

Buffalo ‘bomb cyclone’

exposes capitalism’s failure

By Ryan Lockwood

Buffalo, New York

Buffalo is reeling from its worst snow-storm in a generation. From Dec. 23-25, Western New York state was ravaged by a “bomb cyclone,” which brought hurricane-force winds, subzero wind chills and over 50 inches of snowfall to the region. But Winter Storm Elliot is as much a social disaster as it is a weather one.

At the time of this writing, at least 40 people in the Buffalo area have died due to the storm, a majority of them people of color. This surpasses the death toll of the infamous “Blizzard of ’77,” which killed 28 people across New York state.

This storm was not a surprise; as early as Monday, Dec. 19, the National Weather Service in Buffalo announced that a powerful storm was on the way for the holiday weekend. By Dec. 21, they called for “a once-in-a-generation storm” to arrive in the region Thursday night into Friday morning. Yet when a travel ban was finally issued at 9:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 23, many workers were already at their jobs. So despite days of warning, many people became stranded in their vehicles on impassable roads, leading to at least four deaths.



Abandoned cars in Buffalo, New York, Dec. 27, 2022.

Others succumbed to the brutal cold and hurricane-force winds. The bodies of 17 people have been discovered in snow drifts. Thousands of families have been left without heat and electricity, as falling trees brought power lines down. Nine of the people who died were in homes with no heat. Snow drifts up to 12 feet have severely limited access in and out of some houses, blocking residents inside.

The city failed to make adequate emergency housing provisions. And now, days

after the storm, racial disparities are evident. In Kenmore, with a majority white population, snow plows have been up and down streets for days. In predominantly Black parts of Buffalo, like the East Side, many residents still can’t leave their homes, and 12-foot snow drifts still cover windows. (Washington Post, Dec. 29)

In the middle of such human catastrophe and the utter failure of the physical and political infrastructure, Mayor Byron Brown found his footing in

grandiose moral indignation over an uptick in so-called “looting,” calling those who reappropriated resources in their own communities, “the lowest of the low.”

To the ruling class, there is nothing more contemptible than a neglected community taking care of itself as the system ceases to function. But as soon as the snow is cleared, we can expect the political elite to continue to steal from the workers of the city and subordinate their best interests to the whims of capital, to siphon money and resources from the workers straight into the pockets of real estate developers and investors.

We are facing a future in which a volatile climate will make storms like this one much more common. We have seen again and again how the capitalist social order is unable to cope with the increasingly violent weather. Each crisis of this kind leads to an acute, local intensification of the contradiction between labor and capital, and eventually the strain on the system will become critical.

This gives our commitment to build worker power even more urgency. It is our duty as the class-conscious, revolutionary proletariat to build a movement that is capable of fulfilling our historic task. □



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Members of the 51st Venceremos Brigade in socialist Cuba.

WWW PHOTO: BILL SACKS

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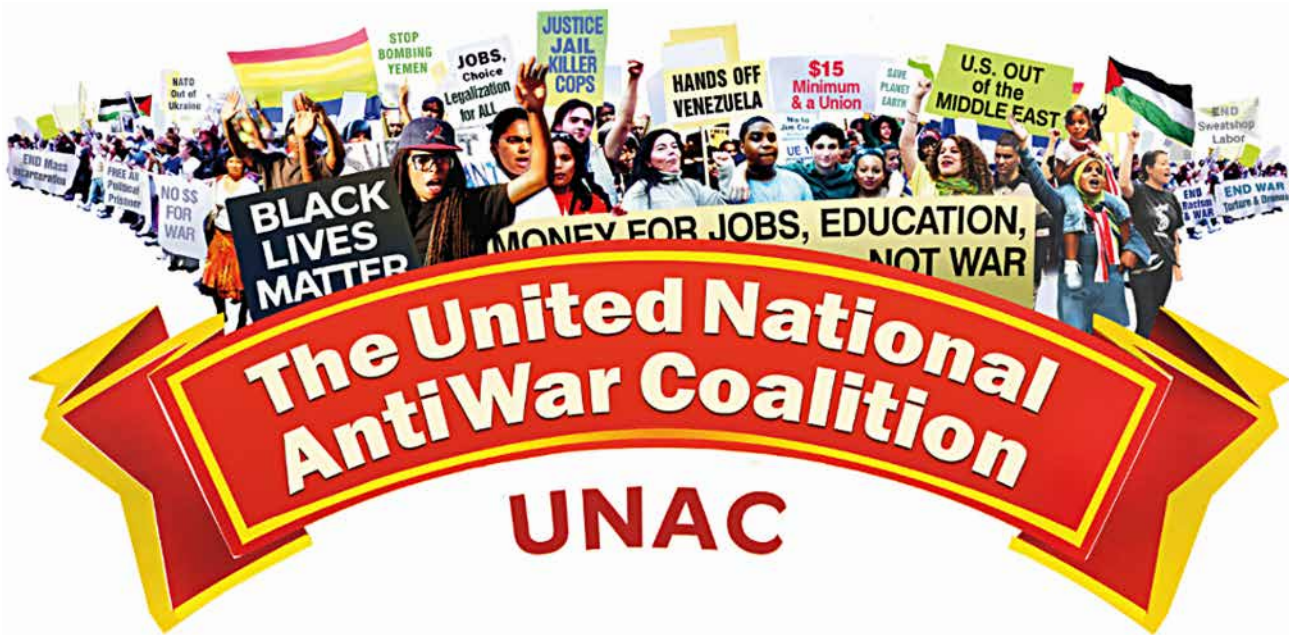
Joma Sison’s work lives on!

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# STOP U.S. Wars

## MLK Week of Actions Jan. 13-22



*“The greatest purveyor of violence in the world: my own government; I can not be silent.”*  
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, 1967

After more than 75 actions in October, we held a meeting to discuss next steps. It was decided that we should have another week of actions, and the week around Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 13-22 was proposed. So, we are moving forward organizing “STOP U.S. Wars” actions again during that week. Many organizations endorsed the October week of actions and are anxious to continue.

As Martin Luther King Jr. so correctly reminded us, the U.S. is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. 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. into direct confrontation with a major nuclear power, as does the U.S. provocation against China over Taiwan.

It is extremely important that we build a strong, unified antiwar movement that can break through the media

propaganda and censorship and end the U.S. military aggression around the world.

Each of our actions is based on building local connections among various solidarity organizations. A variety of actions are encouraged, from demonstrations, teach-ins and banner drops to chalk-ins and street meetings.

Actions linking all the continuing U.S. wars and sanctions are a unifying focus and help break through the propaganda that saturates each war.

Today working people face escalating costs of food and energy, recession, growing insecurity and attacks on efforts to unionize. The continuing wars and military provocations have brought us to the brink of nuclear war.

Stop Washington’s war moves toward Russia and China! Stop endless wars: Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Palestine ... everywhere! Stop U.S./NATO Wars and Sanctions! Fund human needs, not war! No to NATO!

Please start organizing now. Close to 60 organizations have endorsed the call to action. To list your action, go to: [bit.ly/unac-mlk](http://bit.ly/unac-mlk). □

*This call to action was lightly edited.*

## 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**

<b>National Office</b> 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor New York, NY 10011 212.627.2994 <a href="mailto:wwp@workers.org">wwp@workers.org</a>	<b>Cleveland</b> <a href="mailto:cleveland@workers.org">cleveland@workers.org</a>
<b>Durham, N.C.</b> 919.322.9970 <a href="mailto:durham@workers.org">durham@workers.org</a>	<b>Houston</b> P.O. Box 3454 Houston, TX 77253-3454 713.503.2633 <a href="mailto:houston@workers.org">houston@workers.org</a>
<b>Atlanta</b> PO Box 18123 Atlanta, GA 30316 404.627.0185 <a href="mailto:atlanta@workers.org">atlanta@workers.org</a>	<b>Minnesota</b> <a href="mailto:minnesota@workers.org">minnesota@workers.org</a>
<b>Austin</b> <a href="mailto:austin@workers.org">austin@workers.org</a>	<b>Philadelphia</b> P.O. Box 34249 Philadelphia, PA 19101 610.931.2615 <a href="mailto:phila@workers.org">phila@workers.org</a>
<b>Bay Area</b> P.O. Box 22947 Oakland, CA 94609 510.394.2207 <a href="mailto:bayarea@workers.org">bayarea@workers.org</a>	<b>Portland, Ore.</b> <a href="mailto:portland@workers.org">portland@workers.org</a>
<b>Boston</b> 284 Amory St. Boston, MA 02130 617.522.6626 <a href="mailto:boston@workers.org">boston@workers.org</a>	<b>Salt Lake City</b> 801.750.0248 <a href="mailto:slc@workers.org">slc@workers.org</a>
<b>Buffalo, N.Y.</b> 335 Richmond Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222 716.883.2534 <a href="mailto:buffalo@workers.org">buffalo@workers.org</a>	<b>San Antonio</b> <a href="mailto:sanantonio@workers.org">sanantonio@workers.org</a>
<b>Central Gulf Coast</b> (Alabama, Florida, Mississippi) <a href="mailto:centralgulfcoast@workers.org">centralgulfcoast@workers.org</a>	<b>West Virginia</b> <a href="mailto:WestVirginia@workers.org">WestVirginia@workers.org</a>

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



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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

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# Family, friends pay respects to Wadiya Jamal



By Betsey Piette

Wadiya Jamal has spent most of her adult life fighting for her husband's release. The beloved wife of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal died unexpectedly from a heart attack Dec. 27, 11 days after a historic decision by a Philadelphia judge in his case.

Family and friends attended services for her Dec. 30 in Philadelphia.

Those who knew her best described WaWa, as she liked to be called, as devoted to her family life, for her the cause of joy but also great sorrow. She was separated by prison walls from Mumia since his arrest Dec. 9, 1981. Her youngest child, Samiya — known as Goldii — died Dec. 17, 2014, after a long fight with breast cancer. Wadiya was buried next to her daughter's grave.

In talking about Wadiya with friend and supporter Johanna Fernandez, Mumia noted that December was always a “dark time for her because of this.”

In the funeral handout, Wadiya Jamal was described as “lively and outspoken, often at the center of any social gathering she attended. She was always well versed in the social and political news of the day, adding her well thought-out opinions to

the conversation. ... She was a frequent participant in forums, rallies and cultural events designed to raise awareness of injustice perpetrated against Black people. ...

“[Wadiya] often hosted movie nights for her grandchildren, nephews and nieces. [She was] revered as the “Aunty” of her neighborhood, her home a safe space for all who may have needed her love and affection.”

While kept from attending the funeral in person by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Mumia was able to watch the proceedings for about an hour by zoom.

He told Fernandez he wished Wadiya could have seen the outpouring of love for her that he witnessed during the ceremony.

When asked to name one of his fondest memories about Wadiya, he told Fernandez “She let me be silly.”

Wadiya Jamal

will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. Condolences can be sent to Mumia Abu-Jamal at Smart Communications/PADOC, Mumia Abu-Jamal / AM8335, SCI Mahanoy, P.O. Box 33028, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Those who are on Abu-Jamal's visitors list are encouraged to make every effort to see him. □

## Wadiya Jamal, my beloved

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*The following message from Mumia first aired on Prison Radio Dec. 30, 2022.*



Wadiya Jamal during visit with Mumia.

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. □

# Incarcerated lives endangered in freezing conditions

By Monica Moorehead

In analyzing the heroic 1992 Los Angeles Rebellion, Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote in the pamphlet: “A Marxist Defense of the L.A. Rebellion” that “Marxism differs from all forms of bourgeois sociology in this most fundamental way: All bourgeois social sciences are directed at covering up and concealing — sometimes in the most shameful way — the predatory class character of present-day capitalist society.

“Marxism, on the other hand, reveals in the clearest and sharpest manner not only the antagonisms that continually rend asunder present-day bourgeois society but also their basis — the ownership of the means of production by a handful of millionaires and billionaires.”

When it comes to class antagonisms, U.S. prisons under capitalism do not rehabilitate but are instruments of oppression and exploitation. When one is locked behind the walls — which in the U.S. includes an estimated 2 million people in jails, prisons and detention centers — horrific conditions are covered up and concealed on a daily basis — that is, until a crisis of some kind sparks a rebellion or some other form of protest.

One such crisis causing an outcry from incarcerated people and their outside supporters is the unprecedented below-freezing temperatures gripping much of the country — no matter the region — due to climate change.

It is bad enough that incarcerated people face inhumane conditions, including being locked down in tiny cells 23 hours a day, poor sanitation and medical care, unhealthy food, verbal and physical assaults by guards, solitary confinement and more.

Adding to this list is the lack of heat. While people have died needlessly from the impact of winter storms, due to a lack of preparedness on the part of local governments as in Buffalo, New York, incarcerated people are facing even more dire conditions, with little to no attention paid to them.

At the Clayton County Jail in Georgia, there was no power for at least three days, along with low water pressure and bursting pipes, in late December. The word finally got out about this situation, when a prisoner informed his mother during a phone call.

### Retaliation in response to complaints

At least 700 of over 2,400 migrants attempting to cross the Rio Grande at the El Paso, Texas, border were detained by the U.S. Border Patrol and left outside in freezing conditions in early December. Migrants were only provided with aluminum blankets by the Patrol.

In early 2021, reports exposed that any migrants who complained about lack of heat in detention camps in Texas and Louisiana faced retaliation by guards. The process-

ing centers are under the auspices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an arm of the federal government, but they are operated by private Wall Street prison firms like the GEO Group. And prisons in the Deep South are notorious for being modern-day plantations, driven by blatant white-supremacist guards and wardens.



PHOTO: JEFF BACHNER

Protest in front of Metropolitan Detention Center, Brooklyn, New York, Feb. 2, 2019.

Lucia Allain, a spokesperson for the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES), had been in contact with Ubaldo Ochoa Lopez, who was detained at the South Texas ICE Processing Center located outside San Antonio. She learned that guards had deliberately turned off the heat.

Lopez told Allain, “The officers are turning on fans to make it colder. If they're hearing complaints like, ‘Oh it's cold in here,’ they'll be like, ‘It could be worse’ and turn on fans.” (theintercept.com, Feb. 19, 2021)

Lopez told her that ICE agents have even thrown blankets into the garbage after detainees complained.

### Withholding heat is a form of torture

At a Pine Prairie, Louisiana, ICE detention center, during the same time period, prisoners were denied heat in a segregation unit, separate from the rest of the heated facility, according to detainee Argueta Anariba. He told The Intercept, “There's no heat, there's nothing — we were eight people dying of cold. I'm asthmatic. I had terrible chest pain.”

Anariba wore three pairs of pants and three shirts and stayed wrapped in his sheets in his bed all day. His meals were cold by the time they got to the cell, and his bones ached.

Natalie Lerner, a paralegal with Proyecto Diley, a pro bono legal services provider for detainees at the South Texas Family Residential Center, stated that the detention center run by the private prison company CoreCivic

had periodically turned off heat, water and electricity for long periods of time. The detainees, including children, were getting sick living in dangerously close quarters during the height of COVID-19.

In late January 2021 in the Bergen County Jail in New Jersey, which holds ICE detainees, the Legal Aid Society, the Bronx Defenders and Brooklyn Defender Services wrote ICE that “At least one detainee had been told ‘the cold will kill the coronavirus, so we're not turning it [the heat] on.’”

A whistleblower at Louisiana's Richwood Correctional Center, which is run by the private prison firm LaSalle Corrections, told the Government Accountability Project that staff were ordered to turn up the air conditioning in order to hide COVID-19 cases. Detainee temperatures were taken from their foreheads to “freeze them out,” in order to manipulate the temperature readings so that deportation flights would accept people with fevers.

ICE uses holding cells known as “hieleras” or ice boxes to torture detainees.

In a Feb. 22, 2021, Workers World article, anti-death penalty organizer Gloria Rubac wrote on the freezing conditions faced by Texas prisoners. One of those prisoners, Nanon Williams, told WW: “Our unit has huge windows. The freezing wind is blowing in because panes are loose, and some are missing. We are freezing.

“This prison is 112 years old and was falling apart before this latest disaster. We have no heat, no water, very little cold food. Dinner tonight was a piece of cornbread and some peanut butter. On the first freezing day, only 10 guards came to work. There are almost 2,000 enslaved people at the Ramsey Unit and over 400 employees.

“Heat was off for almost four days. Only then did we get an extra blanket. Almost everyone has had COVID at Ramsey, and the respiratory problems are still here. Coughing can be heard all over the place.” (workers.org/2021/02/54625/)

Every human being, including those who are languishing behind the walls, should have a guaranteed right to a job with a liveable wage, housing, food, education, health care and heat.

What is happening to incarcerated people during this winter crisis, exacerbated by climate change and the pandemic, is another painful reminder that incarceration is another class antagonism that cannot be reformed, as pointed out by Sam Marcy. Therefore prisons, along with the entire capitalist system, must be abolished.

Tear down the walls!

“A Marxist Defense of the L.A. Rebellion” can be read at [workers.org/books](https://workers.org/books).



# Alta Bates Summit nurses boldly strike for pensions and a contract

By Judy Greenspan  
Berkeley, California

Nurses at the three sites of the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center campuses in Oakland and Berkeley went on a 10-day strike from Dec. 24 until the early morning of Jan. 2. They took this action after 97% of them voted to reject their bosses’ last-minute contract offer. The East Bay registered nurses, who are members of the California Nurses Association, are the only CNA bargaining unit steadfastly refusing to ratify the contract offered by Sutter Health.

These nurses have been working on an extended contract since January 2020. This reporter spoke with several strikers, including Thorild Urdal, a 40-year, labor and delivery nurse, who explained that they were not able to vote on the contract extension. And when a settlement was finally reached statewide, “CNA staff encouraged one facility after another to settle and, in fact, pushed for a settlement here . . . which included a two-tiered pension.”

Urdal explained that this meant new nurses would not have the option of getting a “true pension.” She said nurses on their bargaining team did not like the “best and final offer” at all. “We have only had a pension for about 20 years, and it was a big fight for us to get it.” The bargaining units which ratified this new contract lost pension rights for nurses hired after the contract ratification.

**‘We all have to fight back!’**

The striking nurses held rallies every day during the strike. On Christmas Eve, a vigil was dedicated



Berkeley, Dec. 24, 2022.

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Bay Area nurses strike Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Berkeley, California, Dec. 24, 2022.

to patients and staff who had lost their lives due to COVID-19. Ann Gaebler, a veteran Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse, said: “Many, many lives were lost in the pandemic. . . We are out here trying to correct some of the conditions that led to the deplorable situation that people faced. It’s not a good thing what is going on; and somebody has got to stand up and fight for us, and that somebody is all of us.”

Later that week, this reporter spoke with Eric Koch, an Alta Bates nurse on the negotiating team, at the make-shift outdoor “nurses’ lounge.” Koch talked about the tragic “hemorrhaging of staff” since the pandemic: “We have lost over 70% of nurses since the pandemic started. Most of the nurses are leaving not only because of the bad conditions, but we can go down the street to Kaiser (in another California hospital system) and make a minimum of 15% to 20% more.”

**Sutter Health’s goal: increase profits**

Koch says he believes Sutter Health’s ultimate goal is to close the Ashby campus of Alta Bates. “Sutter Health creates a monopoly wherever they go. They buy hospitals, combine them and then shut ancillary facilities down.” These hospitals can then charge exorbitant rates and greatly increase their profits.

A union-friendly DJ provided nonstop music during the nine-day strike, despite the rain. Punctuating the music and dancing on the picket line was the constant honking of passing cars, showing drivers’ support for the only hospital in Berkeley and in solidarity with the courageous fight of the nurses for a just contract.

Many young and new nurses participated in the strike. Lilliam Morrison, an Alta Bates nurse hired in September, explained that she was on the picket line

because of all the support the union and other nurses have given her. “We do the hard work here,” she said.

Many nurses brought their children, their parents and other family members to the picket lines. A contingent of teachers from the Oakland Education Association joined the strikers in Berkeley almost every day.

**Unity is key**

On New Year’s Day, a rally was held at 11 a.m. to support the striking nurses. Speakers included nurses on the bargaining unit and supporters from local unions, including teachers from the OEA. Donna Woodruff, negotiator for nurses at the Alta Bates Herrick campus, said, “I want Sutter to know that the bargaining team is ready, anytime Sutter wants to come to the table and bargain with us.” Sutter suspended bargaining until the beginning of 2023.

“We must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder,” said Jemila Pereira, another nurse negotiator. “Bargaining for 18 months is absolute nonsense. It is all about greed, maltreatment, and we are not having it. We are doing things now that will benefit the new nurses that are com-

***“We must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder,” said Jemila Pereira, another nurse negotiator. “Bargaining for 18 months is absolute nonsense. It is all about greed, maltreatment, and we are not having it. We are doing things now that will benefit the new nurses that are coming. We may never meet them, but we are still planting the tree.”***

ing. We may never meet them, but we are still planting the tree.”

This amazing strike was conducted as a rank and file-led effort against Sutter Health, a multimillion-dollar hospital company. It was held despite last-minute pressure by Sutter Health and CNA staff to accept what nurses criticized as a bad contract. Nurses ended their strike and entered Alta Bates Hospital on Jan. 2 as a large group. They promise to continue fighting and organizing for a fair contract, even if that effort means future strikes and labor actions. □

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette strike vs. Block Communications continues

By Stephanie Hedgecok  
Member, Typographical Local CWA 14156

Communications Workers Locals 14827 and 14842, Typographers and Mailers union members, walked out on strike at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Oct. 5, 2022, joined shortly afterward by members of Teamsters Local 205/211 newspaper drivers and Graphic Communications Conference/IBT Local 24M/9N press operators.

The paper’s owners, Block Communications, suddenly quit paying pension and health care contributions in the fall, then terminated all health coverage Oct. 1. Block also owns the Toledo Blade in Ohio and a half dozen TV stations in Ohio and Kentucky.

According to a CWA District 2-13 press release: “The workers, who are responsible for designing, printing, distributing, advertising sales and accounts receivables at the newspaper, have been working without a collective bargaining agreement since March 2017. . . the workers have not had a pay raise in 16 years. . .

“Block Communications, the owners of the Post-Gazette, refused to pay an additional \$19 per employee per week to maintain the existing coverage. The workers

currently pay over 8% of their wages toward insurance premiums, amounting to approximately \$7,300 per year. Out-of-pocket costs for the high-deductible plan proposed by the Company can cost a family as much as \$14,400 or more per year.”

Pittsburgh NewsGuild (TNG-CWA Local 38061) editorial staff joined the picket lines Oct. 18, in response to the unilateral changes to their health coverage and Block’s longtime unfair labor practices. Subsequently, the Pennsylvania state labor federation called on readers to end their subscriptions in a boycott. (tinyurl.com/2uumwp57)

Striking workers continue to get the word out about their strike at Pittsburgh’s Market Square, and they started a strike newspaper, the “Pittsburgh Union Progress.” Other union locals in the newspaper industry have been making donations to the unions in Pittsburgh to help the strikers with health care and other needs.

CWA 14827, formerly Pittsburgh Typographical



CREDIT: NEWSPAPER GUILD OF PITTSBURGH

Striking Post-Gazette newspaper workers join Pittsburgh Starbucks Workers United and other unions Dec. 9 outside the Market Square Starbucks.

Local 7, is one of the oldest continuous unions in the U.S., founded in 1852. Newspapers are one of the first industries to have been organized.

Follow further developments in the strike at unionprogress.com. □



# International forum honors Filipino revolutionary leader, Ka Joma

By Monica Moorehead

A standing room only forum, “Ka Joma Lives: International Proletarian Revolutionary Leader, Theoretician, Teacher and Poet in the Service of the People,” was held in tribute to the Filipino leader, Professor Jose Maria Sison, in Amsterdam Dec. 23.

Ka (Comrade) Joma died on Dec. 16 at age 83 in a hospital in the Netherlands, where he was forced into exile in 1988 by the reactionary Philippine government. Sison was imprisoned in the Philippines in 1977 for nine years but was released following the ouster of the U.S.-backed dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.

The U.S. placed him on its terrorist list in 2002, which kept him from traveling outside of the Netherlands.

Sison was a founding member of the Communist Party of the Philippines, guided by the revolutionary principles of

Karl Marx and Mao Zedong, in December 1968. The party was the theoretical foundation of the New People’s Army, an armed liberation formation that still exists today.

Although Sison faced many hardships being in exile, it did not prevent him from expressing his solidarity with workers and oppressed workers, especially in the developing world in resistance to imperialist domination.

This heartfelt solidarity was expressed in the three-hour tribute, live-streamed globally, which included cultural presentations. In addition, hundreds of written tributes poured in to honor Sison. A beautiful video tribute showed photos and video of Sison speaking, with the Italian anti-fascist song, Bella Ciao, playing in the background.

Participants included four different Kurdish revolutionary organizations; Samidoun Palestinian Political

Prisoner Network; Workers’ Party of Belgium; International Women’s Alliance; International Migrant Alliance; International League of People’s Struggle; Belgium-Korea Friendship Association; Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany; Filipino Solidarity Movement; Surinam Solidarity Committee; Communist Party of Ukraine; International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines; Communist Party of Turkey; the German-based International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations; Rebel Youth; and many others.

The widow of Sison, Julie de Lima, gave a short but inspiring message calling on the audience to turn their grief into revolutionary courage.



Coni Ledesma, an International Women’s Alliance executive committee member who attended the memorial, told WW, “It was a militant, solemn and beautiful tribute to Joma. The red flags, the songs, the tributes spoke of the person he was and the legacy he leaves behind.”

Sison was cremated on Dec. 27. Ka Joma ipresente! □

## Workers World Party pays tribute

*The following tribute was submitted to the “Ka Joma Lives: International Proletarian Revolutionary Leader, Theoretician, Teacher and Poet in the Service of the People” Dec. 23 memorial in Amsterdam. The Netherlands.*

Workers World Party from the United States recognizes that the worldwide revolutionary movement lost an immensely important leader — Professor Jose Maria Sison — on Dec. 16, 2022 — and joins the many who mourn him. As the founding chairperson of the revolutionary Communist Party of the Philippines, Sison used the revolutionary thought of Marxism to lead the proletariat in the Philippines to battle against imperialism from the U.S. and against the reactionary bourgeoisie of the Philippines.

WWP members could understand the contributions of Comrade Joma Sison

through the decades of work with his comrades in anti-imperialist organizations in the diaspora. Quality of leadership is reflected throughout any organization. From contact with many Philippine revolutionaries throughout the world, who through their own example of courages, willingness to cooperate on a principled basis and to sacrifice and to carry out what they promise, WWP members learned to value that leadership.

Workers World Party recognizes the great achievements of Comrade Joma and mourns alongside the Communist Party of the Philippines, the world proletarian movement and anti-imperialists worldwide.

Rest in power, Chairman Sison!  
Comrade Larry Holmes  
First Secretary  
Workers World Party. □

## Int’l Women’s Alliance message

*The following statement was released Dec. 23 by the International Women’s Alliance, a global grassroots women’s organization. Go to [internationalwomensalliance.wordpress.com](https://internationalwomensalliance.wordpress.com).*

The International Women’s Alliance is deeply grieved by the passing of one of the greatest militant leaders of our times, the founding leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines, Comrade Joma. His vision, his dedication to overthrowing imperialism and his absolute belief in the victory of the people of the Philippines in gaining national liberation remained to his last breath.

Comrade Julie de Lima has shared Professor Comrade Sison’s last message to his beloved country men and women, in which he has clearly stated “the Filipino People’s Democratic Revolution is Invincible.” And this belief will indeed come to fruit.

Ka Joma will be remembered and honored for his deeply critical analysis of imperialism and his vision and political struggle, for not only the Filipino people but for the people of the colonized world struggling for liberation. Professor Jose Maria Sison

has provided us—the women fighting to free themselves of the shackles of patriarchy, feudalism and imperialism—with extremely critical tools of analysis.

His revolutionary vision and teachings have rooted our struggle to not only contest monopoly capital but to work toward dismantling patriarchy. His constant guidance, his deep love for the masses have inspired not only the Filipino people but the people of the world.

His zeal and energy for revolution added to the people’s militant power, to continue our journey to fight and win a bright future for the entire humanity. Professor Joma has inspired us to resist, to fight and to win. And Win We Will!

We send our deepest condolences to his family, especially to his lifelong partner Comrade Julie, who has stood with him shoulder to shoulder, joining him in his struggle for genuine democracy and in the very long painful exile.

His revolutionary struggle will be a beacon for the masses, leading us to victory, freedom from capitalist tyranny, from oppression and exploitation of a class-based society.

Long Live Ka Joma!  
Long Live International Solidarity! □

# Nurses’ strikes rock Britain’s National Health Service

By Betsey Piette

Workers across Britain have been engaged in wave after wave of strikes. Since summer, workers in multiple industries have hit back against massive economic and social service attacks.

Consumer inflation hit a 40-year high of 10.1% in July. With median wages increasing by 7.2% in the private sector and only 1.5% in the public sector, workers have been unable to keep up with the cost of living. Government cuts in social programs have resulted in a revolving door of prime ministers.

Thousands of workers organized by

the Trades Union Congress marched through central London June 18 over the cost-of-living crisis, demanding higher wages. The Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union has launched a series of strikes since then; and postal and airport workers have followed suit.

**First nurses strike in union’s 106-year history**

In their first-ever walkout Dec. 15, 2022, around 100,000 National Health Service nurses struck at 76 hospitals and health centers in England over wages. The strike resulted in cancellations of thousands of nonurgent operations and tens of thousands of outpatient appointments in the state-funded health system.

Following suit, more nurses in England, Wales and the North of Ireland struck over wages and patient safety concerns Dec. 20. Members of the Royal College of Nursing took part, raising that continuous low pay causes chronic understaffing, which puts patients at risk. Additional strikes may follow in January if talks between union negotiators and

the government fail to resolve the issues.

The two days of job actions were unprecedented in the British nursing union’s 106-year history, but RCN said it has no choice as workers struggle to make ends meet. The nurses want a 19% pay increase to compensate for a decade of wage cuts and staff shortages. Yet, NHS officials are only offering a 4% increase, and they refuse to discuss more. A Dec. 20 nursing strike was avoided in Scotland, when the government agreed to hold talks on pay.

Around 10,000 ambulance workers in England and Wales struck on Dec. 21. Their union includes paramedics, call handlers and emergency care assistants. Health workers who are part of the 460,000-member GMB (general trade union) struck again Dec. 28. And a planned ambulance service workers strike was avoided in Scotland after members were offered a new minimum hourly rate.

There is a high level of support for the nurses and NHS staff. A recent poll by the Independent found that two-thirds of respondents would back the NHS nurses, including their taking more strike actions in 2023 if pay demands are not met. A majority of those polled expressed

support for actions by rail workers, bus drivers, postal workers and teachers — including future strikes.

The poll showed 65% believe the government had handled the strikes “badly” or “very badly” and blamed the government’s refusal to engage in pay talks for causing the strikes.

**New strikes planned for January**

Pat Cullen, General Secretary and Chief Executive of the RCN, announced that nurses will go on strike again Jan. 18 and 19 in England, unless pay talks are opened. More hospitals are expected to be impacted than in December. GMB has called for a new coordinated walkout Jan. 11. And in Scotland, NHS workers rejected a 7.5% pay increase offer and are expected to announce strike dates as well.

“The government had the opportunity to end this dispute before Christmas, but instead they have chosen to push nursing staff out in the cold again in January,” Cullen said. “The public support has been heartwarming, and I am more convinced than ever that this is the right thing to do for patients and the future of the NHS.” (BBC News, Dec. 23) □



Nurses on a picket line outside Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham, England on Dec. 20



# War budget passes

Days before the New Year, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 omnibus bill, allocating the budget for that sector of federal spending called “discretionary.” If one had to describe the bill in two words, they would be: “war crime.”

Before examining the role of the Republican and Democratic imperialist war parties in handling this bill, we should describe the budget as it really is.

The budget provides the funds for a war on the world’s people, including on the working class within the United States. It hands the Pentagon more money than Biden even asked for, over \$850 billion. It funds the proxy war in Ukraine against Russia; it increases military aid to the Israeli regime to oppress Palestinians and seize more of their land.

Adding Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and the outlay for police and prisons to the budget for the Department of Defense, more than \$1.1 trillion will be used to strengthen the

state repressive apparatus.

That comes mainly from taxing income withheld from the working class. Remember that a trillion means a million millions, one followed by 12 zeros.

This budget’s character is no surprise to Marxists who track government spending. An analysis at the Speaking Security Newsletter (stephensemle.substack.com) summarizes that budget. The budget uses workers’ taxes to finance the Pentagon’s worldwide reach and imperialist plunder and to enforce exploitation of the working class at home.

Regarding the two parties that are the political wings of the imperialist War Party, they both supported military spending and adding funds to Biden’s proposals. The omnibus spending bill passed the House 225-201. All House Democrats but two voted for the budget; all the Republicans but eight voted against it. In the Senate, many Republican senators voted for the bill, and all the Democrats

did, including Bernie Sanders.

Of the House Democrats, only Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez voted against the budget, and Rashida Tlaib voted “present,” which is something like abstaining. This means that even the most progressive, social-democratic sector of the Democratic Party had only token opposition.

Many House Republicans made noises objecting to the high sums spent for military aid to the Kiev regime in Ukraine, but no one should misinterpret their “no” vote as opposition to imperialist war. They spoke out mainly against any part of the total budget that might aid some of the poorer members of U.S. society, including low-wage workers, all of whom they consider undeserving, even of the crumbs offered. And they complained that aid was sent to Ukraine but that no wall was built on the U.S.’s southern border to punish human beings from the Global South for the crises that imperialism has created.

Democrats, on the other hand, boasted that they pushed through some programs that benefit the poor. To the small extent that was true, it fails to justify a vote for this war budget. Feeding the war in Ukraine risks nuclear confrontation with Russia, and the continued belligerent moves by the Pentagon against China can easily turn from cold war to hot — a war crime.

The budget vote showed once more that any movement wanting to stop the imperialist war buildup must abandon the belief that electing Democratic Party politicians will accomplish this. Look instead to the developing movement in the working class; organize demonstrations in the streets — like those called this month by the United National Antiwar Coalition — and build a movement outside the two dominant capitalist parties.

They are the war criminals — the working class must be the war resisters. □

## Threat of more U.N. sanctions on Haiti

By G. Dunkel

While the huge social, economic and political problems of Haiti have slipped out of the news, if anything they have intensified over the past few months.

According to Helen La Lime, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of BINUH (U.N. Integrated Office in Haiti), “Close to half the population are food insecure, with some 20,000 people facing famine-like conditions; 34% of schools remain closed.”

She spoke at a Dec. 21 Security Council meeting to consider what additional sanctions the U.N. should impose on Haiti.

La Lime was a high-ranking U.S. diplomat before she joined the U.N. in 2018. She previously served as the U.S. ambassador to Angola.

La Lime claimed that there were 15,000 cases of cholera spread throughout the country, which is an admitted undercount. Cholera is spread by a lack of sanitation and untreated water, which poverty has imposed on Haiti.

Ignoring the 13 years and \$8 billion the U.N. disbursed during its last occupation of Haiti, La Lime’s solution to Haiti’s misery was more of the same.

In her report to the Security Council, delivered by video from Port au Prince Dec. 21, La Lime asserted: “The HNP [the Haitian National Police] continues to be under-resourced and insufficiently equipped to address the enormity of the task ahead. The HNP needs assistance in the form of a specialized force, as outlined in the Secretary-General’s letter of 8 October.” (tinyurl.com/bdfawj3b)

### Haïti Liberté’s response

The newspaper Haïti Liberté points out that such “assistance” would require foreign military boots on the ground.

Kim Ives, English language editor of Haïti Liberté, spoke after La Lime to disentangle her half-truths.



Kim Ives of Haïti Liberté addresses the U.N. Security Council, Dec. 21, 2022.

He pointed out that Haiti had suffered three coups d’état in the past three decades — 1991, 2004 and most recently 2021. In 1991 and 2004, the U.N. intervened militarily, “cementing in place an unjust and illegal status quo. The victims of these coups — the Haitian masses — were the ones policed, repressed, terrorized, demonized, sexually violated, politically bullied and economically sanctioned.”

Ives addressed the “need” that the BINUH, the U.S. and Canada feel to control the “gangs,” which have proliferated in Haiti. He stated, “the previous two U.N. military interventions have so weakened the Haitian state” that the growth of groupings engaged in extortion, kidnapping, rape and more was unhindered. The masses responded with the creation of “vigilance brigades.”

Ives points out: “These self-constituted defense committees are the very embodiment of self-determination and organic community action and response.”

Ives analyzed the cost of the U.N.’s occupation as compared to the cost of the fuel subsidy that Prime Minister

Ariel Henry removed to the general detriment of the Haitian people.

He pointed out that the blockade of the Varreux fuel port was not key to the economic disaster in Port au Prince and that de facto Prime Minister Ariel Henry was appointed by the Core Group — ambassadors from the U.S., France, Canada, Germany, the U.N., Spain and Brazil — and has no political legitimacy in Haiti.

Ives ended his report with a plea: “The Haitian people, acting with full sovereignty, must be allowed to sort out their own problems.”

### Impact of sanctions

Vassily Nebenzia, Russian ambassador to the U.N., began his presentation, immediately after Ives spoke, by saying, “We also thank American journalist and editor of Haïti Liberté, Mr. Kim Ives, and appreciate his rather interesting and unbiased view of the situation in the country.”

It was the Russian delegation that got the invitation extended to Haïti Liberté.

Nebenzia asserted that Haiti’s “chronic crisis of statehood, socioeconomic collapse and decomposition of legal institutions to a large extent are the results of protracted external ‘political engineering.’ The historical responsibility for this rests not only with Washington, which has repeatedly interfered in Haiti’s internal affairs, including by armed force, but also with Paris.” France extorted payment for the so-called “property” — the enslaved people — the French enslavers lost.

Nebenzia stated that the “former colonial powers have changed their methods, but their colonial approaches have remained the same; interference in Haiti’s internal affairs occurs by means of imposing alien solutions.”

He noted that “the insights of Mr. Ives that he shared today should be the reason for us to be even more careful with sanctions. Otherwise, sanctions risk affecting not the criminal elements but the opposition activists.” □

## ¡Permitid la entrada en EE.UU. a todos los inmigrantes!

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raciales de los migrantes en la frontera y en los condados circundantes. Los migrantes se enfrentan a ridículos cargos de delito menor de allanamiento de morada (en tierra robada), que se castigan con hasta un año de cárcel.

Muchos migrantes llevan meses en prisión preventiva, sin reunirse nunca con un abogado ni ser acusados formalmente. Sólo en el condado de Kinney hay al menos 800 personas recluidas a la espera de juicio.

En el marco de este programa, se desplegaron 10.000 agentes del orden en la frontera entre Texas y México para detener a los solicitantes de asilo que intentaban entrar en el país. Dedicaron más tiempo a patrullar los condados fronterizos, algunos de los cuales se encuentran hasta a 200 millas de la frontera. Esta política represiva no ha hecho más que magnificar los incidentes de elaboración de perfiles raciales y discriminación contra

negros y pardos, que ya eran frecuentes en los condados fronterizos de Texas. Millones de personas han sido detenidas en la frontera debido a este decreto criminal, injusto y supremacista blanco.

Más de 4.000 millones de dólares del dinero de los contribuyentes de Texas se han utilizado para financiar la Operación Estrella Solitaria desde su inicio. Un condado de Texas, donde muchos residentes viven por debajo del índice de pobreza y carecen de las necesidades básicas, recibió 3.000 millones de dólares de financiación, pero sólo se destinaron a la Operación Estrella Solitaria.

### El imperialismo estadounidense en la raíz de la crisis

En los dos últimos años se han registrado más de 1.350 muertes en la frontera, aunque es probable que el número de los que perdieron la vida antes de completar su viaje sea mucho mayor.

Los migrantes llegan a Estados Unidos en masa debido

a las condiciones materiales creadas o exacerbadas por el capitalismo global, la destrucción del clima y la guerra, perpetrados por Estados Unidos. Este imperio violento, supremacista blanco y heteropatriarcal protege la propiedad, la riqueza y el poder de los superricos.

El gobierno estadounidense proclama que este país es un “faro de la democracia mundial” y utiliza esa afirmación como motivo para financiar guerras, invadir países, fortificar golpes de Estado y contrarrevoluciones. Mientras tanto, muchos residentes de Estados Unidos no tienen acceso a necesidades básicas como alimentos, vivienda, atención sanitaria y educación. El Estado capitalista niega cruelmente la entrada a millones de personas desesperadas, sobre todo a las que son negras y morenas e intentan buscar asilo en el llamado “mejor país del mundo.”

Nadie es ilegal en tierra robada. Las personas tienen el derecho fundamental a viajar libremente y vivir donde elijan. □





# ¡Permitid la entrada en EE.UU. a todos los inmigrantes!

Por Alex Koplos  
El Paso, Texas, el 26 de diciembre de 2022

El 19 de diciembre, 400 soldados de la Guardia Nacional de Texas fueron desplegados en mi ciudad natal de El Paso para “ayudar” con la migración masiva en la frontera con Juárez, México. El estado desplegó estos cuerpos especiales imperiales de hombres armados mientras la ciudad anticipaba el fin del Título 42 el 21 de diciembre, que permitiría a más migrantes solicitar asilo legalmente.

Sin embargo, el Tribunal Supremo intervino el 19 de diciembre y dictaminó “detener temporalmente el fin de la política del Título 42”. Esto permitió a las autoridades estadounidenses seguir deteniendo y expulsando a migrantes en la frontera, privándoles de intentar obtener asilo. El 20 de diciembre, el gobierno de Biden pidió al Tribunal Supremo que pusiera fin a la política, pero “solicitó un aplazamiento hasta al menos después de Navidad”. (PBS NewsHour, 20 de diciembre) Con las disputas legales y políticas, podría llevar meses.

Miles de personas han dejado a sus familias y han viajado durante meses a través de un terreno peligroso, con la esperanza de obtener una vida mejor a su llegada a Estados Unidos, sólo para que se les niegue la entrada y encontrarse con violentos soldados armados y alambre de púas. Muchos migrantes, incluidos niños, han tenido que dormir en las calles de México mientras esperaban la entrada, o deben hacer lo mismo una vez que son admitidos en El Paso. Si consiguen cruzar la frontera, los migrantes pueden ser encarcelados por cargos penales de allanamiento en virtud de las inhumanas leyes de Texas.

## Uso racista del Título 42

El Título 42 del Código Gubernamental de EE.UU. o Ley de Servicios de Salud Pública se codificó originalmente en 1944. Permitía a las autoridades federales denegar la entrada de personas y productos en EE.UU. si el cirujano general determinaba que procedían de un país con una “enfermedad contagiosa”. Esa autoridad se otorgó al director del Centro de Enfermedades Transmisibles en 1966. (Texas Tribune, actualizado el 5 de diciembre) (El CDC pasó a llamarse Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades en 1992).

En marzo de 2020, la administración Trump invocó este estatuto en relación con la propagación de COVID-19, utilizándolo como una razón para permitir a las autoridades negar la entrada a los migrantes en la frontera sur. Esta política racista se dirigía específicamente a personas procedentes de países como Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haití, Cuba, Ecuador y Perú; los inmigrantes procedentes de Ucrania y algunos otros países estaban excluidos de ella. Mientras tanto, EE.UU. ha tenido pocas o ninguna restricción COVID-19 para sus residentes y ha sido uno de los principales focos de la enfermedad desde su aparición.

El gobierno de Biden ha seguido manteniendo esta vil política, que ha facilitado la detención y expulsión de más de



Migrantes en el cruce del Río Grande, 11 de diciembre de 2022.

2 millones de personas que pretendían entrar en el país en los años fiscales 2021-2022. (BBC News, 21 de diciembre)

En julio de 2021, decenas de miles de haitianos llegaron y acamparon bajo un puente en Del Rio, Texas, días después del asesinato del presidente de Haití, Jovenel Moïse. Se les “denegó la entrada” en virtud del Título 42 y se encontraron con violencia estatal y detenciones. Agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza a caballo les atacaron y gritaron: “Vuelvan a México”. (NPR, 7 de septiembre)

El CDC señaló en abril que levantaría la orden, y el Título 42 debía terminar el 16 de mayo. Sin embargo, un juez federal bloqueó su finalización, desencadenando una larga batalla legal. Muchos migrantes han estado esperando en México desde entonces a que expirara el estatuto, para que se les permitiera la entrada. La fecha de expiración se trasladó al 21 de diciembre, pero ahora no está claro cuándo terminará, debido a las objeciones de 19 estados liderados por la derecha y a la sentencia del Tribunal Supremo. (Al Jazeera, 19 de diciembre)

## 2022: Cronología del cruce de la frontera sur

Septiembre: Los venezolanos comenzaron a llegar diariamente por centenas a Ciudad Juárez, México. Muchos se encontraron con resistencia y se les negó la entrada debido al Título 42. Los que pudieron cruzar fueron liberados por la Patrulla Fronteriza en El Paso sin fondos, dejándoles dormir en la calle.

El Paso gastó 9,5 millones de dólares en 2022 en prestar servicios a refugiados

y migrantes. (Texas Tribune, 14 de diciembre) Muchos migrantes son amontonados en autobuses o enviados al aeropuerto para

ser enviados a Nueva York, Detroit y otros lugares. Al menos un niño se ahogó en el río al intentar cruzar la frontera.

Las autoridades de El Paso propusieron declarar el estado de emergencia, ya que la ciudad estaba y sigue estando mal preparada para albergar y ayudar a los miles de solicitantes de asilo. El alcalde de El Paso, Oscar Leeser, declaró que la congresista Verónica Escobar (demócrata de El Paso) le instó a no declarar el estado de emergencia. Los políticos locales especularon con que era probable, porque una emergencia fronteriza haría quedar mal al gobierno de Biden y

al Partido Demócrata local y estatal antes de las elecciones de mitad de mandato del 2 de noviembre. La ciudad recibió fondos federales adicionales sin declarar el estado de emergencia.

Octubre: Miles de personas procedentes de Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú llegan a la frontera para solicitar asilo. Cientos acampan en la orilla sur del río Grande, en Juárez, mientras esperaban la entrada. El campamento se encontró con abusos policiales en Juárez. Se quemó una tienda y se dispersó a la gente.

Grupos de migrantes entraron en El Paso a través de la autopista fronteriza y por túneles de alcantarillado y agua y por encima de las vallas. Dos personas fueron atropelladas cuando intentaban cruzar por la autopista.

Diciembre: Más de 20.000 personas llegaron a Juárez, y hasta 6.000 migrantes intentaron cruzar a El Paso diariamente.

Los que lograron cruzar tuvieron que ingeniárselas para conseguir un billete de avión o autobús, o tuvieron que dormir en la calle. Muchos dependen de cartones para mantenerse calientes durante las gélidas noches.

Los refugios y los hogares están desbordados. El 16 de diciembre, el alcalde Leeser declaró el estado de emergencia para solicitar ayuda adicional. Las escuelas están siendo reutilizadas como refugios de emergencia.

Las tropas de la Guardia Nacional de Texas instalaron vehículos militares y vallas de alambre de espinos en las zonas fronterizas, donde se congregaba la gente. Blandiendo rifles, han estado impidiendo de forma abusiva la entrada de personas en Estados Unidos.

## Se mantiene la política de ‘permanecer en México’

La administración Trump implementó los Protocolos de Protección al Migrante o la política de Permanecer en México (RMX) en enero de 2019. Requiere que los hombres adultos solos, las mujeres y las unidades familiares, que buscan asilo por tierra en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, regresen a México mientras esperan sus audiencias de asilo en el tribunal de inmigración de Estados Unidos.

Esta política perjudicial somete a poblaciones ya de por sí vulnerables a condiciones inseguras y peligrosas en la frontera y les niega su derecho a solicitar asilo. Más de 70.000 migrantes se han visto obligados a permanecer en México a la espera de juicio en Estados Unidos.

El presidente Joe Biden había suspendido ese programa cuando asumió el cargo en enero de 2021, pero tribunales inferiores restablecieron la política RMX después de que se presentaran demandas encabezadas por republicanos de Texas y Missouri. Se reanudó en diciembre de 2021; el 8 de agosto, un juez anuló la orden que había estado en vigor desde entonces, y el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional puso fin a esta política.

Pero el 15 de diciembre, un juez federal de Texas impidió que la administración Biden pusiera fin temporalmente al programa RMX hasta que se resolvieran los recursos legales interpuestos por Texas y Missouri.

## Fin de la brutal 'Operación Estrella Solitaria'

El 6 de marzo de 2021, el misógino y xenófobo gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, junto con el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas, puso en marcha la “Operación Estrella Solitaria”. Según un comunicado de prensa de Abbott, integra el DPS con la Guardia Nacional de Texas y “despliega activos de seguridad de fronteras aéreas, terrestres, marinos y tácticos a zonas de alta amenaza para negar a los cárteles mexicanos y otros contrabandistas la capacidad de mover drogas y personas a Texas.”

Esta política inhumana y racista tiene como objetivo a los migrantes y los lleva por la vía rápida a la cárcel o a la deportación. En virtud de esta política, los agentes de policía y los soldados realizan perfiles

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