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; 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, corporate-wide 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 order. 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 overstuffed 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.
On Labor Day, hail workers in motion! Support Workers World

Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper cheers on the Amazon and Starbucks workers who are battling 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 LGBTQ2+ 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 organizing 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 once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 20-year health crisis. And while WW’s staff is voluntary, both the hard-copy and the online 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 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.

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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on imm/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2+ 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 ganged 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 multigrouping 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 the hands of those not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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 JFK warehouse in Staten Island, New York. The ALU won this historic victory!

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Mundo Obrero/ Workers World this week
The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade was undoubtedly 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, submitting petitions with 753,488 signatures in July. The issue is urgent, as state courts are currently considering whether to reinstate a 1931 law banning all abortions except to save the life of the pregnant person; under that 90-year-old law, doctors performing abortions could be sent to prison for up to 15 years.

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.”

The Michigan Supreme Court’s reversal June 24 of the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortions has confused doctors, hospital administrators and government officials about what conditions allow exemptions to newly published abortion bans. The high court’s ruling has created chaos in states with these bans. Administrators at the Women’s Hospital at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who 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’s use of abortion was suspended.

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)

The Michigan legislation was submitted by an attorney representing Davis, surrounded by family members, activists from Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America and Food Not Bombs, 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 of children, 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, and from 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 terrorist occupying force, to Israel for training.
Yvonne Swan Wanrow set precedent for self-defense cases

By Martha Grevatt

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

The Cuyahoga County Jail has not as yet reversed plans to build a new jail on the site of a former Standard Oil refinery. The County has tried to downplay con-
cerns about the toxic chemicals in the soil, including carcinogenic benzene and methane gases, but has not denied that environmen-
tal 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 con-
ditions in the current county jail. These conditions are now being used as an argu-
ment for building a new jail by the very pol-
iticians who are responsible for them! Yet the problems of overcrowding, poor med-
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—
must be addressed in any new jail.

Members of the Jail Coalition have reg-
ularly attended and spoken at meetings of the Cuyahoga County Justice Center Steering Committee, composed of 12 pub-
lic 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 sup-
porters that “thanks to the sustained
efforts of this community and our part-
ners, the plan is still in limbo five months later, and the county has financed both a review of the proposed site in addition
game plans to the water main and build-
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 hous-
ing, 100,000 two-year community col-
ge level 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 peo-
ple in jail excessively long under the mask of “public safety.”

Coalition members held signs reading “No new jail” and chanted that same slo-
ger. As a result, the county and jail opponents added another priority — No new jail — and put their stickers there.

Albert Woodfox: ‘a warrior who loved humanity’

By John “Bunchy” Crear

When I think about my comrade Albert Woodfox, I think about the humanity of the man. When my com-
rade Warren Nelson (“D.K.”) and I were on the way to meet Albert after his release from prison, I was wonder-
ing for a moment what it was like to spend after 6 to 12

Albert Woodfox, a former aide to his Jail Chairman Dick Wilson of the Black Panther Party in Oakland in the 1970s, is a well-known activist in the struggle for the rights of prisoners. He is also a leader of the Black Panther Party Alumni Association. He is one of the most active and well-respected leaders in the movement for prisoners’ rights in the United States. He has been a prominent figure in the struggle for the release of Albert Woodfox, who was imprisoned for over 40 years for a crime he did not commit. Albert Woodfox is a symbol of the struggle against injustice and for freedom and equality for all people.
Guest commentary

Rapid reestablishment of relations between Colombia and Venezuela

By Sergio Rodríguez Gelaffenstein

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 policies for TeleSUR. Translated by unitedcoeditor.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 relationships 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 orientation 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 began 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 announced that he had spoken with the elected president Maduro, and on the Colombian side, Rubén Zamora and Wilfredo Cañizales, representatives of the Alianza Histórica coalition, the political group of the new Colombian president.

Likewise, a “high-level communion” was 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 businesspeople 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.

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 Pemex 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 Superintendency 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-Ancon 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 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

Our thoughts and solidarity are with Franky’s family and friends and the many who loved him.

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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 success of the Cuban Revolution. She emphasized that Cuba’s socialist system mobilized people’s organizations that form the front lines of political mobilization in Cuba. Tamara Munafí explained that Cuban socialism 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 developed 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 result was 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. 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 in Havana, where those with the most serious burns injuries were taken. This hospital has 23 operating rooms and only two functioning anesthesia machines.

Donations to the fund can be made here: ghppartners.org/cubazoo22.

The Cuban health service has the skilled personnel and scientific knowhow 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 at the KEA went up Aug. 25, and by the weekend the union was still locked in negotiations with 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 [filling] 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. 20-22 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 realloacting 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 keynote speaker, along with Ajamu Dillahunt from Black Workers for Justice and Southern Workers Assembly.
**Vietnam advances LGBTQ+ rights**

By Paddy Colligan

The Vietnam Ministry of Health ensured on Aug. 3 that members of the LGBTQ+ community will be given appropriate and respectful medical care. While legal protections of the Vietnamese LGBTQ+ community have been in place for several decades, 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 “underlines that homosexuality is not a disorder” and demanded that medical centers and experts who say they can “cure” homosexuality stop making these false and harmful claims. (tinyurl.com/45uu3y, Aug. 10)

The Ministry of Health action has come amid reports of forced medical examinations and so-called ‘treatment’ for members of the LGBTQ+ community.” The Ministry sent its sharply worded document to provincial 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 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 homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender issues as these relate to their patients. All medical staff are to ensure gender equality and respect for the freedom 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 to 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/445saazr, Aug. 18).

**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 Haiti the approval of this sort, a mighty example of successful struggle.

Every Haitian is aware of the significance of this date, which is why Pitit la paix is sung every year. This is a national song based on the national anthem of Haiti, which is meant as a rallying cry for the Haitian people.

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 PD’s GDP comes from remittances — he was compellingly felt. The huge crowd responded with “N’ap Boule yo!” which can be translated as: “We will burn them!”

The attention given to the medical care of patients and to avoid discrimination and prejudice toward them. Medical staff are not to consider homosexuality, bisexuality or transgenderism an illness.

**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, Diprivic), a small, anti-imperialist party based in Cap-Haitien, 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’s 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-Haitien**

Moïse Jean-Charles and other leaders of PD had spoken repeatedly over the radio in Cap-Haitien in the weeks before Aug. 22 and had put 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 PD’s GDP comes from remittances — he was compellingly felt. The huge crowd responded with “N’ap Boule yo!” which can be translated as: “We will burn them!”

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 remarkable large protest in Petit-Goâve, a small seaside town at 12,000 in Haiti’s southwest. The provincial cities of Jacmel, Miragoïne and les Cayes did not extend their popular mobilizations to Aug. 23.

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

**Benefits of methadone treatment**

Methadone treatment developed

But pain was only one thing that methadone would be used for. After World War II, the Addiction Research Foundation 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. 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 solve 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 predictably abhorrent. The professional codes and the law “underlined 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).

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**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 retroconverted to a lesser extent than non-methadone-using active addicts. (tinyurl.com/29pfh4sk)

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, it was discovered that methadone increased the quality of life for its users, stopped the HIV and hepatitis C viruses from spreading and stabilized even the hardest cases of opioid addiction. (tinyurl.com/45uu3y) According to a Tuoi Tren Vietnam

Massive August 22 demonstration in Cap-Haitien.

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/55fbzk, Aug 11).

Looting the morgue, a well-known LGBTQ+ activist, poetically described the document as a “cool show” offered by the big best 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 judgment.

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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’s oil fields. Even as the U.S.-NATO-provoked war in Ukraine threatens nuclear disaster, Washington’s past wars continue to take lives.

U.S. forces, which still occupy Syria illegally, have engaged in massive bombarding campaigns. They are 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 bombings, and Washington has attempted to strangle Syria for two decades.

Washington’s unproved presidencies have engaged billions of dollars and U.S.-F fighter jets 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 bombings. (NY Times, May 17)

Israeli attack

Israeli forces too carried out an Aug. 25 aerial assault on Tartus, a 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 Lebanon’s 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 remained 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 near areas nearby, 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 northeastern corner of the country, near the border with Iraq and Turkey.

A Syrian journalist and political commentator Steven Sahuqionie, 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, Jihadi 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 tanks 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.

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 $30,000 in college liability, on politicians about student debt, so severe term elections.

the Democratic Party’s sprint to the mid-

U.S. and Israel bomb Syria again

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.

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 immedi-

ately, lumping “homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender gender identity” with “bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography” 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.

Prejudiced current the Supreme-wit

The debt crisis for students won’t end with the recent Bidenesque “cor-

Debt crisis continues

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Debt crisis continues
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 recent 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 Catrillano.

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.

On the platform where the democratically elected authorities of the country stood, there was a succession of warm greetings from representatives of the peasantry, mining workers, the Indigenous peoples, intercultural groups, neighborhood councils, university students, professors, the Bartolínas (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 land and our natural resources, of our economic reconstruction 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 build a community again and overcome selfishness, individualism, racism. We have to learn from our sister Bartolín Sisa and 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.”

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 represents 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!”

Kenney and David [Choquehuanca] read the banners under the new La Paz luminosa. From their hearts, an entire people say “Lacho and David.”

For background see workers.org/2020/11/25256/ “Bolivians eject coup regime, and Evo Morales returns.”

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 Harrrison dirigieron los cánticos y agradecieron a todos su presencia. Señalaron que la lucha sigue viviendo en el corazón de la ciudad. La policía de Filadelfia 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 declaracion 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 pedia a la ciudad que “bloqueara inmediatamente la venta de UC Townhomes.”

Su declaración decía en parte: “Como coalición de sindicatos que representan 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 costos de los alquileres, la escasez de viviendas asequibles y las barreras estructurales incluyen el hecho de que alquiler y de vales de vivienda asequible hacen que sea cada vez más difícil conseguir una vivienda. Necesitamos a otros líderes de nuestra ciudad estén al lado de nuestras comunidades negras para que nuestros trabajadores puedan seguir viviendo en Filadelfia en los próximos años”. (La declaración completa está disponible está disponible en inglés en workers.org/2022/08/65911). A pesar de la lucha, los oficiales de policía en bicicleta se retiraron finalmente, mientras que residentes y simpatizantes salieron a la calle, marchando detrás de un enorme pancarta con el lema: “Los inquilinos de UC Townhomes dicen: “¿No vamos a ninguna parte!””. Marcharon a través de varios cruces importantes, desalojando a los gentrificadores, “la ciudad por no apoyar a los residentes, señalando que los funcionarios de la ciudad; los aburguesados y la Universidad de Pensilvania antes de vol-

en al emplazamiento de UC Townhomes. En varios cruces importantes, los mani- festantes con el lema “bloquearemos inmediatamente la venta de UC Townhomes.”

Manifestación en Filadelfia, 9 de julio.
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 demolición

En 2021, Israel designó falsa y preventivamente a seis de las siete organizaciones objetivadas como “grupos terroristas”, anunciando que se vieron obligados a organizar una operación 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 Documentación Palestina, el Comité Internacional de la Unión Sindical Sindical-Ontario (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 nuevos Estados de la Unión Europea que financian a los grupos señalados denunciaron la designación por falta de pruebas que demostraran las afirmaciones “terroristas” de Israel. Sin embargo, la sede de la ONU en Jerusalén y las sedes de la ONU en Ginebra y Nueva York se negaron rotundamente a condenar la designación de “grupos terroristas”, lo que confirma la postura de línea dura a favor de Israel en su demanda de que “Israel es la nación judía en el mundo”. Dado que la demanda es la base de las políticas de seguridad de Israel, el 18 de agosto, las fuerzas israelíes “atrasaron por la fuerza la puerta de seguridad ciega de las oficinas de Al-Haq, arrancando la puerta de sus ganchos y arrojaron los locales, haciendo saltar las alarmas”, declaró el grupo de derechos. Las Fuerzas de Defensa israelíes derrumbaron la puerta principal de la iglesia de St. Andrew’s Scots Memorial, situada debajo de las oficinas de Al-Haq, “dejando a la vista largos fragmentos de cristales rotos, granadas de esquirlas 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 paradanzando y de los destrozos de las puertas causó ter- ror 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”, impi- diendo la reentrada. Además, el direc- tor general de Al-Haq, Shahwan Jabarin, recibió una llamada anónima de la Policía de Seguridad de Israel, el Shabak o Shin Bet, exigiendo que Jabarin se pre- sentara en una base militar para ser inter- rogado. 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 lle- varon equipos y “expedientes de clientes relacionados con niños palestinos deteni- dos” a los que el grupo representa en los tribunales militares israelíes. El director general del DCI-P, Omar Quamuz, en- puso bajo custodia del Shin Bet y lib- erado dos horas después, en una nueva escena que representa una am- tividad de derechos humanos del pueblo de la Policía de Seguridad de Israel por su intención de combatir y financiar y sabotear a las organizaciones que intentan documentar las violaciones de derechos humanos del pueblo de la Patria ocupada y de las organiza- ciones -Addameer, Al-Haq y Defensa de los Niños Internacional-Palestina- han aportado pruebas y han cooperado estre- chamente con la investigación de la Corte Penal Internacional sobre los crímenes de guerra en Cisjordania y Gaza. “La lucha de la resistencia popular se deriva directamente de las garantías de la UE y de Estados Unidos de que “com- batirán” los esfuerzos para interrumpir la impunidad israelí en la ONU y en la CPI y que no responderán de forma sustancial a la falsa designación de estos grupos de dere- chos humanos palestinos como “terroris- tas” por parte del ocupante sionista. En cambio, la UE y Estados Unidos sólo han recompensado al terror israelí con una Aprobación rastros, dando luz verde a las incursiones. Israel seguirá saliendo con la suya en sus flagrantes violaciones del dere- cho internacional de los derechos humanos, mientras la UE y la administración Biden, al igual que sus predecesores, sigan defen- diendo a Israel y proporcionando incondi- cionalmente al ocupante apoyo militar, económico y diplomático.

Una respuesta revolucionaria

Desde principios de agosto, 36 pal- estinos -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)

Los manifestantes han acusado al presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, en Palestina, incluso el 15 de julio, Biden, durante la visita de la fotoperiodista de Shireen Abu Akleh, la periodista palestino-estadounidense asesinada por los tropas del ejército israelí, mientras violaba un campamento en el campo de refugiados palestinos de Yenín.

Los palestinos sionistas han lanzado incursiones agresivas y selectivas contra los combatientes de la resistencia, con la implicación de reconocidos terroristas de Israel que han resultado en daños tangibles y materiales. Mientras que gran parte de los medios de comunicación se centran en las atro- cidades y matices de las guerras y la administración de los intereses israelíes estadounidenses, existe la necesidad de que se llame la atención sobre los daños y desgajos de todos los jerarcas del sistema israelí, que han resultado en la impunidad por parte de las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes.

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Filadelfia

Por Betsey Plette

Un enfrentamiento largamente espe- rado 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 gentri- fiadores, estalló el 8 de agosto — 30 días después del inicio de una protesta "ciudad de tiendas de campaña". Después de que 30 residentes negros y morenos de bajos ingresos de los Townhomes of University City, en la esquina de las calles Malach y 30, hayan protestado por su desalojo pendiente, la policía, que es de origen norteño, denunció a la policía de Filadelfia, que es de origen norteño, porque "tres hombres de piel afro-americanos atacaron nuestra oficina".

Dado que todo lo que la ONU, Estados Unidos y la UE pueden ofrecer a los pal- estinos que se resisten al colonialismo de la colonia de colonos sionistas y el terrorismo israelí es palabrería y declaraciones en contra de los derechos humanos palestinos, el 18 de agosto, las fuerzas israelíes "trasararon por la fuerza la puerta de seguridad ciega de las oficinas de Al-Haq, arrancando la puerta de sus ganchos y asis- tiendo los locales, haciendo saltar las alarma", declaró el grupo de derechos. Las Fuerzas de Defensa israelíes derrumbaron la puerta principal de la iglesia de St. Andrew's Scots Memorial, situada debajo de las oficinas de Al-Haq, "dejando a la vista largos fragmentos de cristales rotos, granadas de esquirlas 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 paradanzando y de los destrozos de las puertas causó ter- ror entre las familias que viven dentro del recinto”.

Algunas de las pancartas pegadas interpe- laban al propietario Betric Altman: “¿Qué vergüenza Altman; no nos trates como basura!”. Las protestas suscitaron un amplio apoyo de los miembros de la comunidad, lo que demuestra la importancia de la resistencia en la vivienda. Se mantuvieron mesas infor- mativas 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 desmantelar y retirar todas las mesas, sillas y toldos utilizados por los manifestantes. Después de que los resi- dientes y sus partidarios siguieran desa- fiando 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 aparezca para retirar las tiendas, Continúa en la página 9

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