

France

Millions strike to defend pensions

By G. Dunkel

With a tremendous jolt to the government’s attempt to raise the legal retirement age from 62 to 64 years, over 2 million people stopped work Jan. 19 and came out into the streets. They were heeding a Jan. 10 call from a coalition of all the major unions in France.

Even if it was clear that a demonstration/general strike was in the offing, such a turnout supports public opinion polls reporting that four out of five people living in France oppose what the government calls a pension “reform.” Workers not only rejected the rise in retirement age from 62 to 64, they demanded it be reduced to 60.

According to Radio France International, “38,000 people in Lyon, 36,000 in Toulouse, 26,000 in Marseilles, 25,000 in Nantes, 19,000 in Clermont-Ferrand, 15,000 in Montpellier, 14,000 in Tours, 12,000 in Perpignan and Orleans, 6,500



Youth organizations in Paris, Jan. 21. Banner reads ‘Commute, job, grave,’ a play on an often quoted meme.

in Mulhouse and Perigueux” came out to protest in some 200 cities (Jan. 19). The size and breadth of the protest shows the widespread depth of the feeling

against this pension “reform,” even in isolated, rural areas, and it puts tremendous pressure on President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne.

The 400,000 people who came out in Paris to protest had an impact on the president. Instead of facing them, Macron fled to Spain with 11 of his top ministers. Macron’s background is as a banking official, and his closest ties are to international banking and the big European bourgeoisie.

Fabien Roussel, national secretary of the French Communist Party, caught the mood of the moment when he described the government’s “violence,” which would “hit the people hard,” especially the poorest people. “We are going to make the walls of the Elysée tremble. All together, all together.” [The Elysée is the seat of the French government.]

The television reports on the demonstration mainly focused on those who are already retired, coming out in solidarity with the active workers, the youth expressing fear for their future, and dance groups dressed in “Rosie-the-Riveter” outfits opposing this cut in retirement benefits. A broad swath of the people living in France came out.

Refinery workers, who have been striking from time to time over the past month, said they appreciated the support the demonstration gave them. Electricity workers made it known that they had consciously reduced output by 50%, which gave an opening to the calls for “blocking production” if the government doesn’t back down.

This outbreak of class struggle in Paris appears off to a good start for the workers. □



Paris, Jan. 19. Banner reads, ‘Work longer? No way!’

State murder of Forest Defender	2
Honoring WWP chairperson	
Sam Marcy (1911-1998)	4
Oregon nurses strike	4
Editorial	
Let the ruling classes tremble!	4

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Behind involuntary commitment

3

Honor MLK —

Abolish death penalty



Portland, Oregon, Jan. 19, 2023. More on protests, page 5.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

The killing of Forest Defender Tortuguita

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta, Georgia

Public outrage, resistance and sadness at the senseless killing of a Forest Defender — 26-year-old Manuel Teran, known as Tortuguita (Little Turtle) — continues daily since his death on the morning of Jan. 18.

The police story that Teran fired first at a Georgia State Trooper, one of dozens of heavily armed police raiding the encampments in the Weelaunee Forest, has been met with universal disbelief by those who knew the young activist. Likewise, others well-acquainted with false narratives supplied by police to justify their illegal actions will say the names of Kathryn Johnson, Anthony Hill, Jamarion Robinson or Jimmy Atchison. When they were killed, the police accounts were proven untrue.

Tortuguita, a nonbinary person of Venezuelan heritage, had been engaged for many months in building a resistance community with other Defenders and neighboring residents in the forested land, owned by Atlanta but located in DeKalb County.

Just days before his killing, in another early morning raid by police agencies on Dec. 13, 2022, six people sheltering in tree houses were sprayed with tear gas and shot at with pepper balls to force them down. They were arrested and charged with “domestic terrorism” and initially allowed no bail. A seventh person driving by in a car, filming the scene, was later arrested as well.

Officials from the Atlanta chief of police to Mayor Andre Dickens to Governor Brian Kemp have repeatedly used the words “domestic terrorism” to vilify the movement to stop Cop City.

Solidarity events have been held in multiple cities across the U.S. to mourn and remember the life of Tortuguita.

The struggle erupted in the closing months of Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms’ term in 2021 when she abruptly announced she was not going to run for a second term. A



Manuel Teran, known as Tortuguita, a Forest Defender murdered by Georgia State Troopers.

week later, without any public notice, the Atlanta Police Foundation was given use of the land to build an enormous, \$90-million police training facility — complete with a helicopter port, a “mock city” to practice crowd control and urban warfare tactics, firing ranges, an area to practice using explosive devices, and numerous buildings, cement parking lots and roads. Completely ignored was a 2017 City Council resolution declaring the area as a green space in perpetuity.

Opposition to the “done deal” erupted immediately from residents of the largely Black and working-class neighborhoods, conservation and environmental groups, anti-police violence activists, social justice organizations, school children and Indigenous people across the country. These united forces labeled the project “Cop City.” The struggle to overturn the deal began.

The City Council was pressured to hold public comment sessions where an unprecedented 17 hours of comments were heard in-person plus many more online. More than 70% of those commenting opposed Cop City, with mostly wealthy residents of Buckhead in north Atlanta, the Chamber of Commerce and the highly influential, corporate

Continued on page 3

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

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

♦ In the U.S.

International webinar on Sam Marcy’s legacy4
Over 90 protests say NO to U.S./NATO wars.5

♦ Around the world

France: Millions strike against pension cuts1

♦ Tear down the walls

What’s behind involuntary confinement?3
Honor MLK – Abolish the death penalty3

♦ Editorial

Let the ruling classes tremble!4

♦ Noticias en Español

Detener el golpe fascista en Brasil6
El sistema sanitario cubano6

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 65, No. 4 • January 26, 2023
Closing date: January 25, 2023

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2023 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.





What’s behind involuntary commitment?

By Olujimi Alade

Eric Adams, a man who prides himself on bringing some “swagger” back to the New York City mayoral office, has seemingly made good on his promise. Near the end of November, Mayor Adams announced a plan to involuntarily commit homeless people to mental institutions. This is just another step in the ever-increasing power of the carceral state.

As more and more people become aware of the carceral state and the way it employs law enforcement in service, rebellions against police brutality and its harmful effects increased in the late 2010s and early 2020s. What isn’t known, however, is the way law enforcement and other organs of the carceral state weaponize involuntary commitment in order to punish people of color, especially if they are Black, in disproportionate numbers.

In 2020 in Florida, a tragic case involving a 6-year-old girl falling victim to the state’s Baker Act made headlines. This Act, employed to involuntarily commit individuals for 72 hours, was weaponized to traumatize an innocent child, who was trying to get an education, leaving her with a psychological scar that will likely never heal. A similar incident happened to a 6-year-old boy in 2022.

What makes the 2020 incident even more heartbreaking is that this girl was Black and had autism. Her traumatic experiences were indicative of the way children of color are treated, not only by law enforcement but by the same mental health system that purports to “make a difference.”

The terror of involuntary commitment Black people often face harms far more people than it claims to help.

Hitting close to home

Involuntary commitment has impacted someone I know. A while ago, a victim of sexual assault in school and being demonized and blamed for it by teachers and counselors, they decided to run away from home in order to spare their family the shame and embarrassment.

Being underage and not being able to acquire a job, they asked for food stamps, naively thinking they would get them. What followed was a campaign of “gaslighting,” coercion and psychological subterfuge to find any reason or excuse to involuntarily commit them into a psychological institution.

This went as far as violating the rights of their family in order to “secure custody,” in order to ship them off into an institution where they had to endure months of more sexual abuse, lies and manipulation, all the while being force-fed multiple antidepressants against their will.

Looking back, they did not perceive it as helpful and beneficial in any way, shape or form. And as a matter of fact, they still suffer from PTSD as a result of having had their civil rights violated in despicable and unnecessary acts.

And they are not alone in experiencing this. People institutionalized against their will report not being helped or comforted but rather being violated, abused and manipulated by the “treatment” they received in inpatient mental health clinics. Which begs the question: What’s the purpose of taking people and stripping them of their rights and their autonomy?

Punishing children, activists

The purpose is to demonize and further oppress marginalized people who are the most vulnerable. There have been numerous reports and stories about involuntary commitment being used on people of color. What is more horrifying is that disabled and neurodivergent people are frequent victims of involuntary hospitalization. The aforementioned case of the six-year old with autism is an indicator of how the system treats neurodivergent children.

Children on the spectrum are up to six times more likely to be institutionalized than children who are not on the spectrum. (National Library of Medicine) And this is happening as neoliberal-influenced school districts across the country are gutting funding for “special education” programs.

Beyond targeting vulnerable people, involuntary hospitalization has been used as a tool of power to disarm and silence dissenters who have either rebelled against the U.S. capitalism paradigm or fought for racial equality.

During the Sacco and Vanzetti trials of the 1920s, when two Italian immigrant anarchist activists were executed following a sham of a trial, a young activist named

Aurora D’Angelo was forced into a mental asylum for protesting the injustice.

In 1958, Pastor Clennon King, registered as a student at the University of Mississippi, was sent to a mental institution, because, according to the Jim Crow laws of the time, “only insanity could make a Black man think he could apply to the university.” (reddit.com)

Imagine anyone thinking that pursuing a higher education renders you a threat to yourself and others around you!

With the wave of anti-LGBTQ2S+ laws sweeping the country and the persistent demonization of trans people in the media, anyone who challenges the patriarchal cultural paradigm in any way, shape or form is especially in danger of being committed in today’s political climate.

One cannot go one second without hearing a “talking head” on the news ramble on about how “gender ideologists” are “mentally ill and corrupting the youth.” This pontification will likely lead to trans people bearing the brunt of what will likely be increasingly draconian institutionalization laws.

Combine this with the fact that transgender individuals are more likely to be homeless than other populations, the target on their backs will be even bigger, including in Adams’ New York City.

Involuntary hospitalization is seldom talked about as a violation of a person’s humanity, but it is another form of violence as police brutality. It is time to bring this inhumane practice into the spotlight and call it out for what it is: another form of repression. □

Honor MLK – Abolish the death penalty

Activists with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Jan. 16, announcing to thousands lining downtown streets that the best way to honor Dr. King is to fight to end racist violence, including executions.

Houston’s Black Heritage Society held its 45th annual Original MLK Parade, and along with politicians and marching bands was this group of activists, who have fought for decades to stop Texas executions.

Young children with family members on death row handed out candy to children watching the parade. Lee Greenwood, mother of Joseph Nichols, executed in 2007, came as she does every year. Vicky Reyes, mother of Juan Balderas, carried a banner for her son, along with his spouse, Yancy.

Vickie Curry, who supports her spouse George, carried signs supporting the women on death row. Letha Irvin, niece of the longest serving man on Texas death row, Harvey Earvin, brought three kids and helped pass out

information. The sign she brought was a crowd favorite. It read: I HAVE A DREAM—NO DEATH ROW!

— Photo and caption by Gloria Rubac, Houston



Death row families are activists for their loved ones. Vicky Reyes; Yancy Balderas, mother and spouse of prisoner Juan Balderas; and Vickie Curry, spouse of George Curry.

The killing of Forest Defender Tortuguita

Continued from page 2

members of the Atlanta Police Foundation in support. When the Council finally voted, the Cop City plan was approved by a 10-4 vote.

Not the first time the people were betrayed

Weelaunee Forest was the historic home of Muscogee Creek peoples for untold generations. In the 1830s they were forcibly removed by the U.S. military on the Trail of Tears; and the land, some 3,500 acres, was transferred to the hands of enslaving plantation elites. Enslaved Africans toiled their lives away and were undoubtedly buried there.

Then in 1918, during the Jim Crow era, the Bureau of Prisons and the nearby Atlanta federal penitentiary bought over 1,000 acres for a prison farm to grow crops to feed inmates. Mainly Black prisoners, convicted of low-level “crimes” like vagrancy, loitering and public drunkenness, labored for free in horrible living conditions and were subjected to brutal treatment. It is believed their unmarked

graves lie among the trees that cover the Atlanta Prison Farm’s acres.

In 1965 the city of Atlanta appears to have acquired the property, which is the largest existing expanse of green space in the area. The Atlanta Prison Farm was finally closed in 1995.

Why is the Atlanta Police Foundation so powerful?

Established in 2003, the Atlanta Police Foundation has a structural relationship with Atlanta’s mayor, chief of police and police department. Its executive officers, Board of Directors and donors come from the largest and wealthiest corporations in the country, including banks, law firms, investment companies, sports teams and well-known corporations like Waffle House, AT&T and Georgia Pacific. Some of the most notable funders of the APF are notorious anti-union corporations like Coca-Cola, Home Depot and Delta Air Lines.

The “Atlanta Way” is a term that identifies the practice of wealthy figures, usually white men, exerting great power and influence on the decisions of Black politicians, often to the detriment of poor and

working-class communities and especially people of color. It came into being following the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre, when mobs of white men and boys killed and terrorized the Black community, burning and destroying Black-owned businesses and homes with impunity for three days.

The emerging capitalist class feared such open racist mayhem endangered their future profiteering, and they struck a deal with a section of the Black community. That led to the establishment of Auburn Avenue as the business, cultural and professional center until the 1960s. The phrase “the city too busy to hate” was coined to conceal the class war the white elite was waging.

Many consider the Cop City deal to be another manifestation of the “Atlanta Way.” The Atlanta of 2023 has the widest inequality in the U.S., while the ostentatious wealth of a few is flaunted. Multimillion-dollar homes are springing up everywhere as affordable housing disappears.

Police say there’s no video of shooting of Tortuguita

The APF has paid for thousands of surveillance cameras throughout Atlanta,

making it one of the most surveilled cities in the country. As a result of public pressure after a number of suspicious deaths by police, Atlanta police and other local departments are required to have cameras on, when dealing with the public. However, the Georgia State Troopers who advanced on the tent where Manuel Teran was sleeping only have cameras in their cars to record traffic stops, and so the claim is that there is no video to show what really happened.

What we know of Tortuguita is that they had also spent time in Florida helping with hurricane cleanup, that they created a mutual aid program to help with people’s needs and that they professed a strong belief in the organized power of the people to win.

Hundreds of people have attended the vigils, rallies and marches held every day since their death at the hands of a militarized police force, acting on behalf of a profit-at-all-cost capitalist class.

Tortuguita, iPresente! Stop Cop City! Abolish the Police! □

Let the ruling classes tremble!

The working class of France has a long and significant history in the struggle between labor and capital, including the revolutions of 1848 that engulfed several European countries. It was in the context of these revolutions that Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote the Communist Manifesto — then and now, one of the most widely read books in the world.

Marx and Engels were not the first writers to denounce capitalism and advocate a socialist or communist solution. One of their key contributions was to assert that the capitalist class (the bourgeoisie) had created “its own gravediggers” — the working class, or proletariat. The proletariat was “a revolutionary class” that would drive history forward to the abolition of class antagonisms and creation of a new society, where the means of production were owned collectively in the service of the common good.

For 175 years bourgeois economists and “political scientists” have made it their mission to prove Marx wrong and negate the historical role of the working class. They want us to believe that “communism is good in theory, but it will never work,” because human beings are greedy

by nature. How many times have we heard that?

But time and time again, with every move it makes to increase its wealth and drive down the living standards of the masses, capitalism has shown itself to be the enemy of the working class.

And once again — as in 1848, as in the 1871 Paris Commune, as in the 1968 upsurge of workers and students — the proletariat of France has responded to a push by the capitalist class to intensify exploitation with a massive display of class power. Some 2 million workers, in a country of 67.5 million, stopped work Jan. 19, with a call for another one-day strike Jan. 31.

Despite their differences, eight union federations joined forces in building for the strike. The provocation was a plan by President Emmanuel Macron, a former banker, to raise the retirement age — the age when a worker becomes pension-eligible under the state pension system — from 62 to 64.

The bourgeoisie is falling all over itself to minimize the impact of the strike. France 24 reports “I don’t think the strikes will have a really important economic impact on the French economy,” [Finance Minister Bruno] Le

Maire told Bloomberg TV at the World Economic Forum in Davos, adding that the French economy was “doing well.” (Jan. 20)

Bull! Inflation in France is nearly 7%. And if the French economy is doing so well, why even contemplate raising the retirement age?

None of this self-consolation can erase historic facts. The working class of France has once again stepped onto the stage of history, pushing the class struggle forward. This development follows massive strikes in Britain, Peru, Ecuador, India and elsewhere in the past year.

Workers World Party is in full solidarity with the growing classwide upsurge in France and around the world.

As Marx and Engels wrote in the Manifesto’s final paragraph: “Let the ruling classes tremble.” □



‘At 64, a quarter of the workers are already dead.’

International webinar on Sam Marcy’s legacy for today’s struggles

By Monica Moorehead

For over 70 years, Sam Marcy, a founding member and the late-chairperson of Workers World Party, dedicated his life to the liberation of the global multinational working class from the yoke of imperialism in all its oppressive forms. Feb. 1 will mark the 25th anniversary of his death in 1998.

In recognition of this commemoration, Workers World Party will be hosting a three-hour international webinar on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. EST; 11 a.m. PST; and 7 p.m. GMT. The program is titled: “Global Class War: Lessons from Sam Marcy for Today’s Workers Struggle.” To register, go to bit.ly/globalclasswar.

This political forum will be exploring important aspects of Marcy’s historic thesis “Global Class War,” expounded on in two documents: “Revolution” (1950) and “Destiny of American Labor” (1953). The first document came out one year following the Earth-shattering Chinese Revolution in 1949 and the second at the end of the U.S.-led war against Korea.

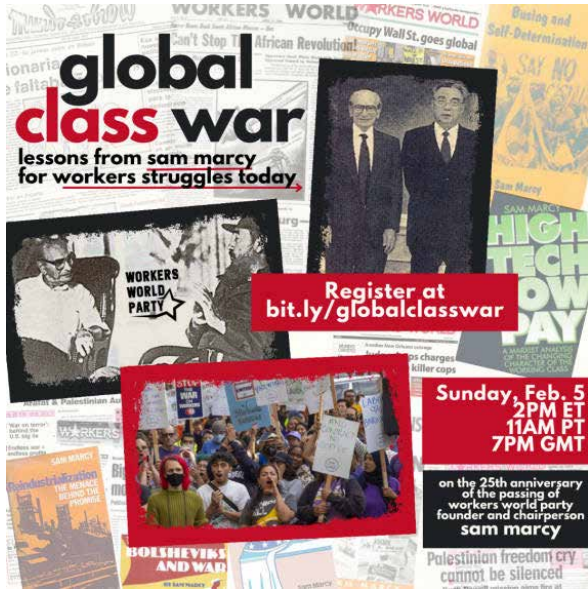
In a 1973 introduction to Marcy’s thesis, Vince Copeland, another WWP founding member, wrote: “This compilation of documents from Sam Marcy may at first sight seem a little formidable to new comrades.

But actually it is the shortest and simplest summary of the theoretical and ideological positions that led to the formation of Workers World Party that still constitute a large part of our doctrine.”

Copeland continued, “It is even possible to say that the document in particular was, when it was written in 1950 and still is today, a summary of world relation of forces between the proletariat and bourgeoisie, as well as a long-term orientation for proletarian revolutionaries.”

Since the founding of WWP in 1959, Marcy had written numerous pamphlets and books that have updated his thesis for contemporary struggles, such as “High-Tech, Low Pay”; “The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies”; “Bolsheviks and War”; “China: The Struggle Within”; “Perestroika: A Marxist Critique”; “Generals Over the White House: The Impact of the Military-Industrial Complex”; “Busing and Self-determination” and more. These books can be read at workers.org/books.

The Feb. 5 webinar will include remarks from WWP First Secretary Larry Holmes, along with plenaries and break-out groups. They will link Marcy’s writings to what is happening in the ongoing class struggle today — such as the organizing campaigns



this great Marxist-Leninist thinker and organizer continues to influence U.S. and international working-class movements. These movements must keep going until the profit-driven capitalist mode of production, which promotes poverty, inequality and war, is swept away, once and for all.

What Marcy wrote in relation to the Korean War is still applicable today: “The fact that the opening phase of the war may manifest itself (or

rather conceal itself), even if only initially and temporarily, as a war between nations, should not in the slightest degree obscure its clear-cut class character.

“It is not a war between the nations but a war between the classes in this war. The geographical boundaries are social boundaries; the battle formations are class formations, and the world line of demarcation is the line rigidly drawn by the socialist interests of the world proletariat. Every worker must know his [her and their] place as well as his [her and their] duty.” □

of Starbucks and Amazon workers; massive layoffs in high-tech industries; the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine; growing U.S. and Japanese military threats targeting China; and building class solidarity with people of color, migrants, women, gender nonconforming people, LGBTQ2S+ people and people with disabilities.

The deepening global capitalist economic crisis and how the working class can and will fight back will be the major themes of the webinar.

Veteran party members who worked with Marcy and newer generations of members will collectively share how

members will collectively share how

Nurse staffing turnover was a problem before COVID-19; since the pandemic, the problem has turned into a crisis. Last year 27.1% of active nurses quit. More than a third of those remaining said they would quit their job within the year.

ONA says Providence CEOs put profits and investments ahead of nurses, health care workers and patients. Some ONA nurses have volunteered their time more than 45 times over the last seven months to meet with Providence managers to negotiate a reasonable contract.

In addition to safer staffing levels, nurses are fighting for fully-paid family and medical leave, stronger patient safety standards, pay hikes and a fair compensation package that will help recruit and retain staff. □

Oregon nurses fight for a decent contract

By Lyn Neeley

In Portland, Oregon, nurses and community supporters rallied Jan. 20 in front of Providence Hospital corporate headquarters. Thousands of nurses in three Providence hospitals have been working since fall 2022 without a contract that would ensure basic safety standards and incorporate their union’s common-sense proposals.

More than 2,000 members of Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) voted nearly unanimously to strike if necessary against Providence — one of the largest and wealthiest health care systems in the U.S., which reaps tens of billions of dollars in annual revenue.

At the rally nurses told the crowd they were forced to pick up extra shifts and

work longer hours, and they were being assigned unmanageable and unsafe numbers of patients. They said they leave

work feeling exhausted, physically and emotionally drained, because they can’t deliver the level of care patients deserve.



Portland, Oregon nurses rally for a decent contract, Jan. 20, 2023.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Over 90 protests say NO to U.S./NATO wars

By Martha Grevatt

Over 90 coordinated antiwar actions took place Jan. 13-22, honoring Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during the week of his birthday. “As Martin Luther King Jr. so correctly reminded us, the U.S. is ‘the greatest purveyor of violence in the world,’” stated the United National Antiwar Coalition in its call to action, citing a quote King made April 4, 1967—exactly one year before his assassination. UNAC states: “Since WWII, the U.S. has initiated more than 60 military interventions in foreign countries.

“The U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine, whose origins reside in the 2014 U.S.-backed, fascist-led coup that replaced the elected Ukrainian government, brings the U.S. in direct confrontation with a major nuclear power, as does the U.S. provocation against China over Taiwan.” (unacpeace.org)

The tone of the protests was overwhelmingly anti-imperialist and anti-NATO — and was not targeting Russia. Moderate calls merely appealing to all parties to “negotiate now” were overshadowed by demands to “dismantle NATO” and for an end to the U.S.-instigated wars in Ukraine and all over the world.

Here are a few reports on actions from Workers World correspondents:

In **Portland**, Oregon, a coalition of eight anti-imperialist groups united to oppose capitalist wars, both at home and abroad. Not an hour goes by that the saber is not rattled at Russia, Iran, China or the other usual U.S. targets. The capitalist media would have everyone believe that workers are united with the ruling class in supporting Western militarism. Portlanders proved this was not so. Carrying signs with slogans such as: “Fight Racism, Not Russia” — something that would be considered sacrilegious by a lot of politicians on Capitol Hill — the anti-imperialists were met with much enthusiasm, including a number of honks from drivers.

One passerby, who was not at all interested in the protest, still found the time to state that the conflict in Ukraine began decades ago, in the 1990s, a viewpoint one would never hear on CNN.

The rally was preceded by an educational, put on by the coalition, that aimed to elucidate the intersection of peace and civil rights. Dan, with Veterans for Peace, gave a stirring speech on his experience as a draftee in Vietnam, including the horrific violence the U.S. military perpetrated against the Vietnamese people. He has given the same speech to high schoolers, shocking them out of the propaganda fed to the youth by draft officers and imperialist media.

Maddi Johnson, speaking for Workers World Party Portland, gave a presentation on sanctions, the bombless warfare that causes extensive harm to vulnerable workers, especially workers of color.

Nearly 100 people from around northern California marched through the heavily populated area of downtown **Oakland**’s Lake Merritt to demand funding for education, housing and health care not U.S. wars. The protest was greeted by honks and waves of support from people in cars and on foot, as the marchers chanted: “Cops here, bombs there! U.S. out of everywhere!”

The main rally was held after a short march to the Lake Merritt Amphitheater, an outdoor meeting space. Speakers included representatives from the Black Alliance for Peace, BAYAN, Palestinian Youth Movement, Workers



Philadelphia, Jan. 20, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Dayton Andrews of Black Alliance for Peace speaking in Oakland, California, Jan. 22, 2023.



PHOTO: KIT ASTRUP

Aarhus, Denmark, Jan. 16 protest U.S. plan to unload war material for Ukraine.

World Party, Code Pink, Party of Communists-USA, the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and Workers World Party.

A Jan. 20 meeting in **Philadelphia** with the theme “Stop the Wars! Fund our Communities!” drew over 50 people to the William Way Center. Speakers emphasized that, in addition to untold death and destruction abroad, the cost of wars creates poverty in the communities. As U.S. tax money is wasted on Pentagon aggression, the underfunding of housing, health care and education causes harm to the youth, seniors and especially to communities of color.

Representatives from Mobilization4Mumia, Free Kamau Sadiki, AnakBayan-Philly and Puerto Rican activists with Philadelphia Boricua spoke. Other speakers included representatives of UC Townhomes, a Black, low-income housing development facing imminent eviction, and the Coalition to Save Chinatown, which is fighting gentrification in Center City, Philadelphia’s last remaining ethnic community.

The meeting was organized/endorsed by: Black Alliance for Peace, Food Not Bombs-Solidarity, International Action Center (Philadelphia), Mobilization4Mumia, Pam Africa (International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal), Party for Socialism and Liberation (Philadelphia), Philly Boricua, Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign/Poor People’s Army and Workers World Party.

In **Seattle**, at Yesler Terrace near downtown, 50 students from the University of Washington held a rally, march and banner drop over Interstate 5 on Jan. 22. Demands included: “Free Ahmad Sa’adat and all Palestinian prisoners.” Participating groups included International League of People’s Struggle, Seattle; Students United for Palestinian Equality and Return, University of Washington; and Resist U.S.-Led War Movement.

Members and friends of the Workers World Party **Buffalo**, New York, branch hit the streets to educate people about the U.S./NATO role in the Ukraine war and to muster support for growing Buffalo’s antiwar coalition. They were able to make connections with members of the African migrant community and hear firsthand accounts of how U.S. imperialism impacts Africans, through extraction of resources, such as palm oil. Africa’s hunger crisis has

been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine.

Thousands of **Cleveland** workers viewed a huge banner emblazoned with the slogan, “Fund human needs, not U.S./NATO wars!” Holding the banner on an overpass, while contending with fierce wind, local activists took their message to the Jan. 20 afternoon rush-hour crowd on Interstate-90. Many drivers honked in support.

Antiwar protests in Germany, Denmark

As the German government was negotiating with Washington about the U.S. pressure to send German “Leopard 2” tanks to the fascist-ridden regime in Ukraine, antiwar forces in **Germany** protested against further escalation of the war. In Heidelberg on Jan. 16, people braved rain and strong winds to rally downtown.

Among the speakers were Joachim Guilliard, who said: “We are out here today to protest strongly against supplying armored personnel carriers to Ukraine. We call on the German government and the governments of the other NATO countries to finally abandon their militarist logic, to stop trying to start a long war to defeat Russia — a war on the backs of Ukrainians, with Ukrainian soldiers on Ukrainian soil.”

In **Aarhus**, Denmark’s second largest city, which is situated on a peninsula northwest of Copenhagen, some 3.5 hours by train from the Danish capital, the local branch of the antiwar movement said, “No to war and terror.” They had gathered in front of the library on the waterfront to protest that part of the harbor is being turned into a military zone for the next month, because the U.S. military will be unloading war materiel to be sent to Eastern Europe as part of the NATO expansion and war in Ukraine.

The working class is not as easily duped as the ruling class might believe; workers intuitively grasp that the narrative they are being fed is not to be trusted. The line that the U.S. is a defender of human rights and democracy is old and tired.

If there is any war in the workers’ interests, it is the class war against capitalism.

Contributors: Kit Astrup, John Catalinotto, Judy Greenspan, Joachim Guilliard, Maddi Johnson, Jim McMahan, Joe Piette and Arjae Red.



Heidelberg, Germany, Jan. 16, 2023

PHOTO: JOACHIM GUILLIARD



Seattle, Jan. 22, 2023

WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHON

WORKERS WORLD MUNDO OBRERO

A pesar del bloqueo El sistema sanitario cubano es extraordinario

Continúa de página 6

síntomas posteriores a la COVID-19. Dijeron que envían a los pacientes con COVID-19 larga a especialistas como neurólogos que trabajan con ellos.

Cuba desarrolla vacunas y medicamentos

Cuba tiene un rico historial en el desarrollo de vacunas o medicinas para enfermedades que han golpeado duramente al país, como el dengue, la fiebre amarilla, la malaria y otras enfermedades respiratorias.

Los cubanos también trabajan en la creación de productos naturales como las hojas de moringa, que tienen 7 veces más vitamina C que las naranjas y 15 veces más potasio que los plátanos. Estos productos están cargados de calcio, proteínas, hierro y aminoácidos, que ayudan a desarrollar los músculos y contienen antioxidantes que refuerzan el sistema inmunitario. Los cubanos alimentan a los animales con hojas de moringa y también las convierten en medicinas.

Cuando a Evelyn, una brigadista de nuestro viaje, le dolió la cabeza, la doctora cubana le explicó cómo

afectaba el estrés a su cuerpo. Le dijo a Evelyn que la medicación que estaba tomando para el estrés era mala para ella y le proporcionó un medicamento cubano más saludable. Cuando Evelyn le ofreció dinero, la doctora cubana dijo: “Oh cariño, aquí no”. Si esto hubiera ocurrido en Estados Unidos, Evelyn habría tenido que pagar una factura, no una medicación gratuita.

Arenstein trabajó 40 años como enfermera, 20 de ellos como educadora en diabetes antes de jubilarse. Neeley es profesora de ciencias jubilada.



Protestas en Brasil exigen "no amnistía" para bolsonaristas involucrados en intento de golpe, 10 de enero.

MUNDO OBRERO

editorial

Detener el golpe fascista en Brasil

Apenas una semana después de la toma de posesión del recién elegido y ex presidente de Brasil, Luis Ignacio ‘Lula’ da Silva, una turba pro fascista intentó el 8 de enero de 2023 provocar un golpe militar contra su gobierno, atacando edificios clave del gobierno en Brasilia, la capital. En la mañana del 9 de enero, este intento ha sido derrotado.

Workers World insta a los antiimperialistas de todo el mundo a condenar el asalto fascista contra el presidente electo de Brasil y a condenar de antemano cualquier intento por parte de elementos del cuerpo de oficiales brasileño de arrebatarse el poder al gobierno electo. WW apoya cualquier acción de masas que la clase obrera y el pueblo brasileño emprendan para defender al gobierno que eligieron.

El asalto al Congreso Nacional de Brasil, la residencia presidencial de Planalto y el edificio del Tribunal Supremo, los tres centros de la democracia capitalista brasileña, imitaron con asombroso detalle el ataque del 6 de enero de 2021 al Congreso de EEUU. En

Brasilia, una turba fascista que apoyaba al expresidente Jair Bolsonaro asaltó estos edificios. Los bolsonaristas insistieron en que había habido fraude electoral, sin pruebas. Luego destruyeron los edificios gubernamentales.

Bolsonaro, el Trump brasileño -que perdió la segunda vuelta electoral del 30 de octubre por un margen pequeño pero sólido y es el héroe de los fascistas-, estaba al parecer en Orlando, Florida, evitando cargos por sus crímenes mientras era presidente, y mucho más cerca de Trump que de Brasilia.

Líderes democráticamente electos en América Latina, especialmente aquellos considerados de izquierda - en México, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela y Cuba - condenaron inmediatamente el intento de golpe. (Granma, 8 de enero)

El presidente Joe Biden, que aún enfrenta amenazas de las fuerzas pro-Trump en EE. UU., y los líderes de los países imperialistas europeos, han condenado públicamente los ataques. Sin embargo,

Estados Unidos y sus aliados imperialistas han apoyado golpes ilegales e intentos de golpe en América Latina y el Caribe en el pasado. Esta larga lista incluye Guatemala en 1954, Honduras en 2009, Bolivia en 2019, el golpe judicial en Brasil en 2016 y el obscuro respaldo a Juan Guaidó en Venezuela a partir de 2019.

Lula se presentó a las elecciones enfrentando la feroz oposición de los grandes medios de comunicación, del gran capital brasileño, de los líderes de la iglesia evangélica y la hostilidad de los líderes policiales y militares. A pesar de estas desventajas y de acabar de salir de la cárcel, consiguió la victoria. Pero el gobierno del Partido de Trabajo (PT) de Lula se enfrenta a una legislatura hostil, a regímenes estatales derechistas en la frontera de Brasil y al peligro de las turbas fascistas pro-Bolsonaro.

La líder del PT, Gleisi Hoffmann, condenó la colaboración del Gobierno del Distrito Federal con la turba bolsonarista, de la que señaló que no es “un movimiento de masas, ni es espontáneo.

Está organizado por bandidos, que tienen intereses muy objetivos: minería ilegal, acaparamiento de tierras, liberación de armas, milicias y otras cosas, todo bendecido por Bolsonaro.” (TeleSUR Español, 8 de enero)

La elección de Lula y el recuerdo de su primer y segundo gobierno dieron un mensaje de esperanza de una vida mejor a los trabajadores brasileños, a los agricultores, a la población afrobrasileña, a las mujeres, a los brasileños LGBT+. Pero el asalto de Brasilia fue una advertencia. Las elecciones pueden indicar la conciencia política de la clase trabajadora y de los pobres, pero la clase dominante sigue dando órdenes a la policía, a los tribunales y al ejército.

La clase obrera brasileña tiene todo el derecho a movilizarse y a unir a todos los sectores del pueblo brasileño para defender al gobierno de Lula contra la amenaza fascista. Y la izquierda brasileña merece la solidaridad de todos los que en todo el mundo se oponen al militarismo y al gobierno fascista. □

A pesar del bloqueo El sistema sanitario cubano es extraordinario

Por Lyn Neeley y Toni Arenstein

El día que la 51ª Brigada Venceremos partió hacia Cuba, el 27 de diciembre de 2022, unas 262 personas murieron en Estados Unidos a causa del COVID-19. De los 11 millones de habitantes de Cuba, sólo 30 dieron positivo por COVID-19 ese mismo día.

La brigada de más de 70 personas de todo EE.UU. visitó Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Oriente en la ciudad de Santiago de Cuba, la principal ciudad del oriente cubano. El laboratorio forma parte de la extraordinaria organización médica científica de Cuba.

Los científicos del laboratorio han desarrollado tres vacunas que tienen una eficacia del 92,83% en la prevención de la muerte y de los síntomas más graves del COVID-19. Crearon tres refuerzos compatibles con las vacunas Pfizer y Moderna (ARN mensajero o ARNm). Cuba fue el primer país en desarrollar una vacuna para niños de 3 a 11 años.

Cuando la delegación de la Brigada Venceremos entró en las instalaciones del laboratorio, una sala llena de héroes -enfermeras y trabajadores sanitarios cubanos- se puso en pie y aplaudió. Una mujer se llevó las manos al corazón y nos tendió la mano, como si nosotros fuéramos los héroes.

Los cubanos reconocieron el trabajo de los jóvenes en el desarrollo de las vacunas. En el momento álgido de COVID-19 en Cuba, jóvenes estudiantes de medicina rastrearon los contactos casa por casa, buscando a las personas con síntomas. Educaron a la población sobre la importancia de llevar mascarillas y lavarse las manos.

Los cubanos apoyan los centros de aislamiento, que alojan a las personas en



FOTO MO/WW: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Destacados científicos del laboratorio farmacéutico cubano hablan con la delegación de la Brigada Venceremos.

cuarentena. Y muchos estudiantes de medicina estaban entre los 44.000 cubanos que se ofrecieron voluntarios para los ensayos clínicos durante la producción de las vacunas cubanas.

Los Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Oriente llevan a cabo múltiples líneas de investigación. El bloqueo provocó escasez de soluciones salinas necesarias para el goteo intravenoso (IV) de pacientes deshidratados y la administración de fármacos. Cuba ha desarrollado ahora sus propias soluciones salinas, que han salvado vidas en todo el mundo.

Las vacunas cubanas Abdala y Soberana contra el COVID-19 han demostrado ser seguras y tener pocos efectos secundarios en Cuba y en otros países. Y han demostrado ser más eficaces contra la variante omicrónica que las vacunas administradas en otros países.

Las vacunas cubanas pueden exportarse fácilmente, porque son estables a temperaturas superiores a 30 C (86 F). Ocho países ya las utilizan, y otros las están evaluando.

Según un artículo publicado el 5 de

enero en Granma (inglés), “las vacunas Abdala y Soberana utilizan el antígeno RBD, es decir, la región de la proteína de la espiga (S), que se une al receptor del virus en la célula”, y esto ayuda al organismo a producir anticuerpos que actúan contra las diferentes variantes del virus. “Varios grupos de científicos de todo el mundo y más de 20 revistas científicas han publicado artículos que apoyan esta hipótesis”. (tinyurl.com/rktbbd3k)

Cuba ha desarrollado soluciones y equipos intravenosos que hacen posible que las personas se administren su propio tratamiento intravenoso en casa. La ciencia cubana fabrica productos para hemodiálisis en caso de insuficiencia renal. Los cubanos que se encuentran a 100 millas de distancia o más pueden recibir transporte regular gratuito a los centros renales, donde también se les da de comer durante el día. Lo que le costaría a una persona en Estados Unidos 200 dólares es gratis para los cubanos, incluso mientras todos los cubanos luchan contra el bloqueo.

La atención médica es un derecho

En Cuba no hay hospitales privados. La atención médica es un derecho fundamental de los ciudadanos cubanos y está recogido en la Constitución cubana. El sistema médico cubano da prioridad a los derechos de las enfermeras como trabajadoras y garantiza la asistencia sanitaria gratuita a todos los cubanos.

El sistema médico con fines de lucro de Estados Unidos ha provocado huelgas de enfermeras para protestar por la inseguridad de la atención a los pacientes, basada en la baja proporción de enfermeras por paciente. En situaciones en

las que lo normal era una enfermera por cada cuatro pacientes, ahora las enfermeras pueden tener entre 10 y 20 pacientes. Esta escasez de enfermeras ha causado la muerte de pacientes y ha aumentado el estrés de las enfermeras, provocando que muchas abandonen la profesión y aumentando la escasez general.

Enfrentarse al bloqueo

Los ponentes del laboratorio cubano dijeron que, debido al bloqueo, los cubanos se han visto obligados a desarrollar muchos tipos de medicamentos y vendas de plástico, que de otro modo no tenían a su alcance. Pueden obtener algunos suministros médicos de México, China e Italia, entre otros países.

Los oradores señalaron que el fallecido líder revolucionario cubano Fidel Castro había fomentado el desarrollo de una industria biotecnológica y farmacéutica que formaba a médicos e investigadores científicamente cualificados. Esta infraestructura permite a Cuba producir muchos de sus propios suministros médicos.

Cuba ha enviado 53 brigadas a otros países y cuenta con más de 28.000 profesionales sanitarios cubanos residentes en 58 naciones. Un orador dijo que Washington acusa erróneamente a Cuba de producir armas biológicas, pero que Estados Unidos no menciona a todas las personas de todo el mundo a las que Cuba ha ayudado, incluidas muchas de Estados Unidos. Cuba sigue ofreciendo vacunas a bajo precio a algunas personas en Estados Unidos.

Cuando se les preguntó por la COVID-19 larga (long COVID), los científicos cubanos dijeron que están desarrollando ensayos para medir el impacto de la vacuna en la frecuencia y duración de los