doctors there had strongly advised her to terminate the pregnancy. The clinic in that city has closed down.

On July 8, a judge allowed Louisiana’s ban, one of the strictest in the country to be implemented — it bars abortions from the moment of conception or soon thereafter. Few exceptions are allowed, and “acrania,” in which a skull doesn’t properly form in a fetus, is not on the state’s list of abortion exceptions.

In Louisiana and other states with abortion bans, doctors and hospital

officials fear prosecution, prison terms and large fines — and with good reason. Doctors and other medical professionals in Louisiana face up to 15-year prison terms for violating the ban.

Stop draconian bans!

Benjamin Crump, noted civil rights attorney representing Davis, held a press conference Aug. 26 on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge and denounced the draconian law. He called for a special legislative session to clarify the ban so that “other women are spared the mental anguish, the mental torment, that Nancy Davis is having to endure,” or to repeal it altogether. Crump stated, “Ms. Davis was among the first women to be caught in this crosshairs of confusion due to Louisiana’s rush to restrict abortion. But she will hardly be the last.” (Guardian, Aug. 26)

Davis, surrounded by family members, supporters and attorneys, said, “This is not fair to me, and it should not happen to any other woman.” She publicly



Nancy Davis, with fiancé, Shedrick Cole, left, and civil rights attorney Ben Crump, right, at Aug. 26 press conference outside the Louisiana State Capitol, calling for changes in the state’s abortion laws.

announced that she would travel 900 miles with her fiancé to North Carolina to obtain an abortion. That trip is being financed by over 1,000 donors, who have given over \$39,000 as of this writing. Donations began when she announced her tragic, difficult situation.

But it’s not only the contributions that show support. Beautiful messages of solidarity and compassion are written on the webpage where donors’ names are listed. A large number of contributions range from \$5 to \$25, showing the empathy felt by low-wage women workers and members of oppressed communities, in particular. □

Therapists protest ‘dangerous delays in mental health care’

By Dave Welsh
Oakland, California

A hundred striking mental health workers picketed Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland, Aug. 26, denouncing “dangerous understaffing” of therapists — with patients routinely having to wait six to eight weeks for an appointment.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Aug. 26 protest, Oakland, California

Members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers have been on strike since Aug. 15, representing mental health therapists in northern California. They come under the “for-profit” part of the Kaiser empire.

One of the picketers, Laura Wolterstorff, a mental health therapist, said, “Our patients are hurting. The suicides are not going down, and for children the suicide rate is rising.

“Kaiser’s practice is to weed people out and deny them care. It’s cut and dried. Either the patient meets certain strict criteria, or they don’t get the care they need. But it’s not

as if Kaiser is too poor to afford it; Kaiser reportedly has \$50 billion in reserves, so they’ve really got no excuse.”

Red-shirted NUHW members carried signs saying, “Patients before Profits” and “Dangerous delays in mental health care.” One hand-lettered sign, in a jab at their Kaiser Permanente employer, said “Miser Permanente—Am I right, people?”

One therapist addressed passing motorists over the microphone with: “Honk if you had to wait two months for a mental health appointment.”

Judy Greenspan, an Oakland Education Association teacher, gave a solidarity message, adding: “In the schools, too, we don’t have enough therapists or psychologists to meet the needs either.” □

Buffalo solidarity with Palestine

By Nigel Bouvart
Buffalo

Activists from Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America and Food Not Bombs gathered in Buffalo, New York, Aug. 24, in solidarity with Palestine against Israeli occupation and terrorism.

Israeli occupation forces mounted an attack on Gaza earlier this month, wounding hundreds and killing dozens, including six

children. Demonstrators chanted “Palestine is on our side, Zionism is genocide!” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

Speakers drew connections between institutional racism, by the carceral system at home, and the genocide of Palestinians, and they called on the U.S. to cease arming and funding the Israeli settler-colonial regime and to stop sending its police, a terroristic occupying force, to Israel for training. □



WW PHOTO: WORKERS WORLD BUFFALO BUREAU

Yvonne Swan Wanrow set precedent for self-defense cases



By Phebe Eckfeldt

Part 1 of a two-part article.

Record numbers of women and gender-oppressed people are being locked up.

Writing for the Guardian, Mariame Kaba noted that between 71% and 95% of incarcerated women have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner. As children and adults, they experienced multiple forms of physical and sexual violence. This has been dubbed the “abuse-to-prison pipeline.” (Jan. 3, 2019)

Advocates who work with women and gender-oppressed people who have defended themselves against violence state that they are being imprisoned in large numbers, sometimes receiving extreme sentences like life without parole, while others are deported.

Survivors are punished for defending themselves and their children. They are criminalized because they have removed their children from abusive situations, have been coerced into criminal activity and have committed “crimes of survival” in order to live. Poverty makes women and gender-oppressed people more vulnerable to violence under capitalism, whether it is from the state or domestic partners.



Yvonne Wanrow

As of 2019, there were 231,000 women in jails and prisons in the U.S. Right now approximately 5,000 transgender people are in state prisons. Most of them are people of color. In Texas the number of women incarcerated has risen by over 1,000% since 1980.

Yvonne Swan Wanrow – first women’s self-defense case

Yvonne Swan Wanrow, a Sinixt Indigenous mother, shot and killed a known sexual predator William Wesler in August 1972 in Spokane, Washington. He had tried to grab her son and threateningly approached her young nephew when he was asleep. He had previously raped her babysitter’s daughter. When told by neighbors of Wesler’s actions and that he had been seen prowling around the area, the police did nothing.

Wesler, more than 6 feet tall and a heavy man, was intoxicated when he entered Wanrow’s friends’ home, where she was with her family. He refused to leave. Wanrow was 5’4” tall, weighed 120 lbs and at the time was wearing a cast on her foot. When Wanrow called out the front door for help, no one responded. When she turned around, Wesler was almost upon her, and Wanrow pulled her gun and shot him.

She was convicted by an all-white jury and found guilty of second-degree murder and first-degree assault. Her case became known as the first women’s self-defense case. It set a legal precedent and would impact other cases of self defense by women and gender-oppressed people to come.

Impact of the American Indian Movement

In 1975 an appeals court reversed Wanrow’s conviction and ordered a retrial.

During the period of her trial and after, the anti-Vietnam War movement, the Indigenous struggle, the women’s movement and the movements against racism, sexism and for self-determination were in full swing.

The American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Reservation on Feb. 27, 1973. They were responding to a call for support from traditional elders in the community during a period of violence by then-Oglala Tribal Chairperson Dick Wilson’s tribal police, who were then collaborating with the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

AIM had been protesting the U.S. government’s “termination policy,” which tore Indigenous children from their families, weakened the power of tribal governments and cut federal assistance for education and health care, keeping the

majority of Indigenous people living in poverty. They were active in fighting against police harassment, especially in Minneapolis where AIM was founded. AIM stated that Indigenous people made up 70% of the population in the Minneapolis city jail but were only 10% of the overall population. (John William Sayer, “Ghost Dancing the Law: the Wounded Knee Trials,” 1997)

Wanrow and her sisters set up the Defense Committee for Yvonne Wanrow, which AIM supported actively. Feminists from Minneapolis drove to Spokane and set up the Free Yvonne Wanrow campaign, which worked together with the Defense Committee and was focused on educating and winning over white working-class people to support Wanrow’s cause.

The prosecution appealed the reversal of her conviction to the Washington Supreme Court. When Wanrow attended the trial of AIM leader Russell Means in 1975, she saw Center for Constitutional Rights lawyer William Kunstler at work, and she wanted him to be her lawyer. He referred her to their women’s division, and Elizabeth Schneider and Nancy Stearns became her attorneys. They filed a supplemental brief for Wanrow with the Washington Supreme Court in 1976.

This author’s aunt, Polly Taylor, initiated the Free Yvonne Wanrow campaign with her partner Marge Nelson.

Momentum builds: Stop the new jail plan!

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Over 100 Greater Cleveland community members turned out Aug. 25 for a “Community meeting” held to purportedly hear from Cuyahoga County residents about plans for a new, over-\$500-million county jail. The Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition mobilized its constituents to attend the meeting in support of the demand: “Stop the new jail plan!”

The Cuyahoga County Council has not as yet reversed plans to build a new jail on the site of a former Standard Oil refinery. The Council has tried to downplay concerns about the toxic chemicals in the soil, including oil, carcinogenic benzene and methane gases, but has not denied that environmental clean-up costs will add millions to the already huge expense to taxpayers of constructing a new jail. Part of the funding will come from extending a

sales tax now set to expire in 2025.

Outgoing County Executive Armond Budish and the County Council have been criticized for allowing deplorable conditions in the current county jail. These conditions are now being used as an argument for building a new jail by the very politicians who are responsible for them! Yet the problems of overcrowding, poor medical care, horrible and inadequate food, physical abuse by guards and neglect of prisoners who are suicidal or overdosing — leading to 15 deaths since June of 2018 — will not be addressed by a new structure.

Members of the Jail Coalition have regularly attended and spoken at meetings of the Cuyahoga County Justice Center Steering Committee, composed of 12 public officials and set up to consider plans for the jail portion of the “Justice Center,” which also houses county courts.

The coalition stated in an email to supporters that “thanks to the sustained



Cleveland protest against new county jail, April 5.

efforts of this community and our partners, the plan is still in limbo five months later, and the county has financed both a review of the proposed site in addition to revisiting plans to renovate the current building instead of building a new one. ... It is because of this momentum that it is urgent we sustain the pressure.”

A coalition leaflet pointed out that funds earmarked for the new jail could

instead be spent on public benefits such as free public transit for five years, 2,000 units of permanent affordable housing, 100,000 two-year community college degrees or financing for 50 years a “countywide care response to crisis.”

After sitting through a long PowerPoint presentation designed to win support for a new jail at the toxic site, jail opponents took the floor for 90 minutes. Many spoke passionately, addressing many issues including the need to stop holding people in jail excessively long times under the money bail system — a key cause of overcrowding conditions.

Coalition members held signs reading “No new jail” and chanted that same slogan. On a whiteboard the county had set up for attendees to put red dot stickers near their priorities, such as connection to public transit, jail opponents added another priority — No new jail — and put their stickers there. □

Albert Woodfox: ‘a warrior who loved humanity’

By John “Bunchy” Crear

John “Bunchy” Crear joined Peoples Party 2 in Houston in June 1971. He went to Oakland, California, with Charles Freeman and Johnny Coward in August 1971 to ask for Houston to officially be made a chapter of the Black Panther Party. He transferred to the Panthers headquarters in Oakland in 1972 and was head of photography for their newspaper. In 1974 he became Bobby Seale’s assistant.

In 1977 he started the Las Vegas chapter of the BPP. He was in the BPP for 10 years. Bunchy is now the Houston chair of the Black Panther Party Alumni Association. He kept in close contact with political prisoner Albert Woodfox when he lived in Houston with his brother and after he moved back to New Orleans. The following is a tribute to Woodfox, who died Aug. 4, 2022.

When I think about my comrade Albert Woodfox, I think about the humanity of the man. When my comrade Warren Nelson (“D.K.”) and I were on the way to meet Albert after his release from prison, I was wondering what kind of person I was going to meet after spending all that time in prison. Was he going to be an angry, raging man? When he opened the door, we were greeted with the biggest smile and a warm greeting.

We sat and talked for over an hour; it was like we were longtime friends. Over the next year, we spent a lot of time together, I took him to the Shape Youth Center. He was greeted by 30 kids ranging in ages from 6 to 12, eager to hear his story. When we left he said that it was the best time he had since he got out of prison, because Albert was on a mission to continue to educate and be a voice in our continuing struggle.

He traveled the world to speak of the injustice of the

criminal justice system. All the way to the end, when he had trouble breathing, he wanted to come to Houston for the 52nd anniversary of the assassination of Carl Hampton.

He called me a week before and said he thought he would get better — to not cancel and give him until Sunday. He called and said he wasn’t getting better. He was soon back in hospital. As I was getting reports from his brother on his condition, I could not help from tearing up. We lost a warrior who loved humanity and stood strong till the end. □

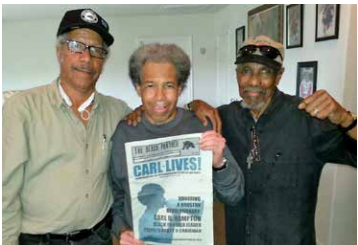


PHOTO: MICHAEL MABLE

Bunchy Crear, Albert Woodfox and Warren ‘D.K.’ Nelson, July 2016.

Guest commentary

Rapid reestablishment of relations between Colombia and Venezuela

By Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

The author is a Venezuelan international relations expert, who was previously Director of the International Relations of the Presidency of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, his country's ambassador to Nicaragua, and an advisor for international politics for TeleSUR. Translated by unitedworldint.com and edited by Workers World.

The result of the first electoral round in the Colombian presidential elections held May 29 has already revealed a clear perspective on the future of that country's relationship with Venezuela, and it has established with certainty that this election would bring about a transcendent change with respect to the events of the most recent past.

The two candidates who will have to contend in the second round, Gustavo Petro and Rodolfo Hernández, stated with certainty their will that, if they were elected to the highest office in the country, they would immediately focus on reestablishing ties with their neighbor to the east.

The Venezuelan government expressed its satisfaction at verifying that a new era would open in bilateral relations as of August but kept a discreet distance from favoring one candidate over the other, so that regardless of who the new president will be, the dealings with the new government will be developed with the greatest impetus in favor of the interests of both peoples [Venezuelan and Colombian].

Petro's victory in the final second round June 19 cleared up any doubts about the direction and pace of the ties between the two countries. It is no secret to anyone that, in political terms — and despite the differences — Petro is much closer to Caracas than Hernández. His past militancy in the April 19 Movement (M-19), an organization of clear Bolivarian leaning, means an identity with the orientation of the political process in Venezuela, based on its own roots.

Thus beginning with the electoral victory of Colombia Humana, led by Petro, the two sides began to study the forms and content that relations would acquire, and they have devoted themselves to the search for methods and instruments to facilitate the path to travel toward normalization of bilateral ties. Just three days after his electoral victory, and following a phone call with President Nicolás Maduro, Petro made public the new government's willingness to restore normal relations at the borders.

In turn, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced that he had spoken with the elected president of Colombia and, on behalf of the Venezuelan people, congratulated him on his victory. They discussed peace and a prosperous future for both peoples.

Meetings at the border

This exchange set the tone to begin to clear the obstacles to allow regularization of ties. In this way, on July 4 in the Venezuelan border city of San Cristóbal, businessmen from both countries met in an event called "Border



From left, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Colombian President Gustavo Petro.

Agreement," in order to prepare the ground for the border's already imminent reopening, which had been restricted since 2015 and completely closed as of 2019.

On the Venezuelan side, the governor of the state of Táchira, Freddy Bernal participated and acted as host — and on the Colombian side, Rubén Zamora and Wilfredo Cañizales, representatives of the Alianza Histórico coalition, the political group of the new Colombian president. Likewise, a "high-level commission" made up of senators, politicians and union representatives participated in the activity.

Exactly one month later, a similar event was held Aug. 4 in the department of La Guajira, in which businessmen from Colombia and Venezuela met to establish conditions within the framework of the productive development, which is foreseen by the companies that will participate in the commercial exchanges that will take place after the borders reopen.

The meeting took place at the Paraguachón Land Migration Control post, in La Guajira, a border area with the Venezuelan state of Zulia. The Venezuelan business people were represented by Rafael Bula Blanco, who, regarding the issue, stated: "Our basic proposal is complementarity, to use the advantages to promote the companies of both countries and promote imports to the Caribbean integrating the Wayuu population."

Attending the meeting for Colombia was Alfredo Saade, Border Advisor to President Petro, who, among other things, reiterated that "one of the greatest objectives of the new government is to reestablish relations with the neighboring country to obtain positive economic indices in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."

Within this framework of binational approaches, on July 28 Bernal, accompanied by Foreign Minister Carlos Farías, received the new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Álvaro Leyva Durán, in San Cristóbal.

Restoring relations between the armed forces

A new item was added to the agenda Aug. 9, when Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino reported he had "received instructions from President Nicolás Maduro to establish immediate contact with the Colombian Defense Minister (Iván Velásquez) to restore

our military relations."

Both countries face the challenge of the common fight against paramilitarism and the Colombian armed gangs of all kinds that operate on the border and enter the territory of Venezuela. That's true even though, since 2021, the Binational Interunion Council of the Norte de Santander-Táchira Border Axis was installed; cooperation in this area is essential for normal operation of the borders to materialize.

Continuing the accelerated course of actions, on Aug. 10 in the legislative arena, the Colombian Senate approved some policies to pursue the reestablishment of relations with Venezuela in various sectors. The parliamentarians proposed addressing border and security issues along the 1,379 miles of shared border.

Assuming that the [Venezuelan-owned] Monómeros [company] issue is one of the most thorny on the path to reestablishing relations, President Petro pointed out that this is one of the most complex issues because the company is bankrupt, and "it is necessary to see technically how it can be restarted, analyzing the legal forms and the [U.S.-imposed] sanction system that is still in force,"

Both countries face the challenge of the common fight against paramilitarism and the Colombian armed gangs of all kinds that operate on the border and enter the territory of Venezuela.

In this context, Venezuela began actions Aug. 12 to regain control of this company by appointing a new Board of Directors, a measure that seeks to put an end to its irregular management.

To do this, the Venezuelan company Pequiven filed a document Aug. 8 with the Barranquilla Chamber of Commerce, signed by its president Pedro Rafael Tellechea Ruiz, with a list of names of the Venezuelan team that seeks to assume legal control of Monómeros, an action which coincides with the recent decision of the Superintendence of Companies of Colombia — the government body in charge of auditing companies in that country — in order to eliminate the maximum degree of supervision that it maintained in Monómeros since September 2021.

Finally, as the culmination of this normalization process, President Maduro appointed Félix Plasencia as ambassador to Colombia Aug. 12, while his trans-Andean colleague did the same by appointing Armando Benedetti to represent Colombia in Caracas.

In this way, the route for the reestablishment of bilateral ties was clearly traced, leaving behind four difficult years under Colombia's terrorist Iván Duque government. □

¡Franky Velgara Valentin PRESENTE!

The following statement was issued on August 25.

ProLibertad Allies and Supporters,
It is with great sadness that we, in the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, announce the passing of one of our founders and longtime coordinators, Francisco Velgara Valentin, known affectionately to the movement at large as Franky.

Franky was a dedicated independentista, revolutionary socialist and internationalist. He fought for Puerto Rican independence, supported Revolutionary Cuba, stood with the Vietnamese revolution, gave his unyielding support to mass movements in Latin America, helped

to found revolutionary formations in Puerto Rico and the Diaspora, and worked to Free All U.S.-Held Political Prisoners.

This is but a sliver of the work Franky did. His dedication to creating a socialist revolution was unyielding and far-reaching. Franky will always be remembered. We will draw strength from his life and legacy.

A more detailed account of his life and work will be published by his family and close friends at a later date. Details on his viewing will be announced in later posts as well.

¡Franky Velgara Valentin PRESENTE!
August 24, 1949 – August 25, 2022 □



Franky Velgara

PHOTO: PRO-LIBERTAD

Portland movement celebrates Cuba

By John Waller
Portland, Oregon

An Aug. 28 picnic organized by the Portland End the Blockade of Cuba Committee featured speakers, including this writer, who have just returned from Cuba as members of the Pastors for Peace Caravan. The speakers talked about the successes they witnessed in Cuba in areas of medicine, disaster preparedness and participatory democracy. They also addressed limitations set by the 60-year U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Maddi Johnson, a Workers World Party member, described how the Portland End the Blockade of Cuba Committee protests the U.S. blockade with monthly pickets/car caravans. These actions are part of worldwide protests inspired by the Bridges of Love Movement, launched by Cuban American opponents of the blockade in Miami and Seattle. A significant part of the Cuban American community in the U.S., including in Miami, wants the blockade ended and normal relations resumed between Cuba and the U.S.

Johnson said: “Our next activity will be when world governments once again overwhelmingly vote in the U.N. General Assembly to condemn the U.S. blockade on Cuba. There will be large protests at the U.N. headquarters in New York City, to be joined by protests around the U.S. Watch for an October or November date!”

Carley Werdel spoke highly of the locally integrated people’s organizations that form the front lines of political mobilization in Cuba. Tamara Musafia emphasized that Cuba’s socialist system is a model that people in the U.S. could benefit greatly from studying.

In spite of the blockade, the small country of Cuba has successfully devel-



Maddi Johnson speaks at Portland’s End the Blockade picnic, Aug. 28.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

oped its own vaccines to defeat COVID-19 and is providing those vaccines to other poor countries for much less than the big biotech companies demand.

In Havana, the Pastors for Peace

Caravan participants attended a presentation of the role and skills of the Cuban fire service. Two weeks later these same firefighters were rushed 100 miles to the oil port of Matanzas, where a huge oil tank had been struck by lightning. The resulting fire and subsequent explosions destroyed several oil tanks and took the lives of 16 local firefighters.

This author spoke to the crowd about how solidarity quickly flowed in from people and governments around the world. Mexico and Venezuela immediately dispatched their own firefighters to help. No help came from the U.S. government. But individuals and groups from the U.S. rapidly

raised tens of thousands of dollars to purchase and send badly needed medications to treat the hundreds of injured.

A separate fund exists to purchase and quickly send five anesthesia machines and related supplies to the Calixto Garcia trauma hospital/center in Havana, where those with the most serious burn injuries were taken. This hospital has 23 operating rooms and only two functioning anesthesia machines. Donations to the fund can be made here: ghpartners.org/cuba2022/.

The Cuban health service has the skilled personnel and scientific know-how to produce most of the medicines and medical equipment it needs, but the brutality of the U.S. blockade stops the country from buying the raw materials and mechanical spare parts needed for adequate health care. And now the loss of all that fuel oil is directly causing major power outages throughout Cuba.

Solidarity, in the spirit of Cuba! □

Cuba solidarity activists restore mural

Cuba solidarity activists gathered Aug. 27 at the First Spanish Methodist Church, The People’s Church in East Harlem, New York City, and then marched to the Dos Alas (Two Birds) Mural at 105th Street and Third Avenue. The mural portrays Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban Revolution, and Pedro Albizu Campos, head of the Puerto Rican independence movement against the U.S.

For more than 20 years, the mural has stood as a revered landmark of solidarity and struggle. Since last year it had been vandalized by right-wing haters of Cuba, who support the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Youth took up paint brushes and once again restored the mural and its moving message.

— Photo and caption by Brenda Ryan



Kent educators’ strike opens school year

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Over 1,700 educators went on strike in working-class Kent, Washington, near Seattle, to open the school year. On Aug. 22, 1,600 school workers voted by 94% to walk out, according to Kent Education Association Vice-President Layla Jones. Picket lines of the KEA went up Aug. 25, and by the weekend the union was still locked in negotiations with



Kent educators take strike vote on Aug. 22.

PHOTO: THE STAND.ORG

the district. (Seattle Times, Aug. 25) The Kent School District has 25,000

students; 70% are students of color, and many are from immigrant communities. Like in working-class schools everywhere, Kent school workers and teachers have been forced to educate under extreme hardship, before and since COVID-19. Educators in Kent say they are greatly understaffed in a number of areas due to government austerity and a lack of support during the pandemic.

The KEA demands a pay increase, smaller class sizes and more manageable

caseloads for staff working with English learners and students in special education. About 25% to 30% of the students at Kent-Meridian High School are English learners.

A release from the KEA says: “At issue are several anti-union proposals — including contractual proposals against [filing] workplace discrimination — and the district’s refusal to pay a state-funded, cost-of-living pay increase.”

Kent educators went on strike in 2009 for 15 days. They were forced back to work at that time by the threat of an anti-worker injunction from the Superior Court, which threatened heavy fines. □

UE Local 150: 25 years of struggle

By Dante Strobino
Whitakers, North Carolina

Members of the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 150, celebrated 25 years of working-class struggle at their 12th Biennial Statewide Convention Aug. 20-21 in Whitakers.

This Black-majority union — started by cadre in the Black Workers for Justice and led by Black workers — has been a leading voice pushing new organizing strategies, including pre-majority unions across the South and building a

rank-and-file-led, social justice union movement. At this convention the union reaffirmed support for the fight against racism and demanded reallocating money from over-bloated police departments.

The convention also came out for workers’ movements to defend the right to an abortion, international solidarity including calling for ending the occupation in Palestine, support for universal single-payer health care — “Medicare for All” — and building the Southern Workers Assembly

and Local Workers Assemblies.

Dr. Rev. William Barber II, Co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign, was a key-

note speaker, along with Ajamu Dillahunt from Black Workers for Justice and Southern Workers Assembly. □



Participants in the 2022 Biennial Convention of UE Local 150, Whitakers, North Carolina, Aug. 20-21.

PHOTO: UE 150

Vietnam advances LGBTQ+ rights

By Paddy Colligan

The Vietnam Ministry of Health ensured on Aug. 3 that members of the LGBTQ+ community will receive appropriate and respectful medical care. While legal protections of the Vietnamese LGBTQ+ community have been in place formally for several years, the application of these regulations has not been uniform. There are still many people in the medical field who do not understand or respect the LGBTQ+ community. According to the Vietnam News, a new Ministry of Health document “underlined that homosexuality is not a disorder” and demanded that medical centers and experts who say they can “cure” homosexuality stop making this false and harmful claim. (tinyurl.com/435u3rju, Aug. 10)

The Ministry of Health action has come “amid reports of forced medical examinations and so-called ‘treatment’ for mem-



PHOTO: VU THUY

Toi Dong Y (I Do) 2022 launched Aug. 10 in Ho Chi Minh City to gain more support for same-sex marriage in Vietnam, a campaign strengthened by the recent Ministry of Health directive.

bers of the LGBT community.” The Ministry sent its sharply worded document to all provincial and municipal health departments, health institutes, health examination and treatment units, with instructions to pass the information on to all health care providers under their

management. To support the Ministry’s position that “homosexuality is not an illness and therefore cannot be ‘cured,’ need not be ‘cured,’ and there is no way of changing this,” it cited positions of the American Psychiatric Association and the World Health Organization (WHO). The document requires that all medical staff be accurately informed about homosexual, bisexual and transgender issues as these relate to their patients. All medical staff are to ensure gender equality and respect for their patients and to avoid discrimination and prejudice toward them. Medical staff are not to consider homosexuality, bisexuality or transgenderism an illness. Staff should not force treatments on their patients, but they can offer psychological assistance, which is only to be given by people trained in this field. There should be increased oversight to be sure medical care is in compliance with professional codes and the law. (tinyurl.com/445aazra, Aug. 18)

According to a Tuoi Tren Vietnam Life feature, the Ministry’s action has encouraged activists who have been conducting an aggressive campaign for gender equality and increased public acceptance of same-sex marriages. While same-sex marriages are legal, they “continue to face many barriers ... and [are] not awarded the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual wedlock.” (tinyurl.com/5n6fyukh, Aug 11)

Lương Thế Huy, a well-known LGBTQ+ activist, poetically described the document as a “cool shadow offered by the biggest tree in the center of the village, that protects the dignity of all people but just enough to let the light of knowledge reach the dark recesses of bias and prejudice.”

The attention given to the medical care LGBTQ+ people should be receiving in socialist Vietnam is particularly striking when compared to the chaotic and highly politicized context of medical care given — and denied — to LGBTQ+ people under capitalism in the U.S. □

Hungry Haitians have had enough

By G. Dunkel

August 22 is the day the Haitian revolution began in 1791. The date commemorates the fact that an enslaved people, a majority of whom were born in Africa, organized an army that defeated the highly praised, veteran French military, on the battlefields of Vertières and elsewhere — giving the oppressed of this world a mighty example of successful struggle.

Every Haitian is aware of the significance of this date, which is why Pitit Desalins (PD), a small, anti-imperialist party based in Cap-Haïtien, the second largest city in Haiti, picked it for a demonstration against the high prices of fuel and food and against gang violence.

Ariel Henry, the de facto prime minister who is running the government — whatever is left of it after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse last year — left for a conference on agricultural production in Trinidad Aug. 18. He didn’t see the need to stay around for demonstrations calling for his resignation. Le Nouvelliste, the only daily paper in Haiti, put its main emphasis on an interview with the head of Haiti’s

national bank on the relations between the dollar and the gourde, Haiti’s currency.

Turnout in Cap-Haïtien

Moïse Jean-Charles and other leaders of PD had spoken repeatedly over the radio in Cap-Haïtien in the weeks before Aug. 22 and had a stage constructed for its activity in the square that honors the heroes of the battle of Vertières.

On Aug. 22, PD led a number of marches from different neighborhoods to the Vertières monument. When Moïse Jean-Charles spoke about how the Haitian banks manipulate the exchange rate between the gourde and the dollar — 20% of Haiti’s GDP comes from remittances in U.S. dollars — the huge crowd responded with “N ap Boule yo!” which can be translated as: “We will burn them!”

The crowd opposed Prime Minister Henry, characterized as a tool of the United States and the other big imperialist powers who make up the Core Group, according to Le Nouvelliste. The paper called Aug. 22 a “crazy day,” pointing out that the crowd was waving Russian and Chinese flags and scorning the Stars and Stripes.



Massive August 22 demonstration in Cap-Haïtien.

The whole country is suffering from a sharp decline in living standards, the increased price of food and gasoline, and the absence of any security. There were demonstrations throughout the country.

Shortly after daybreak on Aug. 22, barricades of burning tires and boulders went up on the main roads in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, as well as in Jacmel and in les Cayes, two big provincial cities. There was a remarkably large protest

in Petit-Goâve, a small seaside town of 12,000 in Haiti’s southwest. The provincial cities of Jacmel, Miragoâne and les Cayes et les Nippes all extended their popular mobilizations to Aug. 23.

The anger of the masses in Haiti is palpable. The real question is how they can push the struggle forward in a small country under immense pressure from imperialist sharks. □

Methadone clinics: ending stigma and social control

By Princess Harmony

In the 1930s, the German company I.G. Farben was looking for a solution to the opium shortage and the company’s inability to create new painkillers. The company found the solution in a chemical then-called Dolophine.

Now called methadone (Methadose, Diskets), an urban legend circulated that Dolophine was named after Adolf Hitler. This rumor shouldn’t surprise, as some of I.G. Farben’s workforce was slave labor from the Auschwitz death camp; and one of I.G. Farben’s subsidiaries supplied the poison gas, Zyklon B, that killed over 1 million people in gas chambers.

But in fact the label Dolophine comes from the Latin word “dolor,” meaning pain, and the French word “fin” for “end.” This was a medicine that ended pain.

Methadone treatment developed

But pain was only one thing that methadone would be used for. After World War II, the Addiction Research Center of the U.S. Narcotic Farm (a government-funded prison and research center in Lexington, Kentucky, between 1935 and 1974) tested methadone on heroin patients, providing high levels of the medicine and then taking it away, to see what would happen to the patients. When methadone was withheld, addicted patients would

continue to withdraw for days to weeks after.

Prior to the availability of methadone, codeine and morphine were used to treat heroin addiction. Researchers saw methadone’s superiority to the older treatments. In the mid-1950s, two U.S. doctors — Vincent Dole and Marie Nyswander — developed the use of methadone as a maintenance program.

Believing that opioid addiction was a chronic disease — rather than a moral failure — Dr. Dole sought out a medicine that would serve opioid addicts in the same way as insulin serves the diabetic. He found it in methadone. Dr. Nyswander did research and reports on her experiences trying to help addicted jazz musicians get free of their addiction. Their collaboration was a match made in health care heaven.

Unfortunately, the response to this new discovery that methadone could arrest the disease of addiction was not so nice. In the medical arena, people pushing abstinence-only treatment models and people pushing the medication-assisted treatment model with methadone argued vehemently about aims and goals.

On the left, the Black Panthers threatened to burn down methadone clinics, because that method failed to deal with the root causes of addiction in people of color and poor people: poverty, racism, lack of access to health care and systematic oppression by capitalism.

But the response to methadone treatment did eventually change to a lesser wave of criticism and a rising wave of acceptance.

Benefits of methadone treatment

Despite rumors that methadone could eat away at bones, destroy teeth, ruin kidneys and damage the liver, several studies done in the 1970s showed that there was no danger to long-term methadone users. In the 1980s, during the AIDS epidemic, research came out showing that methadone users seroconverted to a lesser extent than non-methadone-using active addicts. (tinyurl.com/2f9dh4kn)

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, it was discovered that methadone increased the quality of life of its users, stopped the HIV and hepatitis C viruses from spreading and stabilized even the hardest cases of opioid addiction. (tinyurl.com/3893jde6)

For these reasons, methadone is now considered one of the gold standards of care in addiction treatment.

But there are still questions: How can methadone be made more available to people who need it? And why is the special methadone clinic program in the U.S. needed, when other countries have liberalized their systems and made the drug accessible at normal pharmacies?

Read the entire article at workers.org/2022/08/66010

WWW COMMENTARY

Make education free

After years of all talk and no action by politicians about student debt, so severe that even people in their 60s are still carrying \$300,000 in college liability, on Aug. 25 President Joe Biden announced a modest executive measure to cancel some federal loan debt — just in time for the Democratic Party’s sprint to the mid-term elections.

Don’t get us wrong — we are for any measure that can give people some relief from their staggering student loans. And if everyone eligible takes advantage of all the proposal offers, up to 43 million people will get a break — including full debt cancellation for roughly 20 million. (All options at tinyurl.com/bdd56mhb)

This is a big deal for many, especially people from poor to modest backgrounds, from Black and Brown communities, who have taken on the greatest debt. Often these students were their families’ first generation to attend college, and they had zero economic backing for what has become an increasingly expensive degree, even at public universities and colleges.

Debt crisis continues

The debt crisis for students won’t end with the recent Bidenesque “corrections” to student loan problems. In 2021-2022, the average yearly tuition and required fees at a public college for an in-state student was \$10,388 — and \$22,698 for an out-of-state student. And costs at private colleges for the same

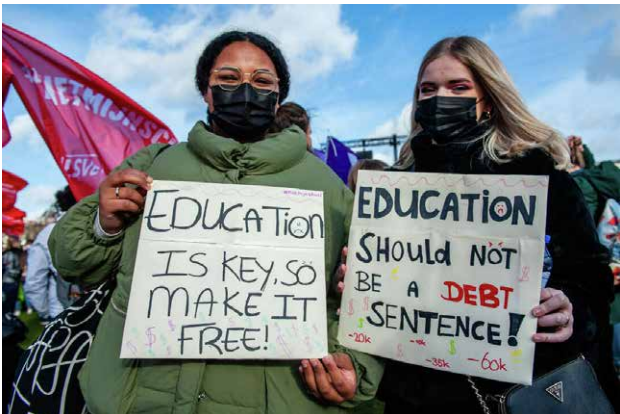


PHOTO: ROMY ARROYO FERNANDEZ

Thousands of young people gathered April 20 in Springfield, Illinois, the state capital, as part of a U.S. protest to demand ‘End student debt!’

averaged \$38,185. (thinkimpact.com/average-college-tuition/) Per. Year.

These estimated costs don’t include housing, food — or books! Education Data estimated July 15 that a year of college books and supplies can easily average between \$628 and \$1,471.

The result? Average student debt after four years of post-high school education is between \$37,000 and \$40,000.

Origin of the crisis

How did this sorry situation come to pass? Easy answer to that quiz: capitalism, U.S. style.

In 1996 Congress privatized the main federal direct loan agency, Student Loan Marketing Association or Sallie Mae, and

turned it loose to become a cash cow for banks and debt collectors. In the next decade, Sallie Mae’s stock price rose by 1,900%. From 2010 to 2013, as students began to take on more and more debt, Sallie Mae’s profits were \$3.5 billion. (revealnews.org, June 28, 2016)

Congress created generations of well-educated debtors. Instead of a stable financial future, students became impoverished, locked into debt, unable even to buy a car — or take a chance on a career path that might not be “lucrative.”

Assaults on public education

U.S. public education overall remains under attack by right-wing, white-supremacist and capitalist forces. As far back as the post-Reconstruction 1890s, Jim Crow segregationist legislatures blasted fledgling integrated public schools that the majority Black legislatures had created. The assault continued during the modern Civil Rights era, when segregationist Southern school boards literally plundered public schools of equipment and money to set up private “Christian” academies.

Now, on June 21, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that private religious schools have the “right” to be funded with public

money. Such as the private Grace Christian School in Verico, Florida, which sent a June email to all parents telling them to remove their LGBTQ+ children immediately, lumping “homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender identity” with “bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography [as] sinful in the sight of God and the church.” (insider.com, Aug. 20)

Education liberation

A slew of reactionary legislative bills have been passed to limit discussion in U.S. public schools of many socially important issues, including racism and the history of enslavement of Black people, and identities of gender and sexuality.

Presumably the current white-supremacist laws would forbid teaching the fact that 18th and 19th century plantation enslavers also passed laws — making it illegal to teach enslaved or free people of color to read or write! U.S. capitalism is desperate to lock down the minds of working and oppressed people — through debt or through law.

Look in contrast to socialist-directed Cuba. Education at all levels — kindergarten to medical school — remains free for all Cubans, with only some community service required as part of that experience.

What a choice. Be in debt to the banks? Or be debt-free, and pour your heart and mind into a future you help create — a future free of oppressive capitalism where people build justice, imagination and beauty. □

Oil piracy continues U.S. and Israel bomb Syria again

By Sara Flounders

In the latest violation of Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, eight U.S. F-16 and F-15E fighter jets hit nine targets in Syria Aug. 25. The U.S. military still maintains 19 terrorist training camps in Syria and has seized Syria’s oil fields. Even as the U.S./NATO-provoked war in Ukraine threatens nuclear disaster, Washington’s past wars continue to take a toll.

U.S. forces, which still occupy Syria illegally, have engaged in massive bombing campaigns since 2014, targeting vital infrastructure including dams, bridges, electric and industrial plants. The U.S. Congress has never declared war nor authorized U.S. military force in Syria. Still, three successive presidents have ordered Syria bombed, and Washington has attempted to strangle Syria for two decades.

Washington’s unproved pretext claims U.S. fighter jets were targeting suspected Iran-backed groups. Iran rejected the U.S. accusations and condemned the strikes. Iranian, Russian and Hezbollah forces from Lebanon are in Syria at Damascus’s invitation and coordinate with Syria’s military.

A 2021 New York Times investigation revealed that U.S. airstrikes in Syria had

produced far more civilian casualties than previously acknowledged. (Dec. 18, 2021) Public scrutiny forced Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III to order a change in the way the U.S. military processes reports of civilian harm, although he did not end these criminal bombings. (NY Times, May 17)

Israeli attack

Israeli forces too carried out an Aug. 25 aerial assault on Tartus, a city on the Mediterranean Sea harboring a Russian naval facility. Hama, an ancient city of a million people in West Central Syria was also targeted. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that Syria’s air defenses brought down most of the incoming missiles. The U.S. military often coordinates its actions with Israel’s.

Lebanese media outlets reported that Israeli warplanes continually violate Lebanese airspace in the attacks on Syria. Other Israeli attacks are often launched from Golan, a Syrian province illegally occupied by Israel since the June 1967 war.

Syria remains determined to resist each strike. On the same day, a military facility housing U.S. occupation forces in Syria’s eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr came

under attack twice with rockets fired from nearby areas. Syria’s news agency said the attacked U.S. base is inside the Conoco gas field.

Stealing Syria’s oil

Forces the U.S. has armed and funded have fought over Syria’s main oil and gas fields in the northeast corner of the country, near the border with Iraq and Turkiye.

International journalist and political commentator Steven Sahiounie, who has covered Syria’s resistance to U.S. planned dismemberment for years, after describing how U.S. forces first partnered with the Free Syrian Army and with Kurdish forces, stated:

[These groups] “proved to be ineffective ... After a few years, it was the al-Qaida branch in Syria, Jibhat al-Nusra, which became the dominant force, and, finally, ISIS appeared on the scene. All these terrorist groups fought in the area where the main oil fields are in Syria, and at times the oil wells passed from one group to another. ... Today, the oil fields are in the direct possession of the U.S. military.” (Global Research, Aug. 22)

SANA reported Aug. 16 that the U.S. occupation forces stole 398 tankers full of Syrian oil in one week and transported the stolen oil to U.S. bases in Iraq, using an illegal route. The prolonged crisis has cost Syria’s oil industry direct and indirect losses of \$105 billion U.S.

In late 2019, President Donald Trump said, “We’re keeping the oil. I’ve always said that — keep the oil.” (Consortium News, Nov. 6, 2019) At the time of Trump’s open admission of theft, a senior State Department official said to keep and sell Syria’s oil was a war crime.



PHOTO: SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY

U.S. confiscates Syrian oil.

And President Joe Biden has followed the identical policy of piracy.

The cost of war

Before the 2011 U.S.-instigated war in Syria, the country was fully electrified with a national grid. Syria, a secular, multinational, multilingual country, had the highest educational level in the region and full free health care. Now, millions of Syrians, more than 40% of the population, are displaced by the decade of U.S. war.

Because 80% of the oil is constantly looted, life is made more difficult with only a few hours of electricity a day. This makes it difficult to operate schools and factories. The recent U.S. Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 further cut all supplies for reconstruction.

The cost of wars in Syria and Ukraine creates enormous profits for the owners of military and oil corporations. The wars create economic chaos, dislocation, inflation and supply chain shortages far beyond the targeted countries.

Workers in the U.S. also pay the price of endless U.S. wars. Real wages haven’t budged in 40 years. The government calls plans for national health or free education too costly; living standards decline, and infrastructure decays.

What is unquestioned and sailed through Congress is \$8 trillion for the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. □

Bolivia

Massive rally says ‘The coup plotters shall not pass’

By Andrés Figueroa Cornejo

Andrés Figueroa Cornejo wrote this article from Bolivia (under a Creative Commons license) about a massive popular preemptive action aimed at stopping a U.S.-backed military coup before it got rolling. The article was published in *rebellion.org* on Aug. 27. Translation: John Catalinotto.

This Aug. 25, in the San Francisco square of Bolivia’s capital, La Paz, a vibrant assembly of social and popular movements gathered for the defense of democracy, for economic reconstruction after the disaster left by the coup regime of Jeanine Áñez, for the unity of the concerted forces in the Movement Toward Socialism — Political Instrument for the Sovereignty of the Peoples (MAS-IPSP) and the Unity Pact, and to support the government of President Luis Arce and Vice-President David Choquehuanca.

From very early in the morning, the massive rows of people from all the departments of the Plurinational State — that diverse humanity that filled the streets with their deep dimensions, slogans, dances and songs — arrived at the event site.

On the platform where the democratically elected authorities of the country stood, there was a succession of warm greetings from representatives



La Paz, Bolivia, Aug. 25: Mass rally counters coup plot.

of the peasantry, mining workers, the Indigenous peoples, intercultural groups, neighborhood councils, university students, professionals, the Bartolinas (peasant women’s organizations), trade unions and transport workers, among others involved in the process of the democratic and cultural revolution now underway.

Class struggle vs. imperialist theft of resources

One of the speakers at the meeting was former President Evo Morales, who pointed out that “we must all be united for our homeland. Even more so when Western countries want to come after our lithium and its privatization.” He added that, “with the political right wing, a tool of foreign interests, we are engaged in a

class struggle.”

Then the Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, David Choquehuanca Céspedes, whose red poncho lit up the Square full of convictions and hopes, saluted with a [Aymara greeting] “Kamisaki,” and said: “In 2006 the awakening of the Bolivian people began with the recovery of our natural resources, of our sovereignty and dignity, and of our ‘sapi,’ our common root: the culture of unity, life, peace.”

Choquehuanca said that after the tragic experience of the 2019 coup d’état, “we cannot continue to confront each other among Bolivians. It is our obligation to rebuild the unity of the people, to continue strengthening participatory democracy, to return to our path, to our own way of being.”

The vice president added: “From our ancestors we have inherited a set of values, an ethic that we must reestablish on the basis of balance, brotherhood and respect. No one is saved alone; we all need each other — just as we need to become a community again and overcome selfishness, individualism, racism. We have to learn from our sister Bartolina Sisa and our other historical leaders who rebelled

against colonialism, imperialism, capitalism and all forms of injustice.”

To end the large rally, President Luis Arce addressed those present, noting that “today in this square, we are witnessing the greatest march in our history. And the maturity and wisdom of the Bolivian people is showing us that the most important thing we must defend is democracy.”

Luis Arce emphasized that “the people will never allow themselves to be convinced or deceived by the right wing that seeks to stop their progress. The right wing is only interested in filling its own pockets and emptying the pockets of the people; it is only interested in weakening a government that has come from the people and for the people.”

Arce added that “the right wing resents the fact that we are industrializing the country and offering improvements to those who work the land. And when the right no longer has any use for democracy, it resorts to a coup d’état. But together, from here, we strongly affirm that the right wing shall not pass!”

Lucho [Luis Arce] and David [Choquehuanca] read the banners under La Paz luminosa. From their hearts, an entire people say “Lucho and David.”

For background see *workers.org/2020/11/52536/*, “Bolivians eject coup regime, and Evo Morales returns.”

Filadelfia

Resistencia al desalojo

Continúa de la página 10

los residentes y sus partidarios dieron la alerta para reunirse a primera hora de la mañana del 8 de agosto. Unas 100 personas respondieron, preparadas para defender el campamento.

Comenzaron con una concentración en las calles 40 y Market a las 8 de la mañana, antes de que llegaran los sheriffs. Los residentes Darlene Foreman y Melvin Harriston dirigieron los cánticos y agradecieron a todos su presencia. Señalaron que la lucha por la vivienda es una lucha nacional, que se extenderá más allá de Filadelfia, y que esto es sólo el principio.

Pam África tomó la palabra para recordar que este era el aniversario del desalojo policial de los miembros de MOVE de su casa en la cercana Powelton Village el 8 de agosto de 1978. La policía destruyó la casa y nueve miembros de MOVE fueron encarcelados durante más de 40 años.

A las 9:00 a.m., los manifestantes se colocaron a lo largo de la valla de paletas, mientras 20 o 30 hombres y mujeres armados con insignias del Departamento del Sheriff marchaban hacia la entrada del campamento. Uno de los agentes se enfrentó a la organizadora residente Foreman, diciéndole que iban a retirar las tiendas de campaña. Foreman terminó bruscamente su conversación, cogió un megáfono y empezó a corear: “¡No vamos a ninguna parte!” y “¿A quién protegés? ¿A quién sirves?”.

A continuación, los policías entraron en el recinto de las UC Townhomes y empezaron a derribar las tiendas de campaña y los toldos y a llevárselos. Los manifestantes se resistieron durante todo el proceso, a veces tirando de un lado de las tiendas mientras los policías tiraban del otro. Algunos se aferraron a las estacas de los

toldos mientras los policías intentaban moverlos. Dos residentes permanecieron en sus asientos, negándose a moverse mientras los sheriffs tenían que levantar los toldos sobre sus cabezas.

Mientras los sheriffs se movían por la zona, los manifestantes se enfrentaban a ellos con cánticos y los rodeaban con frecuencia. Muchos llevaban pancartas en las que se leía: “No se puede derribar la comunidad”, “Desalojen a los promotores; salven las viviendas de la UC” y “La vivienda es un derecho humano”.

Según la orden judicial, ninguna de las tiendas de campaña debe ser destruida, y la gente tiene 30 días para reclamarlas.

Los trabajadores se niegan a ayudar al aburguesamiento racista

Históricamente, en Filadelfia, los trabajadores de la sanidad pública han tenido que dismantelar los campamentos de los sin techo y destruir sus pertenencias. Anticipando que los trabajadores de la ciudad volverían a cumplir las órdenes

de los gentrificadores, los residentes y activistas hicieron un llamamiento a los trabajadores de la zona para que rechazaran cualquier orden de desmantelamiento de la protesta, señalando que la vivienda asequible es una cuestión de los trabajadores. El llamamiento obtuvo más de 400 firmas locales, nacionales e incluso internacionales.

Para reforzar aún más la voz de los residentes, la Coalición “Labor for Black Lives” envió al alcalde de Filadelfia, Jim Kenney, y a otros funcionarios de la ciudad, una firme declaración de solidaridad con los residentes de UC Townhomes. Firmada por 16 organizaciones laborales que representan a decenas de miles de trabajadores negros y marrones —incluidos algunos de los mayores sindicatos de Filadelfia—, la declaración pedía a la ciudad que “bloqueara inmediatamente la venta de UC Townhomes”.

Su declaración decía en parte: “Como coalición de sindicatos que represen-

tan a trabajadores negros y morenos, sabemos que conseguir una vivienda de alquiler segura y asequible es una lucha constante para la gente de color de la ciudad. Un gran número de los trabajadores que representamos están obligados a residir en la ciudad como condición de su empleo; pero el aumento de los costes de los alquileres, la escasez de viviendas asequibles y las barreras estructurales incrustadas en el proceso de solicitud de alquiler y de vales de vivienda asequible hacen que sea cada vez más difícil conseguir una vivienda. Necesitamos que los líderes de nuestra ciudad estén al lado de nuestras comunidades negras para que nuestros trabajadores puedan seguir viviendo y trabajando en Filadelfia en los próximos años”. (La declaración completa está disponible en inglés en *workers.org/2022/08/65911*).

Cuando los alguaciles y más tarde los policías en bicicleta se retiraron finalmente, los residentes y simpatizantes salieron a la calle, marchando detrás de una enorme pancarta con el lema: “Los inquilinos de UC Townhomes dicen: ‘¡No nos vamos a ninguna parte!’”. Marcharon a través de secciones del campus de la Universidad de Pensilvania antes de volver al emplazamiento de UC Townhomes.

En varios cruces importantes, los manifestantes bloquearon el tráfico y mantuvieron un flujo constante de cánticos. Los oradores denunciaron al alcalde Kenney y a los miembros del consejo de la ciudad por no apoyar a los residentes, señalando que los funcionarios de la ciudad, los aburguesados y la Universidad de Pensilvania se señalan unos a otros, mientras no hacen nada para detener los desalojos pendientes. □



Manifestación en Filadelfia, 9 de julio.

M.O. FOTO: JOE PIETTE

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO



FOTO: ABBAS MOMANI

Los manifestantes han acosado al presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, en Palestina, incluso el 15 de julio en Belén, donde los chicos llevaban la fotografía de Shireen Abu Akleh, la periodista palestino-estadounidense asesinada por las tropas del ejército israelí mientras estaba en una misión en el campo de refugiados palestinos de Yénin.

Los palestinos se resisten al imperialismo estadounidense y a la ocupación israelí

Por Richie Merino

El 18 de agosto, las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes allanaron, bloquearon físicamente e impusieron órdenes de cierre a las oficinas de siete destacadas organizaciones palestinas de derechos humanos, feministas y de servicios sociales que operan en la zona de Ramallah, en la Cisjordania ocupada.

Antecedentes de la demonización

En 2021, Israel designó falsa y preventivamente a seis de las siete organizaciones objetivo como “grupos terroristas”, alegando vínculos con la organización de liberación marxista prohibida, el Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina (FPLP), con el fin de justificar cualquier redada. Los grupos que se enfrentan a la represión y la intimidación son: Al-Haq, Addameer, el Centro Bisan de Investigación y Desarrollo, Defensa de los Niños Internacional-Palestina (DCI-P), la Unión de Comités de Trabajo Agrícola, la Unión de Comités de Trabajadores de la Salud y la Unión de Comités de Mujeres Palestinas.

En abril, expertos en derechos humanos de la ONU y nueve Estados de la Unión Europea que financian a los grupos señalados denunciaron la designación por falta de pruebas que corroboraran las afirmaciones “terroristas” de Israel. Sin embargo, la sede del bloque de la UE en Bruselas se negó rotundamente a condenar la designación de “grupos terroristas”, lo que confirma la postura de línea dura a favor de Israel de la burocracia general de la UE.

Durante su visita a Jerusalén del 13 al 15 de julio, Biden se comprometió a proteger a Israel de “todos los esfuerzos para boicotear

o deslegitimar a Israel”, incluso en la ONU y en el Tribunal Penal Internacional. Las promesas de Estados Unidos se hicieron en la “Declaración Conjunta de la Asociación Estratégica Estados Unidos-Israel en Jerusalén” del 14 de julio, en la que Estados Unidos se comprometió a seguir proporcionando “asistencia adicional en materia de defensa antimisiles” a Israel. El tono y la estructura generales de la declaración implican un compromiso brutal para acabar con la resistencia palestina.

Tras el regreso de Biden, 21 miembros del Congreso de Estados Unidos firmaron una carta el 18 de julio en la que instaban al gobierno de Biden a rechazar públicamente la designación de “terroristas” para los grupos palestinos y a presionar a Israel para que anule cualquier medida punitiva.

Escalada contra la resistencia palestina

Dado que todo lo que la ONU, Estados Unidos y la UE pueden ofrecer a los palestinos que se resisten al colonialismo de los colonos es palabrería y declaraciones performativas y desdentadas, Israel se envalentonó entonces para intensificar su represión contra los grupos de derechos humanos palestinos.

El 18 de agosto, las fuerzas israelíes “atravesaron por la fuerza la puerta de seguridad cerrada de las oficinas de Al-Haq, arrancando la puerta de sus goznes, y asaltaron los locales, haciendo saltar las alarmas”, declaró ese día el grupo de derechos. Las Fuerzas de Defensa israelíes derribaron la puerta principal de la iglesia St. Andrew’s Scots Memorial, situada debajo de las oficinas de Al-Haq, “dejando a la vista largos fragmentos de cristales rotos, granadas de

esponja y varios botes de gas lacrimógeno, balas recubiertas de goma y balas reales alrededor de la propiedad”. La Diócesis Episcopal de Jerusalén dijo: “El sonido de los disparos, de las granadas paralizantes y de los destrozos de las puertas causó terror entre las familias que viven dentro del recinto”.

Las fuerzas sionistas “soldaron una nueva puerta de hierro reforzada en el exterior de la oficina de Al-Haq”, impidiendo la reentrada. Además, el director general de Al-Haq, Shawan Jabarin, recibió una llamada amenazante de la Agencia de Seguridad Israelí, el Shabak o Shin Bet, exigiendo que Jabarin se presentara en una base militar para ser interrogado. En la llamada se le amenazaba con el encarcelamiento y otras medidas si Al-Haq continuaba con su trabajo.

El DCI-P dijo que los soldados se llevaron equipos y “expedientes de clientes relacionados con niños palestinos detenidos” a los que el grupo representa en los tribunales militares israelíes. El director general de DCI-P, Khaled Quzmar, fue puesto bajo custodia del Shin Bet y liberado dos horas después, en una nueva escalada de represión e intimidación.

La Unión de Comités de Mujeres Palestinas señaló que la redada del jueves “no era la primera vez que las fuerzas de ocupación asaltaban nuestra oficina”.

La designación de terroristas y las redadas posteriores forman parte de la larga campaña de Israel para criminalizar, desfinanciar y sabotear a las organizaciones que intentan documentar las violaciones de derechos humanos del pueblo de la Palestina ocupada. Tres de las organizaciones -Addameer, Al-Haq y Defensa de los Niños Internacional-Palestina- han aportado pruebas y han cooperado estrechamente con la investigación de la Corte Penal Internacional sobre los crímenes de guerra en Cisjordania y Gaza.

La escalada de la represión fascista se deriva directamente de las garantías de la UE y de Estados Unidos de que “combatirán” los esfuerzos para interrumpir la impunidad israelí en la ONU y en la CPI y no responderán de forma sustantiva a la falsa designación de estos grupos de derechos humanos palestinos como “terroristas” por parte del ocupante sionista.

En cambio, la UE y Estados Unidos sólo han recompensado el terror israelí con una aprobación rastrera, dando luz verde a las incursiones. Israel seguirá saliéndose con la suya en sus flagrantes violaciones del derecho internacional de los derechos humanos, mientras la UE y la administración Biden, al igual que sus predecesores, sigan defendiendo a Israel y proporcionando incondicionalmente al ocupante apoyo militar, económico y diplomático.

Una respuesta revolucionaria

Desde principios de agosto, 56 palestinos -entre ellos 20 niños- han sido asesinados por las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes, según la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos. (ohchr.org/es)

Filadelfia

Resistencia al desalojo

Por Betsey Piette

Un enfrentamiento largamente esperado entre los residentes que luchan por la justicia en materia de vivienda y el Departamento del Sheriff de Filadelfia, que protege los intereses de los gentrificadores, estalló el 8 de agosto — 30 días después del inicio de una protesta “ciudad de tiendas de campaña.”

Alrededor de 70 residentes negros y morenos de bajos ingresos de los Townhomes de University City, en la esquina de las calles Market y 40, habían protestado por su desalojo pendiente, previsto para el 8 de septiembre. Para llamar la atención del público y de los medios de comunicación sobre su lucha por conservar una vivienda asequible y permanecer en su comunidad, los residentes y sus partidarios instalaron entre 15 y 20 tiendas de campaña en el lugar el 9 de julio. Grandes pancartas alrededor de la zona la proclamaban como “los Townhomes del Pueblo”.

Una valla de barrera hecha con palés de madera fijados entre sí y pintados con eslóganes de colores rodeaba el complejo.

Algunas de las pancartas pegadas interpe-laban al propietario Brett Altman: “¡Qué vergüenza Altman; no nos trates como basura!”.

Las protestas suscitaron un amplio apoyo de los miembros de la comunidad, especialmente de otros activistas de la vivienda. Se mantuvieron mesas informativas en el lugar durante todo el mes de protestas.

El 22 de julio, un juez del Common Pleas Court de Filadelfia accedió a la petición del propietario Altman Group de desmontar y retirar todas las tiendas, mesas, sillas y toldos utilizados por los manifestantes. Después de que los residentes y sus partidarios siguieran desafiando la orden judicial, el 5 de agosto el mismo juez emitió una orden final para que el Departamento del Sheriff retirara el campamento de protesta el 8 de agosto.

Los policías hacen el trabajo de los gentrificadores

Esperando que el Departamento del Sheriff apareciera para retirar las tiendas,

Continúa en la página 9