

# Lessons from Lenin for International Workers Day

International Workers Day, also known as May Day, reminds us of an anecdote about the 1917 Russian Revolution regarding the working class.

At the time, the Bolshevik Party, trained and led by V.I. Lenin was in the process of seizing power. An anti-Bolshevik intellectual was arguing with a Bolshevik worker and bringing up all the complexities of running a government and of deserting Russia's allies in the great slaughter of World War I. "I see it this way," said the Bolshevik worker. "The

bosses are on one side. We're on the other side. If we don't take power, they will."

The worker was right.

Bosses, that is capitalists, are on one side. Workers are on the other side. When one side wins, the other loses. Lenin taught his party that lesson. Remember that on this upcoming day for the working class.

The capitalists and their paid propagandists insist that the working class doesn't count, won't lead revolutions and certainly can't run society. Those who possess wealth pay people to teach these

lies, even as the capitalists run society into the chaos of economic meltdown, climate crisis, pandemic and war.

So who is the working class? Those who show up at a factory or a mine or a power plant and produce the goods or power, which the owner sells at a profit, are workers. Those who drive a train or a bus, or maintain it, or deliver mail or health care or education or entertainment or coffee are workers.

Those who survive only by selling their labor are workers, even in gig industries where it's hard to name your boss. But it doesn't end there. Sex workers, incarcer-

ated workers and people with disabilities are in the working class, as are those who raise children or care for relatives without pay. Post globalization, the majority of the world's population are in the working class, including retired workers.

Right now in France, the bosses are trying to take away years of the workers' retirement pay. The workers, with most of the people supporting them, are fighting back. And they plan to make International Workers Day a day of class struggle.

Lenin, mentioned before, promoted the internationalism of the working class.

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## Philadelphia Celebration for Mumia's birthday

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Mumia Abu-Jamal's 69th birthday was celebrated in his hometown of Philadelphia on April 23, with a march starting at 52nd and Market streets. Participants came from Philadelphia, New York, Boston and New Jersey. The march through the West Philadelphia community received a positive response from people on the street.

Mumia has been a political prisoner in Pennsylvania for 41 years — 28 on death row. He is a veteran Philadelphia Black Panther, a radical radio journalist, a grandfather and a foremost revolutionary thinker and writer. Mumia is a loving movement elder, who uplifts

struggles worldwide with his powerful voice and writings. At 15 he was a Black Panther newspaper journalist, and later

he was an award-winning Philadelphia radio journalist.

Mumia had been appealing his conviction. Hearings involving discovery of suppression of important exculpatory evidence, including the racist exclusion

of Black jurors in his original trial and key witnesses having been paid to testify for the prosecution, were held before Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Lucretia Clemons to consider the recently released evidence as grounds for a new trial.

However, following in the bloody footsteps of her predecessor, racist hanging-judge Albert Sabo, on March 31 Clemons dismissed Mumia's appeal petition. His supporters were outraged by the ruling but not surprised. Clemons was previously an attorney with Ballard Spahr, a national firm specializing in business law with a notorious reputation in Philadelphia; and she has been known countrywide as a union buster. That she has not strayed one millimeter from the party line should be considered in this context.

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Mumia supporters in Philadelphia, April 23, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Marchers gather at mural for Mumia, April 23, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



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# May Day means internationalism – support Workers World!

Although officially commemorated in 80 countries, May Day is not recognized in the U.S., where it originated in 1886 in Chicago during the struggle for the eight-hour workday. Its militant legacy is marked by protests by the global working class against capitalist exploiters.

It is a day of solidarity with workers everywhere. The class struggle is alive in France, where workers have militantly protested for weeks against cuts in their pensions, shaking the Macron government to the core. In the U.S., hundreds of strikes have taken place. Workers are rising up in hospitals, schools, universities, factories, mines, stores and coffee shops, and on the freight railroads.

Workers World applauds the successful worker-led union drives at a Staten Island Amazon facility and at around 300 Starbucks stores to date. These wins have spurred more worker organizing around the country.

WW newspaper is partisan. We side with workers fighting for their rights. Their struggles are featured on our pages and in our biweekly column “On the Picket Line.” Not only does WW write about worker organizing, our staff members join rallies and picket lines.

On this May Day, WW supports all workers: organized and unorganized. We express solidarity with the millions of workers, especially those who are Black, Latiné, Indigenous, immigrants, women and other gender-oppressed people, LGBTQ2S+, disabled, low-wage earners, and the jobless and the incarcerated.

WW agrees with May Day’s socialist founders: End capitalism! Fight for socialism!

### WW needs your support!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalist exploitation and for revolutionary change.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has sponsored workers.org,



where articles containing news and analysis of global and domestic issues and struggles are posted continually. The website is a resource for political activists. It contains first-hand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff.

Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on unionization drives, along with reports on anti-racist and other progressive movements.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 printed issues each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

### Join the WW Supporter Program:

Can you donate \$50, \$100, \$200 a year or more? Donating \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, an email link to every article posted online and, upon request, a copy of the book “What road to socialism?”

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth to more readers. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World; include your name, address and email. **Send to Workers World at our new address: 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.**

We are thankful for your support in building Workers World. □

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Grand jury refuses to charge cops in Jayland Walker’s murder

By Martha Grevatt

The June 27 police murder of Jayland Walker in Akron, Ohio, sparked mass protests last summer, drawing Black Lives Matter activists from around the country. After a high-speed car chase over a traffic violation, Walker exited his car and began fleeing on foot. Within seven seconds, eight police fired 94 bullets at him, hitting the 25-year-old Black man 46 times; then the cops handcuffed Walker. City officials have refused to release the names of the police who killed Walker, but activists were able to determine their identities. All eight remain on the force. Protests erupted again after Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced April 17 that an Ohio grand jury, convened to investigate Walker’s killing, would not charge any of the cops involved. At a press conference held the same day, Rev. Ray Green of The Freedom BLOC stated: “No justice, no peace. Period. There

will be no justice in Akron, no peace in Akron; there will be no peace in Summit County; there will be no peace in the state of Ohio; there will be no peace in America, until Blacks are able to walk down the street without being gunned down.” Other speakers included Walker family attorney Bobby DiCello, Akron NAACP President Judi Hill, Akron Urban League President Teresa LeGrair, Akron Congressional Rep. Amelia Sykes and Pastor Robert DeJournett of St. Ashworth Temple Church of God in Christ. DeJournett is the Walker family’s pastor. **Lawsuit wins halt to tear gas, pepper spray against activists** Regular marches began before April 17 and are still taking place. Walker family supporters with their signs were seen behind television announcers at the April 18 home basketball game of the Cleveland Cavaliers. Akron is best known around the country as the hometown of superstar and

former Cavalier LeBron James. Government buildings were closed and boarded up in advance of Yost’s announcement. Akron police and Summit County sheriffs have been out in full force to repress activists. Without provocation cops fired tear gas and pepper spray at peaceful demonstrators and their children on April 19. At least six people were then arrested and moved from Akron to the Stark County Jail, where they were held for days. Other protesters were given tickets by Akron police as they were leaving. The Akron Bail Fund sued, seeking a restraining order blocking the use of tear gas and pepper spray against protesters. In court April 21, Akron Deputy Law Director John Christopher Reece claimed demonstrators created a danger by blocking traffic. Assistant Law Director Brian Bremer stated there were bottles thrown at the police before they gassed the crowd, but Judge James Grimes Jr. noted that he



PHOTO: DEJOURNETT CONSULTING

**Community demands justice for Jayland Walker, after grand jury refuses to charge killer cops, Akron, Ohio, April 18, 2023.**

offered no evidence of those claims. In a settlement reached the same day, both parties agreed that “peaceful” demonstrators would not be sprayed in the future. But what’s to stop the cops from fabricating claims of “violence” again? In the meantime an outraged community continues to demand justice for Jayland Walker. □

# Activists demand Restore COVID-19 protections now!

By Will Hodgkinson  
Boston

The Massachusetts Coalition for Health Equity (Mass. CHE) held an online press conference on April 5 to demand the state keep protections against COVID-19 in place to safeguard health care workers, people with disabilities and the general population during the continuing pandemic. The conference was a response to Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healy’s decision to comply with the Biden administration’s decision to terminate the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11. Ending the PHE, which was initially declared by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in January 2020, will allow bosses at medical facilities in the U.S. privatized health care system to strip millions of health care workers and patients of safety measures, including masking, social distancing and surveillance testing. Doctors and disability justice activists have urged the Massachusetts government and health care corporations to restore mandated masking in all health care settings, including in doctors’ and dentists’ offices. “Why is this so important?” said Dr. Lara Jirmanus, a primary care physician. “COVID-19 is airborne. It spreads through the air like smoke. I see this over and over again with my patients. ... We need really clear messaging and a plan to make sure these [health care] spaces are accessible to everybody.” (masscoalitionforhealthequity.org)

In addition to mask mandates, Dr. Jirmanus and other medical experts at the press conference stressed the need for improved ventilation in public spaces and increased access to PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing. An open letter listing these demands has received almost 800 signatures as of April 8. Although limited to COVID-19 transmission mitigation, the measures the coalition has called for provide essential safety for the hundreds of millions at risk of becoming ill with COVID-19. “None of these single interventions are perfect,” said Amir Mohareb, an infectious disease physician and instructor at Harvard Medical School. “But taken altogether they really do keep our communities and our friends and our families safe. So essentially that’s the bottom line of what we’re calling for today.” **Disability activists testify** Following the presentations by medical professionals, disability activists testified about their ongoing struggles for rights and survival. Jennifer Ritz-Sullivan, the COVID-19 justice leader of Marked by COVID, spoke about the deadly disregard and dehumanization of people with disabilities whom COVID-19 has killed, including her own mother. “Millions who have died from COVID-19 have been treated as disposable, and I feel the need to remind you that nobody is disposable,” Ritz-Sullivan said. “I am all too aware of the mass death and disability still



PHOTO: TWITTER @MAHEALTHEQUITY

**Mass. Coalition for Health Equity State House press conference, March 23, 2021.**

surrounding us. I should not be forced to subject myself to further disability or death to meet my basic needs and receive the medical care that I need to survive.” Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, a disability justice advocate and author of “The Future Is Disabled,” called attention to the millions of workers and oppressed peoples who continue to struggle with the disabling long-term effects of COVID-19 infection and reinfection. “Disabled, elderly, poor, working-class, high-risk, kids — folks who have already had COVID-19 three, four, five times, who don’t want to have it a sixth time — all of our lives are valuable,” Piepzna-Samarasinha said. “We deserve to be able to be in public, to go and access health care without wondering if we’re going to die or get sick, or get even more disabled than we already are.” Other speakers recounted their own experiences fighting to access vaccinations and other health care resources and to keep their families and children, many of whom have disabilities, safe from COVID-19. At the end of the conference, Piepzna-Samarasinha evoked the political threat of right-wing, corporate, anti-mask forces and the need for solidarity to combat them. “What side are you on?” they asked. “What choices are you willing to make to protect human health?”

Though bourgeois politicians and “expert” pundits insist the pandemic’s health emergency is “over,” data highlighted by speakers show that COVID-19 remains as dangerous as ever and more transmissible than in 2020, because of its continuing mutations. Rates of infection and death continue to rise globally. Medical experts pointed out that the supposedly “low” COVID-19 rates in Massachusetts, which were used to justify ending the PHE, are a fabrication relying on flawed “community transmission data” to undercount the true number of cases. According to a recent Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation study, only 4% to 5% of infections determined by home testing in the U.S are reported. Nationwide, hundreds of COVID-19 patients are hospitalized every day, and close to 2,000 a week continue to die. Based on a Household Pulse Survey carried out by the National Center for Health Statistics, over 15% of Massachusetts adult residents have reported long COVID-19 symptoms, and about 3.4% of Massachusetts’ adults said their activity has been or was seriously impaired (the respective rate is 1.6% in the entire U.S.). (tinyurl.com/y4su29t7) This catastrophe is not “natural.” As Ritz-Sullivan stressed at the close of her remarks, “These losses were, and continue to be, the result of policy choices and will only worsen if the government continues to ignore this pandemic.”

The government’s decision to end the PHE is part of a broader capitalist state campaign to “normalize” the pandemic, sacrificing health care workers along with children, immunocompromised and disabled people and the elderly, in an act of social mass murder, which, as Friedrich Engels once wrote in a different context, “is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or bullet.” (“Condition of the Working Class in England,” 1845) As Mass. CHE made clear, and as a recent Workers World Party-Boston resolution has emphasized, any meaningful solidarity requires taking all possible safety measures to protect one another from COVID-19. (WW, March 24) By uniting to fight the pandemic’s ongoing mass disabling and death rates and the capitalist government’s neglect, workers and oppressed peoples can take a step forward to build a society whose priorities are health and human needs, not profits. □

## Puerto Rican community protests annual gala

*The following is a slightly edited version of a press release issued April 18 by The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign coalition.*

On April 20, The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign protested the Hispanic Federation’s Annual Gala, at the American Museum of Natural History, and the presence of Luis Miranda and his family for their continual funding of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign is an international coalition of Puerto Rican organizations and individuals who work to dismantle the PROMESA bill in Puerto Rico. Luis Miranda and the Hispanic Federation lobbied Congress to pass the PROMESA bill, which instituted an undemocratic Fiscal Control Board.

This board has caused the closure of 600 schools throughout Puerto Rico, dismantled pensions and other retirement benefits. It has led to the privatization of public services and the rampant unemployment of many workers in those fields. Luis Miranda, through the Hispanic Federation, was able to personally profit and benefit from the consequent destruction of the coffee industry on the island, onboarding large corporations such as Nespresso. Under the guise of ‘community,’ Luis Miranda’s lobbying group, MirRam, accepted \$100,000 for failed anti-unionizing efforts against Amazon workers. Miranda received an additional \$100,000 from Industry City to influence Latino legislators for rezoning purposes in Sunset Park, pushing for displacement of longtime Boricua, Latinx and Asian communities.

The Hispanic Federation acts as a quid pro quo apparatus for large corporations, such as Banco Popular and Airbnb, to donate to, knowing that these institutions will benefit from the bonds that are paid at the expense of the austerity measures implemented by the Fiscal Control Board. This money is invested under the guise of arts and academics, but what it really does is reinforce the colonial power that the U.S. has on the Puerto Rican people. By accepting their money, Luis Miranda Jr. and the Hispanic Federation become complicit in their destructive practices. “The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign will continue to denounce those whose opportunism continues to harm the people of Puerto Rico and demand the independence of the archipelago,” said Lorraine Liriano, campaign spokesperson. □



# Positive news from Texas

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

In a state with bad news almost every day for those incarcerated in Texas jails, prisons and detention centers, the past week was a happy anomaly. Not only did the U.S. Supreme Court rule April 20 in favor of death row prisoner Rodney Reed, who has tried for years to get DNA testing done on the murder weapon in his case, but the execution of Ivan Cantu scheduled for April 26 was stayed. Plus, a new civil rights lawsuit by four men contesting the tortuous conditions on Texas death row has been filed. What a week!

Rodney Reed is a Black man from Bastrop, Texas, who has been wrongfully held on death row since 1998. His only crime was having a relationship with a white woman, Stacey Stites, who was engaged to a cop. For 25 years Reed and his large and supportive family have been fighting alongside activists to prove his innocence in Stites’ murder. In a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that said Reed had waited too long to make the request for DNA testing.

The court majority ruled that the two-year window to file civil rights claims in federal court starts counting down only

after state court proceedings are finished. “The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling today is a critical step toward the ultimate goal of getting DNA testing in Rodney Reed’s case,” said Parker Rider-Longmaid, one of Reed’s attorneys. (texastribune.org, April 19)

Testing would include things from the crime scene never previously tested, such as the belt used to strangle Stites. Stites’ fiancé was heard several times saying he’d kill her if he ever found out she was seeing an n-word. This cop had served 10 years in prison for sexually assaulting a woman he stopped for a traffic violation — while in uniform! While in prison he admitted to another prisoner, who was in a white-supremacist gang, that he killed Stites. The murder weapon was never tested. Don’t they always test the murder weapon? Well, not if a cop is involved, it seems.

### Execution of Cantu canceled

For 22 years, Ivan Cantu has maintained his innocence. On April 19, just one day after his attorney filed an appeal citing newly discovered evidence, state district Judge Benjamin Smith withdrew the execution warrant that had set Cantu’s last day of life for April 26.



Rodney Reed at 2015 court hearing



step,” Gena Bunn, Cantu’s attorney, said. (cbsnews.com, April 21)

### Lawsuits to improve conditions

The last bit of good news came in a conversation I had with an attorney, Pieter Van Tol, who is with one of the largest law firms in the world. He and a team of attorneys are representing prisoners on Texas death row in a civil lawsuit challenging conditions.

Why is this exciting? Attorney Van Tol represented the men on death row at Angola prison in Louisiana, who challenged the conditions and won! A settlement was reached, and they now are out of their cells for most of the day. They have a communal meal every day, and they have access to education and religious services.

Most people have heard of the horrible prison in Louisiana called Angola, which is a former slave plantation. One of the Angola 3, Albert Woodfox, wrote a book before he died last summer from COVID-19 called “Solitary.” It details the excruciatingly horrible conditions at Angola Prison.

The lawsuit for Texas death row prisoners is just getting started, but my thinking is that if Angola can be made more bearable after a win there, then Texas death row can be too!

*The writer is a leader of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.*

# Letters from incarcerated siblings

**Dear Workers World staff,**  
Hoping this note finds you well. Would you please sign me up to receive a subscription to Workers World?

I admit that I don’t agree with everything — or even most of — the progressive agenda. But I have always gotten along well with members of socialist workers organizations. And I have the highest regard for your paper and integrity.

Sincerely yours,  
**Gene G.**  
**SCI Albion, Pennsylvania**

*We really appreciate this letter, Gene. Whenever workers set out to organize for our collective power, the first lesson we learn is that everybody isn’t always going to see eye to eye. Despite our different backgrounds and experiences, all of us have common hopes and common grievances. And we sure as hell have common enemies: the bosses, the banks and the billionaires.*

*Enjoy your subscription and don’t hesitate to write again to let us know what you think! — TK*

**Dear WW,**  
I am a juvenile lifer who has been in

PA for 23 years. I am for the people. I am not afraid to stand up and am always in solidarity with ALL impoverished people. I would love more information on your organization and how I can be of service.

In solidarity,  
**Kristopher H.**  
**SCI Frackville, Pennsylvania**

*Revolutionary greetings, Kristopher. What else can we say in response but “Hell yes!” In order to really be for the people, we have to be for all the people — the poor and oppressed most of all. Sending love and solidarity to you and all our comrades up at Frackville. We’ll be in touch. — TK*

**Dear WW,**  
Thank you for taking a moment to consider this letter. Many years ago I enjoyed reading your newspaper, and I was wondering what it would take to get that subscription restarted? Please let me know, I miss you!

Thanks in advance.  
Respectfully,  
**B.A.**  
**Indiana State Prison**

When I saw Ivan in the visiting room a few weeks ago, I told his visitor, loudly enough so that Ivan could hear me through the phones being used, that we were all pulling for him and hoping for a stay. He gave the biggest smile and mouthed “thank you.” The man I was visiting said that Ivan now had good attorneys and was hopeful. But hope is so often squashed down here that I try not to get hopeful very often.

So, when the news came out the execution date was withdrawn, there were tears of joy on my face. Joy that Ivan would live, although who knows for how long, but the execution list for 2023 for Texas was now empty!

The judge said the new arguments just presented would require further review. Plus, two of Cantu’s original jurors have said they no longer support his execution after hearing new details of his innocence claims. These jurors from the 2001 trial now support his new appeals saying the district attorney relied on false testimony and withheld crucial evidence.

Ivan will be 50 years old in June, and he’s been in solitary confinement on Texas’ tortuous death row since he was 28 years old.

“Because Mr. Cantu’s case raises troubling questions that undermine the integrity of the conviction, the court’s decision to withdraw the execution date to permit further review was the appropriate next

*We missed you, too, comrade! Glad to have you back on our subscriber list. — TK*

**Dear WW:**  
Feeling the weight of jail upon my shoulders. Really means nothing compared to the disappointment that’s deep within my heart from living the so-called American Dream. And so many are locked up in that dream even on parole, wondering what the next hour will bring in wicked Amerikkka.

This is what leads me to contacting you, to try and receive the newspaper to read what’s going on around the world.  
Thank you.  
**J.T.**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

*Beautifully said, J.T. We hope that the coverage within these pages of the revolutionary fight-back that goes on every day around the world can help lift your spirits. Strength and solidarity. — TK*

**Dear friends,**  
How do you do? Hope my letter finds you in the best of health, spirits and state of mind. Much respect!

Horace Thomas  
**California State Prison, Soledad, CA**

“Leap”  
**By Horace Thomas**

Society doesn’t look at the bigger picture  
from the beginning where life starts  
The sequence of events  
At each time play their part

Somewhere down the line  
The affected look in the mirra’  
A young girl lost  
And no one can hear her

A boy out in the streets  
He’s run away from home  
Out there with the elements  
The horror of being alone

The obstacles and hurdles  
The feeling of defeat  
The limits, boundaries  
Each step becomes a leap □



# Houston activists say: ‘Free Mumia Now!’

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

A multinational crowd of activists gathered at the SHAPE Community Center on April 23 to celebrate Mumia Abu-Jamal’s 69th birthday. After a militant talk and a prayer by Nation of Islam Minister Abdul Haleem Muhammad, who condemned the rich, white elite for the ills of the vast majority in this country, a film was shown in which Dr. Johanna Fernandez, a leader of the movement to free Mumia, explained the current legal issues facing Abu-Jamal.

Next a local treasure of creativity, Sister Momma Sonia, read two poems written by Julia Wright about Judge Lucretia Clemons. The first one began with a quote by the author’s father, noted novelist Richard Wright, who wrote in 1955 after the acquittal of Emmett Till’s lynchers: “The world will judge the judges.”

Sonia then read her own poem for Mumia which began: “My country tears of we; sweet land of bigotry; of thee we sing. Land where my fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers died; and of the Pilgrims’ false pride; from every mountainside; will freedom ever ring?”

The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement’s singer and drummer, Trey Legall, had the room singing along to the chorus of “Ella’s Song” by Sweet Honey and the Rock: “We who believe in freedom cannot rest; we who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.” And the table of about eight children of the Brown Berets, who had been sitting quietly off to the side, came to life,



banging on the table with the beats of the drumming.

Yusef Omowale, a member of the Black Panther Party in Chicago, gave a sobering report on the many dozens of political prisoners incarcerated in U.S. state and federal prisons. He ended by talking about Ruchell Magee, who was wrongfully framed up in 1963 and is the

longest-held political prisoner in the U.S. Magee has been locked up for 60 years and is now 84 years old.

The Black Panther Party Alumni Association, Workers World Party, the Abolition Movement, Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Brown Berets hosted the event. After candles were lit and people sang “Happy Birthday,” everyone enjoyed cake and camaraderie. □



# UC Townhomes residents demand ‘right to return’

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Leading chants of “we saved the peoples townhomes” and “housing is a human right” activist Krystal Strong opened a press conference and rally attended by University City Townhomes residents and supporters at 40th and Market streets on April 21.

After a two-year struggle to stop the demolition and displacement of one of the few remaining predominantly Black and Brown affordable housing developments in Philadelphia, a tentative agreement was reached April 19 between the city and site owner IBID Associates, for the development of 70 new units of affordable housing on one-fifth of the 2.7-acre property.

While claiming credit for the settlement, following their tenacious two-year struggle, members of Save the UC Townhomes Coalition challenged provisions of the agreement, which was made without their input.

IBID agreed to provide \$3.5 million to the city for the tenants’ relocation and housing costs — about \$50,000 per household. A separate, much smaller fund, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, will be provided by a coalition, including

the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and Children’s Hospital, which residents have targeted for their central role in gentrifying an historic Black neighborhood.

The court-ordered settlement defines “affordability” as targeting those with incomes of 60% to 80% of area median income, making it open to tenants with higher incomes than the existing residents of UC Townhomes earn. Councilperson Jamie Gauthier, whose district includes the property, claims the city will attempt to match the previous levels of affordability at the site, and that the agreement will include a right-to-return for previous tenants.

**Put ‘right to return’ in writing**

Residents are demanding a written guarantee of certain provisions, including Gauthier’s promise of their ‘right to return.’

Residents see the settlement as falling far short of solutions to address the needs of individual families, seniors and people with disabilities, who are being pushed out of the Townhomes, and the city’s growing affordable housing crisis. The deal sets aside only 19% of the current site for housing, leaving the rest open for more university laboratory buildings.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE  
**Resident Darlene Foreman leads street protest following press conference April 21, 2023.**

Residents are demanding that affordability be defined as 30% of AMI, which would be more in line with rents they were paying when the property was subsidized by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Speakers pointed out that over a quarter of the city’s existing subsidized housing units face expiring affordability provisions within the next few years.

Residents of the People’s Townhomes and their wide array of supporters have put the issue of affordable housing in the spotlight, with bold actions including numerous marches blocking major

intersections near the site, a 31-day encampment on the site in July 2022, a press conference outside City Hall and a disruption of a private gathering of developers and their political supporters in October 2022.

Their struggle has gained support from students at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, who have denounced the historic role their schools played in the racist displacement of working-class Black and Brown communities. UC Townhomes residents and supporters shut down the Aug. 29, 2022, UPenn first-year students convocation. Students led protests disrupting campus events, including the fall 2022 homecoming football game.

At the April 21 press conference, People’s Townhomes resident Mel Hairston stressed that the struggle is far from over. “At the beginning of this fight we were asking; now we are demanding. There can be no development of this property without the people who have been residing here for decades. We have the first right to return. We are also putting the University of Penn and Drexel University on notice that they owe dues to this community for all they have taken from us.” □

# March to save Chinatown

By **Joe Piette**  
Philadelphia

A show of force and unity will take place in Philadelphia April 29 with the message, “No Arena in the Heart of Our City.” Marching from Chinatown to the much-criticized proposed site of a new basketball arena and then on to City Hall, Chinatown residents and allies will be telling the City Council and the mayor that the people are united in opposing the blatant land grab by billionaire developers.

In the words of the Save Chinatown Coalition: “The event will be a demonstration of joy, creativity and the power of connecting across communities. It will be a demonstration of fierce resistance to those who seek to tear apart communities and disrupt and distort the Heart of our City in their boundless drive for profits.”

The main organizations protesting against the construction of a new \$1.3 billion Philadelphia 76ers arena on the southern edge of Chinatown include

Save Chinatown Coalition, Chinatown Coalition to Oppose the Arena, No Arena Solidarity (NACS), Students for the Preservation of Chinatown, RICE (Restaurant Industry for Chinatown’s Existence), POWER Interfaith and No Arena Art Hive.

**Chinatown legacy of struggle to exist**

Chinatowns across the country have been culturally destroyed or physically demolished by the imposition of sports stadiums, arenas or casinos, like in Seattle and St. Louis. The Capital One arena was built next to Washington, D.C.’s Chinatown. All the Chinese-owned

businesses and residents were displaced or replaced by large chain businesses like Starbucks, with Chinese signs translating their names. Even those businesses are struggling to survive, because no one wants to live next to an arena.

Philadelphia’s Chinatown was established in 1871 by workers who had fled anti-Chinese sentiment in the Western states and relocated East to form small “bachelor societies” in many cities. After World War II, liberalized immigration policies toward the Chinese transformed Chinatown into a family-oriented community. Churches, businesses, social and cultural organizations were established to improve neighborhood life, preserve Chinese culture and provide services to growing numbers of immigrants.

Residents have organized against past attempts to displace Chinatown, including the Interstate 676 Vine Street Expressway (which opened in 1991) and the Pennsylvania Convention Center (opened in 1993), and other projects that

were successfully stopped, such as a proposed baseball stadium in 2000 and a casino in 2008.

**Stop for-profit developments that displace communities of color**

Chinatown, like other communities of color, are under attack across the U.S. by predatory developers. The current attempt to displace Chinatown is led by Josh Harris and David Blitzer, two New York finance billionaires who own the local NBA team. Another arena developer is David Adelman, billionaire owner of Campus Apartments, who has been trying to displace Black and Brown low-income residents at UC Townhomes for two years.

The April 29 march and rally starts at 10th and Vine streets, marching from Chinatown to City Hall to show the Philadelphia City Council that our city is not for sale! In the words of the Save Chinatown Coalition: “Our communities are united. We don’t need or want corporate-designed billionaire-driven predatory development in Philadelphia. Our neighborhoods need investment that is driven by the needs of the people who call it home. We need investment that builds community and connections — instead of tearing them apart.” □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE  
**Hundreds of students, community activists march through UPenn’s campus to David Adelman’s offices at Campus Apartments in solidarity with Chinatown residents, Nov. 18, 2022.**

# Celebration for Mumia’s birthday

Continued from page 1

As journalist Linn Washington Jr. has warned so many times: “The fact that state and federal judges have consistently upheld Abu-Jamal’s conviction is cited as solid confirmation of his guilt. Brushed aside is the fact that judges have upheld Abu-Jamal’s conviction by skirting established legal procedure (precedence), creating new legal standards that undercut Abu-Jamal’s claims and rejecting newly discovered evidence of improprieties by police, prosecutors and even judges.” (WHYY, Dec. 9, 2022)

**Rally at One Art Community Center**

The march was followed by a gathering at West Philadelphia based One Art Community Center at 1431-39 North 52nd St. Gabe Bryant with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home chaired the event, which included a talk

from Clarence Thomas, retired leader of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, based in San Francisco.

Thomas recounted how the ILWU shut down all the West Coast ports demanding Mumia’s release on April 24, 1999, and how the union did it again earlier this year. Thomas noted that Mumia is both a CWA-NABET journalist and a political prisoner who has demonstrated support for unions.

Chairman Omali Yeshitela, from the Uhuru Movement and an African People’s Socialist Party leader, gave a militant talk denouncing systemic racism and imperialism and explaining how capitalism is “a dying system in a horrible state of crisis.” He was one of four current and former Uhuru officials who were indicted by federal officials April 18 for allegedly interfering in the 2020 presidential election. The outrageous and dangerous

indictments claim the group was working on behalf of the Russian government, because they oppose the U.S./ NATO war.

Other speakers included Candace McKinley with the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, Keyssh from Decolonize Philly, Theresa Shoatz, Razakhan Shaiheed from Nation Time and Mike Africa Jr. Performers included Cleo, Antonella, New World Warrior and hip hop artists Spiritchild.

The highlight of the celebratory event was definitely the location at One Art Community Center. The center had been carved out of abandoned blocks in West Philadelphia, starting in 2001, to offer a creative space and programming for healing, environmental sustainability, collaboration and growth through arts, education and culture. A mural honoring Mumia Abu-Jamal was put up on an outer wall of the center earlier this year. □



# Abortion is health care! Health care is a right!

Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk could be described as a xenophobic, white-supremacist, science-loathing, male chauvinist pig. Even that characterization might be too generous!

This Trump-appointed judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruled April 7 to nullify the approval by the Food and Drug Administration — in place since 2000 — of the abortifacient drug mifepristone. Over half of all abortions in the U.S. today are medication abortions.

With the stroke of a pen, the Amarillo, Texas-based Kacsmaryk attempted to strip every potentially pregnant person of bodily autonomy and give the state power over their reproductive decisions.

Before his appointment, the judge, as an attorney and legal author, had a history of supporting anti-abortion and other right-wing causes. He wrote that transgender identity is “appropriately described as a delusion.” While deputy legal counsel for the First Liberty Institute, Kacsmaryk represented the Oregon baker who had refused to provide a cake for a same-sex wedding. As a judge he ruled in favor of President Donald Trump’s anti-migrant “Remain in Mexico” policy.

If the Texas ruling had been implemented, it would

have forced untold numbers of women and others to carry unwanted pregnancies to term, travel far to seek abortions or resort to dangerous self-abortions. This decision should belong solely to the person most affected by it — not to the ultraright, misogynistic bigots of the bench.

One hour after Kacsmaryk’s reactionary decision, Judge Thomas Owen Rice of the Eastern District of Washington issued a contradictory ruling, that access to mifepristone should be left as is in the 17 states and D.C., which sued in his court to keep current access to the drug.

**Biden put rights at risk**

President Joe Biden asked the U.S. Supreme Court — yes, that ultraconservative-dominated Supreme Court of the United States that overturned Roe v. Wade and gave states the green light to ban abortions — to resolve the conflict between the two simultaneous rulings.

In making that request to SCOTUS, Biden put the right to abortion at risk. But even in this misogynistic body, a majority voted to stay Kacsmaryk’s ruling. For now mifepristone remains accessible.

This is not a sign of fair-mindedness by the justices on the high court. Not by a long shot! But they feel the pressure of the mass movement for reproductive justice—the

same movement that won the right to have a legal abortion 50 years ago, also from a conservative court.

The fight is far from over. The Supreme Court left the issue of access to mifepristone to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas and is based in New Orleans. This court ruled April 12 to let stand the FDA’s 2000 strict limitations on access, nullifying the removal of restrictions the FDA approved in 2016 and later years, as the drug’s safety was proven.

The Fifth Circuit is the most conservative appellate court in the U.S. If it decides the case in accordance with its prior decision, only certified doctors will be able to administer mifepristone — only up to seven weeks of pregnancy and only in their offices. It won’t be available by mail or from a pharmacist.

Reactionary judges, politicians and religious groups are making a concerted, coordinated effort to roll back the calendar. They want to go back to the 19th century, when a woman had no legal rights and was literally the property of her spouse.

They can and must be defeated — but the life-and-death battle for reproductive justice will only be won by the movement staying in the streets. □

## Lessons from Lenin for International Workers Day

*Continued from page 1*

All the world’s capitalists want to see the French government crush this rebellion. And all workers in the world gain if the rebellion succeeds. The working class is international.

**Unite all the struggles!**

Then there is the question of war.

The U.S.-based capitalist class runs the country, controls the army, police, courts and propaganda machine. This class is waging a proxy war, using NATO, in Ukraine against Russia. This class threatens war with China over Taiwan. This

ruling class, the enemy of all workers, is waging economic war through sanctions against any countries and nations that demand sovereignty and independence.

As Lenin said before and during the great slaughter of World War I: “The enemy is at home.” Nowhere is that more significant than in the U.S. itself.

International Workers Day must be a day of combatting U.S. and NATO aggression. The enemy of workers in the U.S. is the U.S. ruling class.

Then there is the question of uniting the struggles at home.

There have been hints of an upsurge in working-class organizing the past few

years. Strikes at hospitals and schools, including graduate students in universities, a near strike of freight train workers that the federal government repressed and drives to unionize the mass multinational, multigendered and mainly young workers at Amazon warehouses and Starbucks coffee houses.

Meanwhile all workers, even in the U.S. and Europe and Japan, have been hurt by inflation and frozen wages, while whatever social gains won from 1945-90 are being whittled down by globalization and an attack from the imperialist ruling class. It’s beyond time to unite their struggles.

In the U.S., the defense of those

targeted, especially young Black and Brown people like Ralph Yarll in Missouri, with racist attacks by white supremacists and the police — that’s a working-class struggle. The fight to restore the right and access to abortion — that’s a working-class struggle. The battle for decent housing, that’s a working-class struggle. The defense of trans peoples’ rights, under attack by bigots — that’s a working-class struggle.

International Workers Day reminds the working class of all that. And Lenin reminds us that each battle must be taken as far as it can go. □

## Workers’ resistance puts French bosses in turmoil

**By G. Dunkel**

April 23 — After French President Emmanuel Macron succeeded in pushing a new pension system into law April 15, by avoiding any vote except from the nine former officeholders on the Constitutional Council, he and his cabinet members have been taking short trips throughout France, allegedly to listen to the people. The people have answered: “Quit!”

Since 70% of the population and over 90% of the active workers in France

oppose this new pension scheme, which demands they work two years longer, the government’s reception has ranged from negative to actively hostile. Union electrical workers often respond to an official’s visit by turning off the supply of electricity to their venue, or at least turning it down.

The progressive left party France Unbowed (its candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon finished a close third in the 2022 presidential election) has encouraged people to beat spoons in empty pots to drown out the speeches of Macron’s

ministers.

The negative popular reaction to Macron’s “charm offensive” resulted in the administration showing its teeth. During Macron’s visit to Strasbourg, a city east of Paris on the German border, three people were arrested for giving him “the finger.” (Huffington Post, April 23)

Ministers who went to a train station in Lille to talk to railroad workers were met by protesters—train workers and their supporters—shouting “Dirt bags, get out of here!”

On April 20, a video on twitter shows thousands of high school students at the call of their student unions, who marched through Paris chanting “Macron quit!”

Another tweet, this one by Unite CGT (General Confederation of Labor), reports a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a “general assembly” to review the situation. Unions that support the strike joined the general assembly, which was addressed by Sophie Binet, newly elected general secretary of the CGT.

The pension protests in France often use blockades, setting them up where they can stop vital traffic. For example, workers needed to keep fuel from a refinery, where striking workers were requisitioned [drafted] back to work. To keep the fuel away from the market, strike supporters set up a picket line on the road leading to the plant. They might also hand out a leaflet and ask for donations to stop and donate to the strike fund.

The union movement is preparing to make International Workers’ Day on May 1 a massive outpouring of resistance and protest. Thousands of militant, smaller actions leading up to that day indicate the temper of the working class. But Macron, a former bank official whose whole career has been tied to French and European imperialism, has the firm backing of European Union-based megacorporations and banks.

Workers worldwide in the streets May 1 will be rooting against Macron. □

## To protest Israeli war crimes Activists chain themselves to consulate

**By Dave Welsh  
San Francisco**

A crowd of 150 protesters shut down the Israeli consulate in San Francisco on April 18. They denounced the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and demanded respect for the human and national rights of the Palestinian people.

The day’s protest began when a group of 20, wearing “75 years of Israeli war crimes” on their T-shirts, chained themselves to each other and to the consulate doors.

So far in 2023, some 90 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli occupation forces. Sharif Zakout of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center stated: “For too

long, the U.S. has played an active role in the military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.”

Speaking from a flatbed truck, Zakout condemned the U.S. government for providing over \$3.8 billion annually “in direct military aid to the Israeli occupation.”

This May marks the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, the forcible displacement of more than 700,000 Palestinians from their homelands

during the 1940s; today there are over 2 million Palestinian refugees. □



PHOTO: ARAB RESOURCE AND ORGANIZING CENTER

San Francisco, April 18, 2023.

# Decline of U.S. dollar dominance — what it means for workers

By **Betsey Piette**

The U.S. sells more than \$175 billion in military weapons every year; yet for decades, its greatest weapon has been the U.S. dollar’s global dominance.

Imperialist wars and U.S. dollar hegemony go hand in hand. To prevent them from developing alternative currencies to the dollar, the U.S. military invaded Iraq in 2003 and attacked Libya in 2011, murdering both countries’ leaders. The dominance of the dollar also impacted Venezuela’s ability to benefit from the sale of its vast oil resources, driving that country deeper into poverty.

Through its control of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the U.S. has set political conditions for countries to receive monetary support. Most often this has involved adopting neoliberal policies and opening their markets for Western corporations to super exploit their workers. An example of how these global financiers operate can be seen in the 2001 film “Life and Debt,” which documents how high-interest loans from the IMF destroyed Jamaica’s economy, leaving it permanently indebted to and dependent on the West.

The U.S. dollar became the dominant global reserve currency after then-President Richard Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in 1971. Since then the U.S. has used that position to force countries to do its bidding, more frequently freezing or even confiscating a country’s assets, as it has done with Iran and Venezuela.

Using the excuse of the U.S./NATO war against Russia in Ukraine, the U.S. government imposed sanctions on Russia

in February 2022. But it may have gone too far when it froze the Central Bank of Russia’s \$300 billion in foreign exchange and gold reserves on March 26 of that year, for that resulted in a global backlash as countries looked for viable alternative currencies to the dollar.

Along with the economic sanctions imposed on Russia, Washington has used the war in Ukraine to promote the export of U.S. shale gas and oil as an alternative to Russian energy.

An initial sign of growing opposition from countries in the Global South was the result of the United Nations vote condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in March 2022. While the resolution passed, abstainers included China, India, Iran, Iraq, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. An analysis of the vote by Global Policy found that “of the 7.7 billion people represented by governments taking part in the vote, only 42% were from countries approving the motion.”

Many of those abstaining were countries that have suffered under crippling U.S. economic sanctions. The website SanctionsKill.org identifies over 40 countries currently subject to deadly U.S. economic sanctions.

**Sanctions fuel challenge to dollar hegemony**

In April 2022, China announced a Global Security Initiative for the purpose of opposing the use of sanctions on the international stage. This followed the establishment of the New Development Bank by BRICS, a financial alliance that

includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The global conflict resulting from the Ukraine war is proving to be the driving force behind the BRICS expansion, with Argentina, the UAE, Mexico, Algeria and Saudi Arabia all showing interest in the initiative.

The pace of challenge to the hegemony of the dollar then picked up in late March of this year, when Brazil and China announced a trade agreement using the two countries’ national currencies — the real and the yuan. Other South American countries, especially those that have felt the yoke of U.S. sanctions, are expected to follow suit, and they are not alone.

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced plans to reduce their reliance on the U.S. dollar, following their March 30-31 meeting in Indonesia. They also agreed to support cross-border trade and investment in the ASEAN region.

**Rise of the Global South**

While the rise of the Global South is receiving increasing attention from world media, it is not a new phenomenon. In 2004, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez established the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our America — ALBA — which now includes Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and the Caribbean island nations of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and Santa Lucía.

In 2003, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was formally established. It

now includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan and Iran.

Both organizations share a common decision to build a world free of the economic strangulation and neocolonial aggression of the U.S. and its allies. Along with BRICS, they offer viable alternatives to reliance on the U.S.-dominated World Bank and IMF.

**Impact on global working class**

There is clearly a global move away from dependence on the U.S. dollar, which will benefit the BRICS countries and others. But what does the diminishing hegemony of the U.S. dollar mean for the working class?

Lessening U.S. hegemony means that countries in the Global South may have the chance to develop their economies without dependence on the U.S. dollar, the IMF and the World Bank, and the inherent debt cycle which that dependence entails. But that does not mean an end to U.S. imperialism or capitalism as we know it. It is a setback for U.S. imperialism but not a defeat.

The end of U.S. hegemony creates conditions for the global working class to break with imperialism and for the working class to rise up and carry out its historic role.

However, defeating U.S. imperialism and capitalism will take serious, revolutionary intervention by the global working class.

Global class struggle is at a crossroads. On this May Day, let’s dedicate our efforts to promoting workers’ power through revolution! □

WW COMMENTARY

## Make capitalism ungovernable

By **Teddie Kelly**

Every year, Mumia Abu-Jamal’s birthday is observed by the most militant and politically advanced workers around the world. This year there were demonstrations in London, Paris, Berlin, Juarez, Mexico, Houston, Sacramento, California, Los Angeles and, of course, in his hometown of Philadelphia.

This year, these protests calling for Mumia’s release coincide with powerful worker uprisings in France against pension cuts and the ongoing occupation of the Weelaunee Forest in defense of the land Georgia officials have staked out for “Cop City.” While there may not be as many burning patrol cars and precinct buildings as there were in 2020 following the police lynching of George Floyd, it’s clear that the fiery spirit that ignited at the start of this decade isn’t dying out any time soon.

The movement to free Mumia has likewise birthed generations of freedom fighters. And like the former apartheid government of South Africa, the dying white-supremacist empire in the U.S. cannot survive the release of their most prized political prisoner.

The path of Mumia’s freedom struggle is paved with stepping stones from each victory won for prisoners along the way. The fight to get Mumia the treatment for hepatitis C that he contracted in prison, for example, was a historic win for prisoner health care across the country.

There’s nobody the cops and the prisons wanted to kill more than Mumia. And yet he lives. That itself is proof of the enormous pressure the masses of people can put on the system when we act together.

The key factor in so many of these victories occurred when rank-and-file workers used their organizational power to intervene on behalf of prisoners. In 1999, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down all West Coast ports demanding freedom for Mumia, and 20,000 people marched through San Francisco for Mumia, led by the ILWU contingent. Teachers in Oakland, California, held teach-ins on Mumia and the death penalty.

More recently, the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal in Oakland organized demonstrations to demand needed hep-C treatment for prisoners and against BigPharma price-gouging by Gilead Sciences, maker of the hep-C cure Harvoni.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa and other South African workers have called for Mumia’s release. Starbucks Workers United, the ILWU and Amazon Labor Union leaders have called for his freedom.

Why not the AFL-CIO? Why not the Writers Guild of America? Why not the Teamsters? If you’re a union member, what would it take for you to get a resolution adopted calling for Mumia’s freedom?

**May Day means solidarity with prisoners**

May 1 is International Workers Day. When rank-and-file workers get out into the streets to raise their own grievances, we get results. As workers, we have enormous influence over capitalist societies, but we can only wield that power in an organized, collective manner.

But what would happen if workers

didn’t just join a picket line because it’s their wages that are on the line? What if we looked at the demands being raised by other workers, by the most oppressed workers in our class, in particular?

What if, by next May Day, we raised up the demands of the most oppressed sector of our class? One out of every 100 workers is shackled in a prison cell right now, forced to eat shitty food and drink poison water, subjected to the worst humiliations and the most brutal violence.

What if we echoed the call made by anti-apartheid guerrilla leader Oliver Tambo in 1982: “Now is the time, South African youth; you can and must render South Africa ungovernable!” ([tinyurl.com/va5fm3w4](https://tinyurl.com/va5fm3w4))

We know from the letters Workers World gets from our readers on the inside just how many of our comrades inside are just waiting for the chance to be able to reciprocate a little solidarity sent their way. If you’re a union worker, don’t you want them on your side when you fight your next battle against the boss?

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party calls on all rank-and-file unionists to make prisoners’ demands your demands. There is no better place to start than by demanding the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Free Mumia! Free them all!

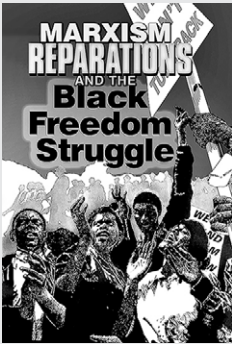
*The writer is co-chair of the PSC, along with Mirinda Crissman.*

## Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper  
Edited by **Monica Moorehead**

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COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARTON





## El Pentágono tiene una fuga

La noticia principal en los medios capitalistas es la detención de un miembro de 21 años de la Guardia Nacional Aérea en Massachusetts por la filtración de unos 100 documentos estatales “clasificados”. Supuestamente fueron compartidos en un chat para jugadores en la plataforma de medios sociales Discord y posteriormente compartidos por rusos en Telegram. El aviador de primera clase Jack Teixeira ha sido acusado de violar la Ley de Espionaje y se enfrenta a 10 años de prisión por un cargo, pero podrían seguirle más cargos.

Teixeira no se asemeja en nada a Daniel Ellsberg, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden o Julian Assange, que asumieron grandes riesgos personales para denunciar los crímenes de guerra del imperialismo estadounidense. Ha mostrado tendencias supremacistas blancas y antisemitas. Si las acusaciones son ciertas, es posible que Teixeira sólo estuviera mostrando a sus compañeros de juego lo que creía que podía hacer: sacar informes clasificados de “inteligencia”, colocarlos en la encimera de la cocina y fotografiarlos para publicarlos en Discord.

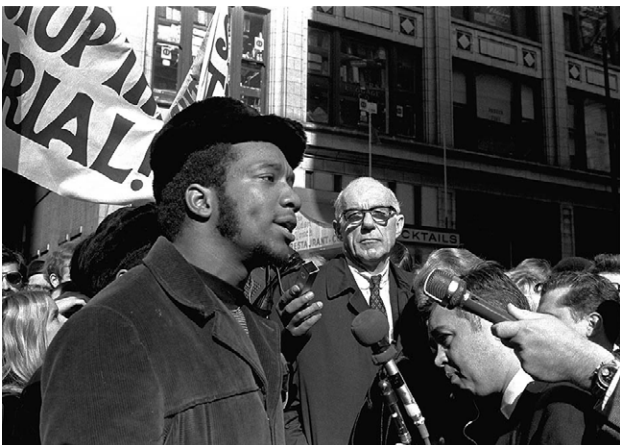
La Ley de Espionaje fue aprobada por el Congreso en 1917, poco después de que Estados Unidos entrara en la Primera Guerra Mundial. Sólo se ha utilizado ocasionalmente para acusar a individuos, principalmente a los acusados de espiar para la antigua Unión Soviética. El caso más famoso, y el único en el que se impuso la pena de muerte, fue contra Ethel y Julius Rosenberg. Estos dos miembros del Partido Comunista de Estados Unidos fueron acusados falsamente de pasar a la URSS la fórmula de la bomba atómica.

El espionaje per se —denominado eufemísticamente “recopilación de inteligencia” cuando lo realiza el Estado capitalista— no es un delito para el gobierno estadounidense, que mantiene un enorme aparato de espionaje nacional e internacional, que incluye al FBI y a la CIA. Desde COINTELPRO hasta el derrocamiento

### MUNDO OBRERO editorial

de gobiernos elegidos democráticamente en todo el mundo, estos organismos gubernamentales “legítimos” realizan actos mucho peores que el mero espionaje. El coste total de estas operaciones, que la clase trabajadora financia con sus impuestos, ni siquiera es de dominio público.

El espionaje sólo viola la Ley de 1917 cuando supuestamente se lleva a cabo en nombre de un “enemigo”. Pero en este caso el “enemigo” es un



Presidente Fred Hampton, líder del Partido Pantera Negra de Chicago, asesinado en 1969 en una redada policial instigada por COINTELPRO. Durante más de un siglo el FBI se ha dedicado al espionaje y a cosas mucho peores contra los revolucionarios negros y otros progresistas.

grupo de chat de juegos online, Thug Shaker Central. El New York Times, portavoz de las grandes empresas, fue el primero en investigar estas filtraciones. El periódico entregó sus conclusiones al gobierno federal. ¿Por qué?

#### ¿De quién son los intereses?

Las principales preguntas que se hacen los medios de comunicación parecen centrarse en cómo “alguien tan joven y emocionalmente inseguro, y con opiniones

racistas y contrarias al establishment, pudo tener acceso a un sitio que contenía información de inteligencia altamente clasificada”. (theguardian.com, 13 de abril)

Eso no es un problema para la clase trabajadora y los oprimidos. Damos la bienvenida a la rara filtración que expone las maquinaciones del Pentágono, cuyos planes “clasificados”, envueltos en secreto, se hacen con mucha antelación y se guardan estrechamente bajo el pretexto de la “seguridad nacional.” Nuestros intereses de clase son diametralmente opuestos a los del Estado capitalista, que es, como observaron Karl Marx y V.I. Lenin, un instrumento del dominio de la clase burguesa.

Pero las filtraciones pueden ser interesantes si revelan una creciente división entre facciones rivales de la clase dominante, división que los trabajadores pueden utilizar en su lucha contra el capital. ¿Existe una ruptura de la unidad de clase en torno al apoyo a Ucrania en la guerra de Estados Unidos y la OTAN contra Rusia? Se dice que algunos de los documentos filtrados pintan un cuadro pesimista de las perspectivas de una victoria de Ucrania. Pero, al parecer, el gobierno ucraniano ve en ello un argumento para obtener ayuda militar adicional de los miembros de la OTAN.

Los medios de comunicación consideran que las filtraciones son “embarazosas”, porque algunos documentos muestran que Estados Unidos espía a sus “amigos” —buenos amigos, entre ellos Israel, Corea del Sur y el presidente ucraniano Volodymyr Zelensky—, probablemente para asegurarse de que estos amigos no olvidan quién es su jefe.

Hay muchas partes en movimiento en este último y muy publicitado acontecimiento, y el movimiento antiguerra no debería apresurarse a sacar conclusiones. El movimiento no puede ser arrastrado a tomar partido por una u otra facción de la clase dominante. Todo el sistema capitalista es enemigo de la paz y de la justicia social y económica.

¡Abolir la máquina de muerte del Pentágono! Abolir el FBI, la CIA y todo el aparato represivo del Estado. □

## Bienvenido, Lenin

Por Pedro de la Hoz, autor invitado

Publicado en granma.cu, 21 de abril de 2023.

Hubo quien creyó que la hora de Lenin había pasado. Derruido el Muro de Berlín, desaparecida la Unión Soviética, desmontados los sistemas políticos del Este europeo, proclamado el supuesto fin de la Historia, todo lo que oliera a socialismo, en los albores del último decenio del pasado siglo, era satanizado.

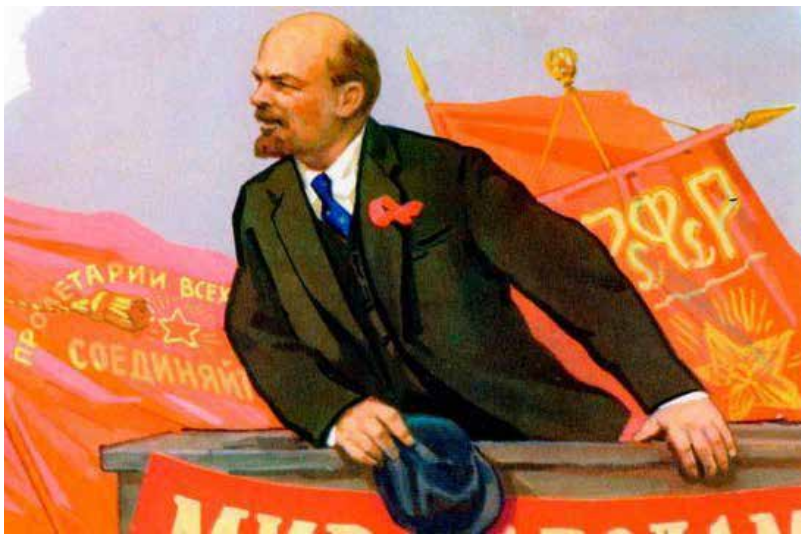
La película alemana Good bye, Lenin llegó a las pantallas con la imagen de una escultura de Lenin derribada. Las arremetidas contra el conductor de la Revolución de Octubre tuvieron lugar en varios países. Circulan fotos y videos de la turba que, en diciembre de 2013, desbarató la estatua del líder ruso en una céntrica plaza de Kiev.

El mundo no fue mejor. Atacaron los símbolos, mas no desaparecieron los problemas. Por el contrario, las brechas sociales, las exclusiones de grandes conglomerados humanos, la derivación neocolonial del antiguo colonialismo, el sometimiento de naciones y pueblos, y la voracidad imperial se han incrementado exponencialmente en la escena contemporánea.

A 153 años del nacimiento de Vladimir Ilich Ulianov [Lenin] en la localidad de Simbirsk el 22 de abril de 1870, un análisis serio, desprejuiciado y con la mirada puesta en las coordenadas actuales, permite afirmar la vigencia del legado

de Lenin —las aristas más filosas de su pensamiento, la aproximación creadora a la teoría marxista, la capacidad para interpretar los signos y contradicciones de la época, su ejemplar liderazgo, su raigal vocación revolucionaria— como una de las brújulas orientadoras en la impostergerable ruta de la emancipación y la construcción de sociedades justas y dignas.

Se trata de rehuir etiquetas y despegar lugares comunes, de entender al hombre y sus circunstancias, y valorar cómo una parte sustancial de la obra de ese hombre encaja en nuestras circunstancias. De saber,



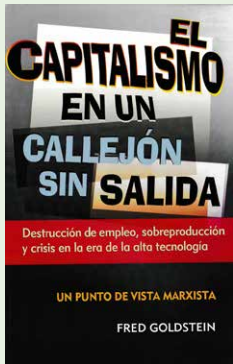
Vladimir Ilich Lenin

como lo hizo con agudeza metafórica Nicolás Guillén en un poema memorable dedicado al político bolchevique, que Lenin es “tempestad y abrigo”, que está aquí y allá “como un dios familiar simple y risueño, / día a día en la fábrica y el trigo, / uno y diverso universal amigo / de hierro y lirio, de volcán y sueño”.

En 1970, a la altura del primer centenario de su nacimiento, Fidel Castro observó con pleno conocimiento de causa: “El homenaje a Lenin se puede brindar con el sentimiento. Pero cuando se estudia su obra y su vida, cuando se estudia su pensamiento y su doctrina, los pueblos adquieren lo que pudiera llamarse un verdadero tesoro desde el punto de vista político”.

Digamos entonces Welcome, Lenin, bienvenido en todas las lenguas y en todos los actos. □

### El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida



Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

Para más información sobre estos libros y otros escritos del autor, Fred Goldstein, visite [LowWageCapitalism.com](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)