

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 every government 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 \$500 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 the historic colonialist countries in Europe, North America, Japan and Australia, the 39 countries voting against or abstaining included those with the largest populations.

When the Chinese government proposed a perfectly reasonable framework for negotiations, Washington responded as if Beijing’s proposal were a declaration of war. (tinyurl.com/5bzbzdj) Biden immediately dismissed it. His reaction sent the message that the U.S./NATO side wanted the proxy war in Ukraine to continue.

A virtual Niagara Falls of lies from the governments and corporate media then bombarded the populations in



‘Peace,’ reads banner in Berlin protest of Ukraine war, Feb. 25, 2023.

the imperialist countries. Up to now, 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

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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 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.



Palestinians, on anniversary of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre by U.S.-backed Israeli settlers, march in Hebron, Feb. 24, 2023.

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.

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New York City

Brigadistas report on inspiring experiences in Cuba

Members of the New York/New Jersey Committee of the Venceremos Brigade gave moving accounts of their experiences on the 51st 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 “seeds 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 Guantanamo 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 Taccetta 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 Arenstein noted 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. Arenstein 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 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.

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worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Nord Stream pipeline attack: an act of war

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 pipeline. (tinyurl.com/2fmvkeys)

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 is 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/2p86y5t)

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 sold the excess to other countries in Western Europe, providing the European Union with 40% of its gas supply. Natural gas sales provided for 45% of Russia’s annual budget in 2021.

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 pipeline. In his address, Sachs points out that Russia 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 “the Norwegian navy was quick to find the right spot,” where the pipelines ran more than a mile apart, along a seafloor that was only 260 feet deep. That would be well 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



The Sept. 26, 2022, explosion of the Nord Stream pipelines, which carry natural gas from Russia to Germany.

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/yuujuuxt)

Methane explosion – 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 human-caused methane release occurs 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/5n6kmmnk)

At the Feb. 21 meeting, representatives of Security Council members Ecuador, Gabon, Mozambique and others spoke about the explosion’s incalculable source of pollution to marine life in the area; threats to aerial and marine navigation; the devastating 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 countries’ 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 the briefers Sacks and McGovern “cannot be dismissed as utterly false and a complete fabrication.” He was referring to the statement by the U.S. representative discrediting allegations of U.S. involvement in the explosion. (tinyurl.com/yuujuuxt)

Zhang said that in this era of globalization, cooperation is needed in transboundary communication, energy and transportation. He announced a global security initiative being proposed by China’s President Xi Jinping to help prevent incidents of sabotage in the future and called for the Security Council to speed up an impartial and professional investigation into the pipeline explosion. Sachs stated: “The global transformation to green energy will require considerable transboundary infrastructure, including in international waters. Countries need to have full confidence that their infrastructure will not be destroyed by third parties. Some European countries have recently expressed concern over the safety of their offshore infrastructure.”

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

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Uprising for Peace mass rally in Berlin Feb. 25. The rally’s main spokespeople



Milan, Feb. 25, 2023, one of many actions across Italy opposing arms deliveries to Kiev.

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 demonstrators called upon the Social Democratic-led coalition government in Berlin to stop supplying the Kiev regime with weapons, and they demanded peace talks. As Wagenknecht remarked, the rally showed “how many we are” and that we needed a new, strong peace movement, and “we’re getting ourselves organized.” (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/bdhn647j)

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 1999 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 antiwar 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 decades of encroachments on workers’ standards of living and the special sacrifices demanded by a war that is not in the interest of the workers.

Protest planned in the U.S.

In the United States, too, workers have been in motion for the past two years, much more so than previously, with young workers questioning government policies on all fronts. And the antiwar movement has called for national actions on March 18, with the central action at 1 p.m. at the White House in Washington.

This action unites all forces on the 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 — 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 — the mother of one of Sadiki’s daughters, Kakuya Shakur, and a political exile in Cuba. When Sadiki refused to betray his principles and entrap 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, created a one-woman play, based on letters from her father and recollections of her life with him when they lived in New York together. She and other supporters formed 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. He and I talked about what our life would be like. My father went back to school at Queensboro College. He has always been good at mathematics.

He and my mother were Black Panther comrades. A lot of his comrades 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 man 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 tells stories and talks about all the books 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, look, you have to be softer on her. He 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 is a grandparent to my children.

WW: 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 from work, 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 Assata and 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 Atlanta because of the 1971 case. But don’t worry, I’ll be home.” But he didn’t; he never came home. I felt like my father died or something.

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, but 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 this history and be proud.

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

KS: He started 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: Raphael, could you speak about what is going on as far as his case?

Rafael Outland: There’s definitely a legal team that’s working on his case. And we’ve received some support in recent times from the Southern Center for Human Rights. And so we’re hoping that in the next couple of months, there can be a parole package that is developed reflective of his medical history and the ongoing challenges of neglect that he has experienced within the Augusta State Medical Prison. That becomes more of an argument of how the institution just probably is incapable of taking care of somebody like Kamau.

And as a result, with family support, community support, medical care on the outside, there’s a strong indication that he’ll get better care, outside versus inside. So from that vantage point, we’re hoping a parole package is ready. And SCHR has

their own process of getting it to the right attorneys and district attorney. His acting attorneys are doing a nice job collaborating and working together. The goal right now is more about parole or resentencing. So I think in that regard, there would be at the end of release, whatever parole would come with sentencing.

All of that would be connected to the argument from his medical case and hoping he gets what care he needs, once released. So that’s my understanding. We’ve collected a lot of that information in our archive. And we have Kamau’s medical records and we have the medical people on the coalition side to create those arguments. We’re definitely going to use the research from those articles as our supporting evidence of how these institutions are failing. Medical people are saying they’re not equipped.

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. There are a couple of social media outlets: facebook.com/freekamausadiki and instagram.com free Kamau Sadiki.

The other part is to donate, highlighting the medical, family and coalition expenses at this point. If you know anybody who’s been incarcerated, it just has a huge economic impact on the family. So just being able to donate whatever people can provide becomes important. There are accounts set up on the websites to

facilitate making donations.

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. Shep, 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?



RO: And thank you guys for your work. You know when you talk about learning more Marxist perspective, the first person that jumps in my thoughts is Brother George Jackson, who identified very concretely as a Black Guerrilla communist. I think from my reading, he really helped me understand what communist practices could look like in an urban context and why they were important.

And I always recall his saying Africans in America would make good communists as long as we can get some support and get the oppressors off our neck. So it’s for him, us loving each other, supporting each other. I think you would agree to try to continue to keep that legacy alive.

KS: We can’t give up. I think of, when I see everything my father’s been through, his resilience. He still is that soldier, that person that they can’t break. □

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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS!



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/center Aliyah Boston was named Player of the Year, and Staley won Coach of the Year. Both, along with most of the team, are Black. Auriemma is white.

Perhaps this rerun of last year’s defeat



South Carolina Gamecocks Coach Dawn Staley speaks out on derogatory remarks by white male University of Connecticut coach.

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 “unladylike.”

Coach Staley pushed back, calling Auriemma out for his disrespectful

attempt 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 innocent-sounding words. The reality is that only 1% of people regret transition, and a 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



Demonstration in 2021 protests anti-trans Texas bills.

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 Welsh

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 Metalworkers 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 innocent 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



PHOTO CREDIT: NUMSA

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.” □



3.000 antiimperialistas se manifiestan cerca de la Conferencia de Seguridad dirigida por el imperialismo en Múnich, Alemania, 18 de febrero de 2023.

Lo que condujo a una larga guerra

Los políticos imperialistas y los medios de comunicación están inundando al público con las mismas mentiras que han estado exagerando 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 antídoto 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 2022)

Sólo 12 días después, Estados Unidos, junto con sus principales aliados de la OTAN, lanzó bombas y cohetes 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 agencias 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 2013 y 2014, las agencias estadounidenses financiaron y promovieron la llamada revolución de Maidán, una revuelta infestada de fascistas que expulsó al presidente electo e impuso un régimen golpista antirruso en Kiev.

Kiev ataca a los rusos étnicos

El primer acto de esta banda fue destruir la lengua rusa en Ucrania.

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,

editorial

Washington presionó a los países de la Unión Europea para que impusieran sanciones 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 autodeterminación 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 reforzar el ejército ucraniano. Durante los ocho años siguientes, el ejército ucraniano mató a 14.000 personas en el Donbass.

La OTAN pasó de 19 miembros en 1999

a 30 en 2022, incluidos países que formaban parte de la Unión Soviética y la mayoría 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 desplegar en Europa posibles armas nucleares de primer ataque.

Ante lo que podría considerarse una amenaza existencial, el gobierno de Moscú inició hace un año su intervención militar en Ucrania. Washington comenzó inmediatamente a librar una guerra por poderes contra Rusia, armando a Ucrania y utilizando a su población como carne de cañón, presionando a sus aliados de la OTAN para que gastaran más dinero en armamento y armando a las tropas de Kiev con armas disponibles en los arsenales aliados.

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

Los líderes políticos y militares estadounidenses han dicho abiertamente que su objetivo era prolongar la guerra para debilitar a Rusia. Los políticos imperialistas y los medios de comunicación demo-

nizaron al presidente ruso Vladimir Putin, al igual que hicieron con el iraquí Saddam Hussein, el libio Moammar Gadhafi y el yugoslavo Slobodan Milosevic, antes de invadir y destruir sus países.

Como reveló recientemente el renombrado periodista Seymour Hersh, las fuerzas estadounidenses incluso llevaron a cabo un acto de terror bombardeando los oleoductos Nord Stream, de propiedad rusa, en el mar Báltico. (lahaine.org/gD1w)

Este acto impidió a los dirigentes alemanes -si es que alguno había estado considerando la posibilidad- restablecer el comercio de Alemania

con Rusia por su gas y su petróleo. (workers.org/2022/10/66955)

Hasta ahora, los regímenes europeos de la OTAN, aunque a veces han expresado dudas, se han alineado detrás de la agresión de Washington. La oposición más fuerte provendría principalmente de la clase obrera, que paga los costes sociales de la guerra y corre el riesgo de verse implicada en una gran catástrofe. Los brotes de lucha de clases en Francia, España, Italia y Portugal son un signo de esperanza.

Esta lista cronológica de acontecimientos demuestra que el movimiento contra la guerra en Europa y Estados Unidos tiene su enemigo en Washington y en las capitales de Europa Occidental. Las legítimas demandas del movimiento son claras: ¡Fuera Estados Unidos y la OTAN! ¡No a las armas a Ucrania! ¡Fin a las sanciones! □

Desea China solución al conflicto bélico entre Rusia y Ucrania

Por Redacción Internacional internacionales@granma.cu

24 de febrero de 2023. A un año de iniciarse la guerra entre Rusia y Ucrania, China propuso una estrategia para acabar con el conflicto con doce puntos a seguir por las partes involucradas.

El texto, elaborado por la cancillería china expone:

1. Respetar la soberanía de todos los países
2. Abandonar la mentalidad de la Guerra Fría
3. Cesar las hostilidades
4. Reanudar las conversaciones de paz
5. Resolver la crisis humanitaria
6. Proteger a la población civil y a los prisioneros de guerra
7. Mantener la seguridad de las centrales nucleares
8. Reducir los riesgos estratégicos
9. Facilitar las exportaciones de grano
10. Poner fin a las sanciones unilaterales
11. Mantener estables las cadenas de suministro
12. Promover la reconstrucción post-conflicto

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 dispuesto a enfrentarse a sus problemas.

Estas declaraciones se producen en respuesta al tuit del embajador de EE. UU. en China, Nicholas Burns, sobre un informe relacionado con Washington publicado por la parte china.

Wang señaló: “el informe no hace más que decir la verdad y presentar al mundo de forma objetiva el comportamiento hegemónico e intimidatorio de Estados Unidos” citó Xinhua.

Igualmente subrayó que la diplomacia de poder y coerción no es la forma de comportarse como un país poderoso, y sugirió que un embajador

estadounidense debería informar a Washington la voz verdadera.

“Estados Unidos debe abstenerse de perseguir la hegemonía o la intimidación, respetar la soberanía y la integridad territorial de otros países y buscar una vía de coexistencia pacífica, así como resultados de beneficio mutuo”, indicó el funcionario chino. □



Las principales víctimas del conflicto bélico ha sido la población ucraniana.