

Perú

People rise up, reject coup

Michael Otto
Ibarra, Ecuador

Jan. 30, 2023 — Right-wing forces in Perú — with the support of U.S. imperialism — used a majority in Parliament to carry out a coup Dec. 7 against elected President Pedro Castillo. This illegal attack on Perú’s first Indigenous president, a schoolteacher from a rural region, aroused a swift reaction from the Indigenous Quechua and Aymara people.

Even without knowing the fine details of how the regime change took place, the people have disputed the official narrative since. Their protests have paralyzed the country. It was clear to them that “their” president was now a political prisoner. So far, 58 people have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of democracy.

It was no accident that the Quechua- and Aymara-speaking Indigenous peasants in the high Andean plateau of the south immediately rose up. Peruvian political experts explained why the movement in the southern regions of Puno is so radical and the occupation army so brutal in these poorest provinces.

A Marxist veteran of decades of struggle, Héctor Bejár, who had been appointed foreign minister by Pedro Castillo in July 2021 but lasted not three weeks before right-wing forces pushed him out, recorded his outrage at the coup via YouTube on Jan. 9. He disputed the fake narrative by exposing the absurd contradictions of the “impeachment” process, laying bare the unconstitutionality of the regime change and the subsequent dictatorial suspension of constitutional rights.

The falsehood that Castillo attempted a “self-coup” to escape impeachment is a mantra endlessly repeated by the international corporate media. For example, the Washington Post wrote Dec. 8 that “[Vice President Dina] Boluarte succeeds her former leftist ally, Pedro Castillo, who was impeached and arrested Wednesday after he attempted to shut congress down and rule by decree to avoid being ousted on corruption charges.”

In fact Castillo was imprisoned before



Indigenous peoples lead resistance to coup. Here, a roadblock.

being impeached. First came the sentence, then the evidence. The Post fails to mention that the president was impeached without any debate or due process and with multiple violations of the rule of law. Regime change by parliamentary coup d’état is “lawfare.”

In various interviews, Bejar described the growing resistance to the coup as a multiple movement made up of Quechua and Aymara communities, especially the Aymara — merchant women from the popular markets, transport workers from the south, merchants in general, small

industrialists from the thriving city of Juliaca, students from the universities and schools and the people in general.

Ayacucho Massacre increases resistance

The Ayacucho Massacre was documented in peoplesdispatch.org Jan. 3. Indigenous peasants in Perú’s southern region bordering Bolivia erected scores of road blockades and occupied airports in the first week of the resistance, when 25 deaths were recorded. Soldiers on the ground and in a military helicopter fired on people from Ayacucho on Dec. 15 to

stop them from marching to the local airport. Armed forces massacred 10 people with live fire and tear gas canisters, shot from the air as they tried to escape.

Popular anger only intensified, and the resistance increased and spread all across Perú. Labor unions, student and social organizations of all kinds have mobilized their forces to take the streets and provide logistics to support the struggle.

An indefinite national strike began Jan. 4, “called by grassroots social organizations mainly from the south of the country, but in which protesters from the departments of Junín, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Cusco, Puno, La Libertad, Huánuco, Madre de Dios, Lima, among others, have participated.” (pressenza.com, Jan. 6) One of the loudest chants on the streets was: “There’s gold! There’s copper! The people are still poor!”

Peoples Dispatch quotes Pedro Huamani, a member of the Front in Defense of the People of Ayacucho (FREDEPA): “They took out our president, so this is not a democracy. We are not a democracy; we are in [state of] war, but not just in Ayacucho and Huamanga but also in Arequipa, Apurímac, Cusco. In these regions, we are suffering from

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Imperialism vs. the brazen balloon

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer called it a “brazen incursion.” White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre called it “a clear violation of our sovereignty.” Not to be outdone, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy tweeted that “China’s brazen disregard for U.S. sovereignty is a destabilizing action that must be addressed, and President Biden cannot be silent.”

You would think the United States had been invaded by air, land and sea. Or at least one of the three.

But what did this allegedly “brazen” act consist of? A balloon! Granted, it was a very big balloon, reportedly about the size of three buses. But it was one single balloon without a pilot or weapons. That was it.

Beijing insists it was a civilian weather research balloon blown astray by high winds and has rightly accused the U.S. of overreacting. Nevertheless, Washington and the media, without proof, have repeatedly referred to the “Chinese spy balloon.” U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled a

planned diplomatic trip to meet with Chinese officials after the balloon sighting was reported over Montana.

On Feb. 4, just after the balloon was blown past land but was within the 12 miles of the Atlantic Ocean the U.S. claims, a missile fired from a U.S. Air Force plane brought it down. Demonstrating that he is tough on China, President Joe Biden bragged that he ordered it shot down. But House Republicans plan to vote for a nonbinding resolution condemning the White House for not acting swiftly

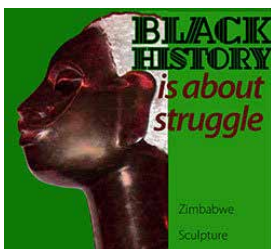
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Brigadistas report on Cuba Venceremos trip

By Danny O’Brien
Portland, Oregon

Portland

Workers World Party members Lyn Neeley and Danny O’Brien did a report-back Jan. 30 at Portland State University on their recent trip to Cuba as part of the 51st contingent of the Venceremos Brigade.

Their slides showed the Cuban arts and cultural performances presented to the Brigade, the famous Cuban antique cars and the colorful buildings and beautiful countryside in the eastern provinces of Cuba.

They discussed what they have learned about Cuba’s amazing health care system and the passage of the new



Lyn Neeley and Danny O’Brien

PHOTO: DANA

Family Code that Cubans refer to as a “Law of Love.” From their meeting with Cuban soldiers and officers, they described the unique role of soldiers and police in socialist Cuba.

The goals of the Venceremos Brigade are to end the U.S. blockade of Cuba, all U.S.-imposed travel restrictions and all regime-change programs; end the illegal U.S. military occupation of Guantanamo Bay; and to strengthen movements for justice in the U.S. through exchange and collaboration with Cuba.

Twenty students, professors and community activists attended the event, asked questions and joined a lively discussion at the end of the presentation. □

Honor Black History Month! Support WW!

Workers World newspaper commemorates Black History Month because white supremacy pervades life under capitalism. Every struggle—from fighting for living-wage jobs and health care to ending murderous police terror, from winning affordable housing to defending the basic right to vote—is rooted in the centuries-long battle to end this country’s horrific history of racism.

We are still dealing with the legacy of enslavement—that heinous violence-driven form of superexploitation that reemerged in new forms with the demise of Black Reconstruction. That’s why every month, not just February, this newspaper chronicles the struggles of peoples of African descent and their allies to eradicate institutionalized, systemic white supremacy in every sphere.

A case in point is our continuing coverage of the movements to free political prisoners—like Mumia Abu-Jamal, Ruchell Magee and Imam Jamil Al-Amin—and to honor the legacies of trailblazing Black women such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer.

WW bases our weekly coverage of the Black struggle here and elsewhere in the African diaspora on breaking imperialist chains and promoting the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. Oppressed nationalities have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality, injustice and white supremacy—by any means necessary!

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 firsthand 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 do 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. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011.

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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Sam Marcy clarified Marx for us



The following message was from a study group of prisoners on Texas Death Row at the Ellis I Unit, Huntsville, Texas, on the occasion of the 85th birthday celebration of the late chairperson of Workers World Party, Sam Marcy, Oct. 5, 1996. Both Emerson Rudd and Ponchai Wilkerson were legally lynched in 2001 and 2000, respectively.

We, the Panthers United for Revolutionary Education (PURE), are proud and excited to be a part of this special day, recognizing and celebrating the life and works of Comrade Sam Marcy.

Comrade Sam has certainly been invaluable to our growth, development and directions. Although we hail Comrade Malcolm X as our spiritual progenitor and do Comrade Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party the honor of being our greatest inspiration, Comrade Sam Marcy has been invaluable to our understanding of Marxism.

Being that PURE is an exclusively Black organization, it is rather easy to see how Comrades Malcolm and Huey fit in. But how does Comrade Sam Marcy, who is white, fit in?

We met Comrade Sam on a trail, actually. And not altogether by happenstance, we might add. But to explain this good fortune, we must back up a mile or so before our encounter.

Those of you who know the history of Comrade Malcolm know that he started out with a religious group called the Nation of Islam, which he eventually outgrew. The group was quite vocal about the inhumane treatment of Black folks in America, but it was not at all active in protecting the people

from police brutality or racist attacks from common thugs.

Comrade Malcolm said that if the government was incapable or unwilling to protect Black people, then Black people should take up arms and defend themselves. To Comrade Malcolm's disappointment, the Nation of Islam never denounced the capitalist political-economic system. It only denounced the economic injustice within the system, as if they were separable.

Comrade Malcolm said that a duck cannot lay a chicken's egg. It can only lay a duck's egg, because the system isn't designed to lay a chicken's egg. Meaning that capitalism cannot produce anything but economic injustice!

In this capacity, Comrade Malcolm, then, was a philosopher. And PURE subscribes to the philosophy of Malcolm X.

But Comrade Karl Marx tells us that "The philosophers have only interpreted the world; the point, however, is to change it." This calls for a practitioner, a revolutionist. Someone to make philosophy instrumental through practical application.

This is what Comrade Huey did. He developed a self-defense program: The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense! And he armed the people. He integrated Malcolm's philosophy with revolutionary practice. He was, for Black people, our V.I. Lenin.

More importantly, Comrade Huey broke with the capitalist political-economic system and subscribed to socialism. And like a Southern Baptist minister, that young

brother was preaching fire and brimstone. Only he wasn't talking no Jesus. He was talking Mao, Fanon, Malcolm and Marx. And we were shouting "Amen" and "hallelujah" to something that we could hold on to — an AK-47!

Comrade Huey led us to Marx. But we soon learned that Brother Karl Marx wasn't easily understood, given all of the special words and phrases used to describe his philosophy. Needless to mention, we were left frustrated for many days. But still determined to learn.

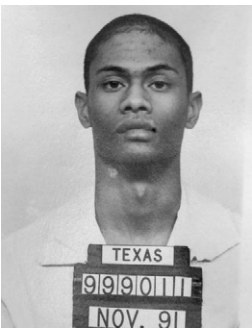
We were wrestling with dialectical materialism and surplus value when a brother directed us to a certain news publication that illuminated some of the points that we were having trouble grasping. That newspaper was the Workers World. And the writer was Sam Marcy.

In a language that we could understand and with an immediate relevance to our present realities, Comrade Sam helped us, in one way or another, to understand some of Marx's most important works, Economic and Philosophic manuscripts: "The Poverty of Philosophy"; "The Communist Manifesto"; "A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy"; "Wages, Price and Profit"; "Capital," etc.

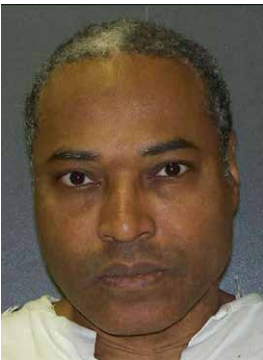
In explaining Marx to us, Comrade Sam was clarifying, in our opinion, the developing side of our mentor and brother Malcolm X. He explained Comrade Huey, our greatest inspiration! And for this, PURE shall forever be appreciative to our brother, friend and comrade Sam Marcy.

Power to the people!

Muenda, Prime Minister; Ponchai Wilkerson, Secretary of Defense; and Emerson Rudd, Chairman □



Ponchai Wilkerson



Muenda



Emerson Rudd

Assata Shakur and Mumia Abu-Jamal honor Sam Marcy

Both of these statements appeared in the March 14, 1998, tribute book for Sam Marcy, on the occasion of his death on Feb. 1, 1998.

Assata Shakur on Sam Marcy:

It is not often when we are lucky enough to find a person who is willing to devote his or her entire energy to struggling for a better world. Sam Marcy was such a person. I did not know him personally, but he touched my life in a profound way.

It was always with great interest that I read his articles and his books. Of course, I did not agree with everything he said, but he made me think, helped me to reach within myself, to study, to analyze and to grow. He was a thinker and doer. He was a sincere man who dared to wrestle with complex theoretical matters. He had the discipline and the energy to take firm positions and be faithful to his revolutionary convictions. He was a man who was greatly respected by progressive activists of different political tendencies. He is a man who will be remembered. He is a man who will be sincerely missed.

With respect and solidarity,
Assata Shakur

Mumia Abu Jamal on Sam Marcy:

I'm writing to extend my/our condolences on the loss of your comrade, Sam Marcy. I can tell you from conversations with John Black that you deeply respected and loved the man for many years for his commitment and organizing skills. Not having ever met him, I can't begin to suggest I have some idea of

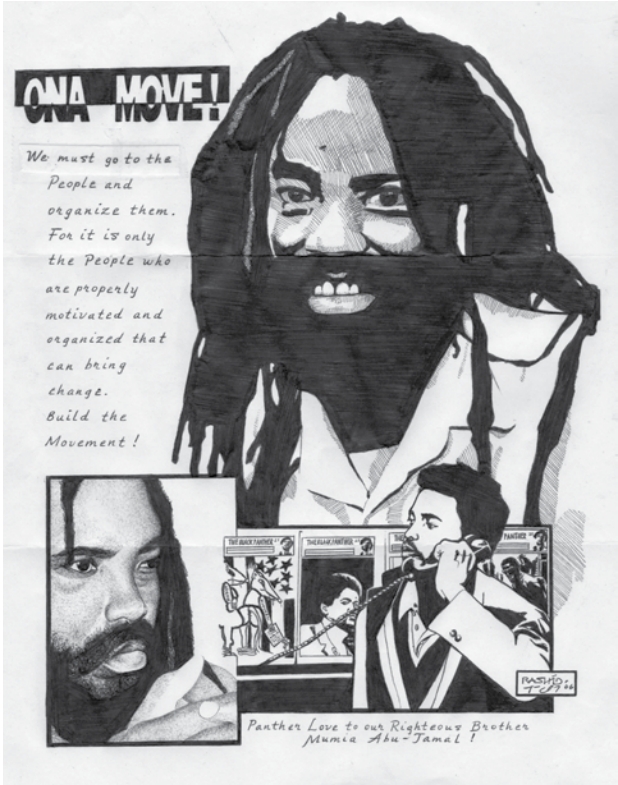
his personal qualities.

I do know, however, of his impressive organizational and propagandistic skills, and I can only admit my admiration. That he has left a young, vital, politically adept cadre behind him is one hell of a tribute to him. The many and various movements that Workers World is involved in for workers, for national minorities, for the oppressed on behalf of a radical, anti-imperialist idea is a further tribute.

Thus my/our condolence is mixed with that

acknowledgement.

With my/our best wishes,
Mumia Abu-Jamal □



Picturing Mumia Abu-Jamal

KEVIN RASHID JOHNSON



Picturing Assata Shakur and international women's liberation struggles

KEVIN RASHID JOHNSON

Black Reconstruction on Carolina’s Gold Coast

By Jim McMahan

The “Reconstruction Era” following the Civil War spanned 1865-1876; it was a brief period in which formerly enslaved Black people won some political, social and economic rights in the South. But the former slaveocracy regained state power and enforced economic and political oppression once again.

The March to the Sea, which began in Atlanta in November 1864, was pivotal in the Civil War in crushing the Southern slaveocracy’s plantation system. At the march’s conclusion the following month, 60,000 mostly Black Union Army soldiers, along with an equal number of newly emancipated Black people and war refugees, arrived in Savannah, Georgia. All those who had marched 275 miles across Georgia had destroyed by root and branch the plantation system in the state.

In January 1865, the Savannah Colloquy was held, at which representatives of the city’s Black community answered questions about their future from Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Union General William T. Sherman. Garrison Frazier, a minister who was formerly enslaved, explained: “The best way we can take care of ourselves is to have land and turn it and till it by our labor — and we can soon maintain ourselves and have something to spare.”

During the same month, Gen. Sherman issued Field Order 15, setting aside the southeastern coast from Charleston, South Carolina, across coastal Georgia to the Saint Johns River in northern Florida and for 30 miles inland, including the Sea Islands, for the exclusive settlement of newly emancipated Black people. This region was placed under a Black-run government. It was settled by 40,000 Black people, who each received 40 acres of farmland.

These two momentous events opened up the demand for land as reparations to Black people for hundreds of years of enslavement and discrimination. Today, reparations are still owed to Black people for the past years of enslavement and continuing racist discrimination in all areas of economic, social and political life.

Most of the land which Black workers gained during Reconstruction was eventually taken away by former plantation owners. The historical claim for reparations, as yet unfulfilled, still runs through the current struggles and organizing for justice by Black people.

Marx’s solidarity with fight for freedom

On Nov. 29, 1864, a solidarity address was sent to the National Labor Union in the U.S. by the newly organized First International (International Workingmen’s Association). The statement, written by Karl Marx, pointed to the role of the British working class in preventing England from entering the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.

Marx wrote that the successful war “against slavery has indeed inaugurated a new era in the annals of the

working class.” A new contingent of 4 million emancipated Black workers was now in struggle, joining the international working class!

Perhaps the most advanced location of this unfolding revolution was in the South Carolina Lowcountry, then known as “Carolina’s Gold Coast,” and the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia. It was greatly aided by the participation of Black troops. Labor in the disease-infected swamps of the Lowcountry was “simple drudgery in its meanest form,” done mostly by newly freed Black people.

Many spoke the Gullah language, and they had a distinct African culture. Rice field hands were highly skilled and worked under a task system, in which the newly emancipated workers could complete work by the afternoon and then had the autonomy to work in their own home gardens.

Rice growing in the Lowcountry in the so-called “golden age of the antebellum South” had been controlled by a rich aristocracy of families: the Manigualts, Izards, Allstons and Heywards. The Civil War shattered the golden age of their rice kingdom; the Sea Islands were occupied by federal troops early in the Civil War. Union Army raids destroyed buildings, machinery, implements and irrigation systems. Freed people liberated many of their owners’ possessions.

By the end of 1865, reactionary President Andrew Johnson halted Reconstruction for a time. He reversed the Freedmen’s Bureau policy, pardoned the landowners and authorized the return of “their” lands. But Black people in the Lowcountry had no intention of giving up their claims to the land. They rejected the authority of the former landowners to retake the land and directly supervise their labor.

In the early 1870s, some Lowcountry planters succeeded in regaining control of thousands of acres of land employing hundreds of Black workers. The bosses had imposed a check system, whereby checks compensating the workers were only redeemable at plantation-owned company stores.

Black workers strike!

In May of 1876, workers along the Combahee and Ashepoo Rivers struck against a wage cut from 50 cents to 40 cents a day and demanded a raise to 75 cents a day, depending on the condition of the land. The strike spread to many plantations.

Hundreds of Black workers marched through the rice district with horns and drums. Some were armed with clubs, urging plantation workers to leave the fields. The workers’ response was overwhelming; by the end of May, they had won their demand for a wage of 50 cents a day, and many were being paid in cash.

Opposing South Carolina Governor Daniel Henry Chamberlin, a Reconstruction supporter, was former

Confederate General Wade Hampton, who had been one of the largest holders of land and enslaved people in the South. Closely allied with racist “rifle club” members, his campaign sought “regime change” to return to rule by large plantation owners.

On Aug. 18, 1876, a second round of strikes began on the plantations of J.B. Bissel and trial judge Henry Fuller. The workers demanded \$1 to \$1.50 a day for harvest labor, payable in cash.

Fuller brought in the Green Pond rifle club heavily armed members to restore order, and he got 10 strike leaders arrested. But a crowd of Black workers soon appeared and drove the judge, sheriff and rifle club members to seek refuge in a threshing mill.

Strike leaders supported, acquitted

Black Congress member Robert Smalls, a Reconstruction leader, was in the area where the strikers held their ground. When he came to Fuller’s mill, he found 300 Black workers threatening to attack 40 armed whites. Smalls negotiated a compromise which was agreeable to the strikers. The rifle club members were allowed to depart, avoiding violence. All 10 detained strike leaders were acquitted, due to Smalls’ support and the presence of a crowd of Black workers outside the courthouse in Beaufort, South Carolina.

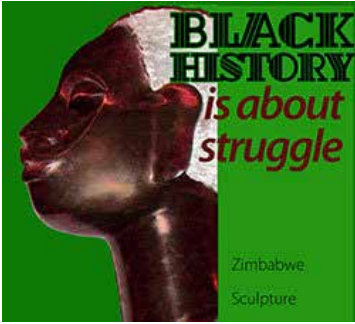
In September 1876, Hampton invaded the Lowcountry, accompanied by 600 rifle club members. However, he was heckled and forced to retreat. He later returned with 3,000 armed men and gave his speech uninterrupted. When he reached Beaufort, Hampton was surrounded by Black people whose animosity he felt every step of the way.

With the coming to power of the Hampton regime through a questionable election, there was little possibility of collective action by rural Black workers. In South Carolina, sheriffs and the state militia were employed for the benefit of the big landowners to crush the ongoing organizing and resistance by Black agricultural workers.

But due to the strikes and struggles during Reconstruction, as well as the collapse of the rice plantations, Black ownership of the land persisted for years. Even in 1910, almost 60% of the farms in Beaufort and Charleston counties was owned by Black people. Black workers in struggle during revolts against enslavement and in the Civil War and Reconstruction played an enormous role in the founding of the U.S. labor movement.

Jim McMahan’s great grandfather, John Evans, proudly participated in the March to the Sea, alongside Black Union Army soldiers.

Sources: James Allen, “Reconstruction: The Battle for Democracy”; Eric Foner, “Nothing but Freedom: Emancipation and its Legacy”



Dockworker unions gather in Durban, South Africa

By Lyse Comins

The following article first appeared in South Africa’s Freight News, Jan. 25, 2023. (tinyurl.com/y3mz77c6) Lyse Comins is a freelance journalist in Durban, South Africa.

Dockworker union representatives descended on Durban, South Africa’s busiest port, on the last weekend in January to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic 1973 Durban strikes. The strike wave preceded the formation of the country’s powerful trade union movement.

Unions attending the conference included the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, based on the U.S. West Coast, the Revolutionary Transport Union of South Africa (RETUSA) and the General Industries Workers Union of South Africa.

The 1973 strike wave saw some 100,000

African and Indian workers go on strike over wages and working conditions, impacting more than 100 companies, from textile and brick factories to metal and chemical plants. The strikes were followed by the formation of the Federation of South African Trade Unions in 1979 and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in 1985, which played a pivotal role in the liberation struggle against apartheid.

In 1984 members of the ILWU’s San Francisco Bay Area Locals 10 and 34 refused to offload South African cargo for 11 days, inspiring local residents to join the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

ILWU Local 10 retired Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Thomas told a media briefing in Durban this year that dockworkers “held a strategic position of power.” He said dockworkers “have more leverage than any workers in the world, being at the point of the global supply



International Longshore and Warehouse Union members attended a union celebration of the 1973 mass strikes in Durban, South Africa. The conference was held in Durban Jan. 26-28, 2023.

PHOTO: STEVE ZELTZER

chain, because when we shut down — rail, trucking, cargo flight schedules — the food we eat, the fuel we put into cars, computers, handheld devices and the shoes we wear, all come off a ship. There are no workers in the world that

understand capitalism better than longshore workers, because before the cargo can be stored it has to come off that ship — and if we don’t load or offload it, nothing is going to happen.” □

A double war crime

Pentagon strategists face a challenge delivering U.S. state-of-the-art weapons to the Kiev puppet army in time for them to prolong the proxy U.S./NATO war with Russia. One top general announced an alternate source of killing machines.

As reported on the Jan. 20, 2023, Voice of America, General Laura Richardson, said, “We are working with the countries that have the Russian equipment to either donate it [to Ukraine] or switch it out for United States equipment.”

Gen. Richardson heads the U.S. Southern Command. The VoA article explains that she means Washington is leaning on Perú, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and Argentina to deliver some

of their Russian- or Soviet-made arms, especially helicopters, to the U.S./NATO proxy war.

President Joe Biden has promised the U.S.’s own M1A2 Abrams tanks to Ukraine. Despite their armor and fire-power, the M1s have drawbacks. They weigh up to 80 tons, which means it takes awhile to ship them across oceans. Plus, they’re still in production. And in Ukraine, they might stick in the mud or break down — and who will pull them out or repair them?

Ukrainian troops have to be trained to use and repair them, starting from zero. That means U.S. “advisers” on the front lines, engaged in combat.

Richardson is offering U.S. war equipment to Mexico and the South American countries. The VoA says there are no takers yet and that Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has already ruled it out.

Here’s one example of what Gen. Richardson’s offer means: Washington will ship tear gas, bullets and other weapons useful for massacring Indigenous-led protests, if the coup government in Perú ships Soviet-built helicopters to Ukraine.

Examine that offer a bit more closely: It means the U.S. government, while falsely claiming to fight for democracy in Ukraine, will offer weapons to a coup regime that threw out an elected

president, so that regime can murder its population.

The VoA explains that besides the strategic gain from this new policy, there is a collateral gain: profits for the U.S. arms industry oligarchs, also known as merchants of death. If the South American countries can be lured away from using the less expensive Russian-made weapons, it opens their market to the U.S. producers.

Gen. Richardson might see the arms trade as a “win-win” development. The world — and especially the working class — sees a double war crime, one against the workers of Ukraine and Russia, one against the people of South America. □

Imperialism vs. the brazen balloon

Continued from page 1

enough against the balloon.

All this tough talk, followed by tougher talk, might be laughable if it were not so dangerous. It coincides with predictions Jan. 27 — which other Pentagon brass tried to walk back — by four-star Air Force General Mike Minihan that the U.S. will be at war with China by 2025. Minihan instructed all personnel in the Air Mobility Command, which he oversees, to “fire a clip into a 7-meter target

with the full understanding that unrepentant lethality matters most. Aim for the head.” (ABC News, Jan. 27)

The belligerent messaging over the balloon incident follows the recently announced expansion of U.S. military presence in the Philippines. According to NPR on Feb. 2, “analysts say this bigger footprint could help deter China both from taking action on self-governed Taiwan, as well as contain Beijing’s presence in the South China Sea.” This is despite the fact that even the U.S. recognizes the People’s

Republic of China as the legitimate Chinese government and acknowledges that Taiwan is part of China.

In reality it is U.S. imperialism that threatens China’s sovereignty, and not the other way around.

This latest incident exposes for the umpteenth time the blatant hypocrisy of the most powerful, most imperialistic state in human history. The U.S. has invaded more countries than any other government in the world, with no regard for those countries’ sovereignty.

The danger in these latest war moves is palpable. Minihan has practically ordered U.S. service people under his command to be ready to put their lives at risk. But the real danger is to the Chinese people and the people of the world, who would be caught in a new imperialist war, carried out in tandem with the war in Ukraine.

Antiwar activists in the U.S. have a duty to oppose all of Washington’s war moves and to pledge to defend People’s China against imperialist aggression. □

Perú People rise up, reject coup

Continued from page 1

poverty; we can no longer survive, we are dying of hunger. ... and these right wingers want to make us their slaves, but we won’t permit this because we are responding and resisting.”

All must go!

A state of emergency was imposed Dec. 14 to suppress the rebellion, whose massive, spontaneous and unpredictable actions advance the struggle with no end in sight. The people on the streets are chanting, “¡Que se vayan todos! / All must go!”

Out with Dina Boluarte! Close the Congress! The people demand elections immediately to replace the whole government! They want to start the process for a constituent assembly and a new constitution.

El Salto Diario reported Jan. 26: “The revolt for the resignation of Boluarte expands and spreads to Lima. Fifty-three days of mobilizations and Perú is still on fire and escalating. Since the imprisonment of President Pedro Castillo, the Andean country has staged a social outburst reminiscent of those in Colombia, Chile or Ecuador in recent years.”

La Republica newspaper suggested on Jan. 23 that social indignation about the slaughter panicked Boluarte, and that the then-Defense Minister Alberto Otárola convinced her not to resign. Boluarte will be prosecuted for genocide if she is impeached. Boluarte rewarded Otárola for his support by appointing him President of the Council of Ministers.

As prime minister, Otárola can be held criminally responsible for scores of extrajudicial assassinations, including the second massacre, the Juliaca Massacre, where the National Police killed 18 people and wounded 100 on Jan. 9.



People opposing the coup in Perú, Union Square, N.Y., Jan. 14, 2023. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Wayka Perú reported the latest death of Víctor Santisteban Yacsavilca, whose skull was crushed by a projectile in Lima on Jan. 28. Members of the National Police fired tear gas canisters point-blank at demonstrators.

The Public Defender (a constitutional ombudsman) denounced the murder and tweeted, “We demand that the authorities identify and punish all those who attack the women and men of the press.” Wayka Perú charged that their own reporters were violently attacked and their equipment was destroyed by police in front of the hospital, which was receiving wounded victims of the repression.

The massacres and most of the extrajudicial killings occurred during the first five weeks of protest in the poorest rural regions in the south of Perú.

‘The Taking of Lima’

On Jan. 19 many thousands of people marched through Lima to call for the resignation of Boluarte, on the day they called “The Taking of Lima.” Since that day, the movement of popular forces has focused on the capital city of 11 million of the country’s 34 million people. The

police are not all shooting to kill, but they are firing tear gas canisters at the heads of demonstrators. Human rights organizations have condemned the police brutality, arbitrary arrests and beatings of reporters, senior citizens, women and children.

Wayka Perú (wayka.pe) reported Jan. 21 on the refuge set up by the University Federation of San Marcos in the National University of San Marcos, for “all the bloods” that came to march against Boluarte, more than 600 people from the provinces.

A participant said, “They talk about there being no poverty in the country, but in my district of Cabanillas [in Lampa], we don’t have drinking water; we don’t have good infrastructure for education and health. They talk about development, but there is only development for the rich. For the poor, we are still poor.”

In violation of the university’s autonomy, on Jan. 21 a contingent of the National Police arrested hundreds of students and others sheltering there. Videos of an armored vehicle smashing the gate of the National University were seen around the world. The military-style

police raid on the great public university, the oldest in the Americas, detained 200 people whose phones and property were confiscated or destroyed.

Will the movement prevail as a coalition of social organizations without a charismatic leader? Many like Hector Bejár are cautiously optimistic. “If this struggle continues,” he said, “we would have the possibility of a true democracy, open to all cultures and nationalities existing in the country, a social state and an economy open to popular investment and closed to all types of corruption. For now, it is a matter of supporting this process and defending it against repression.” (orinocotribune.com, Jan. 17)

Caravans of buses brought thousands from the “Cuatro Suyos” (the four ancestral regions) for the “Toma de Lima.” Students organized space for 600 marchers in the great National University of San Marcos in Lima, despite threats from the rector, who called on the National Police to evict them. Logistics and support provided by other institutions and volunteers have enabled the struggle in the streets to continue.

Big marches in cities all across Perú made Jan. 24 a very significant day in the struggle. Outside the Seventh Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, reported Resumen Latinoamericano on Jan. 25, “A gigantic march of CELAC Social organizations — Peruvians, Haitians and Paraguayans — repudiated the presence of dictatorial representatives of their countries.”

International solidarity with Perú’s people is growing. Marches and demonstrations took place in Chile, Ecuador and New York City that same day. An Ecuadorian solidarity group is collecting donations for the protesters. Leaders of Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia and Venezuela have denounced the coup. □



Tyre Nichols

¡Justicia para Tyre Nichols! ¡Abolición de la policía!

Declaración del Partido Mundo Obrero

Tyre Nichols, un hombre negro de 29 años y conductor de FedEx en Memphis, Tennessee, fue brutalmente golpeado por la policía de Memphis. Detenido a dos minutos de su casa el 7 de enero, recibió tal golpiza que sucumbió a sus heridas tres días después.

Una semana antes de que la policía de Memphis hiciera públicas las grabaciones de las cámaras corporales y las cámaras en la calle, los cinco agentes responsables del homicidio fueron despedidos, y sus nombres y fotografías se hicieron públicos. El día antes de que se hicieran públicas las imágenes, todos los agentes fueron acusados de asesinato en segundo grado

de Tyre Nichols, así como de otros cargos como agresión con agravantes.

Esta respuesta del Estado fue atípica en comparación con la respuesta habitual a un asesinato policial. Los cinco agentes despedidos y acusados son todos negros, y no gozan de la misma impunidad legal que los agentes blancos que asesinan a negros. Hay innumerables ejemplos de departamentos de policía, los llamados “sindicatos policiales” y los tribunales, que hacen todo lo posible para proteger a los policías blancos por linchamientos racistas.

El hecho de que los cinco agentes que mataron a Tyre Nichols sean negros no hace que este crimen sea menos brutal ni menos racista. El Departamento de Policía de Memphis, como todos los

departamentos de policía de Estados Unidos, es una institución de violencia supremacista blanca y de dominio de la clase capitalista. Independientemente de que los autores de esta violencia fueran agentes negros o blancos, el resultado es la muerte de otra persona negra y el mantenimiento de la supremacía blanca.

No debemos ver el racismo simplemente como una manifestación de prejuicios personales y odio de los blancos hacia los negros, sino que el racismo es un sistema de opresión estructural, más grande que cualquier conjunto de individuos implicados. Debemos comprender que el racismo es inseparable del sistema socioeconómico capitalista. Limitarse a exigir cursos de sensibilidad para la policía o a

contratar a más agentes negros no acabará con la violencia, como demuestra el asesinato de Tyre Nichols.

La lucha contra el racismo debe ir de la mano de la lucha contra el sistema capitalista que lo perpetúa. La violencia racista del sistema capitalista impregna nuestra sociedad, desde la violencia policial en nuestras comunidades locales, al sistema de encarcelamiento masivo con fines de lucro, al genocida complejo militar-industrial. El Partido Mundo Obrero se solidariza con todos los que luchan en las calles contra la supremacía blanca, el terror policial y la violencia estatal.

¡Justicia para Tyre Nichols! ¡Abolición de la policía! ¡Destruir la supremacía blanca! □

Una nueva correlación de fuerzas contra Dina Boluarte in Perú

Elecciones, la militarización de la protesta social y la guerra civil

Por César Zelada

Fuente: rebellion.org, 30 de enero de 2023. Zelada es Presidente del Movimiento Sin Techo — Perú (MSTP) y Dirigente de la Agrupación Vilcapaza.

En los últimos días, la presidente golpista, Dina Boluarte, dijo, “...llamo a una tregua nacional para entablar una mesa de diálogo y fijar una agenda común por cada región...”. A continuación, señaló que, “Puno, no es el Perú”, cuestión que exacerbó más a las masas laboriosas en lucha. [Puno es la región donde nació la civilización incaica.]

No obstante, el mensaje de tregua se da en un contexto donde el ala más dura del gobierno, el ex ministro de defensa, premiado como premier, Alberto Otárola, opera como el poder ejecutivo de facto detrás de Dina. Es Otárola el que tiene las relaciones con la Junta directiva del Legislativo y con la embajada yanqui y el que lidera, junto con Dina, la orientación militarista de la protesta social.

La represión y la lucha de masas

Esta estrategia en vez de amilanar a las masas en lucha, las ha envalentonado. Actualmente, existen aproximadamente 15 regiones con un nivel de conflictividad intenso (27 provincias con marchas, más de 80 bloqueos de carreteras, etc.),

cinco regiones donde el paro indefinido es total, con el saldo de más de 60 asesinados, 1492 heridos, etc. Recién se acaba de bloquear la carretera central que conecta a Lima con las regiones del centro del país (con una serie de conflictos vinculados a la contaminación minera, despedidos en protesta, etc.).

A esto hay que agregar que algunos nuevos bloqueos están en el “conservador” norte del país y están organizados por pobladores y obreros agrícolas (que ya han bloqueado la carretera antes por sus derechos laborales). El día de ayer hubo una movilización de sacrificio importante de más de 10,000 pobladores desde Puente Piedra (al norte de la capital), hasta el centro de Lima, que demoró hasta las 16 hrs.

La misma estuvo compuesta de delegaciones provincianas y de trabajadores de la zona. Por su lado, indígenas awajún acaban de tomar las instalaciones de la Estación 5 del Oleoducto Norperuano pidiendo la renuncia de Dina Boluarte. Y así cada día que pasa se suman nuevos actores sociales exigiendo la caída del régimen golpista pro yanqui.

Una nueva correlación de fuerzas

Este nuevo ascenso popular que hace insostenible al gobierno golpista ha generado una reconfiguración de la correlación de fuerzas del golpismo. Grandes medios

de prensa como el conglomerado del grupo “El Comercio” o La República, han cambiado su línea editorial de defensa acérrima del régimen dictatorial, a cuestionar la masacre y a pedir el adelanto de elecciones o la renuncia de Dina, respectivamente.

Por otro lado, el vocero del capital agroindustrial y ex gobernador fuji-morista por Ica, Fernando Cilloniz, también está proponiendo el adelanto de elecciones de inmediato. Por la renuncia de Dina, también se pronunciaron el ex candidato presidencial de derecha, Hernando de Soto y la bancada congresal de centroderecha Podemos Perú (PP).

En una reciente entrevista, el premier Otárola, declaró que, “el país no está para medidas audaces y el proyecto del fuji-morismo de adelanto de elecciones es una medida audaz, en todo caso que en el Congreso se pongan de acuerdo”. El fuji-morismo planteó el adelanto de elecciones días después de la vacancia golpista de Castillo.

Así las cosas, mientras que el régimen cívico militar llama a la “tregua”, a la vez maniobra con el adelanto de elecciones para confundir a las masas y lograr replegarlas a sus casas, para luego imponer su política de explotación laboral y saqueo de los recursos naturales. En este sentido, apunta el comunicado de los Ministerios del Interior y de Defensa, con el fin de

militarizar Puno y la frontera con Bolivia, so pretexto de una guerra con Bolivia.

La guerra con Bolivia, un distractivo peligroso

La guerra con Bolivia, impulsada por congresistas de derecha como Ernesto Bustamante, cuando dijo que, “El Perú debe dar ultimátum al gobierno de Bolivia, para que detenga apoyo material y financiero a terroristas en Perú...el Ejército del Perú deberá ingresar a Bolivia y ocupar cautelarmente recursos naturales que garanticen una ulterior reparación”, opera como un distractor del aislamiento al que está ingresando el gobierno golpista.

No obstante, una guerra con Bolivia, puede ser un bumerang. Bolivia y Perú son pueblos andinos con muchos vínculos históricos, culturales, políticos y sociales. En vez de lograr la división, pueden agitar por una revolución social andina.

Imponer la caída de Dina

Por estas razones, es vital la caída de Dina y la imposición de una Constituyente soberana. Para lograr esto es fundamental que las masas en combate, se organicen eligiendo a sus delegados por centro laboral, comunidad, centro de estudiantes, etc. para que los represente en una gran Asamblea Popular Nacional de Trabajadores y apruebe un Plan de Lucha. □

Cuba envía condolencias a Türkiye y Siria tras devastador terremoto

Por Daniela Leyva Fernández

Publicado el 6 de febrero de 2023 en Granma.

El Primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido y Presidente de la República, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, a través de la red social Twitter envió condolencias y la solidaridad de Cuba con los pueblos de Türkiye y Siria, luego de que un terremoto causara la muerte de más de 2.000 personas y daños materiales en ambas naciones.

En Twitter, el mandatario cubano escribió: “Llegue la solidaridad de Cuba

y nuestras más sentidas condolencias al pueblo y gobierno turcos por las pérdidas de vidas humanas, heridos y daños materiales causados por el intenso terremoto, así como nuestra disposición a colaborar en la atención a los damnificados”.

En otro tuit agregó: “igualmente ante las lamentables víctimas fatales y daños causados por el sismo en Gaziantep, expreso condolencias al pueblo y gobierno de Siria, así como nuestra solidaridad y voluntad de colaborar en la atención a los afectados”.

Por su lado, el miembro del Buró Político y canciller cubano, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, envió también

“nuestras más sentidas condolencias al pueblo y gobierno de Siria, así como la disposición de colaborar, ante el fuerte terremoto que afectó al país y provocó pérdidas de vidas humanas y daños materiales. Deseos de pronta recuperación a los heridos”.

También, expresó “profundo pesar, solidaridad y disposición de colaborar con el pueblo y gobierno de Türkiye”.

Un terremoto de magnitud 7,8 sacudió a Türkiye, provocando cientos de muertos y la destrucción de miles de edificios. Según RT, el potente sismo estuvo seguido de varias réplicas y se sintió en

Siria, Líbano y otros países, además de generar una alerta de tsunami en Italia.

Un funcionario de la Autoridad de Gestión de Desastres y Emergencias de Türkiye, citado por la agencia estatal Anadolu, precisó que al menos 1.498 personas murieron y otras 8.533 resultaron heridas como resultado de los sismos de este lunes.

El Ministerio de Salud de Siria, citado por la agencia SANA, anunció que la cifra de muertos en las gobernaciones de Alepo, Latakia, Hama y Tartus, ascendió a 461. Señaló que se tienen registrados alrededor de 1.326 lesionados. □