Biden’s war drive fuels resistance

By John Catalinotto

In the week of the first anniversary of the U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, the Biden administration has taken or announced steps to prolong that war and risk its escalation. The corporate media has parroted and amplified the announcement. And the antiwar movement began to respond.

President Joe Biden made a quick trip Feb. 20 by rail into Kiev, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to prop up his shaky regime. Biden offered the U.S. puppet $850 million in arms and ammunition. Quickly back by rail to Warsaw, Poland, Biden told reporters at the Royal Castle that there would be “hard and bitter days ahead,” and before returning to Washington, he promised that Washington and its NATO allies would “have Ukraine’s back,” which implies more Ukrainians will die at the front. (PBS, Feb. 21)

On Feb. 24, the Pentagon announced a new aid package for Ukraine, committing $2 billion to send more rounds of ammunition and a variety of small, high-tech drones into the slaughter. The aid includes the upgraded Switchblade 600 kamikaze drone, as well as electronic warfare detection equipment. The U.S. has now committed more than $32 billion in weapons in the past year, according to an AP report.

Propaganda offensive

Washington also opened a diplomatic and propaganda offensive. An anti-Russia vote in the United Nations General Assembly had more or less the same results as similar calls last year. While 141 countries voted to condemn, including all NATO members—have aligned with the U.S.—the governments—including all NATO members—have aligned with the U.S.—pro-war line. While this deluge of propaganda blunted the response of organizations and parties that are usually antiwar — the Left Party in Germany, for example — there were indications within the working class of a growing distrust of the U.S./NATO official arguments. The closer to the front line, the greater the worry about the war.

Antiwar actions

Pro-war forces exploited the one-year anniversary to organize support for the war. Antiwar actions in most countries were stronger than they had been. In Germany, a key supporter of the U.S./NATO war, the first mass antiwar demonstrations under left leadership hit the streets. Tens of thousands of Germans attended the

Palestinians’ general strike against Israeli repression

By Kathy Durkin

On Feb. 23, 2023, a general strike organized by Palestinians spread throughout the Occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza to denounce to the world the massacre perpetrated by 150 Israeli soldiers in Nablus in the previous day. The siege resulted in the death of 11 Palestinians and the wounding of 120 others, including elderly people and children.

Shops, schools, universities, public institutions and banks were closed as part of the protests. Many usually busy places were empty.

The Israeli Defense Forces had stormed Nablus with armored vehicles and special forces, firing ammunition indiscriminately into large crowds. Their drones dropped tear gas, mixed with pepper spray everywhere, on workers and their children who were simply going about their daily lives, to school, workplaces and stores.

But there was immediate resistance. A call went out by Palestinians attacked during Israel’s raid to take to the streets to protest at midnight on Feb. 24. This call was answered by thousands in several cities and villages in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Thousands of Palestinians attended the funeral of those killed, shouting chants denouncing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and honoring the fighters and civilians who were murdered. Resistance fighters shot off gunfire as they marched through Nablus.

Since the new year started, the Israeli military has killed 65 Palestinians, including 13 children, wrote Al Jazeera on Feb. 24. In January, IDF soldiers killed 10 Palestinians in a Jenin refugee camp. The military assault in Nablus was the third major raid this year under the new racist, expansionist government. And there are nearly daily IDF raids on the Occupied West Bank.

Hebron, another city in the West Bank where Palestinians are constantly harassed and their homes raided by the IDF, is home to tens of thousands of Palestinians and a small population of Zionist settlers. On the day of the funeral in Nablus, Palestinians were marking the 29th anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

On Feb. 24, 1994, an Israeli-American settler killed 29 Palestinians while they were worshiping in the Hebron mosque. Demonstrators marched through the city’s streets this year on Feb. 24, with signs reading, “Take the colonial settlers out of Hebron.”

With the horrific repression against the Palestinian people and the Zionists’ designs on their land, all progressives worldwide should echo their slogan: “From the river to the sea — Palestine will be free!”

Jim Wallace contributed to this article.

Continued on page 3
Members of the New York/New Jersey Committee of the Venceremos Brigade gave moving accounts of their experiences on the 53st Venceremos Brigade in Cuba at a Feb. 26 hybrid meeting at the Solidarity Center in New York.

Yohana Beyene said one of the highlights was learning about Cuba’s new Family Code, which was approved in a September referendum. It expands the definition of what is a family: the code gave same-sex couples the right to marry, adopt children and legalize noncommercial surrogacy. More than 80,000 consultations were held with the Cuban people in developing the code.

Beyene said that when Brigadistas asked how Cubans managed to overcome reactionary views to this radical reform, the Cubans explained that the “needs of consciousness,” planted by the revolution and Cuban government, allowed people to see it as an extension of the ideals of Cuban culture and revolution.

Richie Merino recounted his discussions with the community outside the Guantamano military base, who said they would like people in the U.S. to fight to lift the blockade. “We can give everyone in our society free health care, free education, and ensure everyone has a roof over their heads. Imagine how much more we could accomplish when the blockade is lifted?” they had told Merino.

Summer Tactetta stated: “The biggest highlight was the opportunity to speak to people experiencing a cultural revolution, who are able to see so much, to talk about how we are seen.” The speakers described how art, dance and music are accessible to everyone in the country and that classes are provided for free at cultural community centers. They noted how antiracism is practiced, from providing medical education to assisting people of African descent to become doctors, including Haitians and people from the Black community in the U.S.

Cuba sent 30,000 people to assist in the historic African liberation struggles and has promoted people of African descent in leadership roles in all Cuban institutions. They said there are still problems in Cuba, but for example, unlike in the U.S., transgender people are not killed, and no one is left homeless. “In Cuba any problem is a problem that needs to be solved communally,” Merino said.

Toni Arestenst said that Cuba developed the drug Heberprot-P, human recombinant epidermal growth factor, which is 94% effective in preventing amputations in people with diabetic foot ulcers. Arestenst noted that amputation is a serious complication of diabetes, which in the U.S. mostly impacts Black people, because of the lack of adequate health care. “If it weren’t for the blockade, people in the U.S. would have access to this medicine,” she said, which has been available in Cuba since 2006.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan

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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, multigenerational workforce. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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By Lyn Neeley

“How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline,” a report by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, was released Feb. 8. Hersh’s information comes from an unnamed source with direct knowledge of the operational planning preceding the Sept. 26, 2022, attack and the sophisticated methods used by the U.S. and Norway to destroy Russia’s Nord Stream pipelines. (tinyurl.com/zfnmveks)

On Feb. 21, the United Nations Security Council met about threats to international peace and security, specifically, the explosions that sabotaged Nord Stream pipelines 1 and 2. The two speakers who were asked to brief the meeting based their comments on the facts presented in Hersh’s report. They were Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University professor and specialist in the global economy, and Raymond McGovern, who spent 27 years as an intelligence analyst and former chief of the Soviet foreign policy branch of the CIA.

Sachs began by calling the pipeline attack an act of international terrorism. He said only a few countries were capable of conducting the sabotage, because it “required a very high degree of planning, expertise, technological capacity and access to the Baltic Sea.” The countries named were the U.S., Russia, Britain, Poland, Norway, Germany, Denmark and Sweden. With the exception of Russia, each of these countries is a member of NATO and an ally of the U.S. (The Washington Post, Aug. 16, 2022)

Hersh wrote that there was a “widespread conclusion that the destruction of the pipelines was planned by the U.S.” He referred to a tweet from Poland immediately after the explosions, which said, “Thank you, USA.”

U.S. motive, role

President Joe Biden, said at a press briefing last year: “If Russia invades [Ukraine] … there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.” When asked by a reporter how he would do that, Biden said: “I promise you; we will be able to do that.” (tinyurl.com/zg869y9)

The Nord Stream pipelines run from Russia directly to Germany through the Baltic Sea and connect the two countries economically. The pipelines were a joint Russian-German effort costing $23 billion. They supplied Germany with such a large surplus of Russian natural gas that Germany could resell it to other countries in Western Europe, providing the European Union with its own reliable source of gas supply. Natural gas sales provided for 45% of Russia’s annual budget. “We will bring an end,” Hersh said, “to the flow of Russian natural gas to Germany.”

Hersh wrote, “America’s political fears were real.” The pipeline gave Russia an “additional and much-needed major source of income, and Germany and the rest of Western Europe would become addicted to low-cost natural gas supplied by Russia while diminishing European reliance on America.”

The U.S. blamed Russia for the attack on the Nord Stream pipelines. In his address, Sachs said that the U.S. had no motive to destroy its own pipeline: “A recent report by The Washington Post revealed that the intelligence agencies of NATO countries have privately concluded that there is no evidence whatsoever that Russia carried out this action.” According to Hersh’s source, the U.S.’s Norwegian allies were crucial to executing the pipeline attack. In the last few years, the Pentagon has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. Navy and Air Force facilities in Norway. Norway “hated the Russians, and the Norwegian navy was full of superb sailors and divers who had generations of experience in highly profitable deep-sea oil and gas exploration.” They “could be trusted to keep the mission secret,” because if the U.S. succeeded, it would allow Norway to sell more of its own natural gas to Europe.

Hersh’s source reported that the Norwegian navy was quick to find the right spot, “where the pipelines ran more than a mile apart, along a seabed that was only 260 feet deep.” According to Hersh’s source, “within the range of the divers” – Norwegian navy and U.S. navy divers, who packed C-4 on the pipelines, each Nord Stream being a pair of two pipelines. The explosions were triggered three months later on Sept. 26, 2022, and, Hersh writes, “destroyed three of the four Nord Stream pipelines, according to a source with direct knowledge of the operational planning.” An investigation into the pipeline explosion is being conducted by Norway, Germany, Denmark and Sweden. However, they have yet to release their findings to Russia, the U.N. Security Council or the rest of the world.

 Calls for independent investigation

Russia circulated a draft resolution to Security Council members asking the U.N. secretary general to swiftly establish an independent investigation into the Nord Stream attacks. Russia’s U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told the Security Council that the results of their investigation “are not only not transparent, but it is quite clear that they seek just to cover the tracks and stick up for their ... American brother.” (tinyurl.com/ yuuyxuast)

Methane emission – climate cost of war

Estimates are that half a million metric tons of methane exploded from the damaged Nord Stream pipelines, a larger quantity emitted at one time than any ever previously recorded. Methane, the main component in natural gas, traps heat 80 times more efficiently than carbon dioxide, and methane caused the temperature increase due to all fossil fuel development and landfills, in addition to livestock and rice fields. Human-caused-emission quantities of methane are considered to be a greater factor for near-term climate change than carbon dioxide. (tinyurl.com/gnkkimmk)

At the Feb. 21 meeting, representatives of Security Council members Ecuador, Gabon, Mozambique and others spoke about the unacceptable loss of a valuable source of pollution to marine life in the area; threats to aerial and marine navigations; the need for investigating climate consequences; and the dangers the explosion poses for the complex global geopolitical situation, in which any incident could trigger unpredictable consequences. The United Arab Emirates was among many coun- tries’ representatives who called for an immediate independent investigation grounded in science and facts, not political posturing.

China’s representative Zhang Jun said the huge amount of detailed information shared by Hersh and McGovern “cannot be dismissed as utterly false and a complete fabrication.” He was referring to the statement by the U.S. representative that the United Kingdom and the U.S. were helping with the investigation “are not only not transparent, but it is quite clear that they seek just to cover the tracks and stick up for their ... American brother.” (tinyurl.com/ yuuyxuast)

Clearly, the Pentagon is more interested in intensifying its proxy war against Russia than in aiding the transition to green energy.

Biden’s war drive fuels resistance

Continued from page 1

Uprising for Peace mass rally in Berlin Feb. 25. The rally’s main spokesperson were Die Linke (Left Party) politician Sahra Wagenknecht and author Alice Schwarzer. The Left Party has serious divisions regarding the war in Ukraine, which has held back the anti-war movement up to now. The demonstrations followed upon the Social Democratic-led coalition government in Berlin to stop supplying Germany, which regime is armed with weapons, and they demanded peace talks. As Wagenknecht remarked, the rally showed “how many are here” and that we needed a new, strong peace movement, and “we’re working to mobilize ourselves.” (junge Welt, Feb. 27)

Veteran journalist Seymour Hersh’s article, revealing the U.S. role in setting bombs to destroy parts of the Nord Stream pipelines carrying Russian gas to Germany, exposed the terrorist tactics Washington employs to keep its European Union allies in line, regarding the economic offensive against Russia. (tinyurl.com/6dh04g7)

In Italy, thousands of people demonstrated across the country in Rome, Florence, Milan and Genoa, against Western sanctions imposed on Russia. The protesters demanded that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s government stop supplying Kiev with weapons. The U.S. has used its Camp Darby base near Livorno as a major depot for weapons and its air base at Aviano, in Italy’s northeast, to bomb Yugoslavia in 1990 and Libya in 2011. From Italian soil, many U.S. air bases threaten Russia with a possible nuclear first strike. These threats also make Italy a target.

Demonstrations also took place in various cities of Portugal and smaller actions in Britain. As important as these anti-war protests were, an even greater sign of working-class resistance has been the growing number of major strike actions in Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and especially in Britain and France. These are a response to the demands that workers’ standards of living and the special sacrifices demanded by a war that is not in the interest of the workers. Protect protest in the U.S.

In the United States, too, workers have been in mass movement, with protests, much more so than previously, with young workers questioning government policies on all fronts. And the anti-war movement has called for national actions on March 18, with the central action at 1 p.m. at the White House in Washington. This call is left that have been agitating for an end to NATO’s aggression in Europe and worldwide and battling the U.S. use of economic sanctions in another form of war. (unacpeace.org)
Kamau Sadiki: ‘That soldier, that person that they can’t break’

By Marie Kelly

In 1999, the FBI threatened Kamau Sadiki with life in prison if he did not assist in their attempt to recapture Assata Shakur – mother of Sadiki’s daughters, Yakuku Shakur, and a political exile in Cuba. When Sadiki refused to betray his principles and entrapped Shakur, the FBI convinced Atlanta police to reopen a 30-year-old cold case and charge him. As a result, in 2002, Sadiki, a veteran member of the Black Panther Party, was wrongfully convicted of the 1971 murder of a Fulton County, Georgia, police officer.

He is currently serving a life sentence at the Augusta State Medical Prison in Georgia. His other daughter, K’Sisay Sadiki and Rafael Outland, a student and author of the Free Kamau Coalition and are working to obtain his release. Workers World interviewed K’Sisay Sadiki and Rafael Outland, author and member of the Free Kamau coalition.

Workers World: Tell me about your life with your Dad.

K’Sisay Sadiki: I’m really close to my father. When my father was released in ’79, I was eight years old. I remember that day. It was the happiest day of my life. I was all excited and at the same time, I was so scared. I didn’t know what would happen. I was living in Queens. So when my parents walked in and told me my dad was free, I excitedly ran to school. I ran home and told my friends. So it was a huge moment. My family and friends and family had welcomed him home. We lived in Queens for a while, moved to Brooklyn, and my Dad worked for the phone company. He was the head of the community. He learned from the Black Panther Party. That was his interaction with folks in the community.

He was a storyteller. He would step outside, talk to the kids on the block. He loves Stephen King, loves sci-fi and just telling stories and giving all the kids the stories that he’s read. And our relationship developed too, because having a daughter, he wanted me to be a top martial artist, but I was a dancer.

My mom was always like, you have to be softer on her. She was all about discipline. But my mother let us spend a lot of time together, just a lot of time to develop our relationship. And we did normal stuff. He wanted to provide for his family. He was out for over 30 years. ... he was there with me becoming a woman and a grandparent to my children.

When we Fast forward to 2002, talk about finding out he had been arrested.

KS: His past was being a Panther. But you know, he’s known as the telephone man. But one day, I came home, and my children’s father said, ‘Your father has been arrested.’ I remember being in court. And my father looked devastated. We were devastated. It was something that started out very minor, but now these detectives make a connection to him and Askari M. It was a case from 1971. So I know he had gone to court, like back and forth, dealing with the case. But then he said to me, ‘I have to go to court today because of this 1971 case. But don’t worry, I’ll be home.’ But he didn’t; he never came home. I felt like my father disappeared.

WW: Talk about how you created your play to tell your Dad’s story.

KS: You know having parents that were Panthers, my dad and my mom are my heroes. I grew up with love and a real connection. My mother was 16 and my father was 18 or 19 when they had me. They were teenagers, and they had a love story. I wanted to be able to tap into that; even with all the pain, they were people. I have a film background with documentaries, and I needed to express my emotions and pain.

And through storytelling and using performance, I can really connect with everybody. I had collected all my letters from the ’70s till now from him. I have all these letters that document everything that he’s gone through in his life. I took those letters, and I shaped a story. I performed first at Albert Maysles Film Festival, then at Princeton and in D.C. The last performance was at the University Settlement, and I thought, ‘I’m going somewhere with this,’ and then COVID happened. So now in January 2023, I’m writing again. It’s actually very healing to be my father’s voice again, to be my mother’s voice, to go back in time to the ’60s and then bring it up to today. I can take my father’s story and have all these history and be proud.

WW: I want to get into what he’s going through right now. He’s in a prison hospital. Can you talk about his health problems?

KS: He’s having illnesses, and he was diagnosed with hepatitis and sarcoidosis. This affected his organs, and he experienced excruciating pain. So he’s been housed in the Augusta State Medical Prison for 20 years.

WW: Rafael, could you speak about what it’s like as a grown woman, a mother, that’s been incarcerated, and why they were important.

RO: The other part is to donate, highlight the medical, family and coalition expenses at this point. If you know anybody about being incarcerated, it just has a huge economic impact on the family. So just being able to donate whatever people can provide become important. Then we have a couple of social media outlets: facebook.com/freekamausadiki and instagram.com/freekamau Sadiki. Support him to visit some of the websites to web sites and web links. One is the official website at freekamau.com. The other is linktr.ee/FreekamauSadiki.com. There are a couple of social media outlets: facebook.com/freekamausadiki and instagram.com/freekamau Sadiki.

KS: As a matter of fact, I think that they have a new contract with some other company to provide the medical care at the Augusta State Medical Prison – that even some of the needs that my dad had before, he’s not getting, because the contract doesn’t include certain additional care. He has these wounds on his ankles; he did not have them going into that prison. That’s something that he got over the years, and that’s been neglected in terms of proper care.

WW: What kinds of support do you need?

RO: I think the first thing is to encourage people who would like to support him to visit some of the websites and web links. One is the official website at freekamau.com. The other is linktr.ee/FreekamauSadiki.com. There are a couple of social media outlets: facebook.com/freekamausadiki and instagram.com/freekamau Sadiki.

KS: Support our prisoner subscription program at patreon.com/wwp

Workers World newspaper provides free subscriptions to any of our readers who are currently incarcerated. Please consider donating at patreon.com/wwp to help cover the cost of sending newspapers every month to hundreds of our comrades behind bars.

KS: That we now have a coalition is something that years ago I wouldn’t have thought possible. That he would get this kind of support to free him, despite his life sentence. Sherr, who is also a veteran Black Panther, and I used to talk about having a coalition for my dad. It was just an idea, and we were just trying to outline it. And it’s really happening. So there’s progress. There’s a lot more to do. But again, I’m just trying to see him come home, because it is something I couldn’t even imagine. Hugging him again. What would it be like as a grown woman?
Yet another attack on Black women in sports

If you listen to sportscasters covering men’s professional and college basketball, you often hear words like “athleticism” and “physicality” used to complement star players. Or a team is praised for being “aggressive.”

But it’s a different story when it’s women, especially women of color, shooting the hoops. Coach Geno Auriemma had the unmitigated gall to criticize the South Carolina Gamecocks and their Coach Dawn Staley for too much physicality. “I don’t know what it is, but it’s not basketball,” Auriemma harped after his team, the University of Connecticut Huskies, lost to South Carolina 81-77 on Feb. 5.

The Gamecocks won the National College Athletic Association national women’s basketball championship last year, beating UConn. Power forward/centerAliyah Boston was named Player of the Year. Both, along with most of the team, are Black. Auriemma is white.

Perhaps this rerun of last year’s defeat gave the UConn coach a case of the sore-loser blues, but that in itself does not explain his insulting remarks. What lies beneath the surface is the pervasive racism and misogyny surrounding both college and professional sports.

Maybe Auriemma privately wanted to call the opposing team the stereotypical term “unadulterate.”

Coach Staley pushed back, calling Auriemma out for his disrespectful approach to discredit her team, which is undefeated this season. “We play in the SEC [Southeastern Conference]. That’s how we play. We’re not going to change it,” she said. (boundingIntoSports.com)

Not the first attack on Coach Staley

Last August Rachel Richardson, a Black member of the Duke University women’s volleyball team, complained she was the target of horrible racist slurs coming from fans at Brigham Young University. The Utah college is sponsored by the Mormon Church, which has a long history of embracing white supremacy. Nevertheless, Richardson complimented the school’s athletic director for what she took as a sincere apology for the racism she was subjected to.

What happened to Richardson prompted South Carolina Coach Staley to cancel her team’s games against BYU. She did not want her players to experience similar trauma.

But after BYU conducted an “investigation” and claimed the incidents never took place, sports media was full of allegations that Richardson’s version was a “fake story” or a “hoax.” The media criticized Coach Staley for her firm stance, but she refused to change her position. “Did the young lady [Richardson] come out and say that she apologized for hearing something wrong?” Staley asked. “Did she come out and say that yet? Okay, then that’s her story.”

This is the context in which we have to view Auriemma’s latest outburst.

The racism, sexism, ableism, anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry and exploitation of athletes for profits that permeate the sports world are embedded in the whole capitalist system. Staley’s uncompromising stance should be applauded by athletes and other workers of all genders and gender identities/expressions.

Sports — like health care, education, housing, culture, food and all the things that enable human beings to live and enjoy life— should be for people, not for profit. ☐

No criminalization of trans people!

By Princess Harmony

In Texas, after attempts to categorize transition-related care for minors as child abuse failed, state legislators took the next step in attacking the transgender and gender-nonconforming communities.

A bill introduced in the state Senate would ban transition-related care for everyone, including adults.

Efforts to block trans-affirming care in Texas, if successful, would encourage other states to go further in banning trans health care. Already in Florida, coverage for all transition-related care was denied by the state-run Medicaid program, while in Oklahoma, legislators are seeking to ban similar health care for trans people 26 and younger.

A bill is being pushed in South Carolina to criminalize trans health care for anyone under 21 and to make it difficult for trans people over 21 to get care.

Citing “regret” for transitioning as the reason for these bills, supporters seek to “protect” trans people from themselves — as if they know best what trans people need. The right-wingers’ true mission is to criminalize being trans. Legislation that starts with banning trans health care could lead to bans on people wearing clothes that do not fit their gender assigned at birth.

In true reactionary fashion, bill backers hide their ill intent behind incoherent-sounding words. The reality is that only 1% of people regret transition, and higher percentage of people regret getting other surgeries like knee replacements.

Study upon study has shown that trans youth who get treatment have better mental health outcomes than youth denied care. The most recent of these studies, published this year, called “Psychosocial Functioning in Transgender Youth After 2 Years of Hormones” presents the following fact: Many transgender youth are far happier and more content after receiving hormonal treatment. (nejm.org)

Another study, “Transgender Noninclusive Healthcare and Delaying Care Because of Fear: Connections to General Health and Mental Health Among Transgender Adults,” shows how having to delay care damages the mental health of trans adults. (liebertpub.com)

But do the reactionaries, who seek to suppress trans people, care? No, they do not.

The mental health impact of these laws and the environment they create will be felt strongly by transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Transgender people deserve care, respect and treatment that recognizes them as human beings sovereign over their own bodies. Transgender children deserve to be treated humanely and with dignity.

What can be done in response to these bills? First, the formation of a militant movement — even in states considered “safe” for trans people, though truly none are ever safe — to defend trans rights and demand that health care should be paramount. Second, the formation of buyers’ clubs — similar to those that people with chronic illnesses have founded — for hormones should be considered.

The movement must respond to every attack from every angle, presenting the now-known fact that trans health care improves trans mental health.

Even if it’s not possible to win over the hard-core bigots, the majority of working-class and oppressed people can be won to supporting trans rights. ☐

Transatlantic labor solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Dave Welch

A South Africa labor meeting to build solidarity for Mumia Abu-Jamal was held in Durban, South Africa, during the last week of January 2023. This picture was taken in Johannesburg at the National Union of Longshore Workers of South Africa (NUMSA) headquarters during the meeting.

South Africa’s largest union welcomed a 14-member International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) delegation, with strong support for innoce U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Pictured here (L-R) are David Newton, Oakland longshore worker and nephew of Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton; Irvin Jim, general secretary of NUMSA; and Jack Heyman, retired member, ILWU Local 10, which represents longshore workers in Oakland and San Francisco, California.

“Mumia Abu-Jamal’s situation has long struck a chord in light of the history of our own freedom struggles in South Africa,” said Irvin Jim, “and the long struggle for Black liberation in America, that goes back to the days of slavery.” Jim recently sent a long open letter to Judge Lucretia Clemons, who is overseeing Abu-Jamal’s current appeal, urging the release of “America’s most well-known political prisoner” and “undoing this grave injustice that has visited Abu-Jamal for more than four decades.” ☐
Los políticos imperialistas y los medios de comunicación están inundando al público con las mismas mentiras que han estado difundiendo durante todo el año sobre la guerra proxy de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania. La provocadora visita del presidente Joe Biden a Kiev el 20 de febrero, llevando regalos de más armas para expandir la guerra, aumenta el peligro para el mundo. Todavía está dentro del poder de la clase obrera en Europa y Estados Unidos obstruir la ofensiva imperialista. Lo que se necesita es un antidoto contra el veneno de los medios corporativos. Una concisa lista de acontecimientos muestra cómo Washington forzó esta guerra. El 12 de marzo de 1999, la OTAN incorporó a la República Checa (Chechia), Hungría y Polonia a la alianza dirigida por Estados Unidos. Este acto expuso como falsa la promesa del Secretario de Estado de EE.UU. James Baker en 1991 de que “la OTAN no movería sus ejércitos ni una pulgada más cerca de la frontera con Rusia”. (New York Times, 9 de enero de 2002)

Sólo 12 días después, Estados Unidos, junto con los principales aliados de la OTAN, lanzó bombas y cobertes contra puentes, escuelas y hospitales de Serbia y Montenegro. El ataque duró 79 días. La guerra allanó el camino hacia la aniquilación del Estado socialista multinacional Yugoslavo. Las fuerzas estadounidenses manipularon la llamada “Revolución Naranja” en Ucrania en 2004, que sustituyó a un gobierno amigo de Rusia por otro más dependiente de Occidente. Luego, entre 2003 y 2014, las agencias estadounidenses financiaron y movieron la llamada revolución de Banderas Amarillas, una revolución enfeude- tada de fascistas que expulsó al presidente electo e impuso un régimen golpista anti- ruso en Kiev.

La OTAN ataca a los rusos étnicos
El primer acto de esta banda fue destruir el ruso ucraniano.

La península de Crimea había formado parte de Rusia desde 1783 hasta 1954. En 2014, la población de Crimea, en su mayoría de etnia rusa, decidió en referéndum volver a unirse a Rusia. Con el pretexto de la recuperación de Crimea por Rusia, Washington presionó a los países de la Unión Europea para que imposieran sancio- nes económicas a Rusia.

Los habitantes de las dos provincias de la región de Donbass, también en su mayoría de etnia rusa, crearon repúblicas independientes en Donetsk y Lugansk en 2014. Kiev respondió a este grito de auto-determinación con una guerra contra las dos repúblicas.

Los acuerdos de alto el fuego firmados en Minsk (Bielorrusia) en septiembre de 2014 no lograron detener los combates en Ucrania. En una entrevista publicada el 7 de diciembre de 2022 en el diario alemán Die Zeit, la ex canciller alemana Angela Merkel admitió que la UE y Kiev utilizaron los acuerdos para ganar tiempo y reanudar el fuego en el Donbass.

La OTAN pasó de 19 miembros en 1999 a 30 en 2022, incluidos países que forma- ban parte de la Unión Soviética y la mayo- ría de los países que habían sido aliados de la Unión Soviética antes de 1991. La OTAN llevó a cabo maniobras militares provocadoras que se acercaron cada vez más a las fronteras rusas, mientras que Estados Unidos comenzó a des- plegar en Europa posibles- bles armas nucleares de primer ataque.

Esto a lo que podía considerarse una ame- naza existencial, el gobierno de Moscú inició hace un año su intervención militar en Ucrania. Washington comenzó inmedia- tamente a librar una guerra por poderes contra Rusia, armando a Ucrania y utilizando a su población como carne de cañón, pre- sionando a sus aliados de la OTAN para que financien y armen y armando a las tropas de Kiev con armas disponibles en los arsenales aliados.

El pasado mes de marzo, Estados Unidos sabetó los tímidos avances hacia las negociaciones entre Ucrania y Rusia, al tiempo que exigía que Europa rompiera los lazos comerciales mutuamente benefi- ciosos con Rusia.

La OTAN liberó a los lazos comerciales mutuamente beneficiosos con Rusia.

Por Redacción Internacional internacionales@grama.cs

Desea China solución al conflicto bélico entre Rusia y Ucrania

La agencia Xinhua destaca que el gobierno chino pidió a Estados Unidos abandonar su política exterior de hegemonía e intimidación, a través de las palabras de Wang Wenbin, portavoz del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de China. El funcionario chino manifestó que la Casa Blanca no está acostumbrada a escuchar la verdad y está aún menos dispuesta a enfrentar sus propios problemas.

Estas declaraciones se pro- ducen en respuesta al discurso de Biden en Alemania, donde instó a los países europeos a suministrar más armas a Ucrania. La OTAN incorporó a la República Checa, Hungría y Polonia a la alianza dirigida por Estados Unidos. Este acto expuso como falsa la promesa del Secretario de Estado de EE.UU. James Baker en 1991 de que “la OTAN no movería sus ejércitos ni una pulgada más cerca de la frontera con Rusia”.

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