Disaster capitalists target Native lands in Maui

By Will Hodgkinson

The destruction from the wildfires still raging on Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) lands in Hawai‘i continues to worsen. The worst fires broke out in Hawai‘i and Maui, Hawai‘i’s largest islands. As of Aug. 22, the death toll has risen to 15. Up to 1,000 people still remain unaccounted for.

The direct causes of the fires remain unclear, but new information has come out implicating the privately owned utility Hawaiian Electric, which lost its poorly maintained power lines running despite the threat of fire. Preliminary data have identified critical faults in other Hawaiian Electric lines at the sites of the major fires.

Thousands of Kānaka Maoli residents remain unhoused and lack adequate assistance from U.S. settler authorities. Despite the scale of devastation and suffering caused by the fires, both state and federal authorities have failed to provide necessary support.

On Aug. 15, the Biden Administration announced an inadequate “one-time” payment of $700 per household affected by the fires. The total disaster relief pledged comes to just $3.8 billion, which is a tiny amount, less than one-sixth of the $84 billion Biden requested from Congress a week earlier for the imperialist proxy war in Ukraine.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has pledged only marginally more disaster funding, and its response remains grossly inadequate. This reflects the agency’s infamous track record when responding to disasters that disproportionately affect working-class, Indigenous, and Black communities.

Kānaka Maoli activists lead relief efforts

Without adequate assistance from settler authorities, Kānaka Maoli activists continue to lead relief efforts, providing water, food, and other supplies to survivors.

“This is an effort to help our people and our land,” said Professor Kapua‘ala Sproat, Associate Director of the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, in an Aug. 18 Democracy Now! interview. “Relief organizations are springing up in people’s homes, in their garages, and supplies are coming in by boat, by plane, or by vehicle when the roads are opened.”

In the same interview, Professor Sproat called attention to the disaster capitalists already exploiting the suffering and devastation inflicted by the fires.

“People aren’t waiting on FEMA, or even the state and county,” said Professor Kapua‘ala Sproat, Associate Director of the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, in an Aug. 18 Democracy Now! interview. “Relief organizations are springing up in people’s homes, in their garages, and supplies are coming in by boat, by plane, or by vehicle when the roads are opened.”

In the same interview, Professor Sproat called attention to the disaster capitalists already exploiting the suffering and devastation inflicted by the fires. Mere hours after residents evacuated, some reported getting calls from real estate developers pressuring them to sell their damaged property. “There are realtors and there are others who are making offers to people in their most desperate time of need ... People are getting offers on their ancestral homes.”

Although Hawai‘i’s settler governor, Josh Green, has promised to prevent such land grabs, his state administration has taken no concrete action. Without such action, tens of thousands of Kānaka Maoli residents remain at disproportionate risk of extortion by property developers.

Capitol real estate markets imposed on Kānaka Maoli lands have already made Hawai‘i the most expensive place to live out of all the territories ruled from Washington, forcing many Kānaka Maoli to go unhoused on their own lands.

Thief of water reserves

Worsening this situation, corporate interests — such as the West Maui Land Company, Inc. (WML), which has a monopoly on most of Maui’s irrigation infrastructure — are taking advantage of the disaster to secure their theft of water reserves.

While many Kānaka Maoli families lack enough water to bathe, the WML has diverted crucial streams to resorts and luxury developments. Kānaka Maoli activists and residents have fought against the WML’s water theft, and in 2022, the Maui Water Commission approved a new permitting to address this.

Palestine Writes Festival returns

Workers World Party is proud to be an endorser of this very important festival that will highlight important artists especially from the Palestinian diaspora. These artists will share with the world movement more than 70 years of painful experiences at the hands of the U.S.-backed Israeli apartheid regime and the heroic resistance against it concentrated in the Occupied Territories including Gaza, Jenin and the West Bank. The fact that this Festival is taking place in the belly of the beast, the U.S., reflects the growing global isolation against Israel and the state of the U.S. imperialist proxy war in Ukraine.

Palestine Writes is the only North American literature festival dedicated to the celebration and promotion of Palestinian literature and other cultural productions. Born from pervasive exclusion or marginalization of Palestinian writers in mainstream literary institutions, Palestine Writes brings together Palestinian cultural workers from all parts of historic Palestine and our sister Displaced with peers from marginalized communities in the U.S., where they can exist with full agency in the glory of their solidarity and rich collective history.

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Palestine Leads: the only North American literature festival dedicated to the celebration and promotion of Palestinian literature and other cultural productions. Born from pervasive exclusion or marginalization of Palestinian writers in mainstream literary institutions, Palestine Writes brings together Palestinian cultural workers from all parts of historic Palestine and our sister Displaced with peers from marginalized communities in the U.S., where they can exist with full agency in the glory of their solidarity and rich collective history.
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Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper cheers on the workers, especially young people, women, other gen-der-oppressed and LGBTQ2S+ individuals, immigrants and Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and disabled people, who are fighting for all workers. Since the early 1990s, the fund has sponsored workers.org, where 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 written by workers organize-ers keep the newspaper current on union drives and worker activism, as well as anti-war, anti-racist, women’s, LGBTQ+ and other progressive movements.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigender and multigenerational 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 immigrants, misogynoy, LGBTQ+ 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 clothing — 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 working-class youth are gunned down by cops and bigotry 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 chal-lenge — the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be managed and run by workers, not be stolen in the form of cap-italist 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.

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UAW members reject concessionary contract demands

By Martha Grevatt

Contract negotiations between the United Auto Workers and Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis (which includes Chrysler) began in July. Instead of engaging in the traditional handshaking across the table with company executives—a photo op implying the parties were working together to achieve a “competitive agreement”—UAW President Shawn Fain visited auto plants to shake hands with UAW rank and file. This represented a break with the class-collaborationist former leaders of the union.

Both parties have submitted written proposals to the other side. For the first time in decades, the UAW is making bold demands on the companies, including substantial pay increases, elimination of tiers in wages, benefits and pensions, restoration of the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) and, significantly, a 42-hour work week at 40 hours pay.

Currently, workers at the Big Three who were hired after October 2007 are termed “in progression,” in contrast to higher-seniority “traditional” workers. After eight or more years, in progression workers make the same pay as traditional workers, but they still don’t get a traditional pension or health insurance when they retire.

Before they begin the eight-year wage progression, they may spend a number of years as a “supplemental employee,” making less pay with fewer benefits. While the UAW agreed to these tiers in the past, now “equal pay for equal work” is a key contract demand, and the workers are ready to strike over it.

The UAW is stressing that over the past 10 years the three auto companies combined made $250 billion in profits off the backs of the workers. Stellantis raked in net profits of $2 billion for the first half of 2023.

Company proposals called ‘trash’

Fain made waves on Aug. 8, when in a live Facebook appearance, he held up the written proposals from Stellantis and then deposited them in a waste basket. He took issue with Stellantis’ Aug. 1 statement that the company was “not seeking a concessionary agreement,” pointing to a number of concessions the company is demanding, and reiterated what the UAW is pushing for.

Fain’s righteous gesture drew howls of indignation from the corporate media and from Stellantis Chief Operating Officer Mark Stewart, who sent an email to UAW-represented employees calling the union proposal a “losing proposition.”

The company claims that what the members are demanding will raise labor costs to $100 an hour, or even $150 an hour, according to “two people briefed on the matter.” (Reuters, August 11)

That is supposedly up from $63 an hour that the company, using fuzzy math, claims are current labor costs. Actually, it is a drop from the figure of $85 claimed 14 years ago, before Chrysler and GM filed for bankruptcy. The cost of living in the past has risen significantly since 2009, but automakers’ wages have not kept pace. With all benefits included, average hourly labor costs are probably closer to between $40 and $45 per hour.

Moreover, labor costs for the auto companies have fallen, due to a steady drop in the number of hours needed to produce a vehicle. Even if the hourly labor costs remain the same, the costs per vehicle are lower if it takes 20 hours of labor to build a vehicle instead of 25 hours.

Those five hours mean more profits for GM, Ford and Stellantis. But these cost savings—generated by the ongoing introduction of the latest automation technology, combining jobs, speedups and other capitalist means of eliminating workers—are never mentioned, especially not at contract time.

As production transitions from fossil-fuel burning cars and trucks to electric vehicles, which have fewer component parts, an estimated 30 percent fewer workers will be needed on the assembly lines. This latest restructuring could mean a huge loss of jobs.

That’s why the demand for a shorter work week—not only to give workers more leisure and family time but to offset the need for fewer workers—is absolutely critical in this round of negotiations. It’s possible that workers at all three auto companies will be striking for a bold program of demands when contracts expire on Sept. 14. The UAW’s current slogan, “Back in the fight,” signifies a new, overdue and welcome mood of resistance.

Martha Grevatt is a retired Stellantis worker.

Trader Joe’s United pickets HQ: ‘Reinstate Steve now’

By Steve Gillis

Boston

A powerful delegation of rank-and-file Trader Joe’s United (TJU) workers traveled over four hours in driving rain Aug. 15 from their store in Hadley, Massachusetts, to corporate headquarters in Boston’s Financial District.

Over 100 supporters joined them on Federal Street to hand deliver petitions with 22,000 signatures to reinstate Steve Andrade, who was framed up and unjustly fired in June for his union advocacy at the Hadley store.

As if borrowing from the playbook of Starbucks or Amazon, Trader Joe’s bosses and high-priced lawyers cooked up a fake story. This one involved a tool used to make corporate advertising art, not even Andrade’s tool, allegedly left out without incident at the Hadley store.

Andrade, a beloved and soft-spoken crew member of 18 years, has been instrumental in advocating for the union and improved conditions for his co-workers and neighborhood customers. The Hadley store (site 532) was the first Trader Joe’s in the country to win a National Labor Relations Board election in June 2022, inspiring others in Minneapolis; Oakland, California; Louisville, Kentucky; and elsewhere to organize with TJU and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). The union’s founders in Hadley petitioned the NLRB as an independent, unaffiliated union.

“Trader Joe’s: We can see your greedy side!”

Despite its hippie, artsy beginnings in 1967 in Pasadena, California, Trader Joe’s now leads U.S. grocery giants in revenue per square foot—over $2,100. It made $13.3 billion last year from 560 stores nationwide, most located in relatively wealthy small towns and city neighborhoods.

Wielding a bullhorn, Local 1 President Jamie Edwards fired up the crowd and the Financial District. “What’s disgusting? Union Busting!” and “Trader Joe’s, you can’t hide. We can see your greedy side!” echoed off skyscrapers occupied by JP Morgan Chase-owned First Republic Bank, Rockport Capital and Trader Joe’s East Coast offices.

Nervous armed security guards ushered clients through picketed gilded doors.

Edwards reported a list of union-busting tactics and unfair labor practices endured by the workers in the Western Massachusetts store this past year. They include retaliatory firings and other discipline on bogus accusations, coercion, in-store and at-home harassment, threats and intimidation, cutting hours, prohibition of union pins, interrogations and captive audience meet-

ings, bad faith bargaining, taking health care coverage from workers—including one worker with cancer—and unreading written and verbal misrepresentations of the union’s legal rights, intentions and demands.

“ Somehow this company still has an image of being progressive and pro-worker,” Edwards said. “Does this sound like a progressive company to you? The crowd responded, ‘Hell No!’

“An injury to one is an injury to all!”

Union delegations from Service Employees (SEIU) 32BJ, UNITE HERE Local 26, UFCW and Starbucks Workers United represented the 22,000 petitioners for Andrade’s reinstatement. They declared that “An injury to one is an injury to all!” John Buonopane, United Steelworkers (USW) District 1 staff representative, called on Trader Joe’s corporate thugs, who should be arrested for their criminal activities!”

Several socialist organizations, including Democratic Socialists of America, Young Communist League and Party for Socialism and Liberation, sent delegations and speakers. Mairead Skehan Gillis of Workers World Party put Trader Joe’s on notice: “This corporation is hoping that the workers will be fearful and give up their organizing efforts so that they will accept less than what is owed to them. But all of us are here today together to show them that they are wrong... We will not be silent. We are here today to demand that Steve be returned immediately. We will not stand for anything less!”

Maeg Yosef, TJU Local 1’s communications director, closed with a tribute “to all of you who’ve been retaliated against, harassed. Five hours mean more; for all of us who’ve borne the brunt of union busting every day this past year, I am here to remind you that you are all badass! ... Trader Joe’s is scared of your worker power, and they need to come to the negotiating table and deliver a fair contract now!”

Sign the petition to “Reinstate Steve” and support TJU Local 1 at linkin.bio/traderjoesunited.

Steve Gillis is a 37-year member and an elected leader of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, now working for the members and retired from driving.
Transgender fear and the belittlement of women’s sports

By Janisse Miles

In the latest efforts to eliminate the LGBTQ+ community, trans people have become the shiny new scapegoat, now that Asian Americans are somewhat accepted by the mainstream at the moment. Non-binary people are disregarded, and trans women are often asked about their liminal experiences with the gender spectrum; trans men are condescending to, being non-binary makes them “feminine” who only transition in a desperate attempt to escape misogyny; and trans women are treated as the antichrist.

The most violent transphobic rhetoric usually targets trans women because bigotry against women has always been the most violent.

This patriarchal society has allowed cisgender men to terrorize AFABs (assigned female at birth) to the point that they are treated as the antichrist.

Caster Semenya is a phenotypic Black woman. And just as the IAAF has equated her body with masculinity, in the same way specifically athletic dark-skinned Black women are masculinized for their bodies. In 2016, Caster Semenya, a visibly muscular Black woman, went up against smaller, lighter, biracial Naomi Osaka, of Haitian and Japanese descent, was drawn as a blonde white woman in contrast.

Caster Semenya’s case emphasizes the “trans advantage” over athletes in the average physical ability. A little girl had a 50/50 chance of being a boy or a girl. She was a phenotypic girl. The hormone lab.

As the 20th century rolled around, the patriarchal and racist stereotypes that are so pervasive in sports were banned until the 1960’s. Over a decade later, Title IX would pass, allowing women to have equal sports opportunities. Trans women in sports were banned until 1972. In 1922, fed up with the Olympics exclusion, American women formed their own. The 1960’s saw the beginning of women’s sports, easily weaponizing hierarchy against smaller, lighter, biracial Naomi Osaka, of Haitian and Japanese descent, for being viewed as frustrated “fallen sisters” or “fallen women”.

The debilitating hatred of trans women deeply affects children. In June of this year an older man was escorted out of a school in British Columbia for harassing a nine-year-old girl with caricaturish features throwing a tantrum while her opponent Osaka, of Haitian and Japanese descent, was drawn as a blonde white woman in contrast.

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Women steered toward 'dainty' sports

The liberal remedy to this hot button issue is that for many organizations, trans women can compete in sports if they’ve had gender reassignment surgery. If you’re not sure what that means, trans women, trans men, and cis, expect to be.

Seeing trans woman athletes as athletes and not as objects of fascination is the system against “easy competition” (meaning any cis woman in existence) strengthens positional advantage for women and general. Trans women in sports aren’t the enemy, but are treated as such, often having to fight against the perception of being female athletes will be challenged.

All of the patriarchal and racist stereotypes that are so pervasive in sports reflect the oppressions inherent in the capitalist mode of production. Ending capitalism will not only end this form of oppression: it will end all the others.
Ohio special election

Abortion access advocates, unions crush right wing

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Issue 1, a maneuver by right-wing Ohio legislators to thwart efforts to enshrine abortion in the state constitution, went down in defeat Aug. 8. In a special election closely watched around the country, 57% of the voters said “no” to requiring a 60% supermajority to amend Ohio’s constitution. Issue 1 also would have made it more difficult to collect the requisite number of voter signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the state ballot.

On July 5, Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom submitted 710,000 signatures of registered voters supporting the Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety amendment. This amendment states in part: “Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on: contraception; fertility treatment; continuing one’s own pregnancy; miscarriage care; and abortion.”

On July 19, Secretary of State Frank LaRose ruled July 25 that nearly 496,000 signatures — well over the legal requirement — were valid, and a special election would be on the Nov. 7 ballot.

After months of claiming otherwise in media interviews, LaRose, a Republican, told a rally of supporters May 22 that Issue 1 was “100% about keeping a low voter turnout that would ensure its success. In fact over 3 million Ohioans voted Aug. 8, a record turnout for an August election. This was due to a massive mobilization by reproductive justice activists, organized labor, the NAACP and others who viewed Issue 1 as an attack on voting rights. All across the state, union members volunteered their time through phone-banking, door-to-door canvassing and writing postcards. Issue 1 supporters made a desperate appeal to anti-trans bigotry, falsely claiming that the Reproductive Freedom amendment would allow minors to obtain gender reassignment surgery without parental consent. However, teens whose parents are bigots do need access to gender-affirming health care without having to obtain parental permission.

None of the frenzied, lying propaganda by the right wing was able to sway the outcome. Now the reproductive justice movement can work on winning the vote in November, which will make Ohio the seventh state where voters either enacted a reproductive justice initiative or shot down laws blocking abortion access. Polls show Ohio’s Reproductive Freedom amendment passing with a significant majority.

More state votes on abortion access are likely to take place in 2024. Every win helps to limit the impact of the horrendous 2022 Dobbs decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that overturned Roe v. Wade and ended almost 50 years of legalized abortion access. Within six months after the ruling, 24 states instituted full or partial abortion bans. Regardless of the outcome at the polls, the fight for reproductive justice must continue on many fronts. These include clinic defense, mass rallies and underground efforts, such as those of “The Janes” in the 1970s, to provide a safe abortion to anyone who needs one.
Incarceres organize unprecedented seminar against life sentences

By Joe Piette

A group of incarcerated worker leaders at Pennsylvania's State Correctional Institution at Coal Township united last year around the idea that if state legislators and officials could meet to talk about the difficult issue of life sentences, there should be a group of people that look at our conduct and give us that chance.

Since SCI Coal Township's construction in 1993, this is the first time that a lieutenant governor or any legislators, senators and state reps ever came here to attend such an event.

Arroyo was instrumental in winning the compassionate release of Bradford “Bub” Gamble in 2021, who passed away just a few months after his release, because the state statutes didn't allow him to take any medical treatment to treat the cancer that was killing him.

“BA: “It’s shocking to me Pennsylvania legislators passed statutory laws like the Compassionate Release Statute 42 B, CS 9777 preventing terminally ill prisoners from receiving treatment in order to get compassionate relief. What they’ve created, in reality, is suicide relief. Blood is on their hands. This is a secret death penalty in the state of Pennsylvania.

“Former Gov. Tom Wolf and current Gov. Josh Shapiro both declared a moratorium against the death penalty, but there’s a secret death penalty. They need to expeditiously legislate a bill for those that are terminally ill and the elderly to be able to not only get treatment, but, once doctors declare a person to have a terminal illness, to be released within a few weeks and get them home or to hospice. “The main opponent we have to contend with is Lisa Baker, who’s the chair of the Judiciary Committee. In 2009, she put in place this current statute which is not com-

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After 67 years in prison
Ruchell Magee wins his freedom

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, California

Black August events this year will no doubt celebrate the release of Ruchell Magee, the longest-held political prisoner in the U.S. and perhaps the world. Magee is a hero of the Black Liberation struggle, the fight to release all U.S. political prisoners and, were it not for this racist, colonialist, capitalist and racist system, he would never have spent one day incarcerated.

The Coalition to Free Ruchell Magee recently announced the imminent freedom of Magee from the California Medical Facility at Vacaville.

Magee, now 84 years old, was imprisoned in 1977 for an alleged attempted rape charge against a white woman in 1955, the same year that Emmett Till was brutally lynched for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Upon release, he headed to Los Angeles, where he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison for a dispute involving $10 worth of marijuana.

But Magee was not only a victim of this racist system; he emerged as a freedom fighter. While in prison, Magee became a jailhouse lawyer, helping others with writs and legal cases. He also took on the name of Cinqué, an African free fighter, and led a rebellion on the Amistad, a ship transporting enslaved people, in 1839.

It was Magee’s heroic actions in August 1970 that led to an armed ADC protest and Jackson’s incarceration. In a 2016 Workers World article that the Attica Prison Rebellion was the “Black Liberation Movement’s Declaration of Paris Commune.”

The legacy of Jonathan and George Jackson forever enshrined Black August in a 2016 Workers World article that the national question: that there are super-exploited oppressed nations and a dominant white oppressor nation with a colonialist system, would never have advanced, generation upon generation, without the heroic actions of the Black Liberation Movements to liberate their own countries toward national self-determination.

Incarcerates organize seminar against life sentences

Continued from page 6

Incarcerates organize seminar against life sentences

The Coalition to Free Ruchell Magee, which formed in 2019, has gathered over 37,700 signatures and over 2,600 letters, organized many demonstrations and made countless calls to Governor Gavin Newsom. The Coalition notes, however, that Magee has been the main organizer of his release effort.

“We must be clear that Ruchell has been the main driver of his own release. The release will allow him to spend the rest of his life outside of prison walls, with his loved ones,” the Coalition announced. (#ruchellmagesfreed)

After his announced release from CMF-Vacaville, the Coalition launched a “reentry” fundraising effort for Magee to help him transition into his new life outside prison walls, with his loved ones, the Coalition announced. (tinyurl.com/gjtsuska to donate to the reentry fundraiser.

Monica Moorehead

The legacy of Black August

Monica Moorehead speaks at Aug. 19, 2023 webinar. Behind her is a George Jackson poster.

By Monica Moorehead

The following excerpts are from a Black August tribute given by Workers World managing editor Monica Moorehead at an Aug. 19 New York City branch Workers World Party rally on “Why we defend China.”

For many revolutionsaries and activists of my generation, Black August, which was ignited in the early 1970s, played a significant role in our political development and activism. I had just graduated from high school in Virginia when Jonathan Jackson attempted to free his brother, George Jackson, an imprisoned leader of the Black Panther Party. Ruchell Magee, another political prisoner — who was recently released after being incarcerated for 67 years — and others. Jonathan took a judge and others hostage in a Marin County courtroom in San Rafael, California, on Aug. 7, 1970.

And even though Jonathan, at the tender age of 17, and others were brutally slaughtered by the police, this daring escape attempt to this day continues to have a profound impact on the Black Liberation Movement — including prison abolition — 53 years later. It was a prelude of what was to come, with the most significant prison rebellion of the 20th century after George Jackson was executed a year later on Aug. 21, 1971.

Because George Jackson was so revered throughout much of the U.S. prison system, his assassination sparked the heroic, historic Attica Prison Rebellion in 1971. Then incarcerated workers took guards hostage to voice their righteous grievances to the world in early September 1971. Larry Hoover, an early organizer for the 1971 Workers World rally that read, “The Attica Prison Rebellion was the ‘Black Liberation Movement’s Declaration of Paris Commune.’”

Lenin’s contribution to the national question

Black August is rooted in a theoretical and practical understanding of the national question: that there are super-exploited oppressed nations and a dominant white oppressor nation with a repressive state apparatus to protect prof its and private property.

Today we build around an anti-imperialist assembly in January 2024 to commemorate the centennial of the death of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution that led to the birth of the Soviet Union. It was Lenin’s theory that defined the colonial question at a time when national liberation movements were erupting in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere against the onslaught of imperialist plunder and exploitation.

Great revolutionary leaders like Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Imamu Amiri Baraka, H. E. El-Mahdi, and many others took the teachings of Lenin to heart. They applied those lessons to guide the masses in their own countries toward national liberation from neocolonialism and in many cases to socialist revolution.

It was Lenin’s understanding of the national question and the need for proletarian internationalism that prompted him to expand the Marxist slogan, “Workers of the World Unite!” to “Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World Unite.”

Black August is an important month to reeducate ourselves today as revolutionaries and communists to defend the right to self-determination for nation- ally oppressed peoples — Black, Latino, Indigenous, Arab and Asian nations. We must support their fight against a bil- lioniary white supremacy. It is a global scale, “by any means necessary” to quote the great Malcolm X.

There are so many anniversaries and struggles that can be tied to Black August, whether it’s the birth of the national- istic leader Marcuse Garvey, founder of the largest mass movement of Black people worldwide, the United Negro Improvement Association, or the 1995 mass mobilization in Philadelphia that stopped the scheduled execution of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, which was to take place on Aug. 17, the birthday date of Garvey.

At George Jackson’s funeral, Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton gave the eulogy, saying, in part, “George Jackson was my hero. He set a standard for prison- ers, political prisoners, for people. He inspired prisoners, whom I later encountered, to put his ideas into practice, and his spirit became a living thing. He will go into immor- tality, because we believe that the people will win as they advance, generation upon generation.

Long live the spirit of George and Jonathan Jackson!” Free all political prisoners! Long live the legacy of Black August!
NY Times publishes hit job on anti-war activists

By John Catalinotto

Once in a while, the New York Times runs an article that reveals what this media conglomerate really represents.

People often call the Times “liberal.” That’s because it seems to oppose some of the most reactionary politicians, like president Trump, and gives ample space to diverse voices.

When Washington mobilizes for war, however, the Times dofts its liberal cloak and exposes itself as a loudspeaker for U.S. imperialist interests. That’s what it did Aug. 5, running a front page hit job on progressive organizations and on a donor to these causes. The verbal attack reproduces McCarthyism.

Though the article had clear political goals and lacked hard evidence, the Times disguised it as investigative journalism. Four Times’ reporters produced propaga- danda aimed at repressing voices that oppose Washington’s preparation for war, in this case war with China. It’s important in the context of the Aug. 5 article to be conscious that the Times pays these journalists to follow editorial “guidelines.”

The New York Times and imperialist war

People in the anti-war movement who have been reading the Times for years know that whenever the U.S. government and the Pentagon prepare for war, the Times uses its influence to magnify the government’s lies and pretenses to mobilize public support behind the war drive.

This happened with the alleged Gulf of Tonkin attack in 1964, which provided the rationale to expand U.S. intervention in Vietnam. It happened with the demon- ization of the Belgrade government in the 1990s that led to 1999 U.S.-backed U.N. bombing war against what was then Yugoslavia. It happened with Judith Miller’s stories in 2003 for the Times, filled with lies to expand U.S. intervention in Iraq.

This happened with the demonization of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 as U.S. bombs and rockets destroyed Libya.

And it has been happening all year, with every article written about China as well as about the war in Ukraine, with the bulk of the Times articles backing Washington’s war mobilization. A blurb in the Times describes the lead writer of the Aug. 5 hit piece, Mara Hvistendahl, as “an investiga- tive reporter focused on China.” All Hvistendahl’s articles published ear- lier this year were focused on China for its COVID-19 policy.

The Aug. 5 article aimed to discredit organizations that have campaigned against the U.S. starting a new Cold War against China. It labeled the groups and some individuals as “agents of a foreign power,” while presenting no hard evidence. All was innisination, slanted language.

Anyone who is familiar with the organizations under attac- k—No Cold War, Code Pink, the Peoples Forum and the think-tank Tricontinental— knows they have taken consistent positions throughout their history, acting on the convic- tions of their leading bodies.

No evidence given

The Aug. 5 article claimed, without evi- dence, that the Chinese government or the Chinese Communist Party gave aid and imposed positions on the donor, Neville Roy Singham. It offered no evidence that Singham imposed his views on the orga- nizations receiving funds.

If you remove the biased negative lan- guage used to describe Singham, his story appears remarkable. Son of a Marxist political scientist, the Times calls “a left- ist academic,” Singham started a “soft- ware consultancy firm, Thoughtworks” where people “jokingly called each other comrades.” He decided to own his own wealth and provide jobs to leftists.

Consider other so-called “philanthro- pists.” Those who made their fortunes getting millions of people addicted to painkillers, or breaking unions, or those who are at war, usually insist that they name their adoring opera houses, museums or hospitals. Some back right-wing politicians and expert a pay- back with tax breaks or rights to plunder natural resources.

As one rare progressive Times opinion column, Jodie Bouie, gave examples of these types of philanthropists in an Aug. 12 piece: “A whole octerie of Silicon Valley billionaires and millionaires have lent their time and attention to [Richard] Hanania,” whom Bouie described as “an unremarkable racist.” Since white supremacy is as U.S. American as cherry pie, however, no one will demand that Hanania, another billionaire, face charges as agents of a foreign power.

Unlike others, Singham did give away significant parts of his fortune, and to leftist causes. That’s why he, as well as his life partner Jodie Evans, a founder of Code Pink and a leading political activist, were targeted.

McCarthyism II — and how to fight it

The Aug. 5 article named other indi- viduals as being friendly to, or present at, functions involving the organizations, intiminating that these individuals, too, were changing their actions or speech because someone paid them. There were no quotes of anything these individu- als said about China, pro or anti. Like the original McCarthyism tactics of the 1950s, this was “guilt by association,” an attempt to intimidate anyone who might be friendly to those targeted.

The reactionary Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin once waved a phony list, claiming he had the names of a couple hundred “card-carrying commu- nists in the State Department.” This effort, in the then burgeoning Cold War aimed at the Soviet Union, coinci- dented with a wave of repression. Similar tactics of a so-called “left,” others expelled from their valuable roles as labor organizers, anti-rac- ists, teachers, and film directors. Perhaps the most famous were the film workers known as the Hollywood Ten.

The Times hit job follows other attacks by the government on left political organizations. Omali Yeshitela, chairperson of the African People’s Socialist Party (APSP), and other members face charges of “failing to regis- ter as foreign agents,” merely for expressing their views.

Li Tang “Henry” Liang — a hotel worker active in Boston’s UNITE HERE Local 26 and in Pivot to Peace — was indicted by a federal grand jury for “conspiracy to act as an agent of a foreign government without prior notification” and “acting as an agent of a foreign gov- ernment without notice to the attorney general” for acts such as publicly hold- ing a banner reading, “China is not our enemy: Stop the provocations!”

It’s important to include these attacks, because the movement must respond in a united way. An attack on one is an attack on all.

Even the comments responding to the Times article had the smell of an orga- nized campaign. Many of the comments lauded this propaga- danda. Many of the comments attacked individuals, who were named only for being present at a wedding party with the article’s lead writer, Roy Singham.

The Times’ “investigative report” should real- ize this was a contrived, premeditated Big Lie aimed at disrupting the movement to commit to China. Many were praise for the Times for the cold war China and against China.

What’s needed is all who want to respond to this absurdity to unite their solidar- ity with all the groups and individuals under attack — and raise their voices even higher against the new Cold War. That’s the best strategy for combating this new McCarthyism.
Philadelphia, July 24 – Three years after COVID-19 forced the inaugural Palestine Writes Literature Festival to be held virtually, the only Palestinian literature festival in North America is back with an impressive list of writers, artists, musicians, dancers, filmmakers, and other intellectuals. The festival will be held at the University of Pennsylvania’s historic Irvine Auditorium from September 22–24, 2023.

Speakers include Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen, Arabic Booker Prize winner Ibrahim Nassrallah, celebrated filmmaker Darin Sallam, rock music legend Roger Waters, celebrated filmmaker Elias Khoury, Huzama Habayeb, Isabella Hammad, Sahar Mustafah, Suad Amiry, Salman AbuSitta, Gary Young, Nour Wazzi, and more.

The festival will be bilingual, with simultaneous translation for most sessions. The program and speaker list are published online, featuring (1) continuous children and YA (young adult) programming; (2) Coffee and Books sessions; (3) panel discussions; (4) plenaries; (5) Hakawati oral storytelling; (6) an art exhibit; (7) workshops; (8) presentations; (9) a film screening, and (10) live performances.

Some highlights of the festival include:

- The Cost and Rewards of Friendship. A discussion with Viet Thanh Nguyen, Gary Young, Roger Waters, and Rachel Holmes on what it means to live ethically and in solidarity with Palestinians in the midst of an empire that holds entire countries in contempt.
- The Novel as a Historic Record. Lebanese writer Elias Khoury, Aboriginal Australian writer Ali Cobly Eckermann, and Viet Thanh Nguyen will talk about the ways in which novels correct, obfuscate, reinvigorate, or destabilize history.
- Literature from a Collective Wound. Huzama Habayeb, Mahmoud Sheqir, Ibrahim Nassrallah, and Mahmoud Muna will discuss how Palestinian writers and artists often write from the shared generational trauma born from the Nakba and its impact on literature across the diaspora.
- Film director Darin Sallam, creator of “Farha,” a ground-breaking Palestinian film that streamed on Netflix and was Jordan’s submission for the Oscars, will talk about her film and Palestinian cinema in general.
- Salman Abu Sitta will give a presentation on the Right of Return, and How to Achieve it.
- A series of Hakawati and Hakawatiyeh sessions will narrate stories from Palestine in this ancient oral storytelling tradition.
- Palestinian chef Fadi Kattan, owner of Fawda Restaurant and Abu’s London, and co-author of “Craving Palestine,” and Reem Assil, owner of Reem’s California and author of “Arabiyaa,” will talk about Palestinian cuisine, food preparation, and agricultural traditions cultivated in Palestine.

The festival is held in solidarity with Palestinians in the midst of an empire that holds entire countries in contempt.

About Palestine Writes

Palestine Writes is the only North American literature festival dedicated to celebrating and promoting cultural productions of Palestinian writers and artists. Born from the pervasive exclusion or tokenization of Palestinian voices in mainstream literary institutions, Palestine Writes brings Palestinian cultural workers from all parts of Palestine and the diaspora together with peers from other marginalized groups in the United States.

Crossing multiple borders — geographic, linguistic, and cultural boundaries — writers, artists, publishers, bookellers, scholars, musicians, and thinkers hold conversations about art, literature, and the intersections between culture and power, struggle, discrimination, and solidarity.

Workers World Party is in the midst of organizing discussions in a number of U.S. cities on this topic. This is “The East Is Still Red” is a “necessary” read. We have to arm ourselves with political arguments. We need to be aware that this is not an abstract topic. It is a living challenge in the class struggle today.

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No U./French-backed invasion of Niger!

Workers World totally agrees with a Texas comrade who wrote to us: “Despicable Texas Gov. Greg Abbott should be deported to hell!” But we recognize that Abbott is able to get away with the atrocities he’s pursuing at the Texas border because of decades of xenophobic policies by both Democratic and Republican administrations that set the stage for this barbaric treatment of migrants, immiгранts and asylum-seekers.

Under pressure from 800,000 young undocumented immigrants known as “Dreamers,” President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, yet failed to make it permanent. In March 2014, a rally in Los Angeles, a coalition of immigrant groups denounced Obama, calling him “the deporter-in-chief” because of the record number of deportations—2 million during his two terms. The Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy separated over 5,000 children from their parents, with no tracking process or records, so many of the families could not be reunited.

President candidate Joe Biden secured broad backing from immigrant groups during his 2020 campaign with promises to undo the criminalization and punitive nature of immigrant detention. Biden has instead expanded detentions and deportations and embraced Trump-era anti-immigrant policies, including “Remain in Mexico” and deportations of migrants previously protected from Title 42 expulsions. Haitians and other immigrants of African descent have been particularly targeted by racist policies and politicians.

Biden has also continued deadly imperialist, economic sanctions against many Latin American and Caribbean countries. These sanctions have been the driving force behind the migration of hundreds of thousands of people.

Obama, Trump, and now Biden share the blame for Abbott’s horrors by failing to create a secure, humane policy for migrants seeking to enter the U.S. without retaliation.

Workers World is in solidarity with all immigrants and migrants forced to attempt unsafe border crossings, driven by economic oppression and decades of U.S. neoliberal policies in their countries and U.S.-backed political repression.

“Whoever seeks a peaceful life in this world will not bring it on himself, but he will find it given to him as a reward.”

—Kwame Nkrumah

Editorial

Obama, Trump, Biden share blame for Abbott’s horrors

Reports in recent weeks from a whistleblowing Texas Department of Public Safety trooper have laid bare the state-sponsored, inhumane, anti-migrant policies confronting families seeking asylum at the Texas/Mexico border.

An article in the July 3 Houston Chronicle disclosed previously unreported incidents witnessed by the trooper in Eagle Pass, Texas. There, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state troopers to set “traps” of razor-wire-wrapped barrels in parts of the river with low visibility; to push small children and women nursing babies back into the Rio Grande, resulting in their deaths; and to refuse water to asylum seekers despite the oppressive heat.

The consequences of these terrorist directives include drownings of adults and children; a miscarriage by a pregnant woman caught in the wire; serious lacera- tions from wounds caused by razor wire from the barbed wire; and children, among others, passing out of heat exhaustion, but then pushed back into the river by Texas National Guard soldiers.

The DPS trooper wrote that the placement of wire along the river “forced people to cross in areas that are deeper and not as safe for people carrying kids and baby b−

bags.” (HoustonChronicle.com, July 10)

Workers World Party affirms the right of Niger’s people to take the fate of their country into their own hands. We oppose any U.S.- or French-backed military invasions, sanctions or meddling in African politics. We support the expulsion of all U.S. and French troops and the dismantling of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

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WWW STATEMENT

“When Africa becomes economically free and politically united, the monopolists will come face to face with their own working class in their own countries, and a new struggle will arise within which the liquidation and collapse of imperialism will be complete.”

Kwame Nkrumah

Neo-Colonialism, The Last Stage of Imperialism

August 6 was the deadline issued by the Economic Community Of West African States for the current government of Niger, headed by Abdourahamane Bazoum, to abdicate power or face a possible military intervention by ECOWAS forces. That deadline has come and gone, but the danger of military intervention, orchestrated by U.S. and French imperialism, is still a real threat.

The Biden administration recently sent an envoy to Niger to apply “diplomatic” pressure on the new government to restore former President Mohammed Bazoum to power. The regime in France, the former colonial power in most of the Sahel region, is unwilling to even engage Niger’s current leaders.

Tchadani came to power through a military coup, which has been condemned by imperialist powers, especially the United States and France, which have a vested interest in maintaining a foothold in Niger. Demonstrations in Niger and elsewhere support the new government, along with targeting the French Embassy, a symbol of brutal French colonialism and exploitation of Nigerien people. (Nigerien refers to the people of Niger; Nigerian refers to the people of Nigeria, formerly a colony of Britain.)

Niger is a target of imperialism for many reasons. Its natural resources include uranium, which supplies up to one-third of France’s entire electrical grid. Yet Niger remains one of the poorest countries in the world with the majority of its over 27 million people lacking access to their own electricity.

Niger also holds strategic importance to the U.S. military as a hub for its drone operations in Central Africa, used to maintain U.S. influence in the region as well as assist in French military interventions. The U.S. government says it is considering relocating its two drone bases from Niger to elsewhere in the region.

In addition to 1,500 French troops, there are over 1,000 U.S. troops stationed in Niger, which the U.S. government now refuses to withdraw, despite the suspension of security agreements between the U.S. and Niger and multiple European countries evacuating their citizens. The U.S. military machine is digging in, hoping to restore the pro-imperialist government by whatever means necessary.

Sanctions against Niger were implemented immediately after the overthrow of Bazoum. The U.S. and French governments are attempting to use ECOWAS security forces as a proxy, although many African countries have been hesitant to participate. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali—all former French colonies—are among the countries that have come out in support of the new Niger government against imperialist threats. In Nigeria—a former British colony which shares a long border with Niger—popular protests have opposed an ECOWAS intervention.

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Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

Edited by Monica Moorehead

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Available at major online booksellers.

Free PDF at workers.org/books

No African opposition to invasion of Niger

The governments of Burkina Faso and Mali issued a joint statement Aug. 1, asserting that any attempt at military intervention to remove Tchadani would be taken as a declaration of war against both their countries.

On Aug. 9, these two countries sent planes from their air forces to Niger as a show of solidarity against a possible invasion.

Other neighboring countries have refused to participate in the U.S.- and French-backed ECOWAS invasion. People within countries whose leaders advocated intervention have shown hesi- tation and even resistance to such an action. Together these add up to major fractures in the imperialist grip over West Africa and the Sahel.

Niger was one of the last remaining governments friendly to the U.S. empire in the Sahel region. Put into power by a series of earlier coups, the governments of Mali and Burkina Faso cut ties with French colonialism and expelled French influence. Since then, ECOWAS has established its own military presence to attempt to prevent anti-colonial coups from taking place within ECOWAS member states, without U.S. or French troops having to intervene directly.

Workers World Party affirms the right of Niger’s people to take the fate of their country into their own hands. We oppose any U.S.- or French-backed military invasions, sanctions or meddling in African politics. We support the expulsion of all U.S. and French troops and the dismantling of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

We support the right of African nations to make economic and security relationships on their own terms with other countries, including with Russia and China, rather than being forced into a position of subjugation as a neocolony of imperialist powers like the U.S. or France.

We oppose any U.S. or NATO plans to launch yet another major proxy war. Such a war would spread havoc in the region in its attempt to maintain economic dominance over and perpetual superexploitation of the African people.
Environmental racism links Lāhainā and Katrina

By Monica Moorehead

August 29 will mark the 18th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history, which devastated much of the Gulf Coast (specifically Louisiana and Mississippi) and disproportionately struck New Orleans. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration states that this Category 4 hurricane caused at least $108 billion in structural damage, leading to more than one million people being displaced, many permanently, especially the poor and people of color.

According to livescience.com, an estimated 1,833 people died in the hurricane and the flooding that followed. (Aug. 27, 2013) That flooding, mainly caused by broken levees, overwhelmed the Ninth Ward, a predominant working-class Black neighborhood in New Orleans. Over 1,000 people died from flooding in this neighborhood alone.

Fast forward almost 18 years later to Aug. 9, when tragic wildfires swiftly devastated huge swaths of the Hawaiian island of Maui, including the historic town of Lāhainā. Over 100 people have died and the death toll is expected to rise even higher. The structural damage for residents is estimated to be over $1 billion with the destruction of over 2,000 buildings.

There were no sirens to warn people before the rapidity of the wildfires as many people died from being burned alive, smoke inhalation and general lack of escape routes. DNA findings are now being required to identify many of the victims.

While no source of the fires has been officially determined, one possibility was the dangerous active power lines combined with high mountain winds emanating from Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm located to the south of Maui in the Pacific Ocean.

Katrina and the Hawaiian wildfires have more in common than not. Both were impacted by climate change, which has grown dramatically worse between 2005 and 2023.

Regarding the potential impact of Katrina, Kerry Emanuel, Professor of Atmospheric Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, stated in the scientific journal Nature in early August 2005, that “North Atlantic hurricane season was strongly correlated with the temperature of the tropical Atlantic during hurricane season, and that both had been increasing rapidly over the previous 30 years or so. It attributed these increases to a combination of natural climate oscillations and to global warming.”

Before the recent wildfires, Maui had already been suffering from a combination of a severe drought and high humidity, deadly precursors to wildfires.

Hurricane Katrina and the Maui wildfires have something else in common: They are both social disasters that expose historical and present-day issues of racism and national oppression that perpetuate every aspect of U.S. society.

Is it surprising that Native Hawaiians reported that the local government did next to nothing? It did nothing to help evacuate people before the wildfires and provided little aid in the aftermath of the destruction. Is it surprising that thousands of people were unable to escape Hurricane Katrina days before it landed due to apathy and unpreparedness by various levels of government—local, state and federal?

The lack of response in Hawai‘i is similar to what happened during Katrina when the Federal Emergency Management Agency rightfully cuffed under heavy fire for its lack of aid for the most marginalized people, especially in the Black community.

The Indigenous people in Hawai‘i and the Black population both constitute internal nationally oppressed populations who have been historically occupied and exploited and repressed by white supremacy for centuries.

Hawai‘i was colonized by the U.S. in 1893 before it became a U.S. state in 1959. Hawaiian lands are now dominated by at least 121 U.S. military bases and thousands of acres have been privatized by billionaires.

Black people were enslaved starting in 1619 and are still denied full democratic rights. Both groupings deserve reparations as a result of all forms of institutionalized discrimination including environmental racism.

End the War in Ukraine! No to NATO! No Weapons, No Money for War!

The United National Antirwar Coalition — UNACpaece.org — along with the Peace in Ukraine Coalition, Code Pink, Veterans For Peace and many others are planning a week of action to demand: End the War in Ukraine! No to NATO! The actions will take place in local areas around the country during the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 7. Start planning in your local area now. We will soon have more information and we will be putting together lists of actions around the country and the world.

Take Cuba off the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism

For more than 60 years, the US government has pursued a hostile policy against Cuba with the clear political intent to isolate the Cuban people through a cruel and inhumane blockade.

In the midst of the pandemic, the Trump administration sought to further damage the Cuban economy not only by reinforcing the blockade with 243 new sanctions, but also by including Cuba on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

This designation makes it much harder for Cuba to make transactions using international banking systems and acquire necessary goods on the international market, such as fuel, food, construction supplies, hygiene products, and medicine.

We want to reach more than one million signatures to demand that the current U.S. government remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism list and unconditionally end the blockade, which is rejected by the entire international community.

SIGN AND SHARE: #LetCubaLive #OffTheList

NAME

COUNTRY

E-MAIL

SIGNATURE

Submit via website: letcubalive.info
Submit via WhatsApp: +1 718 876 5242
Submit via email: sign@letcubalive.info

Ninth Ward flooded after Hurricane Katrina, August 2005.
¡No a la invasión de Níger apoyada por EE.UU./Francia!

“Cuando África llega a ser económicamente libre y políticamente unida, los monopolistas se encontrarán cara a cara con su propia clase obrera en sus propios países, y surgirá una nueva lucha dentro de la cual la liquidación y el colapso del imperialismo serán completos.”

— Kwame Nkrumah,
El neocolonialismo, última etapa del imperialismo

El 6 de agosto era la fecha límite fijada por la Comunidad Económica de Estados de África del Oeste para que el actual gobierno de Níger, presidido por Abdourahamane Tchiani, abdicara del poder o se enfrentara a posible intervención militar de las fuerzas de la CEDEAO. De momento, la CEDEAO ha aplazado su intervención. Tchiani llegó al poder mediante un golpe militar, que ha sido condenado por potencias imperialistas como Estados Unidos y Francia, que tienen interés en mantener un punto de apoyo en Níger.

Las manifestaciones en Níger apoyan al nuevo gobierno, además de atacar la embajada francesa, símbolo del brutal colonialismo francés y de la explotación del pueblo nigerino. (Nigerino se refiere al pueblo de Nigeria; nigeriano se refiere al pueblo de Níger; nigerino se refiere al pueblo de Níger; nigerino se refiere al pueblo de Níger).

Níger es un objetivo del imperialismo por muchas razones. Entre sus recursos naturales se encuentra el uranio, que suministra hasta un tercio de toda la red eléctrica de Francia. Sin embargo, Níger sigue siendo uno de los países más pobres del mundo, con la mayoría de sus más de 27 millones de habitantes sin acceso a su propia electricidad. Níger también tiene una importancia estratégica para el ejército estadounidense como centro de operaciones de sus drones en África Central, utilizados para mantener la influencia estadounidense en la región, así como para ayudar en las intervenciones militares de sus países.

Además de los 1,500 soldados franceses, hay más de 1,000 soldados estadounidenses destinados en Níger, que el gobierno de Estados Unidos se niega a retirar, a pesar de que se han suspendido los acuerdos de seguridad entre Estados Unidos y Níger y de que varios países europeos han evacuado a sus ciudadanos. La maquinaria militar estadounidense se atrae, con la esperanza de restaurar el gobierno proimperialista por cualquier medio necesario.

Ya han sido aplicados sanciones contra Níger, pero sigue sobre la mesa una opción militar, mediante la cual Estados Unidos y Francia podrán utilizar las fuerzas de seguridad de la CEDEAO como apéndice. La CEDEAO ha dado su pleno apoyo a una intervención de la CEDEAO, aunque muchos países africanos se han mostrado reticentes a participar. Argelia, Burkina Faso, Guinea y Mali —todas ellas antiguas colonias francesas— se encuentran entre los países que han salido en apoyo de Níger frente a las amenazas imperialistas.

Oposición africana a la invasión de Níger
Los gobiernos de Burkina Faso y Mali emitieron una declaración conjunta en la que afirmaban que cualquier intento de intervención militar para destituir a Tchiani se tomaría como una declaración de guerra contra sus dos países:

“Los gobiernos de transición de Burkina Faso y Mali, Uno: han expresado su solidaridad fraterna de los pueblos de Mali y Burkina Faso con sus hermanos de Níger que han decidido por voluntad propia tomar las riendas de su destino y asumir su soberanía. Dos: Denuncian la persistencia de las organizaciones regionales en aplicar sanciones que agudizan el sufrimiento de la población y ponen en peligro el espíritu panafricano. Tercero: Rechazan la aplicación de estas sanciones ilegales e inhumanas contra el pueblo y las autoridades nigerinas: Cualquier intervención militar contra Níger equivaldría a una declaración de guerra contra Burkina Faso y Mali”, rezaba el comunicado. (fricanews.com, 1 de agosto)

El presidente de Nigeria, Bola Tinubu, es también el actual presidente de la CEDEAO, no ha expresado su apoyo a la intervención militar de Estados Unidos o Francia.

Por la exclusión de Cuba de la Lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo

Desde hace más de 60 años, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norte América ha impulsado una política hostil contra Cuba con una clara intencionalidad política de asaltar al pueblo cubano a través de un bloqueo cruel e inhumano.

En medio de la pandemia, la administración Trump intentó dañar aún más la economía cubana no solamente reforzando el bloqueo con 243 sanciones nuevas, sino también incluyendo a Cuba en la Lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo.

Esta designación hace que sea aún más difícil que Cuba realice transacciones utilizando sistemas bancarios internacionales y, en última instancia, adquiera bienes necesarios en el mercado internacional, como combustible, alimentos, suministros de construcción, productos de higiene y medicamentos.

Queremos llegar a más de un millón de firmas para exigir a la actual administración de EE. UU. la exclusión de Cuba de la lista de países patrocinadores del terrorismo y la eliminación incondicional del bloqueo que es repudiado por la comunidad internacional en su totalidad.

FIRMA Y COMPARECE — #CubaVive #FueraDeLaLista