



Capitalists wage class war

Organize resistance!

Billionaire Warren Buffett admitted in a 2006 interview that he and his fellow billionaires waged class war against the workers. The U.S. federal government, representing the interests of the U.S.-based imperialist ruling class, makes it a global war against all workers and poor people and most nations.

The U.S. rockets sent to the Kiev regime in Ukraine and the scabs hired to work in place of striking New York City nurses are weapons in this global class war.

Atop the news is the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia. To grasp the extent of the corporate media's lies about Ukraine, you must review recent U.S. war history. Washington has aimed at reconquering the countries of the Global South that had achieved some sovereignty while the Soviet Union existed.

U.S. strategy led to:

Two wars on Iraq, in 1991 and 2003, with bombs and sanctions that destroyed the infrastructure and killed a million people, dislocated millions more, promoted ethnic and religious civil war and left behind a social and environmental nightmare. Over 500,000 of those who

died were children.

Wars in 1995 and 1999 broke multinational Yugoslavia into seven ministates, most now colonies of the U.S. and NATO imperialists.

A 2001 occupation of Afghanistan lasted to 2021, killed tens of thousands of people, wrecked the country and destabilized Central Asia. In Afghanistan, the U.S. left hunger, disease and murderous sanctions.

A 2011 NATO war destroyed a stable, prosperous Libya, murdered its leader and split it in two, while destabilizing North Africa and the Sahel region and forcing millions to risk perilous flight to Europe. Every year thousands of refugees drown in the Mediterranean Sea.

Wars of subversion

The U.S. facilitated the Saudi monarchy's murder and starvation of Yemenis, armed the Israeli occupation and criminal war against Palestine and encouraged wars to divide Sudan and Ethiopia and rob resources across Africa. And used economic sanctions to impoverish Venezuela and Cuba. That's class war.

Another 2011 U.S./NATO war on Syria ended with the country in ruins but the

Damascus government intact. Russian assistance aided local resistance to set back Western schemes.

The relentless march of NATO militarism across Eastern Europe assaulted the borders of Russia. U.S. intervention in Ukraine used fascist elements to install an anti-Russian regime in Kiev in 2014, which waged war on its own eastern regions. The assault gave Moscow little choice but to intervene last year.

While this was happening, an equally

relentless fleet of warships threatened war with socialist China, the one country capable of challenging U.S. imperialist world dominance. If Washington's strategists have advised against a hot war with China, it has been because they advise first weakening Russia.

Despite these wars, which have cost the U.S. working class trillions of dollars, the U.S. and its NATO allies have been unable

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No to fascist coup in Brazil

Just a week after the inauguration of Brazil's newly elected and former President Luis Ignácio "Lula" da Silva, a pro-fascist mob attempted Jan. 8, 2023, to provoke a military coup against his government, by attacking key government buildings in Brasilia, the capital. As of the morning of Jan. 9, this attempt has been defeated.

Workers World urges anti-imperialists worldwide to condemn the fascist

assault on the elected president of Brazil and to condemn in advance any attempt by elements of the Brazilian officer corps to seize power from the elected government. WW supports any mass actions the Brazilian working class and people take to defend the government they chose.

The storming of Brazil's National Congress, the Planalto presidential residence and the Supreme Court

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Welcome Home,  
Ana Belén Montes!

WORKERS  
WORLD  
PARTY

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee  
of Workers World Party  
and revolutionary workers  
around the world  
thank you for  
your service.



New York City  
nurses strike

Some 7,000 nurses at two major New York City hospitals, including Mount Sinai, walked out at 6 a.m. Jan. 9. Their crucial issue is safer staffing with better nurse-to-patient ratios. Represented by the New York State Nurses Association, nurses voted by almost 99% to authorize a strike if no contract was agreed to. Several other New York City hospitals agreed to new contracts.

— Photo and report,  
Ellen Catalinotto

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Remembering  
Wadiya Jamal

Pennsylvania  
prisoners strike

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THE WALLS

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# University of California grad students’ strike ends

By Martha Grevatt

After nearly six weeks on the picket line, 48,000 graduate students at the University of California voted to accept a new contract. This ended the largest academic strike in U.S. labor history.

Solidarity was strong throughout the strike, with student workers risking arrest by engaging in acts of civil disobedience. Construction workers stopped work on new campus buildings, and Teamsters stopped delivering packages to the universities during the strike. Members of numerous unions joined the picket lines and attended strike rallies.

Members of the three striking United Auto Workers locals — 2865, 5810 and Student Researchers United-UAW — won significant pay increases, along with transportation and child care subsidies. The contract improves health benefits, job security language and language on bullying, harassment and discrimination.

However, the pay increases fell far short of what the union initially demanded. On average, base pay remains below \$30,000 after the first big raise, which doesn’t kick in until Oct. 1. UC management refused to grant a key demand of the strike: housing subsidies to offset the high cost of living in California. Other shortcomings include the retention of fees of around \$15,000 per year, which out-of-state students, including international students, are required to pay.

Another concern of contract opponents — including 15 members of the 40-member negotiating team — is that the contract creates “tiers,” something UAW members in



Picket line, University of California Berkeley, Nov. 20, 2022.

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

manufacturing are all too familiar with. Typically lower pay tiers are introduced for workers hired after a certain date, creating a divisive system where workers working side-by-side, doing the exact same work, are paid differently. The UC contract instead has higher pay scales at more prestigious campuses in the 10-campus system.

A rank and file-led “vote no” campaign convinced 38% of those who voted to reject the contract, but with a majority voting in favor, the contract goes into effect with the strike’s end.

Whatever the gains or shortcomings in the contract, this historic strike provided a stellar example of what solidarity looks like, today and in the future.

*Martha Grevatt is a retired Chrysler (now Stellantis) worker who served on the executive boards of United Auto Workers Locals 122 and 869.*

## 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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# Critical hearing for Mumia Abu-Jamal

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

Dec. 16 — Supporters and family of Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal filled the courtroom and demonstrated outside the Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center, where Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Lucretia Clemons was set to reveal whether she would continue the long mis-carriage of justice against Mumia — 41 years in prison — or place herself on the side of justice and rule in Abu-Jamal’s favor.

In the end, Clemons straddled the judicial fence — but in a way beneficial to Mumia.

After hearing additional oral arguments from attorneys Judith Ritter and Sam Spital for Abu-Jamal and counterarguments from Assistant District Attorney Grady Gervino for the commonwealth, Clemons delayed making a final decision. In a surprise move, she asked what access Abu-Jamal’s attorneys had been given to case files, beyond the six boxes made available in January 2019.

Ritter explained that when the case was before Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker, only the judge’s staff reviewed the files, specifically looking for evidence related to former Philadelphia District Attorney, and subsequently Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice, Ronald Castille, and his judicial bias against Abu-Jamal.

In piecemeal fashion, the commonwealth provided 31 evidence boxes to Tucker during the entirety of the hearings, April 2017 to December 2018. Toward the end of the appeal, District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office admitted there were over 200 boxes of files that could be relevant to the case.

Following Tucker’s December 2018 ruling, Krasner reported finding six additional evidence boxes, numbered as belonging to a group of 29 boxes. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys were given access to the boxes, but their

questions about whether 23 more existed were never answered.

Acknowledging she was aware of the 200 boxes Krasner mentioned, Clemons ruled that in the interest of uncovering any additional evidence to support claims of violation of Abu-Jamal’s rights, his attorneys would be granted access to all file boxes. The relevant legal cases are Batson (involving racism in jury selection) and Brady (concerning withholding exculpatory evidence from the defense).

Commonwealth prosecutors agreed to make this happen, and Clemons announced a 60- to 90-day extension. Contrary to its own interests, by acknowledging the existence of evidence previously withheld from Abu-Jamal and his attorneys, the commonwealth admitted a Brady violation.

### Stopping a legal lynching

In a 31-page notice of intent to dismiss the petition on Oct. 26, Clemons questioned why Abu-Jamal and his attorneys had not previously raised the evidence that District Attorney Joseph McGill tracked the race of potential jurors — a Batson violation. (tinyurl.com/mtvcfs4)

At the hearing, Spital reiterated points made in Abu-Jamal’s July 1995 Post-Conviction Relief Application (PCRA) hearing, regarding jury selection by race. These had been dismissed by trial Judge Albert Sabo, who was also the judge in Abu-Jamal’s initial 1982 hearing. (tinyurl.com/mvfstd3w)

Sabo’s history of convictions and sentences in capital cases evidenced deep racial disparities, including a high number of defendants sentenced to death — 31 people given death sentences over a period of 14 years, 29 of whom were people of color.

In 2001, court stenographer Terri Maurer-Carter declared under oath that she had heard Sabo state to another judge, ‘I’m going to help them fry the n\*\*\*\*r,’ referring to jurors in Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial. (tinyurl.com/mr2rwnbp)

On Dec. 6, the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent filed an amicus brief with Clemons that reinforced the facts and arguments in Mumia’s 1995 PCRA filing. They argued that no judicial time-bar should be applied when the defendant is a victim of historic



racial bias that tainted the possibility of a fair trial and due process.

**‘Brick by brick, wall by wall, we’re gonna free Mumia Abu-Jamal’**

Since the Oct. 26 hearing when Clemons announced her intent to dismiss, Abu-Jamal’s supporters have taken the struggle into overdrive. Multiple global demonstrations for Mumia and a zoom rally for political prisoners took place on and around Dec. 9, the anniversary of his incarceration.

Hundreds of letters, including statements from labor unions, were sent to Clemons. On Dec. 13, a one-of-a-kind mural, picturing a younger Mumia Abu-Jamal holding a child, was displayed on a wall outside One Art in West Philadelphia.

On Jan. 12, Philadelphia’s Black-owned WURD Radio 900AM/96.1FM will host a special program on Abu-Jamal’s case from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (tinyurl.com/y9ewz6ds)

Abu-Jamal’s supporters are determined to continue to fight until Mumia is free. □



Wadiya Jamal during visit with Mumia.

## Wadiya Jamal, my beloved

By **Mumia Abu-Jamal**

*The following message from Mumia first aired on Prison Radio Dec. 30, 2022 following the death of Wadiya Jamal on Dec. 27.*

She was a spring baby, born in the first week of April 1953 — a West Philly girl, whose beauty made her shine in a crowd. She loved fiercely like a lion. This love blessed the lives of five beautiful children, and it blessed me.

As mother and grandmother, she radiated like a sun over her planet; and when

anyone was lost, her mighty love was cracked by such loss — her mother and father, her brother Jimmy, and perhaps deepest, the loss of the family’s baby, Samiya, was the deepest crack, the deepest past.

After that, every December was a trial through darkness. We were all waiting for the first light of spring, for this dark fog to break. But it was not to be. Just after the holidays, her heart, her mighty heart, gave up. She loved like no one else ever.

I love you, I will always love you. All the children and grandchildren love you and will always love you. Your smile was the

only sunshine we ever needed, and we need it now. We love you, Wa-Wa. We miss you.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. □

# News whiteout of Pennsylvania prison strike

By **Marie Kelly**  
Philadelphia

Incarcerated workers held captive in Pennsylvania prisons called a labor strike in the name of Subaltern Peoples Abolitionist Revolutionary Collective (SPARC). The demonstration “to protest against the State’s oppressive policies” was called last year and set to begin this Jan. 6. (tinyurl.com/52m3n4t5) As of this writing, the outcome of that event is unknown, as the repressive carceral system makes it extremely difficult for persons incarcerated to communicate with those on the outside.

Has the strike happened? Is it still going on? Was it suppressed and organizers retaliated against, or is the movement growing?

“Acknowledging a prison strike and its scope goes against the prevailing wisdom in prison administration,” Jared Ware explained in Prism Nov. 11. “In 2018, leading up to the national prison strike, prison associations advocated the use of disinformation campaigns, when dealing with prisoner resistance, to manage the disruption and discourage further participation.” (tinyurl.com/ycxbdcxp)

We will learn more as news trickles out to family members and close allies of those involved. However, whether the strike action occurred is not the sole determinant of victory.

In the courageous spirit of the Attica Rebellion, these incarcerated

activists in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) were undeterred by the risk they were taking in calling for a strike. First, they checked in with their peers and surveyed their complaints. They listened and learned, a fundamental organizing tactic.

Next, SPARC members drafted a list of demands:

- end sexual harassment and rape by staff in women’s facilities;
- end all harassment and racism in all facilities;
- raise wages for all workers — minimum wage for skilled workers and C.I. workers;
- end outsourcing mail to Florida;
- end outsourcing commissary to Secure Pak;
- end price gouging on tablets;
- allow video visits on tablets;
- pass the Geriatric Bill;
- end life sentences for second-degree murder;
- allow parole for lifers;
- adequate and edible food served at required temperature;
- end abuse in solitary confinement;
- allow RHU (Restricted Housing Unit) prisoners to order food;
- open visiting room to pre-pandemic levels;
- open all dining halls;
- provide more recreation/outdoor exercise time followed by showers;

- criteria for [earning] commutation instead of arbitrary decisions;
- parole eligibility for everyone after 15 years;
- flat sentencing;
- family picnic days on visits;
- conjugal visits; and
- single cells for those [who] want those.

### Alabama-Pennsylvania solidarity

In a statement issued in November 2022, SPARC categorized the PA DOC as the “enemy of public safety and human rights.”

In reviewing the demands, one can only imagine the cruel, deplorable conditions that these members of the working class face every day. They are denied basic human needs: adequate food, physical activity, hygiene, housing and loving family ties. On top of that, they are constantly threatened by an oppressive punitive system.

The incarcerated activists of SPARC stressed their solidarity with the Alabama incarcerated strikers. This is a reference to the strike of thousands of incarcerated workers in 31 prisons in Alabama. That strike began in September 2022 and disrupted normal facility operations, when incarcerated workers in food service, laundry and other areas participated in a work stoppage. Some of the Alabama demands are the same as those made in Pennsylvania, including eliminating life without parole and streamlining processes

for elder release and medical furloughs.

With a touch of irony, SPARC members expressed their affinity with Alabama by stating that Pennsylvania is Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, with Alabama in between. The ultraright tendencies in the middle of Pennsylvania are well documented. It is also where state prison facilities are located, employing residents drawn from some of the most racist, white-supremacist populations.

These powerful words from the SPARC activists convincingly highlight that the carceral state is irretrievably flawed and should be abolished: “We at SPARC have been organizing in PA prisons for years. We’ve been building our movement with focus on addressing the struggles going on right now. It’s clear from the failure to return to pre-COVID normal procedure that the administration intends to keep us under elevated restrictions indefinitely. Not only that, but there are many problems with the Pennsylvania injustice system that are not being remedied by politicians and lawyers.

“We intend to do our part. Prisons are modern-day slave plantations, which only make profits for our exploiters if we do work. The more of us who refuse to labor for the slave master, the less the system can function. We have the power to shut it down and change conditions for the better.”

Solidarity with our fellow workers behind the walls! Their courage should inspire us. Their bold action constitutes victory. Free them all! □

# After month-long strike Starbucks unionists face challenges

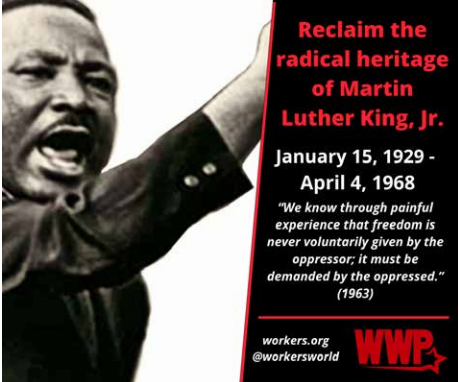
By Janisse Miles  
New York City

*“You are demanding that this city will respect the dignity of labor. So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs or those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight, that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity, and it has worth.”*

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
AFSCME Memphis, Tennessee,  
Sanitation Strike, April 3, 1968

Following 2022’s year of worker uprisings, solidarity is crucial for consolidating union victories, which the bosses have their sights trained on to undermine. From Amazon to Trader Joe’s to Starbucks, the overall anti-union strategy is for management to drag its heels and refuse to sit down and bargain with workers who have won union representation.

This delaying tactic operates side by side with rampant harassment and intimidation. One case in point: At the beginning of November 2022, the employees of the Manhattan Starbucks Roastery decided to strike in response to abhorrent working conditions, amidst a bedbug infestation in their store. After 30 days of picketing, negotiating with management and rallying, on



the evening of Dec. 9, 2022, the workers decided to end their strike.

Once the picket line ended and it was time to return to work, another set of issues emerged. While management agreed to and kept up with “health meetings,” by the newly won Health and Safety Committee, to track cleanliness and launch inspections as requested, the committee seemed to be more lax on providing proof of their findings than when they had to report to lawyers.

Combined with the hypervigilance of the newly returned staff, there’s still a sense of unease when moving through the Roastery. Employees no longer use their lockers for storage, but instead use the clear “comforter” bags provided by management or, alternatively, wrap their belongings in trash bags.

But due to the overwhelming nature of a Manhattan Starbucks business during the holiday season, no one has time to ponder the subconscious paranoia of this new

normal. And even if the Health and Safety Committee were to report no bedbug sightings for weeks, it’s difficult to say enough trust has been established for the workers to return to using their lockers.

**Starbucks fosters division, anxiety on the job**

Starbucks bosses have exploited the fact that not all workers went out on strike, and they did everything possible to pit workers against each other. This includes verbally disparaging the picketing employees, ignoring them altogether or actively disparaging Starbucks unions.

The head organizer of this strike, Ley Kido, told WW that one of the main reasons so many workers voted against striking was the fear of retaliation, which was not unfounded. Employees have faced threats of investigations from higher-ups over food mark-outs, and they have been chastised for dress codes. It’s gotten to the point where the Roastery workers have become suspicious of certain practices, such as being encouraged to take old food home, in fear of later being persecuted for stealing from the company.

When talks of returning to work occurred, many chose to leave, as they considered being asked to expose themselves and their loved ones to infestation in exchange for an insufficient wage to be the final straw. Despite this, those who chose to return to work continue their organizing efforts, making sure employees learn the

policies and their rights as employees to prepare for any adversity. They make sure to prepare their group for confrontations with management and to act as each other’s worker representative when needed.

Union Roastery activists have joined forces with other organizations to further amplify their voices, and they continue to think of ways to reel in more people to lean on, in this ongoing struggle for health and safety. Management is counting on the fact that anti-union forces can legally start a petition to decertify the union one year after a successful union vote. For the Roastery, that anniversary is April 1, just around the corner.

Solidarity for this campaign is therefore crucial and can take many forms. If you live in New York City, one thing supporters can do is go to the Starbucks Reserve Roastery and order coffee. When the barista asks for your name, respond by saying you want your coffee “union strong.” When the barista yells out who the coffee is for, the whole store will hear support for the union.

When we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, rarely do we hear of his fierce support of laborers and their struggle for respect. This January the Starbucks Roastery Reserve is a shining example of workers demanding the dignity of labor. And as the workers’ struggles continue, Workers World Party will be prepared to support their efforts as we have so steadfastly done before. □

# Bangladeshi community demands Justice for Arif Sayed Faisal!

By Steve Gillis  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

On the sunny afternoon of Jan. 4, a Cambridge cop, accompanied by others also armed with lethal and nonlethal weapons, gunned down and killed 20-year-old Arif Sayed Faisal. By all accounts, after receiving a 911 call about a person in distress and hurting himself, police followed and directly observed Faisal for 15 minutes or more through his own neighborhood before shooting him.

According to statements immediately published by his family and friends, Sayed Faisal was well-known and loved in the Bangladeshi community, 6,000-strong in Cambridge, and in his neighborhood. He was known as a talented computer science student at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, a sensitive artist, athlete and a hard worker at a local CVS.

Reported accounts from the scene, by people who knew him, point out that he was clearly suffering an acute mental health crisis on Jan. 4, apparently trying to harm himself with a kukri, a South

Asian utility knife.

The next day, grieving and outraged members of Faisal’s family and leaders of the Bangladesh Association of New England (BANE) protested at Cambridge City Hall, calling for an immediate investigation and police accountability for the killing.

They had a banner reading, “Justice for Sayed Faisal,” held by his father with his beautiful son’s image. The signs they made on site demanded “Stop Police Brutality” and “Police w/ Guns, Funds & Bullets Fear Us?!”

Speaking at the entrance to Cambridge City Hall, Pervin Chowdhury, president of BANE, noted: “This is not the first time that a proud Black body has fallen to the white-supremacist institution, which is the police in this country. We need to keep in mind that the police and the resources they have are not for the protection or security of citizens like you and me. The institution is there to support and protect the institutions of white supremacy and white killings.” (cambridgeday.com)

At a Jan. 6 press conference in the

Islamic Society of Boston, BANE General Secretary Tanvir Murad announced a community fund-raising appeal for Faisal’s family (gofund.me/eb51085a) along with a Janazah (Muslim prayer) and a mass protest at Cambridge City Hall for Jan. 9 at 3:00 p.m.

In the wake of the police lynching of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, Cambridge City Hall was the scene of demonstrations of thousands, then organized by the Black- and women-led FTP (For the People) youth group. Since then, the Cambridge city administration has given 2 ½ years of lip service to FTP’s demand to abolish use of armed cops for mental health events. Cambridge’s Harvard University has funded numerous supportive studies.

The fact is that Faisal’s unwarranted, brutal police killing occurred in the ultra-militarized U.S. police-state, which in 2022 recorded a record number of police killings, of at least 1,176 people or about 100 people a month last year, most of whom were Black and Brown youth. (tinyurl.com/2p96fmj2)



PHOTO: BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND  
Protest at Cambridge, Massachusetts, City Hall, Jan. 4.

This horrible list now includes the liberal bastion of Cambridge.

The Black Response Cambridge organization, in a Jan. 2 statement, called for community solidarity with BANE’s protest and justice for their “community member [who] was murdered by the Cambridge Police Department, while experiencing a mental health crisis. The police were reportedly called to protect this man from harming himself, yet they ended up killing him. Being in crisis should not be a death sentence.” (Twitter @Black\_Response). □

# Workers World’s message for 2023: Fight for a socialist future!

Workers World is a workers’ newspaper, written by, for and about workers. Now at the start of the new year, we hail the many struggles for union recognition and rights, higher wages and safer working conditions of today. WW supports the courageous nurses, railroad workers, Starbucks, Amazon, graduate students and other brave workers who are justly fighting for their rights.

WW lauds the members of the multinational, multigender, multigenerational working class who are courageously taking on

corporate bosses, some of them the richest people in the world, who deprive workers of livable wages and decent working conditions to keep on accumulating wealth.

Our pages have devoted much space to news of the brave Amazon Labor Union, which seeks to organize those whose labor increases the coffers of billionaire Jeff Bezos. WW applauds the bold young organizers who unionized 270 Starbucks stores in 2022, staying strong against hostile union-busting bosses. Their victories are inspiring workers

around the country to organize.

Our newspaper’s staff members have walked picket lines and attended rallies for these and other workers. Many writers are current or retired union members and organizers. WW’s point of view is resolutely on the workers’ side against corporate bosses. Our newspaper gets to the crux of the problems workers face: capitalism, the system based on exploiting the majority of people to enrich the wealthiest few.

WW encourages workers to take their

struggles to the next level — to build a united classwide movement against capitalism, with the most oppressed in the lead. The goal is to oust this abominable system-for-profit, and fight for a socialist society, free of profiteers and geared to providing all human beings with the necessities and joys of life.

**WW needs your support!**

Workers World relies on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded

Continued on page 5

# Issues behind near death of Damar Hamlin

By Nigel Bouvart  
Buffalo, New York

*Bulletin: As we go to press, Hamlin has returned home to Buffalo.*

Unprecedented tragedy struck at the Bills-Bengals NFL game in Cincinnati Jan. 2, when 24-year-old Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed suddenly, following a tackle during which he was hit hard in the chest by the helmet of Tee Higgins, a Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver. After falling down, Hamlin stood up and almost immediately fell backward as he suffered a cardiac arrest.

A standby ambulance was promptly backed onto the field, and EMTs administered lifesaving CPR, restarting Hamlin’s heart after nine minutes of strenuous effort. The player was then rushed to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where he was sedated and put on a ventilator.

CNN reported Jan. 7 that Hamlin is still in intensive care and in critical condition. He regained consciousness and does not appear to have suffered any cognitive loss. His breathing tube was removed, and he is now breathing on his own. He is verbally communicating with his family members, teammates and medical team and posting messages on social media.

During the CPR efforts, players from both teams gathered around Hamlin, and the air

of toughness that typically surrounds U.S. football games dissolved, as players held hands and openly wept at the sight of their stricken colleague. Commentators were at a loss for words, and media coverage repeatedly broke for commercial breaks, while everyone awaited word on the status of the game. After the ambulance was driven off the field, word came: The game would continue after a five-minute warm-up.

**Players defy officials, walk off field**

The players did not comply. In a defiant workplace action, traumatized players from both teams walked off the field and called their NFL Players Association representatives.

The head coaches of both teams met briefly on and off the field, apparently agreeing that the game could not continue. An hour after Hamlin’s collapse, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell made the call that anyone with a conscience would have made immediately—the game was “temporarily” halted and then canceled. The League eventually stated on Jan. 6 that the game will not be rescheduled.

The NFL leadership has since claimed that they never had any intention of letting the game continue, and that the five-minute warm-up call was made by on-site officials merely going by the book. That claim is contradicted by ESPN, which issued a statement that their commentators were simply relaying information given to them

directly by the NFL.

The League’s claim is also shown to be a lie by their repeated disregard for the safety and well-being of its players in favor of maintaining profits and executive salaries. For instance, the League’s decades of downplaying and outright denying the dangers posed to players by chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), for instance, is well-documented. A 2016 settlement awarded \$1 billion to affected players, but to date only 6.5% of that has been paid out.

**Union protection is key**

Former NFLPA President Dominique Foxworth, now an ESPN analyst, pointed to the situation surrounding Hamlin’s collapse as illustrating the necessity of players having collective bargaining. On numerous talk shows, Foxworth harkened back to NFLPA negotiations during the NFL’s over four-month lockout of players in 2011:

“I remember going through CBA negotiations, and I remember fighting for health and safety advancements and fighting for a higher salary cap. I also remember some of these people in the media—who were outpouring and caring last night—they were calling us greedy. Some of these same fans were like, ‘Get back on the field.’

“Maybe it’s uncomfortable for people to hear me talk about CBA negotiations in times like this, but it really matters because it changes their lives. As we were reminded last night, there is no limit on the risk for



Damar Hamlin

the players; but there is a salary cap on what they can make. I understand how it can be unseemly to talk about this right now, but it reminds me so much that everyone who’s benefiting from this game, there seems to be no cap on how much they can enjoy and appreciate.” (Fox News, Jan. 3)

One is reminded of incidents at an Amazon warehouse in Etna, Ohio, where in 2019, two workers, Thomas Becker and Billy Foister, had heart attacks a few months apart. In both cases, Amazon management failed to react in time to provide lifesaving care, and both workers died. After these tragedies, workers on the floor were told to promptly get back to work. (Guardian, Oct. 18, 2019)

The difference? NFL players have a union; most Amazon workers do not. Hopefully NFL players will take Damar Hamlin’s plight as a call to action and fight for a safer workplace and better disability benefits.

Organized workers’ power saves lives. When we fight together, we win! □

# ILWU must oppose the U.S./NATO-provoked war!

*This statement was released on Dec. 15, 2022.*

We, members and retirees of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), are very concerned about the Coast Committee’s public statement of March 3, 2022, on the war in Ukraine. It diverges from the many antiwar positions that our union has taken, even when it was unpopular to do so.

The ILWU has always criticized NATO’s war moves. Since the end of World War II, we’ve opposed U.S. wars and coups in Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Serbia (former Yugoslavia), Cuba (Bay of Pigs Invasion), Chile (coup), El Salvador and Nicaragua.

On May Day 2008, ILWU shut down all West Coast ports to oppose the “imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan” (as the Caucus resolution read). We have taken action at the point of production against U.S. wars and the apartheid government in South Africa. We refused to load military cargo to the anti-communist military juntas in Chile and El Salvador. We are proud of that legacy. The International



Dockworkers Council (European Section) issued a declaration in February calling for an end to the Ukraine war. So must the ILWU.

We are faced with a class war at home and a war abroad between two capitalist governments. Unions are organizing to fight billionaire capitalists, like Amazon owner Jeff Bezos and Oakland A’s owner John Fisher, who is scheming to build a ballpark in the busy Port of Oakland.

While ILWU is confronting the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) over automation and inflation in contract negotiations, people in Jackson, Mississippi, and

Flint, Michigan, can’t get clean drinking water. Worse still, Black and Brown communities face deadly terror from police and ICE daily. In 2003, police attacked antiwar demonstrators in the Port of Oakland chanting: “Wars are for profit, workers can stop it!”

In 1967, during the Vietnam War, Martin Luther King Jr. called the U.S. “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world.” After that speech ILWU Local 10 invited him to speak at the union meeting, where he was awarded “Honorary Member” status in our union. A year after his antiwar speech, he was assassinated.

**Refuse to handle military cargo**

The U.S. has been in a state of perpetual warfare since WWII. The Ukraine war, provoked by U.S./NATO aggression, is a dangerous preliminary war jeopardizing a massive nuclear contamination at Zaphorizhzhia, the largest nuclear plant in Europe, and can lead to nuclear war against Russia and to WWII with China.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Secretary of State James Baker promised not to threaten Russia’s security by moving NATO toward Russia’s border by adding countries of the former Eastern Bloc. That agreement has been broken time and again by the U.S., despite warnings by Russia.

We believe there needs to be a position taken on the Ukraine war consistent with ILWU’s history. Dockworkers internationally can stop this bloody war. The reactionary, nationalist governments of Russia and Ukraine won’t.

In 2014, a U.S.-driven Maidan coup in Ukraine overthrew the elected government and burned down the trade union headquarters building in Odessa, killing 48 people. In opposition to the coup, two Russian-speaking provinces of Eastern Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, seceded. The democratic right to self-determination from the nationalist Kiev government, which banned the Russian language, must be recognized for the Eastern and Southern provinces.

The neofascist Azov Brigade opened fire on the two newly founded republics of the Donbass region, killing over 15,000 civilians. African immigrants in Ukraine attempting to flee the war were subjected to racial discrimination by the Zelensky government.

Furthermore, his neoliberal capitalist government just passed Law 5371, meaning 70% of Ukraine’s workers cannot have unions, negotiate collective bargaining agreements or fight an employer’s firing of workers. This anti-union law is opposed by Ukraine’s Federation of Trade Unions. Zelensky’s martial law prevents workers from protesting anti-labor laws by striking.

The ILWU must call for an end to the war. Most importantly we must appeal for port actions to the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to refuse to handle military cargo by dockworkers around the world. They both opposed the Zionist massacre of Palestinians last year. They can call for an end to the Ukraine war now. International workers’ actions refusing to handle military cargo can stop it.

*Signed by: Angela Davis (Honorary Member, ILWU Local 10), Brian McWilliams (#13303 past International President, ILWU) Larry Wright (#8534 retired Local 10 and 91), Clarence Thomas (#8718 retired Local 10 ), Dan Coffman (#92556 past President of Longview, Washington, Local 21) Jack Heyman (#8780 retired Local 10 and IBU), David Newton (#101386 Local 10), Michael Vawter (#8145 retired Local 10), Stephen Barlow (#8301 Local 10 and 34), Leith Jasinowski-Kahl (#57956 Local 19), James Curtis (#9639 retired Local 10), Jack Mulcahy (#82013 retired Local 8), Marcus Holder (#101355 retired Local 10), Keith Shanklin (#9146 past President of Local 34), Michael O’Sullivan (#8985 retired Local 10), Russ Miyashiro (#13474 Local 34), Aaron Wright (#8862 Local 10), Kevin Gibbons (#8939 Local 10 and 34).*

## Fight for a socialist future!

*Continued from page 4*

46 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper, which now produces one print issue a month. Since the early 1990s, this fund has supported the website workers.org, where new articles are posted daily.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles; it is a resource for political activists. This website contains firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on U.S. union drives, along with reports on anti-racist and other progressive movements.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the printed issue and the website incur

expenses. Although many online publications require payment 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 or more per year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to 12 print issues a year, an email link to every article produced and 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 appreciate your support. □

# No to fascist coup in Brazil

Continued from page 1

building, the three centers of Brazil’s capitalist democracy, mimicked in astounding detail the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Congress. In Brasilia, a fascist mob supporting former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed these buildings. The Bolsonarists insisted that there had been electoral fraud, with no evidence. Then they smashed the government buildings.

Bolsonaro, the Brazilian Trump — who lost the Oct. 30 runoff election by a small but solid margin and is the hero of the fascists — was reportedly in Orlando, Florida, avoiding charges for his crimes while president, and much closer to Trump than to Brasilia.

Democratically elected leaders in Latin America, especially those considered of the left — in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela and Cuba — immediately condemned the coup attempt. (Granma, Jan. 8)

President Joe Biden, who still faces threats from the pro-Trump forces in the U.S., and the leaders of the European imperialist countries, have publicly condemned the attacks. The U.S. and its imperialist allies have, however, supported illegal coups and coup attempts in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past. This long list included Guatemala in 1954, Honduras in 2009, Bolivia in 2019, the judicial coup in Brazil in 2016 and the obscene backing for Juan Guaidó in Venezuela starting in 2019.

Lula ran an election facing the vicious opposition of the biggest media, big Brazilian capital, evangelical church leaders and the hostility of the police and military leaders. Despite these disadvantages and having just been freed from prison, he still managed a victory. But Lula’s Workers’



Luiz Ignacio ‘Lula’ da Silva, Brazil’s president once more.

Party (PT) government faces a hostile legislature, rightist state regimes on Brazil’s border and the danger from fascist pro-Bolsonaro mobs.

PT leader Gleisi Hoffmann condemned the collaboration of the Federal District government with the Bolsonarist mob, which she noted was neither “a mass movement, nor is it spontaneous. It is organized by bandits, who have very objective interests: illegal mining, land grabbing, weapons release, militias and other things, all blessed by Bolsonaro.” (TeleSUR English, Jan. 8)

Lula’s election and the memory of his first and second administrations gave a message of hope for a better life to the Brazilian workers, farmers, to the Afro-Brazilian population, to women, to LGBT+ Brazilians. But the assault in Brasilia was a warning. Elections can indicate the political consciousness of the working class and poor, but the ruling class still gives orders to the police, courts and army.

The Brazilian working class has every right to mobilize and to unite all sections of the Brazilian people to defend the Lula government against the fascist threat. And the Brazilian left deserves the solidarity of all worldwide who oppose militarism and fascist rule. □

# Capitalists wage class war Organize resistance!

Continued from page 1

to impose a stable colonial puppet regime hardly anywhere. And they have only made life worse, more violent, less democratic, every place they have intervened. That’s class war.

The U.S. has made every effort to destabilize progressive governments in Latin American and Caribbean countries through sanctions and coups. In Venezuela they went so far as to handpick their own “president” Juan Guaidó, who has absolutely no support at home.

### The war at home

While the Pentagon was committing mass murder abroad, capitalist globalization increased the exploitation of the working class at home. Workers received an ever smaller proportion of the wealth they produced.

Most productivity gains came from increasing the hours and intensity of the workday. Technology advances eliminated union jobs. Workers were forced to take gig jobs, where the rate of exploitation is even greater.

The first months of the COVID-19 pandemic brought awareness of the value of all workers to society: Every evening we cheered for health caregivers, supermarket clerks, messengers, delivery people, teachers.

And then these workers started to fight back and demand a bigger piece of the wealth they created. Amazon and Starbucks workers organized; nurses demonstrated for themselves and for their patients; and railroad workers dared to threaten a strike.

When the workers fought, the

bosses, bankers and entrepreneurs, Warren Buffett’s class, answered by hiring union-busting firms, threatening firings, disrupting union votes; and when it came to a possible freight railroad strike, they got President Joe Biden to block it. That’s class war.

In the summer of 2020, mass demonstrations shouted to stop funding cops in response to the murder of George Floyd. It almost seemed police brutality was in retreat. But even after an electoral defeat for racist Donald Trump, the Biden administration expanded funding for cops just as it did for the Pentagon.

The latest report shows a record number, 1,196 killings by police in 2022, with the usual disproportionate number of police victims being people of color and/or people with disabilities. (mappingpoliceviolence.us) That’s class war.

Making reproductive rights illegal — as the Republican Party has pushed for — and the vicious attack on LGBTQ+ rights, promoting violent assaults, are also part of the war on the working class at home.

Buffett knew in 2006 that this class war exists. Our first task is to make sure our class knows it — and then to mobilize to fight back. This week in mid-January, to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who called out the war at home in 1967, we are marching in the streets against the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine. And we are marching in solidarity with striking nurses in New York City.

Our class must unite if we are to win. That too is class war. □

# Stop Israel’s racist genocide! Free Palestine!

By Otis Grotewohl

The racist, apartheid government of Israel wasted no time in starting off the new year by murdering two young Palestinian men, while threatening further Zionist settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli forces murdered 22-year-old Mohammad Samer Hoshiyeh and 25-year-old Fouad Mohammad Abed on Jan. 2 in Kufr Dan, a town northwest of Jenin in the West Bank. The killings occurred after Zionist officers raided the community to demolish the homes of two other Palestinians, who had been shot down at a Jamaleh checkpoint last September.

Additionally, Israeli occupiers killed at least 171 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2022. At least 9,000 more Palestinians were reported injured that year. (Al Jazeera, Jan. 2)

The recent atrocities coincide with promises made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his new far-right government, formed following the Nov. 1 elections. Netanyahu made several extreme right-wing appointments, including his choice of scandalous ultranationalist Itamar Ben-Gvir as National Security Minister. This reactionary bigot has a sordid track record of espousing violent anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia.

Netanyahu’s new coalition government, which is led by his own Likud Party, as well as segments of the Shas and Religious Zionism Parties, is so right wing that even the corporate media is expressing concern. A USA Today article warned, “The triumph clears the way for Netanyahu to form the most right-wing government in the history of Israel.” (Nov. 2, 2022) In addition to their pledge to enhance settlements in the West Bank, these reactionaries vow to legalize “wildcat” terrorist Zionist settlements.

Netanyahu’s new administration openly embraces plans to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community throughout the region and will even target Israeli citizens. This is a different approach from that of previous Israeli administrations, including those presided over by Netanyahu. In recent years, the Israeli government would “pinkwash” the settler state by bragging about how “inclusive” the brutal Israeli Defense Forces were, in comparison to the U.S. military!

### U.N. condemns Israeli occupation

The United Nations General Assembly conducted a vote on Dec. 30, on asking the International Court of Justice at The Hague to provide an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel’s illegal occupation

of the Palestinian territories. The vote overwhelmingly passed, with 87 member countries in favor of adopting the request, including those in the Arab world, Russia and China. The U.S.. Israel and 24 other members voted against it, and 53 countries abstained. (Al Jazeera, Dec. 31)

While this vote came too late, 75 years after the U.N. General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, despite Palestinian objections, some Palestinians celebrated the recent U.N. vote as a small victory. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a representative of Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, stated: “The time has come for Israel to be a state subject to law and to be held accountable for its ongoing crimes against our people.” (ndtv.com, Jan. 1)

In retaliation against the U.N. vote, Netanyahu and his bigoted crew arbitrarily proposed a new package of sanctions to further terrorize the Palestinian people. According to the Quds Press, the proposed sanctions include withdrawing VIP cards granted to senior Palestinian Authority officials. These cards give the officials and their immediate family members access to Israeli cities and the right to go through Israeli checkpoints that are off-limits to other Palestinians. (Middle East Monitor, Jan. 2)

As the ultrarightist coalition government of Israel is doubling down on its attack against the Palestinian people, it is important for anti-imperialists in the U.S. to express solidarity with the struggle for their liberation. Now is the time for activists to help organize protests for Palestine and encourage boycotts, divestments and other actions against the Zionist, colonial settler state.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! □

## 231 Palestinians were murdered in 2022



GRAPHIC: PALESTINE ONLINE

The Zionist regime murdered over 230 Palestinians last year.

# Japan rearms under Washington’s pressure

By Sara Flounders

The Dec. 16 announcement by Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of a new defense strategy, while doubling military spending by 2027 to implement it, is the largest defense shake-up in decades and a wake-up call to the antiwar movement.

The decision includes openly acquiring offensive weapons and reshaping its military command structure for its expanded armed forces. On Dec. 23, the draft budget was approved by Kishida’s cabinet.

Japan’s dangerous military expansion should set off international alarm bells. This major escalation is taking place based on intense U.S. imperialist pressure. It is the next step in the “Pivot to Asia,” aimed at threatening and surrounding China and attempting to reassert U.S. dominance in the Asia Pacific.

The movements opposing endless U.S. wars must begin to prepare material and draw mass attention to this ominous threat.

The plan to double military spending will add \$315 billion to Japan’s defense budget over the next five years and make Japan’s military the world’s third largest, after the U.S. and China. Defense spending will escalate to 2% of gross domestic product, equal to the goal the U.S. sets for its NATO allies. Japan’s economy is the world’s third largest.

The Japanese government plans to buy up to 500 Lockheed Martin Tomahawk missiles and Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM), procure more naval vessels and fighter aircraft, increase cyber warfare capabilities, manufacture its own hypersonic guided missiles and produce its own advanced fighter jets, along with other weapons. The plan shifts from relying solely on missile defense to also embracing “counterstrike” capabilities.

Three key security documents — the National Security Strategy (NSS), as well as the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and the Defense Buildup Program (DBP) — shed some of the postwar constraints on the Japanese military.

### Article 9 — a class struggle against military rearmament

Although the U.S. occupation force, after defeating Japan’s military in World War II, imposed a “pacifist” constitution on Japan, for decades now U.S. strategists have pressured Japan’s government to aggressively rearm, and especially to buy U.S.-made weapons, to act as a junior partner to U.S. efforts to dominate the Asia-Pacific region.

Article 9 of the imposed Japanese constitution prohibits Japan from maintaining an army, navy and air force. To get around this, the “Japanese Self-Defense Forces” (JSDF) have since 1952 been treated as a legal extension of the police and prison system. The U.S. occupiers considered the JSDF an essential repressive tool defending capitalist property relations against the workers’ movement.

The decision for aggressive military expansion is in open violation of Japan’s supposedly pacifist constitution.

The effort to “reinterpret” Article 9 has been a continuing political struggle inside Japan. Mass rallies of hundreds of thousands have mobilized many times in defense of Article 9, which offers a clear prohibition of Japan’s maintaining a military force. The widespread opposition to the Japanese military and to constitutional change comes from working people, mobilized by the unions and the communist and socialist movements.

This movement pointed out to everyone how the wartime militarist regime of the 1930s and 1940s carried out brutal repression and led Japan into WWII. The people know from bitter experience that these ultrarightist forces, whose roots are in

historic Japanese colonialism, are the real threat to their rights and the social gains they have made.

The present doubling of the military budget will be funded by raising taxes. A huge military budget will inevitably mean severe cuts to the country’s limited social spending.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which has held power almost continually since the 1950s, is right-wing, pro-military and allied to U.S. imperialism, especially against China and North Korea. They have been pushing for an end to the constitutional and legal restrictions on the country’s military.

The assassination of retired Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 8, 2022, just two days before Japan’s election, brought additional votes to the LDP. It was able to win the two-thirds supermajority in Parliament, needed to move forward aggressively with its military plans.

The doubling of NATO’s membership and NATO’s targeting of Russia have led to war in Ukraine, when the U.S. government imposed thousands of new sanctions against Russia, and the U.S. has ruptured the European Union’s mutually beneficial trade with Russia.

### Targeting China

Japan’s military expansion fits in with Washington’s aggression aimed at China, the DPRK and Russia. U.S. strategists’ goal is to use the U.S. alliance with Japan, South Korea and Australia, just as it uses the U.S.-led NATO alliance in Europe.

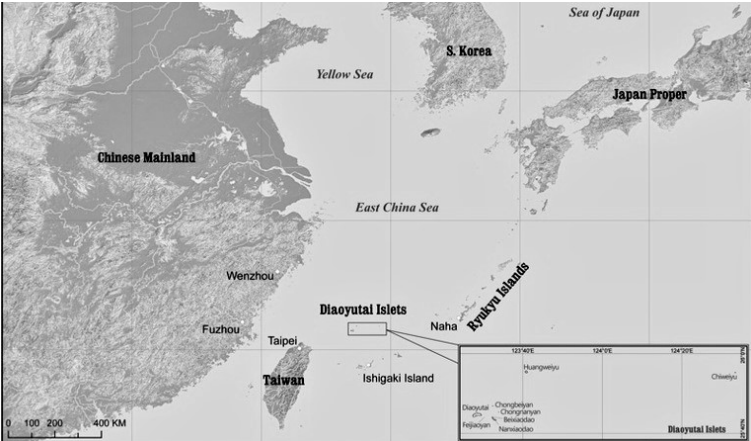
China is Japan’s largest trading partner in both imports and exports. Previous National Strategy documents said Japan was seeking a “mutually beneficial strategic partnership” with China. Suddenly Japanese strategists started labeling China “the greatest strategic challenge in ensuring the peace and security of Japan.” (U.S. Institute of Peace, Dec. 19)

Japan had expanded trade with Russia in gas, oil, autos and machinery. Previously Japan’s Dec. 17, 2013, National Security Strategy document called for “enhanced ties and cooperation with Russia.” Now Japan considers Russia a “strong security concern.” (USIP, Dec. 19)

A U.S.-Japan alliance is now defined as a “cornerstone” of Japan’s security policy. (Japan Times, Dec. 17)

### U.S. praise of Japan’s rising militarism

The U.S. media praised Japan’s new security strategy document as a “bold and historic step.” U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan praised the defense spending hike, which “will strengthen and modernize the U.S.-Japan alliance.” U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Japan an “indispensable partner” and cheered that the changed security



Okinawa is the largest of the Ryukyu islands.

documents reshape the ability to “protect the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world.” (quotes, whitehouse.gov, Dec. 16)

U.S. corporate power is the immediate beneficiary of this sharp turn in policy, built on military threats and economic sanctions.

Foreign Affairs Magazine calls the announcement: “a profound transformation” and states: “The new national security strategy, however, represents a stunning change. ... [T]he government is enacting policies that have been debated for decades but were always blocked. Until now ... Japan’s new national security strategy should be applauded: ” (Foreign Affairs, Dec. 23)

### U.S. needs collaborators

U.S. policy toward the defeated capitalist class in Germany, Italy and Japan was remarkably similar. At the end of WWII, many of the industrial leaders who had backed these fascist regimes were quietly protected and rehabilitated in Japan, Germany and Italy, along with the fascist collaborators who fled from workers’ control in Eastern Europe.

The U.S. and later NATO used the rehabilitated fascists against a rising workers movement in West Europe and against socialist construction in Eastern Europe. U.S. corporations, who had aggressively moved into the defeated Axis countries, needed insurance that their investments would be protected from the strike waves.

By 1950 the U.S. was at war on the Korean peninsula and, while using U.S. troops in Korea, needed a military force for “peacekeeping and self-defense” of capitalist property relations in Japan. Germany, Italy and Japan began to rearm during that period.

The impact on Okinawa

A chain of 150 islands called the Ryukyu Archipelago, of which the largest island is Okinawa, 400 miles from the Japanese mainland, is in reality a colony of Japan. Its population of 1.74 million people suffers from Tokyo’s rule and from the occupation by U.S. military bases. Okinawa is geographically closer to Taiwan than it is to the main islands of Japan.

Upgrading and strengthening Japanese ground units on Okinawa is part of the

new National Security Strategy (NSS). Other islands, which are part of the chain southwest of Japan, will be further militarized.

Upgrading of Japan’s 15th Brigade on these islands for future electronic warfare, cyber warfare and joint operations of the ground, maritime and air forces are clearly a sign of plans to intervene in the Taiwan Straits.

In recent years, Japan has deployed anti-ship and air-defense missiles on its southwest islands of Amami Oshima, Okinawa Main Island, Miyako Island and a missile base on Ishigaki Island, the island closest to Taiwan.

More than 50,000 U.S. troops remain as an occupying force in Japan, at present the largest U.S. occupation force in any country. More than half of U.S. troops are based on Okinawa.

Okinawa residents, the Indigenous Ryukyu people, have spent decades protesting the constant presence of the U.S. military in their daily lives. There are now 31 U.S. military installations on the island prefecture of Okinawa, which accounts for 74% of the area of all U.S. military bases in Japan, although Okinawa only constitutes 0.6% of Japanese territory.

The U.S. maintains 73 military bases and 28,500 troops in South Korea. Both South Korea and Japan are forced to pay for “hosting” these troops of occupation.

### ‘Using North Korea threat as cover’

Japan has previously justified its remilitarization by claiming North Korea is a threat. However, retired Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Admiral Tomohisa Takei told the media that China has been the main target for which Japan has been preparing, “by using North Korea’s threat as cover.” (AP, Dec. 17)

Both Japan and South Korea engage on a regular basis in coordinated military drills under U.S. command threatening North Korea. Massive demonstrations in South Korea and missiles fired from targeted North Korea respond to these military provocations.

This cynical admission of the planning and preparation for war, while claiming self-defense, is similar to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Dec. 8 admission that the signing of the 2014 Minsk Agreement was not a peace treaty with Russia. Merkel confirmed that NATO wanted war from the start but needed time to prepare Ukraine militarily. (interview in Die Zeit, Dec. 7)

Having goaded Russia into an invasion of Ukraine in a bid to weaken and fragment Russia, the U.S. is next seeking to turn Taiwan into a military quagmire for China. The Biden administration is facilitating Taiwan’s purchase of advanced weaponry from the U.S. and greater diplomatic ties with the island. □

## MUNDO OBRERO 2022, el año en que se despertó la clase obrera en EE.UU.

Continúa de page 8

enemigos de la clase obrera, al igual que lo son los republicanos.

El momento de la verdad

La perspectiva de un levantamiento obrero aún se enfrenta a muchos obstáculos. Las empresas ya se han opuesto con dureza a los trabajadores mediante una brutal represión sindical. Acosan a los trabajadores, despiden a algunos,

presentan demandas judiciales contra los sindicatos. Los propietarios e inversores capitalistas están desesperados por amontonar más beneficios dentro de un sistema en crisis perpetua.

Y los y las trabajadores se enfrentan a un gobierno que está en pie de guerra, suministrando armas a una guerra por procuración contra Rusia en Ucrania y enviando buques de guerra a la costa de China. Pocas armas son más eficaces para combatir la solidaridad obrera que

una campaña de propaganda patriótica.

Es difícil predecir cómo reaccionarán los y las trabajadores en los E.U.A. a medida que se agrave la crisis económica y bélica. Para aquellos de nosotros en E.U.A. que despreciamos la guerra, el imperialismo y toda la explotación capitalista, no hay otra opción que alentar la nueva combatividad entre los trabajadores y ayudar a construir la solidaridad entre toda la clase obrera. □



Enfermeras preparan para la lucha, Nueva York.

# Aprobado el presupuesto de guerra

Días antes de Año Nuevo, el presidente Joe Biden firmó un proyecto de ley ómnibus de 1,7 billones de dólares para el año fiscal 2023, asignando el presupuesto para ese sector del gasto federal llamado “discrecional”. Si uno tuviera que describir el proyecto de ley en dos palabras, serían: “crimen de guerra”. Antes de examinar el papel de los partidos imperialistas de guerra republicano y demócrata en el manejo de este proyecto de ley, debemos describir el presupuesto como realmente es.

El presupuesto proporciona los fondos para una guerra contra los pueblos del mundo, incluida la clase obrera de Estados Unidos. Entrega al Pentágono más dinero del que Biden siquiera pidió, más de 850,000 millones de dólares. Financia la guerra por poderes en Ucrania contra Rusia; aumenta la ayuda militar al régimen israelí para oprimir a los palestinos y apoderarse de más de sus tierras.

Sumando Construcción Militar/Asuntos de Veteranos, Seguridad Nacional y el desembolso para policía y prisiones al presupuesto para el Departamento de Defensa, más de 1,1 billones de dólares se

utilizarán para reforzar el aparato represivo del Estado.

Eso proviene principalmente de gravar los ingresos retenidos de la clase trabajadora. Recordemos que un billón significa un millón de millones, la cifra 1 seguido de 12 ceros.

El carácter de este presupuesto no es ninguna sorpresa para los marxistas que prestan atención al gasto público. Un análisis en el Speaking Security Newsletter (stephensemle.substack.com) resume ese presupuesto. El presupuesto utiliza los impuestos de los trabajadores para financiar el alcance mundial del Pentágono y el saqueo imperialista y para imponer la explotación de la clase obrera en casa.

En cuanto a los dos partidos que son las alas políticas del Partido de la Guerra imperialista, ambos apoyaron el gasto militar y añadieron fondos a las propuestas de Biden. La ley ómnibus de gastos fue aprobada por la Cámara 225-201. Todos los demócratas de la Cámara menos dos votaron a favor del presupuesto; todos los republicanos menos ocho votaron en contra. En el Senado, muchos senadores republicanos votaron a favor, y todos los

demócratas lo hicieron, incluido Bernie Sanders.

De los demócratas de la Cámara, solo Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez votó en contra del presupuesto, y Rashida Tlaib votó “presente”, que es algo así como abstenerse. Esto significa que incluso el sector más progresista y socialdemócrata del Partido Demócrata solo tuvo una oposición simbólica.

Muchos republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes hicieron ruido objetando las elevadas sumas destinadas a la ayuda militar al régimen de Kiev en Ucrania, pero nadie debería malinterpretar su voto negativo como una oposición a la guerra imperialista. Se pronunciaron principalmente en contra de cualquier parte del presupuesto total que pudiera ayudar a algunos de los miembros más pobres de la sociedad estadounidense, a los que consideran indignos, incluso de las migajas ofrecidas. Y se quejaron de que se enviara ayuda a Ucrania pero no se construyera un muro en la frontera sur de Estados Unidos para castigar a los seres humanos del Sur Global por las crisis que ha creado el imperialismo.

Los demócratas, por su parte, se jactaron de haber impulsado algunos programas que benefician a los pobres. En la pequeña medida en que eso era cierto, no justifica el voto a favor de este presupuesto de guerra. Alimentar la guerra en Ucrania entraña el riesgo de una confrontación nuclear con Rusia, y los continuos movimientos beligerantes del Pentágono contra China pueden fácilmente pasar de la guerra fría a la caliente: un crimen de guerra.

La votación del presupuesto demostró una vez más que cualquier movimiento que quiera detener la acumulación de guerra imperialista debe abandonar la creencia de que elegir a políticos del Partido Demócrata lo logrará. En su lugar, hay que mirar al movimiento en desarrollo en la clase obrera; organizar manifestaciones en las calles -como las convocadas este mes por la United National Antiwar Coalition- y construir un movimiento al margen de los dos partidos capitalistas dominantes.

Ellos son los criminales de guerra — la clase obrera debe ser los resistentes a la guerra. □

## 2022, el año en que se despertó la clase obrera en EE.UU.

Por John Catalinotto  
1 de enero de 2023

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La clase trabajadora de los E.U.A. en 2022 irrumpió en acción. Las y los trabajadores de los depósitos de Amazon, los baristas de Starbucks, los presos, los mineros del carbón, las enfermeras, los profesores y los estudiantes de posgrado y otras se organizaron y resistieron al capital. Muchos se declararon en huelga.

¿Veremos en 2023 enfrentamientos cada vez más agudos entre las y los trabajadores de los E.U.A. y la clase dominante imperialista? Recordemos que estos multimillonarios propietarios de monopolios y bancos con sede en los E.U.A. siguen controlando con el dólar, las armas y la palabra. Sus políticos, burócratas y generales a su servicio controlan el Tesoro, el Pentágono y la policía. Sus medios de comunicación y sus intelectuales comprados manejan la máquina de propaganda más eficaz de la historia.

Que los trabajadores en el vientre de la bestia puedan librar una guerra de clases parece imposible. Sin embargo, en 2022 se produjeron luchas de clases nunca vistas en décadas. La opinión pública se mostró más favorable a los sindicatos que en el último medio siglo. El ánimo de confrontación creció a medida que la vida de la gente se hacía menos estable.

Una encuesta Gallup de agosto mostró que el 71% de la población aprobaba los sindicatos. Esta cifra es superior al 48% de 2008. Es la cifra más alta desde 1965, cuando más del 30% de los trabajadores pertenecían a sindicatos (ahora son alrededor del 10%). Esto ocurrió a pesar

de la constante propaganda antisindical durante ese mismo medio siglo.

### Jóvenes, trabajadores marginados

El 1 de enero de 2022, sólo había una cafetería Starbucks sindicada: en Buffalo, Nueva York. Para el 9 de diciembre de 2022 había cerca de 270 tiendas cuyas trabajadoras votaban para ser representadas por los sindicatos. El sindicato Amazon Labor Union consiguió una victoria histórica al organizar el primer depósito de Amazon en los E.U.A. el 1 de abril en Staten Island, Nueva York. La ALU llevó a cabo una impresionante campaña multilingüe y multicultural que llegó a todos los trabajadores y consiguió que más de la mitad se afiliaran al sindicato. En ambos monopolios antisindicales predominan los trabajadores jóvenes, la mayoría nunca antes sindicados.

La enorme población carcelaria usamericana está entre las más marginadas. Sin embargo, en Alabama, 25.000 presos, en su mayoría afroamericanos, de 17 prisiones distintas, pararon el trabajo en protesta del 26 de septiembre al 2 de octubre. Condenaron las condiciones asesinas de las cárceles, donde se ven obligados a trabajar. En sus cartas desde dentro, los organizadores firmaban como “esclavos de Alabama” y decían que la huelga es “en protesta por el mantenimiento de la institución de la neoesclavitud”. (tinyurl.com/2bk43x3a)

En otoño de 2022, más de 70.000 trabajadores de la educación lucharon por un sindicato o por la mejora de sus contratos. Entre ellas había estudiantes de posgrado de la Universidad de California, la Universidad de Boston, Northwestern, el Instituto Tecnológico de Massachusetts, la Universidad de Alaska y Yale.

En la New School, una universidad de Nueva York, los profesores adjuntos

celebraron una huelga de tres semanas y consiguieron un contrato más el pago de importantes atrasos salariales. Los profesores adjuntos no tienen seguridad ni protección laboral y, al igual que los y las estudiantes de postgrado, son los trabajadores más explotados de las grandes universidades.

Más de 3.000 miembros del Sindicato de Trabajadores Titulados de la Universidad de Boston (BUGWU) celebraron el 7 de diciembre una victoria electoral del 98,1% para su sindicato. Algunos investigadores laborales han calificado la votación de 1.414 a 28 como “la victoria electoral de la NLRB más asimétrica de la historia de una unidad de negociación de más de 1.000 personas”.

(En Estados Unidos, para ser representado por un sindicato, si el patrón no está de acuerdo voluntariamente, las trabajadoras deben ganar una votación gestionada por la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales).

Los trabajadores de color, las mujeres y los trabajadores con género oprimido, LGBTQ+ y discapacitados se encuentran entre los líderes de estas históricas batallas de clase.

### Sindicatos tradicionales

El ambiente de lucha se extendió de los no organizados a los trabajadores ya sindicados. Un sector fue el de las enfermeras sindicadas, miembros de la Asociación de Enfermeras del Estado de Nueva York. Los dirigentes de su sindicato les pidieron que autorizaran una huelga por el 9 de enero contra los hospitales privados de Nueva York. El voto compromete a ir a la huelga si el contrato vigente expira antes de que lleguen a un acuerdo con la dirección del hospital. Este 22 de diciembre, unas 14.000 de las 17.000 enfermeras de la NYSNA ya habían terminado de

votar. Un 98,8% votó a favor de autorizar la huelga.

Las enfermeras se han visto especialmente afectadas por el COVID-19 y otras epidemias, los hospitales han recortado personal para ahorrar en salarios y las enfermeras se han visto obligadas a trabajar duramente durante muchas horas, en condiciones peligrosas para ellas y para los pacientes. Ahora las enfermeras están enfadadas, unidas y creen que pueden ganar.

Los ferroviarios de todos los oficios se han visto acorralados por la patronal y sus numerosos sindicatos están al borde de la huelga. Se trata de los trenes de mercancías, que transportan enormes cantidades de mercancías a grandes distancias. Los trabajadores mueven la misma carga que en 1990 con aproximadamente un tercio de la mano de obra. Esto genera enormes beneficios para los propietarios.

Los trenes de mercancías constan de cientos de vagones. Sólo un maquinista y un conductor copilotan los megatrenes. La patronal quiere reducir ese número a un maquinista, un paso peligroso. Además, los ferroviarios no tienen días de baja por enfermedad.

Los ferroviarios rara vez hacen huelga. Una ley federal permite al gobierno intervenir para detener las huelgas. Ya lo ha hecho en el pasado. El transporte de mercancías es esencial para la economía nacional. El 30 de noviembre el gobierno de Joe Biden obligó a los sindicatos a desconvocar la huelga. Biden y el Congreso demócrata no proporcionaron ninguna baja adicional.

Los demócratas fingen estar a favor de los y las trabajadores. La acción antiobrero de Biden expuso el papel del presidente y del Partido Demócrata como