Amazon, Starbucks say ‘get back’

Workers say fight back!

By Steve Gillis, Jim McMahan and Minnie Bruce Pratt

Big Business would like to believe that the wave of class struggle by U.S. workers is fading — despite being so visible in Amazon Labor Union’s historic victory at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, New York, and in the lightning spread of Starbucks Workers United (SBWU).

But remember the “Red for Ed” strike wave, begun by the Chicago Teachers Union in 2012, taken up with a vengeance by the West Virginia teachers, then spreading to Oklahoma and to Arizona. That has not ended yet, as the Seattle Education Association strike Sept. 7 shows. (See “Class War in West Virginia: Education Workers Strike, Win,” workers.org/books.)

And what about the longest U.S. strike still underway? The United Mine Workers have been stubbornly out on the picket line for 18 months and counting in Brookwood, Alabama. (“Alabama miners defiant,” Workers World, Sept. 15)

U.S. workers have been organizing unions and striking for victory for over 200 years. Not stopping now, especially not Amazon and Starbucks workers!

Shaking the walls of Seattle world HQ

Voices of 400 workers reverberated off the walls of Starbucks world headquarters in Seattle on Sept. 13: “What do we want? Contract! When do we want it? Now!” Organized by SBWU, the block-long picket line was a push back against Starbucks’ rabid union-busting tactics across the country.

The union action protested Starbucks Investor Day, held inside where CEO Howard Schultz and company were announcing a “Reinvention Plan.” Starbucks soon-to-be CEO Laxman Narasimhan was introduced at the meeting, but Schultz, the infamous outgoing CEO, will remain on the board.

In response to the workers’ tremendous organizing drive, the “reinvention” no doubt includes Starbucks current anti-union tactics, while adding new technology to wring huge profits for investors out of workers’ labor. The SBWU demonstration in front of the massive Starbucks tower was a show of force to the bosses scheming inside. “If we don’t get it? Shut it down!” the workers chanted. At the rally, fired-up Starbucks worker-organizers from Seattle; Portland and Eugene, Oregon; and Olympia, Washington, gave moving statements about working conditions at Starbucks and their successful organizing drives.

Marchers included large union contingents from SBWU, Laborers International Union (LIUNA), Service Employees Union (SEIU), Communications Workers (CWA), the Sheet Metal Workers, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Locals 19 and 23, UNITE-HERE Local 8 and Teamsters Local 117, along with members of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council and other groups.

On Sept. 8 a national zoom meeting initiated by Support Amazon Workers Network called for national demonstrations and activities on Sept. 29 (National Coffee Day) and Oct. 1 (International Coffee Day), which will be the six-month anniversary of the Amazon Labor Union victory at JFK8 — the first Amazon facility unionized in the U.S. The actions will show solidarity with union drives by Amazon and Starbucks workers.

According to an Aug. 30 Gallup poll, 71% of people in the U.S. back unionization. (news.gallup.com)

The call included worker-leaders and supporters of Starbucks and Amazon workers from across the U.S. For more info, see supportamazonworkers.org.

Facing down Starbucks police tactics in Boston

On Sept. 15, Starbucks management called in the cops to threaten Boston SBWU’s 24/7 encampment. This was the two-month mark of a militant strike against discrimination and union busting by workers at the Boston University neighborhood shop at 874 Commonwealth Ave.

For the first time since the strike began July 18, cops were brought in to threaten arrest — on the pretext of alleged trespassing. A Boston Police Department captain and his Special Operations SWAT squad — sporting bulletproof vests and driving arrest wagons — arrived to enforce Starbucks’ global “union avoidance” and infamous union-busting law firm Littler Mendelson’s menacing of the union.

Strikers and supporters from throughout greater Boston — including a large continuum of the one-month-old Boston University Graduate Students’ Union — massed in defiance on the strike-line to confront the corporate-instigated police attack.

Between songs of resistance and rousing chants led by Workers United strike captain Spencer Costigan, speakers condemned the silence of Democratic politicians about Starbucks’ use of state force and called on Boston...
Residents and supporters of the People’s Townhomes, formally called University City Townhomes, continue to organize resistance to the eviction date of Oct. 8 fast approaches.

After over a year of meetings, numerous street protests, a 24-hour protest encampment, surprise visits to developers’ offices and other working-class fund raisers, resident organizers have updated their demands. The Save the UC Townhomes now calls on Mayor Jim Kenney and other city and state officials, University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University leaders and city officials to not only stop any evictions of the 70 resident families of 400 people. They want a commitment to a process to preserve the UC Townhomes and to further commit resources to the acquisition of the property.

Reparations for UPenn complicity in Black displacement

People’s Townhomes activists interrupted the University of Pennsylvania incoming student convocation Aug. 29 to demand UPenn’s financial support for People’s Townhomes residents as partial reparations for the Ivy League university’s long history of displacing Black residents from adjacent neighborhoods.

In a reactionary response, UPenn President Liz Magill retaliated with disciplinary hearings for students who were involved in disrupting her speech. Organizers point out that if Magill hadn’t dismissed residents’ requests to speak to her, there would never have been a disruption.

Despite Magill’s displeasure, Fossil Free Penn, a student activist group, is demanding Penn divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry and reinvest in the Philadelphia community and clean-energy companies and projects. They held a teach-in Sept. 16 on the struggle of UC Townhomes residents to stop their evictions. Students held the event at a tent city on campus, which they erected Sept. 14 as part of a global End Fossil Now movement occupying schools and universities around the world.

Interfaith leaders say housing is a human right

On Sept. 18, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, North Carolina architecht of the Moral Monday movement and co-chair of the national Poor People’s Campaign, spoke at a UC Townhomes rally of residents, activists and clergy. “You’re a hypocrite if you’re a politician participating in throwing people out of their homes. You’re a hypocrite if you say you’re a developer, and you want to tear down UC Townhomes. That’s not development,” he said.

“University of Pennsylvania and Drexel, if you’re not in the fight with these residents, then you might as well close down your political science departments and your public policy departments and your law departments. You should not only be saying ‘not UC Townhomes alone,’ you should be saying anybody who lives in UC Townhomes and their children can go free to Drexel and UPenn.”

Barber volunteered to stay at UC Townhomes at a future date if that would help direct media attention to the struggle. After several residents described why they became organizers, several clergy from the POWER Interfaith Coalition spoke. A dozen ministers and rabbis followed up by signing a letter to Mayor Kenney, which included the Townhomes demands. It asks him to meet with resident leaders to discuss how to stop their evictions and how he’s going to handle dozens of other expiring HUD housing contracts in this city.

Resident organzser Mel Haixton, one of the last speakers, brought the crowd to its feet with the words, “Housing is not only a human right, housing is OUR right!”

People’s Townhomes residents continue the fight

By Joe Piette

Peoples Townhomes resident Krystal Young (sitting with her dog Shadow) teaches UPenn students how to fight for housing rights, Sept. 16.

Surrounded by residents and clergy, Rev. William Barber speaks to the crowd at the Peoples Townhomes complex, Sept. 18.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigendered and multinational 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 im/migrants, refugees, LGBTQ+s oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No seed or fruit 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 ever-greater profits.

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Boston Marches for Indigenous Peoples Day

By K. James

Protesters will march through the streets of Boston on Oct. 8 to demand that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day (IPD) instead of Columbus Day. For decades, Indigenous peoples in the United States have called for the end of Columbus Day and the public celebration of Christopher Columbus, who committed brutal atrocities against the Indigenous people he encountered, including enslavement, mutilation and genocide. Columbus is also recognized as having initiated the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which resulted in the displacement and deaths of millions of Africans.

Indigenous people in Boston scored a major victory Oct. 6, 2021, when then-Boston Mayor Kim Janey signed an Executive Order declaring the second Monday in October henceforth be recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day. However, Boston has failed to meet with local Indigenous organizations to plan any city celebrations for IPD. Local Indigenous groups, including the United American Indians of New England (UAINE), are demanding that Boston meet with Indigenous organizations to plan IPD events in the future.

The Massachusetts state legislature has failed over the course of the last four years to pass a bill that would declare Indigenous Peoples Day statewide. Mahtowin Munro, head organizer for Indigenous Peoples Days MA.org, said, “While we’re glad that some cities and towns across Massachusetts are celebrating IPD, Columbus Day is still being celebrated statewide. We call upon the Massachusetts legislature to step up to the 2023-2024 legislative session and pass our statewide Indigenous Peoples Day bill.

“It will also be important for them to pass our other legislation currently before them, including bills to ban Native American team mascots, to provide for Indigenous curriculum content in the public schools, to protect sacred Native American heritage and to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students.”

Slap on Sarver’s wrist, funds for Favre

Capitolist culture in sports

By Monica Moorehead

U.S. sports — whether professional or amateur — are almost every institution under capitalist control. They are all about making profits and enriching themselves at the expense of people who come to watch, play and participate in their games, or better yet, their activities are billionaires who mostly use sports as a tool to distract people from the fundamental problems of housing, education, health care, and slavery. This is the lived experience of the people displaced and mistreated by cities and towns across Massachusetts.

The summary of the investigation released by the national NBA players union on Sept. 14 shows that the executive order that began November 2021, when NBA owners declared the punishment for Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver, the reaction was one of shock, anger and dismay. Both LeBron James and Chris Paul, the Suns guard, declared that the punishment was not harsh enough against Sarver.

Silver represents the interests of the owners in any negotiations or decisions. James has been vocal about the entire NBA season and said that he would never return to the Suns while Sarver was still owner. Meanwhile, another scandal was unfolding within the NBA owners’ league. Adam Silver, the NBA commissioner, announced the suspension of Sarver, who was one of the most controversial owners in the NBA, for his comments about women and gender-oppressed athletes and for his dealings with female employees. The entire report can be read at wrk.com/phoenix-suns-report/.

Reaction to the suspension

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**Seattle**

By Jim McMahan

A five-day strike by the Seattle Education Association (SEA) produced gains for the district’s 6,000 educators and 50,000 students. Despite rhetoric from the district management against the strike, the educators walked out Sept. 7, the scheduled first day of school. Now a tentative agreement has been reached as educators headed back to work Sept. 14.

After the tentative agreement was reached Sept. 13, the SEA members voted 97% to 4% to suspend their strike. Negotiations had stalled and the SEA could vote on ratification. The vote to suspend was taken after an eight-hour membership zoom meeting. Highlights of the agreement have been distributed to members for a final vote.

The strike came as part of an upheaval of workers everywhere who have had enough of cutbacks and worker oppression and exhaustion. Mass picketing with full participation increased unity between teachers, educator staff, students and parents. The SEA had the experience of a 2015 strike during the national “strike wave” of education workers.

The leadership of Seattle Public Schools seemed to be taking a cue from the union-busting tactics of locally headquartered Amazon and Starbucks monopolies. SPS management refused to propose any thing but take-backs from what the union had won.

The overriding issues of the strike dealt with shortages of teachers and education staff workers. Not only has the administration failed to adequately provide for education during COVID-19, but previous years of cutbacks have damaged public schools.

Another key demand in SEA’s strike was more support for special education students, many of whom are disabled. The lack of funding for disabled students has been a scandal in the school district going back decades.

The agreement provides workplace protections for teachers, school counselors, nurses and social workers. There are to be increased benefits for substitute teachers. The district agreed to provide teachers with interpreters and translator services for meetings with multilingual parents.

The educators won a 7% pay increase, although 5.5% of that is automati cally provided by the state to all schools for inflation adjustment.

SEA Vice-President and bargaining chair Uti Hawkins emphasized that even with the new contract, the union has to continue to fight to recruit and retain people, as high costs make living in Seattle unbearable. (Seattle Times, Sept. 14)

With superhigh housing costs, many educators can’t afford to live in Seattle. In a city with megabillionaires like Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos and Starbucks’ Howard Schultz, Seattle Public Schools’ story that it doesn’t have enough money was absurd.

The education workers have built bonds and solidarity among their peers for a long time. They know that high-quality education requires high-quality teachers. The strike was a powerful demonstration of that.

**Philadephia Museum Art workers strike**

During a one-day strike Sept. 16, workers at the Philadelphia Museum of Art pickedeted the renowned institution as a warning to senior management of what will happen if the bosses continue their unfair labor practices.

With 180 members, the PMA Union (Local 397 of AFSCME District Council 47) has been negotiating with museum officials since October 2020. Local 397 filed eight Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board on Aug. 26 charging PMA Management with repeatedly violating federal law by engaging in union-busting activity during contract negotiations.

On Aug. 30, union members voted to authorize a strike.

“After massive layoffs, years without raises and an ongoing pandemic, museum management expects us to accept meager raises, insufficient paid parental leave and no improvements to our health care benefits, whatsoever. We won’t,” said Adam Rizzo, Museum Educator and Local 397 President. “PMA Board Chair Leslie Anne Miller and COO Bill Petersen have the power to avert a strike: Start respecting this union; stop acting unilaterally in violation of federal labor law; and come to the table with real responses and a real commitment to reaching a fair resolution.”

Picketing sites included all entrances to the museum’s main building, the Perelman Annex and the Rodin Museum. Local 397 represents workers across nearly all museum departments, including visitor services, retail, education, installations, curatorial, conservation, marketing and development.

**On the picket line**

By Marie Kelly

Nurses across U.S. declare: Safe staffing saves lives

Nurses must sound like a broken record to some, especially the greedy hospital CEOs who continue to eke out health care with corporate profits. Instead of “show me the money,” nurses across the U.S. are demanding guarantees of testifies and recruitment strategies, so enough nurses remain working to deliver optimal safe patient care.

This mid-September, some 15,000 Minnesota nurses held a three-day strike at 15 area hospitals over stalled contract negotiations. The Minnesota Nurses Association President Mary C. Turner, an RN at North Memorial Hospital, explained why the nurses struck: “When our executives refuse to fully staff our hospitals and continue to push nurses out of the profession, that is a public health crisis.” (tinyurl.com/2vg2pvn)

Maine Medical Center nurses voted 3-to-1 to reeify their union and won a contract that begins to address safe staffing and work-life balance. Lastly, the Faculty of Michigan University—Health nurses, represented by Service Employees Union (SEIU) Healthcare Wisconsin, won union recognition despite attempts by UW Health corporate bosses to bust the union’s efforts. After a rally by nurses and a three-day strike planned, the hospital agreed to recognize the union and begin to renegotiate a contract.

Educators strike to demand fair contracts

According to Cornell University Industrial Labor Relations (ILR) School’s Labor Tracker, since August 2022 there have been eight teacher strikes at 14 schools, spanning pre-K to university education. Seattle teachers reached a tentative agreement to end their strike begun on Sept. 7. Teachers in Columbus, Ohio, struck for four days last month before approving a contract that guarantees a pay increase and climate-control upgrades to all schools.

Faculty members at Eastern Michigan University, southwest of Detroit, ended their September strike following a tentative agreement with university administration.

Contract negotiations centered around salary and prohibitive health insurance increases. This same administration sought a court injunction, claiming the strike was illegal, but it was denied by the judge. The 200 Ridgefield Education Association (REA) members have been on strike since Sept. 9 demanding smaller class sizes, more student mental health and special education resources, pay increases to improve teacher retention rates. (koin.com, Sept. 12)

**Factories workers build labor power**

United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1166 represents workers at the Stellantis NV plant in Kokomo, Indiana. The plant is owned by Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. After a strike in early September, the workers ratified a new contract addressing the deteriorating conditions inside the plant. The contract guarantees the installation of a new HVAC system, repair of broken machinery and overtime protections.

Mississippi poultry plant workers are organizing at the Peco Foods plant in West Point, Mississippi, for recognition with United Food and Commercial Workers (UCFW) Local 1520. Poultry plants in Mississippi have been the target of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, like the one in 2019 at the Koch Food plant in Morton, Mississippi. It was part of the largest workplace immigration raids in state history. Almost 700 workers were arrested, half of them from Morton, which the community has not recovered from.

Minor league baseball players win

Minor league baseball players have won the fight for a union. They will join the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA). Finally, the minor leaguers may win some of the perks that major league players had won from MLB corporations that reap profits from lucrative television contracts. Minor league baseball has a 120-year history of abusing players, offering meager salaries, no job security and other mistreatment. The union drive was organized at the player level, and the MLBPA is ready to work to make the minor league players’ lives easier. Play ball! ❑
Amazon, Starbucks workers say fight back!

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Mayor Michelle Wu to order the city’s armed forces withdrawn immediately.

**Defying Amazon and white supremacy at Stone Mountain, Georgia**

Amazon workers at the ATL2 Warehouse in Stone Mountain, Georgia, took the tech giant by surprise Sept. 13, when they walked out over low pay, dangerous working conditions and management intimidation. Workers chanted: “No respect, no work—no cap!” The latter is slang to emphasize: “I’m telling the truth. No exaggeration!”

**West Virginia**

Politicians ban abortion, but not without a fight

By Otis Grotewohl, Charleston, West Virginia

Sept. 14 — The Republican-majority West Virginia legislature passed an abortion ban during a Sept. 13 special session. The same legislature had introduced the bill on July 27 and had passed it, known as HB 302, in late July. (See “Abortion access under attack in West Virginia,” Workers World, July 31.)

Anti-choice state senators wanted to pass HB 302 with limited exceptions, but ultrarightist sponsors of the bill in the House of Delegates wanted a complete ban, without any exceptions.

With the help of anti-choice Democrats and “moderate” Republicans, the two chambers passed an amended HB 302 with exceptions in the case of rape, incest and/or if one’s life is at risk — but all requiring arbitrary qualifications that must be preapproved. Governor Jim Justice — an openly anti-choice chauvinist — stated he would gladly sign the bill if it did so Sept. 16.

**Courageous response by young workers and community activists**

The bigoted, corporate-funded House and Senate who passionately picketed the backward legislature is to focus energy on the elections in November. Many others in the working conditions in Stone Mountain, [Georgia], we employees deserve the basic life necessities, and we demand them without any retaliation and backlash in return. #AmazonHurts.” Those workers in San Bernardino, California, based in the Inland Empire region, called “Picket the Picnic.”

Workers United and supporters, Boston University area, Sept. 13.

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**Biden, Walsh try to block railroad strike**

By Martha Grevatt

As the deadline for a national railroad strike loomed, President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh hammered out a tentative agreement between the rail freight bosses and those railroad unions which had not already agreed to a contract. For now, this maneuvering has kept a strike that was set to commence when a 60-day “cooling off period” — ordered by the federal government — concluded Sept. 16. Union members have not yet voted on the tentative agreement.

At the heart of the impasse between the two sides was a ruthless attempt to put workers into working while sick, including with COVID-19, skipping doctor visits and missing family events. The consequences have been devastating and even fatal, as in the case of Aaron Hiles, a 51-year-old BNSF Railway worker. Hiles suffered a fatal heart attack June 21 and died the next day, after he “felt different,” but did not have time to see a doctor.

For now, this maneuvering has kept a strike that was set to commence when a 60-day “cooling off period” — ordered by the federal government — concluded Sept. 16. Union members have not yet voted on the tentative agreement.

Through this hard-fought, mutually beneficial deal, “Workers United, tweeted after the deal was announced: “A full-blown strike is still a distinct possibility this Fall.”

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**Pay is raised 24% over five years going back to 2020. While that looks like a lot of money, it doesn’t keep up with today’s rampant inflation. And the more important question is this: How do you put a price on one’s health — or in the case of Aaron Hiles, one’s life? It’s entirely possible that rail workers will reject this government-backed, worker-disenfranchised deal. As Gabe Christenson, co-chair of Union Pacific and BNSF Railway Teamsters Local 1119, said of the tentative agreement, “The consequences have been devastating and even fatal, as in the case of Aaron Hiles, a 51-year-old BNSF Railway worker. Hiles suffered a fatal heart attack June 21 while at work on a freight train.”

**The railroads’ policy, considered by the unions to be the worst in the country, is even harsher. Workers are given a certain number of “points.” Points are deducted for missing work regardless of circumstances, with a low point balance leading to warnings and then firings. But a worker whose absence to be on strike for 14 consecutive days can build their point balance back up.”

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The day of the shoot-out in 1975, the FBI created a narrative that some super soldier killed two FBI agents,” Dr. Nick Eates of The Red Nation said to the Minneapolis rally.

“It’s a lie. The truth is that vast majority of people that shoot-out were under the age of 18.” (tinyurl.com/3pcc6rsv)

An international effort grew to seek legal clemency in 1993, after all court venues to obtain his release were exhausted. In 1994 the FBI issued a memorandum to law enforcement agencies to counter that campaign, according to Leonard Peltier Defense Council spokespersons. Former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno used the 9th Circuit’s ruling to describe to the “extraordinary cruel” trial and conviction: “There was no evidence that he did it, except fabricated, circumstantial evidence, overwhelmingly misconstrued, and perverted.”

Former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds, who was the governor’s prosecutor in Peltier’s trial, sent a letter to then-President Barack Obama to urge clemency. In the letter, Reynolds argued, “I am in the best interests of justice considering the totality of all matters involved.”

Worldwide supporters who have called for freedom for Leonard Peltier include Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger, the National Congress of American Indians, Amnesty International, a working paper by the African Union, and thousands of activists.

Violent squadron attacks Pennsylvania prisoners

By Miley Fletcher

In late August, environmental justice advocate and Puerto Rican political prisoner Bryant Arroyo was notified that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Pennsylvania Justice Network, a prison institution’s administration ordered the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) on September 4th to search inmates who are not in prison for. They came compulsory, smearing it into court appeal papers. They made racist comments about African American inmates.

This CERT Team went by the CERT guards do not wear name tags, so we aren’t able to identify them. On the back of their black shirts, “Pennsylvania Department of Corrections” is written, along with a white skull and two military machine guns crossing each other.

The CERT guards were approximately 50-60 CERT Team walked into theae Needy Unit at SCI Forest with no name tags to identify them. They came in and started harassing people, destroying property, with disrespectful attitudes, racism and discriminatory treatment of transgender women, and asking what we were in jail for, where none of their business. Being transgender, I should only be strip-searched by a woman, not a bunch of bigoted men, ignorant about the transgender community.

Three inmates with mental health issues were taken to the restricted housing unit (RHU), because these CERT guards taunted them until they snapped back at them. This is a cowardly act against inmates on a special needs unit block. These guards went cell-to-cell on the unit, terrorizing mental health-afflicted inmates, destroying property, with the intention of showing inappropriate and sexualized pictures on their personal family pictures. This is terrorism.

And the inmates with mental health issues were physically grabbed and forced to the floor. They were dragged to the RHU with physical force, hurting them. This is failure to protect. This is not care, custody and control. The backs of their shirts say it all. They say, “this is a dictatorship, not a democracy. Get used to it.”

 Complaints, grievances denied

When you complain to administration and/or file grievances, you are told: Denied, lack of evidence. The PA DOC has the same response on their grievance appeals. They say: Do you have their names? But they know the CERT guards don’t use name tags. They also know there is no camera footage in the cell area when the CERT Team goes there.

The PA DOC and Administration snub their noses and deny any wrongdoing, even when they know it’s true. They deny it ever happened. They say: how do they know inmates with mental health issues cannot do the paperwork or work to organize to help them — and these attacks have happened twice in a 90-day period. I ask your readers to send a letter, email or phone call to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (Department of Corrections, 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050; 717.728.2573, of Corrections, 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050; 717.728.2573, contactdoc@pa.gov) and ask why this is being done to inmates during this CERT Team searches. Ask why they wear these black shirts with such a logo on the back, and why they don’t wear name tags.

Say something because what these goons are doing is wrong.

Miley Fletcher is incarcerated at SCI Forest.

Pennsylvania DOC reclassifies Latinx incarcerated workers as ‘white’

By Bryant Arroyo and Betsay Piette

In late August, environmental justice advocate and Puerto Rican political prisoner Bryant Arroyo was notified that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Pennsylvania Justice Network, a prison institution’s administration ordered the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) on September 4th to search inmates who are not in prison for. They came compulsory, smearing it into court appeal papers. They made racist comments about African American inmates.

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Yvonne Swan Wanrow set precedent for self-defense cases

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

Yvonne Swan Wanrow, a Síinít Indigenous mother, shot and killed a known sexual predator William Wanrow in August 1972 in the Spokane, Washington, area. He had tried to grab her son, but she—armed with an iron pot—approached her young nephew when he was asleep. He had previously raped her babysitter’s daughter and held his neighbors of Wesler’s actions and that he had never been found wrestling around the area, the police did nothing.

When less than 6 feet tall and a heavy man, it was intoxicating when he entered Wanrow’s friends’ home, where she was with her family. He refused to leave. Wanrow was 54" tall, weighed 120 lbs and at the time she was wearing a cast on her foot and using a crutch. When Wanrow called out the front door for help, her neighbor Wesler turned around, Wesler was almost upon her, and Wanrow pulled her gun and shot him.

She was convicted by an all-white jury in October 1971 and sentenced to 10 years to life. The judge said, “That was what saved me, to focus on something else to minimize my personal struggles. It put me in solidarity with other Indian people. Instantly, I was sympathetic to AIM. I understood it as being a spiritual movement. American Indian Movement — that doesn’t sound like any military force to me. It sounds like the wind. It sounds like a spirit, a spirit of defense. We are in defense of our land, our life and our human rights. There is nothing wrong with self-defense, and self-defense is not a crime. ...” (“Fighter for Women’s Rights Tells Her Story of Self-Defense,” Seattle Post Intelligencer, April 8, 1983)

Most stories of women and gender-oppressed people defending themselves and their families against violence followed Wanrow.

Impact of the American Indian Movement

In 1975 an appeals court reversed Wanrow’s conviction and ordered a retrial. (tinyurl.com/yww5b4y)

During the period of her trial and after, the American Indian Movement was at its height. The American Indian 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, in response to a call for support from the Wounded Knee inhabitants in the Dakota. The 73-day occupation occurred during a period of violence by Oglala Turf Wilson’s tribal police, who were collaborating with the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

AIM had been protesting the U.S. government’s “termination policy,” which threatened to assimilate Indigenous people from tribes, 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 Minneapolis. For example, they were active in fighting against police harassment, especially in Minneapolis where AIM was founded. They set a legal precedent for self-defense cases. It served as a legal precedent in order to live. Poverty makes women and gender-oppressed people more vulnerable to violence under capitalism, and gender-oppressed people more vulnerable to violence under capitalism, and gender-oppressed people who have experienced multiple forms of physical and sexual violence are being imprisoned because they have been turned to the wall.

A new law instructed the jury to take into account whether they thought the defendant was actually in danger, but whether the defender themselves thought they were in danger. The judge had restricted Wanrow’s ability to use a self-defense claim. Racism and sexism also needed to be taken into account. This is what her defense committees and lawyers worked hard to do.

Here are a few cases:

Joann Little was the first woman to be acquitted of murder in the name of self-defense. She had been incarcerated in a federal prison for her role in the Wounded Knee standoff, but whether the defender themselves thought they were in danger. The judge had restricted Wanrow’s ability to use a self-defense claim. Racism and sexism also needed to be taken into account. This is what her defense committees and lawyers worked hard to do.

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In January 2014, McDonald spoke around Minneapolis. Struck in the face with a glass by a white man, and two women who were defending themselves, a self-defense jury found her guilty of manslaughter and second-degree assault. She received five years probation and one year of community service. She had only served three days in jail. Reflecting on her struggle, Wanrow said, “That was what saved me, to focus on something else to minimize my personal struggles. It put me in solidarity with other Indian people. Instantly, I was sympathetic to AIM. I understood it as being a spiritual movement. American Indian Movement — that doesn’t sound like any military force to me. It sounds like the wind. It sounds like a spirit, a spirit of defense. We are in defense of our land, our life and our human rights. There is nothing wrong with self-defense, and self-defense is not a crime. ...” (“Fighter for Women’s Rights Tells Her Story of Self-Defense,” Seattle Post Intelligencer, April 8, 1983)

Many stories of women and gender-oppressed people defending themselves and their families against violence followed Wanrow.

Some are well-known but most are unknown. Political discussion and activism around self-defense and violence against women became a very important topic of political action and discussion in the progressive movement at that time.

CeCe McDonald, a Black trans woman, and her friends were forced to defend themselves on the streets of Minneapolis. Struck in the face with a glass by a white man, and two women who were defending themselves, a self-defense jury found her guilty of manslaughter and second-degree assault. She received five years probation and one year of community service. She had only served three days in jail. Reflecting on her struggle, Wanrow said, “That was what saved me, to focus on something else to minimize my personal struggles. It put me in solidarity with other Indian people. Instantly, I was sympathetic to AIM. I understood it as being a spiritual movement. American Indian Movement — that doesn’t sound like any military force to me. It sounds like the wind. It sounds like a spirit, a spirit of defense. We are in defense of our land, our life and our human rights. There is nothing wrong with self-defense, and self-defense is not a crime. ...” (“Fighter for Women’s Rights Tells Her Story of Self-Defense,” Seattle Post Intelligencer, April 8, 1983)
Serious about community to arm and defend itself from threats, they supported the right of the Black community and to war against gentrification and displacement. Jeanette accompanied our comrade Tom Soto, who went inside while the rest of the Buffalo branch was outside the walls with BMC teams, mostly students—but they were unable to hold their witch-hunt hearings without disruptions. In the end they were run out of town.

After most of the founding members of Workers World Party moved the party’s headquarters from Buffalo to New York City, Jeanette and Ed started the Buffalo branch over again. They organized meetings that inspired students on the resurrection campus of the University of Buffalo, injecting a class-conscious worldview of the anti-war struggle. Together they helped kindle a chapter of the militant Youth Against War and Fascism. Many youths soon joined the Buffalo branch of Workers World Party. Jeanette never paused in teaching revolutionary Marxism-Leninism by example, and the new members quickly grasped that their work in the anti-war movement was to build a direct connection to the ongoing war against the Black community and to defend the right of the Vietnamese people to make their own decisions about the war, negotiations, and demands.

Teaching Marxism by example

Women comrades were able to grow as leaders with Jeanette’s guidance and to bring an understanding of class to the Buffalo branch, steering the chapter and the new members quickly grasped that their work in the anti-war movement was to build a direct connection to the ongoing war against the Black community and to defend the right of the Vietnamese people to make their own decisions about the war, negotiations, and demands.

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Jeanette Merrill ¡Presente!

‘You have to be a partisan in the class struggle’

By Ellie Dorritie

Buffalo, New York

The class struggle lost our very parti- san comrade Jeanette Fusco Merrill in the 90th year of her revolutionary life in August. Jeanette was a founding mem- ber of Workers World Party, for decades a National Committee member and a member of the Steering Committee of the Buffalo branch.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Jeanette, who was born in Buffalo, took up the fight against the witch-hunts. Together with her spouse, comrades and life part- ner Ed and the rest of the comrades in the newly-formed Workers World Party, they supported the Mothers Alliance in their fight to stop racist school segregation, to end hiring discrimination at retail stores, Granada and other workplaces, and against gentrification and displacement of low-income housing. In the early 1960s, Mae Mallory was fighting extradition to Monroe, North Carolina, over false kid- nap charges against her and her Robert Williams. They were targeted because they supported the right of the Black community to arm and defend itself from the Ku Klux Klan. Jeanette spent many months fundraising and agitating to build support for Mae’s freedom and holding public meetings to raise money for guns for Rob Williams in North Carolina—an effort which drew attention and retalia- tion from the Ku Klux Klan.

Jeanette was a militant voice in sup- port of liberation movements in the U.S. and around the world, beginning with the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

She was outspoken in the struggle to defend the Young Lords, the Organization of Afro-American Unity under Malcolm X and the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and to free jailed fighters in the Black Panther Party, and Martin Sostre and Gertrude Robinson. Robinson, now Geraldine Pointer, spoke at Ed Merrill’s funeral in 2005, recalling that Ed and Jeanette, representing the Martin Sostre Defense Committee, supported her and her children during the frame-up of the African American bookstore owner.

Fearless against red-baiting

Being a target of red-baiting—the government’s tool to weaken the effec- tiveness of activists—became a way of life for Jeanette and the other Buffalo comrades. FBI agents visited the bosses at their workplaces and used infiltrators to divide the fighters among them. More than once, Jeanette’s name and her com- munist affiliation appeared on the front pages of the Buffalo Evening News.

Jeanette, a telephone company worker, was never afraid of a challenge. When co-workers saw her publicly red- baited and asked, “Aren’t you a com- munist?” she defiantly answered, “Yes.” Instead, she always explained: “If you mean, am I for free health care?” and went on to describe the proletarian vision of a better world.

Jeanette was fearless in speaking out, disrupting the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Buffalo in 1964. When HUAC rolled into Buffalo, not only were they greeted by 1,500 pick- ets, mostly students—but they were unable to hold their witch-hunt hearings without disruptions. In the end they were run out of town.

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The following statement has been initiated by friends of Socialist China. You can add your name as an individual signatory using the form at socialistchina.org. Once you do so, your name will appear on this page within a few hours. Organisations wishing to sign on to this statement should contact the friends of Socialist China at info@socialistchina.org.

We strongly condemn the publication by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of its Assessment of human rights concerns in China’s Xinjiang Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China. In the words of former OHCHR lawyer and human rights expert Alfred de Zayas, this document “should be discarded as propagandistic, biased and completely lacking in credibility. It treats the human rights concerns in the Xinjiang region as propaganda and allows parental rights to be shared among an extended and nontraditional family that could include grandparents, stepparents and surrogate mothers. And while the right to reproductive choice and reproductive health is being eroded in many countries around the world, the opposite is true in Cuba. Unlike in the U.S., where state after state is making it more difficult for people of color and poor and working people to vote, all Cuban citizens and residents are automatically registered to vote at age 16 and can cast a ballot in the referendum.

The proposed Code to be voted on this month represents the 25th draft and was unanimously approved by the National Assembly, after evaluating the thousands of proposals submitted. Unlike in the U.S., where state after state is making it more difficult for people of color and poor and working people to vote, all Cuban citizens and residents are automatically registered to vote at age 16 and can cast a ballot in the referendum.

Bill Sacks has been an organizer and participant with the Venceremos Brigade, traveling the blockadeto Cuba, for over 50 years.
Playing with human lives in a despicable racist political stunt, Greg Abbott, right-wing governor of Texas, has bused thousands of undocumented migrants north from the U.S. border with Mexico since the beginning of August.

The buses carry handless, jobless, hungry people—far from their own countries, with few to no resources—into New York City, Chicago or Washington, D.C. That, if successful, they will be abandoned by their driver in the middle of rural Georgia, as almost happened to one busload.

White-supremacist Gov. Ron DeSantis jumped into this madness on Sept. 15, flying two planeloads of migrants—who had been misled—from Texas into tiny Martha’s Vineyard island in Massachusetts.

Maybe social media discussion tempted some people to dismiss these actions as mere midterm election jockeying between far-right Republicans in the South and “liberal” Democrats in the North. But this is a political “game” only if you forget that the people being “jocked” are people being moved around by the hand of the capitalist state—whether Democrats or Republicans hold office.

Instead, let’s ask: What is the ideological logic behind these right-wing ploys to try making it to their base through political bullying?

**Attack on right to shelter**

New York has a “right to shelter” law that makes it a safe place to stay for all homeless people, men, women, children, families—in place since the Coalition for the Homeless won the 1979 Calhan v. Carey lawsuit and fought to enlarge its coverage since then.

Massachusetts is the only U.S. right-to-shelter state for homeless families. Washington, D.C., and Chicago are “sanctuary cities” for undocumented migrants.

These places have those protections for the common good of people who live there. But to anti-communist DeSantis and Abbott, these protections are suspect—they reek of socialism.

Abbott has warned of the emerging battle between socialism and capitalism in the U.S. saying, “Texas is the leader of the world in socialism.” (Houston Chronicle, Aug. 6, 2018)

DeSantis has established a “Victims of Communist Day” in the “world’s greatest democracy” in Florida public schools, requiring students to receive “instruction” on the “poverty, starvation, migration, systemic lethal violence and suppression of speech” that supposedly occur under socialism.

DeSantis does not acknowledge that 56% of those killed by Florida cops in the past four years were people of color—absolutely nothing of systemic lethal violence.

As for “suppression of speech”—he personally pushed through laws to make illegal any discussion of enslavement, racism, gender identity and sexuality in the state’s public schools! (AfroCubaWeb.com)

These proto-fascists are targeting cities where “right to shelter” and to “sanctuary” have been won by a people’s struggle. These programs are only a glimmer of the security that socialism could offer working and oppressed people in our daily lives.

The governors and others are scheming to undermine the hope socialism offers—dramatizing that some current migrants are from Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela. This is supposed to prove people are fleeing “repression” in anti-imperialist countries open—or already on the road—to socialism.

Conveniently omitted is the fact of U.S. actions that kill—economic blockades, sanctions and military interventions—against any country trying to assert independence from the brutal hand of capitalism. The deadly impact is great deprivation, starvation, internal upheaval in many countries—and subsequent migration.

The U.S. is conducting a global class war against all working and oppressed people, including in this hemisphere.

The grandstanding ploys of Abbott and DeSantis are coldhearted, hateful manipulations of those larger capitalist attacks against the possibility of socialism.

Yes, in the U.S. we are nowhere near socialism. The capitalist class has a choke-hold on national and state governments. But the rising younger generation is busy unionizing across lines of nationality, sexuality, gender, abilities and language. They are expanding the possibilities for the future.

Our hope is in the consciousness emerging in workers and oppressed people, working with the forces of capitalist production and exploitation—the consciousness that will begin the struggle for socialism, starting now.

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**WWW COMMENTARY**

**Defend abortion access in the streets**

By Monica Moorehead

The following article first appeared as an editorial in the Sept. 8, 2022, Workers World. It is being reprinted and updated as a commentary in light of the upcoming Oct. 7-9 nationallcoordinated actions to defend reproductive rights. See womensmarch.com/initiatives/womens-wave for more information.

Tens of thousands of mainly young people took to the streets in outrage on June 24 and June 25 when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade— the legal ratification of federal protection of the right to abortion for the past 49 years.

Various protest slogans, scrabbling to find ways to make sure abortion demand is accessible, including providing necessary funds for those forced to travel hundreds of miles to other states where clinics still provide this essential service.

This reactionary, barbaric ruling will turn back the clock for women—especially those of color—as well as gender-nonconforming and trans people. This is an attack on their right to choose for themselves when it comes to having a child or not. This ruling reflects how patriarchy, racism and sexism are deeply rooted in U.S. society.

The ruling signals a return to “states’ rights.” At one point in U.S. history states had the right to outlaw African people before the U.S. Civil War resulted in the military defeat of the Confederacy. One pro-life, right-wing politician had the unmitigated gall to put an equal sign between the end of abortion and the end of slavery.

This comparison is meant to confuse the masses into believing that the anti-abortion movement—which in reality Black enslaved women were systematically raped by their white enslavers and forced to carry the resulting pregnancies to term—and the child is a means to an end.

In many of the protests held since June 24, not only were there signs defending the right to abortion but also those saying “Defend the police.” There were signs such as “Abolish SCOTUS!” and “Abort the court!” for having the power to hold the fate of millions of people in their hands.

There were signs emphasizing that SCOTUS cared more about people having the right to carry guns than people’s right to reproductive freedom. This was in response to a SCOTUS decision, issued June 23, that struck down a New York State law that banned people from carrying guns in public.

In a 1989 political report to a Workers World Party conference, Chairperson Sam Marcy stated in response to the ruling, “A SCOTUS ban on abortion is not as dangerous. But this authorization confirms that whenever the bourgeoisie is in a crisis, they will let nine people, uneducated, appointed for life, decide the most critical issues concerning life and death.”

This observation is very timely today as the bourgeoisie and their fragile system face an unprecedented economic crisis.

Continued on page 11

**Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World**

Boston’s proclamation last year that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day, “in lieu of” Columbus Day, was a victory for Native peoples, since the creation of U.S. settler colonialism, the theft and devastation of their lands and cultures, death of all rights, the torture and genocide, and in continued in what is now the state of Massachusetts.

Then on Oct. 8, 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day. He joined Indigenous communities to demand: “Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World!”

This was in response to a SCOTUS decision, issued June 23, that struck down a New York State law that banned people from carrying guns in public.

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Continued on page 11

Unforeseen circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 1/2-year health crisis. When WW’s staff is working to both the print and online issues, both the printed newspaper and the website require that monthly expenses be paid. Although many of our readers are able to send us $25, $50, $100, $200, $300 or more per year? For a contribution of $50 or more, you will receive 12 print issues this year and a weekly email newsletter. Support our work. Our hope is in the consciousness emerging in workers and oppressed people, working with the forces of capitalist production and exploitation—the consciousness that will begin the struggle for socialism, starting now.

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

We appreciate your support.
**Dramatic U-turn**

**U.S. recognizes Alex Saab as Special Envoy of Venezuela**

By William Camacaro

This article was first published by *Orinococuto* and translated by *The Miami Herald*. Alex Saab is a Venezuelan-American, National Co-Coordinator in the Alliance for Global Justice and was a co-founder of the Bolivarian Circle of New York “Alberto Lovera” and Senior Analyst for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA).

After more than two years questioning, Venezuelan Alex Saab’s diplomatic status has been restored in the Department of Justice (DOJ) since it has now conceded that he is a special envoy. The dramatic U-turn was made in a filing before Judge Robert Scola on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in a hearing that was held regarding Saab’s motion to compel the DOJ to hand over certain documents, which his defense believes would be beneficial to his claim of diplomatic immunity.

Alex Saab’s defense has been pushing the DOJ to submit any matters to the court regarding what are called “Brady disclosures.” These require that information and evidence that could not be disclosed to the defense team. The term is material to the guilt or innocence requirement that information and evidence supplied to the DOJ for some months now to make a case for Saab’s diplomatic immunity. The defense believes that would be beneficial to its case.

A special envoy is an individual whom the government designates to act as a representative of the nation for a specific purpose. This designation gives the individual certain diplomatic privileges, such as immunity from legal proceedings and the ability to communicate with foreign governments.

His detention was declared illegal twice by the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in March and June of 2021, a claim that was further supported by rulings from the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Similarly, Saab’s detention was condemned by several other U.N. bodies. Cape Verde bowed to political pressure from the United States and agreed to extradite Alex Saab. Even though the domestic judicial process was not completed, Alex Saab was forcibly removed to Miami on Oct. 16, 2021.

Throughout Tuesday’s hearing, the DOJ appeared off-balance, and Justice Scola’s comments on the performance were in scorn, if not outright sarcasm. Central to the discussion was whether or not the DOJ intended to use any classified materials to support its position. After some prevarication, it admitted that it was still “reviewing the matter” and that “technology issues” were making the review more difficult than usual. Justice Scola asked Alex Saab’s defense team if they objected to granting the DOJ more time, to which they agreed.

The date for the hearing on Alex Saab’s status as a diplomat entitled to immunity has not been put back to Dec. 12. Following the DOJ’s acceptance of the fact that Alex Saab is a special envoy, the court will effectively be left with only the issue of Saab’s entitlement to immunity at issue.

The film “Alex Saab: a kidnapped diplomat” premiered in Caracas and was then shown in 10 U.S. cities on the same day. This film really exposes the starvation in Venezuela caused by U.S. sanctions. The film is available on Youtube, giving the supplies of basic foods and essential supplies to every family in Venezuela through the CLAP food distribution program is highlighted.

The 48-minute film is available on Youtube. We encourage people to download and organize screenings of this film. (youtube.com/bbQg-sazxDM)

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**Haiti explodes with cries of ‘down with misery’**

By G. Dunkel

Since August 22, the date when the Haitian Revolution began in 1791, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in every city and many towns to repeatedly say “down with misery.”

They are staying in the streets even in the face of warnings about imminences from Hurricane Fiona, which is currently devastating Puerto Rico. The mass anger has been spreading to Port-au-Prince and other cities filled with burning barricades and closed stores. Many embassies have closed to avoid confrontations that could turn deadly.

Haitians demand that Acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who lost his stakes and leave, an end to high prices — laviche, an end to the climate of fear and instability, an end to a state that doesn’t even provide drinkable water, much less public health and education. Many poor and working people have decided to join the call.

The demonstrations have grown more militant, the crowds have grown more aggressive, as the killing of two journalists recorded on video indicated.

**Protests in Gonaïves and Hinche**

Gonaïves is a seacoast city with a population of 300,000, north of Port-au-Prince, where Jean-Jacques Dessalines proclaimed Haiti’s independence in 1804. Protests were also reported in Hinche, the capital of the Central Plateau, about equidistant from Cap-Haïtien and Port-au-Prince, close to the Dominican border. It has about 25,000 people. Hinche was the site of a historic rally in 1990, when Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s campaign drew 30,000 people out.

The Sept. 6 protest was organized by a coalition called the Table of Opposition, which held three simultaneous demonstrations. Each demonstration denounced lawlessness, kidnappings, cost of living going through the roof and the current government’s incapacity to resolve this crisis.

The demonstrations eventually merged and marched through Hinche, setting up burning barricades. Flames, public transport and the Hinche market were closed. The mobs used tear gas to disperse the crowd. There were injuries reported caused by the tear gas. The protest included civic and community organizations, some small political parties, human rights organizations and the teachers union. (tinyurl.com/ga6m78ju)

**U.S. response**

Haitians are generally fed up with the way that U.S. imperialism decides what is good for Haiti. The U.S. has been planning to give as 600,000 meals to children over the rest of the year. But the people are hungry NOW! The demonstration included a call for a general strike of women and their allies. This article was first published by the Miami Herald ran a Sept. 16 story that included the following: “Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader came a week before the U.N.’s annual week of General Assembly activities in New York City to push for mili-

But could the U.S. find a better tool for keeping Haiti in line in a question they haven’t yet answered.

The Miami Herald ran a Sept. 16 story that included the following: “Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader came a week before the U.N.’s annual week of General Assembly activities in New York City to push for military and police but not pay their salaries.

Whatever U.S. imperialism decides to do in Haiti, progressives in the U.S. should oppose any interference in Haiti’s internal affairs and support reparations for all the past and present racist atrocities the U.S. has inflicted.

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**Defend reproductive rights**

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A crisis on a global scale. And who will bear the brunt of this crisis? The economic and political rights of all sectors of the multi-national, multi-generational working class are on the chopping block.

**Widespread radicalization**

There is an old Marxist axiom, “Being determines consciousness,” meaning that social conditions shape how one thinks. If one is born into a life without access to abortion rights, workers’ rights and police violence against people of color and now against anti-SCOTUS protesters, there is great potential for class consciousness to be shifted and to grow on a mass scale. The urgency and scale of the initial protests against SCOTUS have not been seen since the aftermath of the police lynching of George Floyd in May 2020, when millions took the streets during that summer.

Today some are calling on social media for a general strike of women and their allies. This may be a premature call — but worsening conditions here and globally for billions of people may justify such a call sooner rather than later. There is mass anger against this political offensive by the rabid right wing and against the ineffectiveness of the Democratic Party that has led anti- SCOTUS activists to abandon abortion laws. The mass anger expressed now and over the coming months will be an important barometer for the outcome of the November midterm elections. But while these elections come and go, what will remain are the bread-and-but-

life-and-death issues propelling the masses into the streets. They will come to rely less and less on the phony-balance promises of capitalist politicians to meet their human needs — including health care, housing, education, an end to state repression and the right to organize.

L.D. Barkley, one of the martyred leaders of the 1971 Attica Prison uprising, stated that the heroic prison rebellion was “the sound before the fury.” Well, what we are seeing in the streets today, over 50 years later, is another reminder that mass fury, despite ebbs and flows, will always rage until the people win justice.

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Puerto Rican Day Parade, New York City, June 12. **Photo by RA NEWS**

**March in Hinche (Ench in Creole), Haiti. Banner in Creole gives the date and place of the demonstration: Participations involved, and says, roughly, “We say no to: hunger, speculation in gas, lawlessness, kidnapping.”**

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Crisis on a global scale. And who will bear the brunt of this crisis? The economic and political rights of all sectors of the multinational, multigendered working class are on the chopping block.

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El gobernador protofascista de Texas, Greg Abbott, está recibiendo mucha publicidad estos días por enviar en autobús a los migrantes que solicitan asilo y que han entrado en Estados Unidos desde la frontera mexicana, hacia el norte, a Washington, D.C., y a la ciudad de Nueva York. Ahora se le ha unido en esta maniobra política el gobernador de Arizona, Doug Ducey. Desde mediados de abril, Abbott ha enviado a 5,100 migrantes a D.C. desde Texas, en más de 130 autobuses, como parte de la “Operación Estrella Solitaria” (Operation Lone Star). En la ciudad de Nueva York, el comisionado del Departamento de Servicios Sociales, Gary-Jenks, dijo que calcula que desde mayo han llegado allí más de 3,000 migrantes, entre ellos un número importante de familias con niños.

¿La razón que dan estos gobernadores supremacistas blancos? Según Abbott el 5 de agosto, “el caos creado por las políticas de frontera abierta de Biden”. (gov.texas.gov)

De hecho, muchas de las políticas fronterizas racistas de Abbott se han mantenido durante la presidencia de Biden, debido a las múltiples demandas antimigrantes encabezadas por funcionarios estatales republicanos y respaldadas por los SCOTS y los tribunales inferiores. Lo que es estremecedor en tiempo real es el reto específico de dos partidos políticos controlados por los capitalistas que compiten por el mayor beneficio político de la desesperada situación de los migrantes que huyen de los países devastados por el imperialismo militar y económico de los Estados Unidos.

La búsqueda de la strategema. Para que la estrategia del busing de Abbott no sea nueva. Es una página sacada del repugnante libro de judíos de los Consejos de Ciudadanos Blancos, contra la segregación en el Sur durante los años 50 y 60, bajo la bandera de los “derechos de los estados”. Fundado en 1954 en Mississippi, como parte de la reacción segregacionista a la sentencia de desegregación Brown v. Board of Education del Tribunal Supremo de EE.UU., el WCC era “el Klán de los empresarios”. Alcaldes, editores de periódicos, propietarios de empresas y líderes de los Boy Scouts se reunían abiertamente en esta red de organizaciones supremacistas blancas en todo Estados Unidos. En 1985, el Consejo de Ciudadanos Conservadores, con sede en Missouri, continuó la labor intolerante, utilizando las listas de correo del CMI y a algunos de los miembros de su junta directiva. El CMC tiene estrechos vínculos con el Partido Republicano en el Sur, y políticos pro-minores como el líder de la mayoría del Senado, Todd Young, fueron miembros abiertos mientras estuvieron en el cargo. Una de las directivas de los Directors World, que creció en 1983 bajo la segregación, fue testigo de una campaña de la CMC en su periódico para “enviar a los negros al Norte” y denunciar la “hipocresía” de la lucha contra el racismo. Un reportaje fotográfico de primera plena en el periódico local mostraba a los líderes empresariales blancos del Partido Demócrata local “escoltando” a un grupo de negros en un autobús Greyhound, con destino final a Detroit.

A los supremacistas blancos que organizaban estas maniobras políticas entonces, al igual que Abbott y Ducey ahora, no les importaba ni un ápice el destino de los desplazados y trasladados, tratando a la gente como piezas de un juego de ajedrez político.

De hecho, el 11 de agosto, en el norte de Georgia, las autoridades recibieron una llamada en la que se les informaba de que los migrantes enviados desde Texas en un autobús de la Operación Lone Star estaban a punto de ser abandonados cerca de la rural zona de Rising Fawn, Georgia, donde sólo había una gasolinera y tierras de cultivo. A los migrantes se les dijo que era un solo “corta caminata” a Chattanooga, Tennessee —25 millas (40 kilómetros) de distancia en las carreteras locales montañosas. Workers World está comprometido con la lucha para combatir y acabar con la supremacía blanca. Estamos hartos de la farsa hipócrita del llamado gobierno “democrático” bajo el capitalismo. Exigimos y ganaremos un refugio seguro, refugio, atención sanitaria, puestos de trabajo, educación, libertad de encarcelamiento y la oportunidad de “paz y rosas” para todos bajo el socialismo. ¡No hay fronteras en la lucha de los trabajadores! ☑

**‘Operación Estrella Solitaria’: una estrategata de los supremacistas blancos**

**Cuando el medioambiente da vueltas**

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

Fuerzas inundaciones azotan el estado de Misuri, mientras las sequías abundan en el Oeste del país. Las áreas en medio se atrapan en el apretón sudoroso de una ola de calor. En Europa, cientos de personas mueren debido al calor excesivo. El océano Pacífico está registrando una de las más calientes en el área de estudio. Es un calentamiento global, es una realidad. Por su parte, los políticos que desde hace mucho tiempo han estudiado el clima, han retrasado la carnicería ambiental que está ocurriendo, y han llegado a la conclusión de que las soluciones son insuficientes y han llegado demasiado tarde. Asimismo, los conservadores pronostican científicos de derretimientos de hielo han gravemente subestimado los problemas enfrentados por las poblaciones humanas.

Dicho sencillamente, el capitalismo mata.

La búsqueda desenfrenada de ganancias ilimitadas pone en peligro el aire, agua, temperaturas, y niveles de agua alrededor del mundo. Y los seres humanos enfrentan amenazas a supervivencia imposibles de superar con la formidable máquina global de guerra de Estados Unidos. Tal vez la siembra de millones de árboles y la conversión de los hábitats humanos en espacios verdes podría revertir la carnicería ambiental que viene. Tal vez.

Con amor, no miedo, soy Mumia Abu-Jamal.

31 de agosto de 2022 (c)22 mj

Audio grabado por Prison Radio Traducción Amig@s de Mumia en México.

**De reinas y capitalismo**

Qué anarquismo es que, en esta época moderna de explotación de la luna y de las propiedades del océano más grandes, los medios de comunicación de masas de Estados Unidos en apoyo de la reina Isabel de Gran Bretaña. La adulación a la monarquía británica es una de las más radicales de la llamada prensa libre de Estados Unidos. Parece que se ha olvidado la guerra revolucionaria de 1776, en la que murieron miles de personas para asegurar la independencia de las 13 colonias americanas de Gran Bretaña. Pero la clase gobernante de Estados Unidos, que ahora es posiblemente la más rica del mundo, tiene más en común con la monarquía de Gran Bretaña que con los millones de personas en el mundo, que todavía sufren bajo el dominio colonial británico de una forma u otra. En su apogeo, en 1921, el Imperio Británico gobernaba unos 70 países. La clase dominante estadounidense se enorgullece de sus orígenes revolucionarios en el derrocamiento del dominio británico y hacia de 14 de julio una ocasión para felicitarse. Esto no ha tenido ningún impacto en la alianza entre las clases dominantes de Estados Unidos y Gran Bretaña.

Son aliados de clase con el objetivo compartido de cosechar superbeneficios a partir del trabajo de los trabajadores de ambos países y de todo el mundo. El capitalismo es un sistema económico basado en la explotación de la clase trabajadora. El resultado es una riqueza inaccesible para unos pocos, mientras millones luchan por sobrevivir. Esto es intrínsecamente inestable, independientemente de que se gobiernen un presidente o un monarca.

Traducción: Deborah Rodriguez.