

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD



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Cops attack music festival

On March 7, Workers World writer Dianne Mathiowetz stated: "I was just at a press conference called by various local and national clergy that denounced the police action again as proof that there is nothing about Cop City that suggests de-escalation and protection of people's rights. There are a significant number of Muscogee people here, and at least one of them was manhandled, brutally attacked and arrested by the police at the concert site."

"There is an acknowledgment of a variety of tactics. No disclaimer over the alleged property damage was made at today's clergy press conference. All focus was on the militarized reactions of the police. The anger is over the fact that construction began and trees were cut down, before any construction permit has been granted. It is fenced off and has been guarded by cops 24 hours a day."

The following news release was issued by Defend the Atlanta Forest after a brutal cop attack during the Week of Action to stop "Cop City."

By Defend the Atlanta Forest

March 6 — Last night, multiple police agencies dressed in militarized gear and armed with lethal weapons raided a local family friendly music festival in a public park within the Weelaunee Forest. They used excessive force to arrest dozens of concert-goers and threatened to shoot people in the park. The event was being held on the second day of the fifth Week of Action to protect the Weelaunee (Atlanta) Forest and stop Cop City.

Around 1,000 people gathered in a field among the trees in Weelaunee Forest for a second day of the music festival to listen to musicians perform, catch up with friends, enjoy an inflatable bounce house and share food.

A separate protest group with hundreds of people marched to the forest near the Old Prison Farm, the site leased to the Atlanta Police Foundation for Cop City. The march was in response to the murder of activist "Tortuguita" and a move to reclaim the Weelaunee Forest as a public commons. There are reports of construction vehicles and surveillance equipment being set on fire.

Sometime after this action, police retaliated viciously



by raiding the entire forest, arresting at least 35 people at the nearby music festival, including people with no connection to or awareness of the action on the other side of the nearly 600-acre forest.

People attending the festival say police tased concert-goers who were moving away from the commotion, tackled people to the ground and threatened to use lethal force. One cop reportedly kept an Indigenous concert-goer in a chokehold while fully on top of them.

Another eyewitness reports that a police officer of an unknown agency said, "I swear to God, I will fucking kill you" to civilians in Weelaunee People's Park (Intrenchment Creek Park). The Atlanta Community Press Collective reports that tear gas and pepper balls were used on people during arrests.

Despite this indiscriminate and violent attack by the police, the festival continued for over an hour with the crowd chanting: "Stop Cop City!" and "The show must



go on!" between musical acts. Then, an army of police forces, without warning, raided the festival en masse.

Unicorn Riot reports that officers surrounded the inflatable bounce house, pointed guns inside and later tore it down. The heavily armed officers then surrounded the remaining crowd, which included children, and deployed LRAD (acoustic warfare equipment). The police threatened to arrest all of the music festival participants on domestic terrorism charges.

In defense, festival-goers, park-goers, children and musicians stuck together and chanted: "We have children here!" and "Let us go home!" According to the Atlanta Community Press Collective, after festival-goers demanded to be released, the police checked identification cards of those leaving the forest.

Multiple legal observers were detained, and one legal observer was arrested. Several musicians were arrested as well. Additionally, multiple reporters were threatened with arrest by police. According to DeKalb County jail records, at least 22 people have been charged with domestic terrorism.

There have been many additional reports of police aggression that are still being confirmed. The Atlanta Solidarity Fund stated: "Indiscriminate police violence tonight against Stop Cop City festival-goers. Police seem to be lashing out at anyone present at the music festival. Music is not a crime; protest is not a crime. People lawfully exercising First Amendment rights cannot be held criminally liable for the actions of others."

"Cop City will never be a legitimate project. It continues to be widely opposed by Atlantans. The civil rights violations committed by police yesterday reaffirms that this cop training facility should never be built. We stand steadfast in our conviction to build a new world in which all people are safe from police terror," says an organizer who wishes to remain anonymous.

To support those arrested, please visit atlsolidarity.org and donate to the bail fund.

You can visit defendtheatlantaforest.org/calendar for a full schedule. The week of action continues.

For background on this struggle please see workers.org/tag/copcity.

NLRB decision upholds Starbucks workers' demands

By Arjae Red
Buffalo, New York

Administrative Law Judge Michael Rosas ruled March 1 that Starbucks is guilty of violating labor laws on hundreds of occasions, vindicating what workers have been alleging all along. (tinyurl.com/bd8dbfp4)

The ruling by Rosas, a judge for the National Labor Relations Board, forces Starbucks to rehire seven fired workers, reopen a store that management closed amidst the union campaign, and give back-pay and damages to workers affected by the anti-union retaliation. The decision requires that Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz personally apologize to all workers and that Starbucks post a 13-page document listing the hundreds of labor rights violations in

every Starbucks store in the U.S.

This ruling came the same day that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders announced a Senate vote that could force Schultz to appear in front of the Senate's Labor Committee to testify about the union busting. Schultz was given the opportunity to testify voluntarily, but he has so far refused.

This ruling in favor of the union, which Starbucks is expected to appeal, would have been impossible without the movement built by the workers and the massive outpouring of support from customers and community members. Against all odds, Starbucks workers continue to fight against their bosses at the largest coffee corporation in the world. They are raising their voices loud enough so that neither the company nor the courts can ignore them.

The fight doesn't end here. Starbucks has a history of ignoring court rulings and doing everything in their power to delay. While this legal victory marks a milestone for the union, the fight for the contract continues, as the company still refuses to bargain with its workers.

Workers at 289 stores in 37 states who chose the union are awaiting Starbucks at the bargaining table. With dozens of elections on the way, that number will surely continue to rise, as the union grows stronger every day.

The author is a former Starbucks worker who helped organize the first stores in Buffalo, New York, and is a member of Workers World Party.

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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Superexploitation of migrant children

‘The coining of children’s blood into capital’

The horror portrayed in a recent New York Times exposé of migrant child labor shows how relevant what Karl Marx wrote 156 years ago is now.

Marx’s monumental work, “Capital,” was a tremendous theoretical contribution, describing in meticulous detail how the capitalist system of exploitation operates. One class of toilers, the working class, produces “surplus value” — profit — for an elite class of idlers, the capitalist class.

Marx’s “Capital” does more than break down, in a scientific manner, the workings of capitalism; his work is a powerful and passionate indictment of the class that enriches itself. “The Working Day,” Chapter 10 of Volume I — published in 1867 — exposes the workplace horrors of 19th century England, as documented by the government’s own factory inspectors.

Children eight years old, and sometimes even younger, worked long hours in dangerous conditions in workplaces such as potteries, bakeries, silk mills and steel and iron works. Reports described nine- and 10-year-old children working shifts of 12 or more hours, often at night, in steel rolling mills.

“In its unseeing, unrestrainable passion, its werewolf hunger for surplus labor, capital usurps not only the moral, but even the mere physical, maximum bounds of the working day. It usurps the time needed for growth, development and healthy maintenance of the body,” Marx wrote. He decried “the coining of children’s blood into capital.”

In the 21st century, 19th century conditions

Sadly, things are not so different in 2023. This was made vividly clear in a Feb. 25 New York Times article, “Alone and exploited, migrant children work brutal jobs across the U.S.”

The title alone speaks volumes. Of the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors who have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border seeking a better life, many have

“ended up working in dangerous jobs that violate child labor laws — including factories that make products for well-known brands like Cheetos and Fruit of the Loom.”

Others — teenagers and even younger children — pack-age cereals and granola bars, operate milking machines, clean hotel rooms, work in roofing and make auto parts for Ford and General Motors.

Many work at night and try to attend school during the day, but they fall asleep in class or end up dropping out. These exploited children suffer frequent, sometimes fatal, injuries. They are working to help their families in their home countries and pay off large debts to “sponsors,” who helped them come into the U.S.

“In many parts of the country, middle and high school teachers in English-language learner programs say it is now common for nearly all their students to rush off to long shifts after their classes end,” according to the Times report.

Huge Fortune 500 corporations display the same “werewolf hunger” for profits that Marx observed in 19th century Europe. This continues to drive the exploitation of workers, including children, not only inside the U.S. but around the world.

No child should have to suffer such a high level of abuse and be “alone and exploited.”

Organized labor has a responsibility to confront this brutal example of racism and xenophobia head on. Unions that represent workers at companies that illegally profit from child labor need to make this a collective bargaining issue — such as at the auto companies, whose contracts with the United Auto Workers expire this year. Teachers’ unions need to speak up for the migrant children their members teach.

Class struggle in the 1930s won the Fair Labor Standards Act that, among other things, limited child labor. It will take a global, classwide movement to stop “the coining of children’s blood into capital.”

Another world is possible — and necessary. □

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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. □

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Resistance behind bars

Walpole prison strike 50 years on



By Phebe Eckfeldt

March 15 will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Walpole Prison takeover in Massachusetts by incarcerated workers. It ended May 18, some 65 days later. What led to this stupendous, courageous event by captured workers?

Bobby Dellelo, a leader of the takeover, spent 40 years in prison, much of that time in Walpole, including 10 years in solitary confinement. He categorized it as one of the most dangerous prisons in the U.S. In one 18-month period, 20 prisoners were murdered. At that time, the particularly brutal Raymond Porelle was the warden. Rampant guard-on-prisoner violence, endemic human rights violations, poor nutrition and filthy conditions escalated. It was common for guards to give prisoners cold meals, urinate in their tea and put soap powder in their food.

In December 1972, during Kwanzaa, the administration locked the prison down, denying the prisoners clean clothes, showers, outside time and visits. The lockdown lasted 2 1/2 months in Blocks 9 and 10. Blocks 9 and 10 were classified as Departmental Segregation Units (DSU).

This is where men were sent for punishment and torture. Protest leaders were sent there in retaliation for their actions. Guards would flood the cells, put bugs in the food, set fire to clothes and bedding, put the heat on at full blast or turn it off all together, do rectal searches and use mace and tear gas.

General strike shows prisoner unity

A general work strike began on Feb. 21. John Boone, a Black man, was the Corrections Commissioner, who considered himself a prison abolitionist. Demands were for the resignation of Warden Porelle and for “citizen observers” to be allowed into the prison. Both demands were met, and the strike ended March 2. The hatred for Porelle ran so deep and wide that the incarcerated people stated that he had united them and made them strong. Citizen observers began to enter the prison on March 7.

The leadership of Walpole prisoners at this time was embedded in the National Prisoners Reform Association, which believed in prison abolition. The NPRA strove to organize prisoners into collective bargaining units and have more power when going up against the guards’ unions. They saw themselves as a labor union, recognizing that they were captured and exploited workers.

The leaders of NPRA-Walpole were a Black man, Ralph Hamm III, who had been sentenced to life for “intent” to rape a white woman, and Dellelo, a white man. They were supported by Black African Nations Toward Unity (BANTU), of which Hamm was a leader.

Hamm and Dellelo worked with “Big Bob” Heard of the Black Panther Party, head of the Walpole Inmate Advisory Council. The fight against racism was recognized as a priority by the leadership of the NPRA. They

knew they would not survive if they were not united.

The prisoners in the DSU agreed to treat each other as equals. “In hindsight,” Dellelo mused, “it is amazing that this kind of unity could have emerged in these circumstances; you just had to be there to fully appreciate it.” (“When the Prisoners Ran Walpole,” 2008, by Jamie Bissonette, South End Press, page 28)

The NPRA recognized themselves as workers who deserved the minimum wage, a union and health and safety regulations. They filed and fought for official union certification from the National Labor Relations Board.

The struggle was covered in the press and media and provoked discussions among people on the outside as to whether incarcerated people were workers and whether they should receive a fair wage for their work. Those incarcerated at Walpole, in fact, performed jobs that were essential to the state, including printing forms for state documents and making building materials, license plates, street signs, sewer covers, furniture and eyeglasses. They cooked 1,800 meals a day.

Guards walk off job

The guards were livid about the prisoners’ demands and that Boone had agreed to them. They hated the arrival of outside civilian observers. Observers, some of whom had formerly been incarcerated, examined the guards’ job performance and reported violations.

When the first observers took their posts on March 9, some 50 guards refused to punch in and the entire 3:00 p.m. shift walked off the job. Calling for Boone’s immediate firing, the guards issued a strike ultimatum on March 14.

The NPRA then demanded the release of those locked up in Blocks 9 and 10.

On March 15, 11 prisoners were released from Block 10 and entered the general population. In response, some 200 guards walked out of Walpole, beginning an official guard strike. The corridors were free of guards for the first time. The guards’ “union” continued to demand that Boone leave. He responded by suspending 150 of them for five days without pay. Cadet trainees, who were young men of color, were given keys to the cell blocks and ordered to work alongside the incarcerated workers.

Prisoners take over

On March 15, 1973, those incarcerated at Walpole took over and began running the prison.

The NPRA set up a structure of 20 committees, which were accountable to the whole prisoner population. The committees managed the hospital, the kitchen, mail distribution, educational programs, industrial production and internal problem solving. A printing apprenticeship program was set up to build skills and ensure a higher wage when getting out. The NPRA arranged for visits with families to take place outside in the yard, with playground equipment they had fought for. Prisoners also set up an Adult Prisoners Education Program.

A board of elected prisoners became a dispute-resolution committee to address any larger problems. The beating, maiming and murder by guards ceased. From March 15 to May 18, the NPRA functioned as the elected representative of the prisoners at Walpole and was responsible for running nearly the entire institution.

Civilian observers side with prisoners

In its never-ending quest to divide the workers in order to exist, the capitalist class constantly demonized and demeaned the incarcerated workers to workers on the outside, through their kept press and media. Therefore, civilian observers were very important to the life of the prison takeover, particularly in countering the disgusting lies of the guards about what was going on inside.

The observers’ role was to observe activity, report abusive incidents and witness how the NPRA ran the prison. The observers released daily reports to the press. Most observers quickly realized that it was the guards who were the problem, and they became advocates for the incarcerated population.

They came in at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. shifts every day. They were free to go to any area of the prison and talk and eat with those incarcerated. Female observers were not allowed inside the prison but acted as shift coordinators. There were

many reports of guards slicing the tires of cadets and observers.

One observer stated: “When we visited Walpole, the prisoners had ended their work strike. The guards were still out. And we found a complex society at work ... it has its workers, its employers, its organizations, its cooks, craftsmen, educators, even its artists.” (“Prisoners take control of Walpole Prison,” libcom.org)



Walpole, Massachusetts, prisoners on strike, 1973.

Right outside the prison doors in Boston, Black school children riding buses to school were being assaulted daily with rocks and bottles by large, angry racist mobs. The racist forces who were opposed to desegregation had taken over City Hall. This historical context was very important in guiding the Walpole prisoners’ beliefs and actions.

State retaliates

On May 18, the NPRA became aware that the state forces would be coming to retake the prison. They had prisoners prop open cell doors, so they could not be closed by guards using remote control. Observers still in the prison recorded that it was “quiet as a morgue.”

The acting warden had called in the state police upon receiving false reports of mass destruction. Black outside allies — Rev. Edward Rodman and State Representative Bill Owens — joined observers. Guards and state police entered with guns and brought a violent end to the prisoners’ takeover of Walpole.

The prison was locked down. Dellelo was “stripped, beaten, run naked across broken glass and thrown in the hole.” (“Instead of Prisons,” Chapter 9, Prison Policy Initiative)

Hamm was beaten and spent a long stretch in solitary — but not until after he had backed state police wearing riot gear out of his cell, with a machete, and organized a rally in the main corridor. Owens and Rodman had stayed on Hamm’s cellblock during the state police assault.

On May 19, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ordered the guards to return to prison. Boone was subsequently fired. Hamm stated that the NPRA was “terrorized and brutalized out of existence” for its efforts to unionize.

Prisoner strikes in 1970s historic

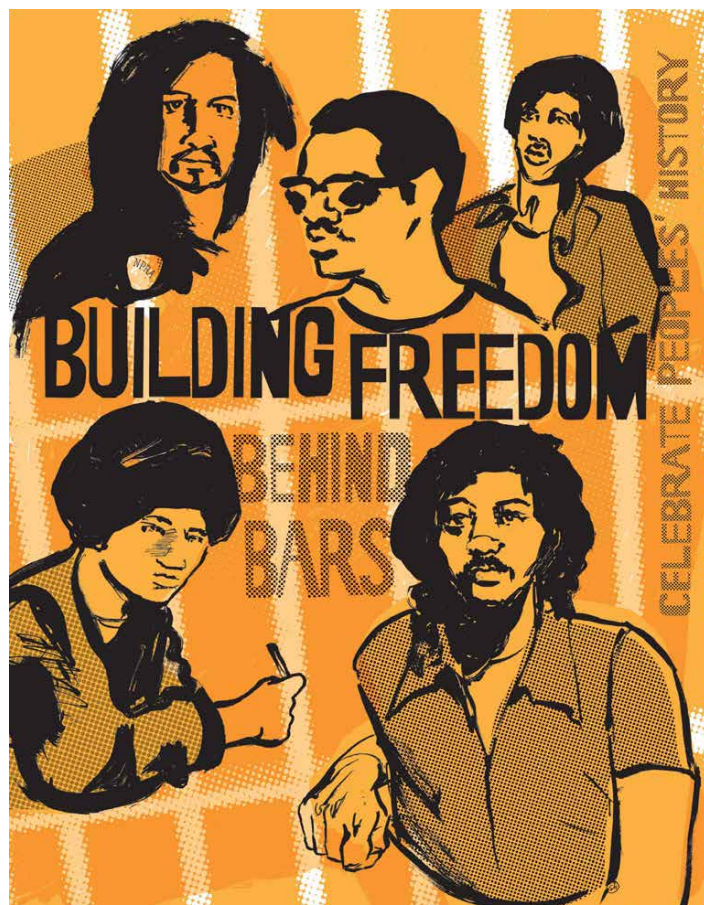
People incarcerated at Walpole were influenced by the 1970 strike at Folsom Prison, which had lasted for 19 days and gave birth to the prisoner union movement; the heroic Attica rebellion of 1971; and the assassination of beloved leader George Jackson in 1971 by San Quentin prison guards.

The nationwide prisoner strikes of the 1970s remain a testament to what is possible, when people “behind the wall” unite across the divisions imposed on them by the prison-industrial complex. The grainy documentary “3,000 Years to Life,” filmed inside Walpole during the takeover, is proof of such an accomplishment.

Many of the organizers remained incarcerated for decades and continued to resist. Many have since died, including Peter Ladetto and the late, great John McGrath. Dellelo is still around, and Hamm (falsely accused) was finally released just two years ago.

“I was one who dared. ... Life would be far more difficult for Massachusetts prisoners now, had we not taken on the ‘powers that be’ directly, and struggled for prison reform. The sacrifices we may have made were worth the lives that we ultimately saved — including our own.” (Ralph Hamm, in “When the Prisoners Ran Walpole,” by Jamie Bissonette, 2008)

Susan Mortimer, longtime anti-prison activist, contributed to this article.



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Dawn Staley, entrenadora de los Gamecocks de Carolina del Sur, se pronuncia sobre los comentarios despectivos de un entrenador blanco de la Universidad de Connecticut.

Otro ataque a las mujeres negras en el deporte

editorial

Si escuchas a los comentaristas deportivos que cubren el baloncesto masculino profesional y universitario, oírás a menudo palabras como “atletismo” y “físico” utilizadas para complementar a los jugadores más destacados. O se elogia a un equipo por ser “agresivo”.

Pero la cosa cambia cuando son mujeres, sobre todo mujeres de color, las que lanzan las canastas. El entrenador Geno Auriemma tuvo el descaro sin paliativos de criticar a las Gamecocks de Carolina del Sur y a su entrenadora Dawn Staley por exceso de físico. “No sé lo que es, pero no es baloncesto”, insistió Auriemma después de que su equipo, los Huskies de la Universidad de Connecticut, perdieran ante Carolina del Sur por 81-77 el 5 de febrero.

Las Gamecocks ganaron el campeonato nacional de baloncesto femenino de la National College Athletic Association el año pasado, derrotando a la UConn. La ala-pívot/ pívot Aliyah Boston fue nombrada Jugadora del Año, y Staley ganó el premio al Entrenador del Año. Ambas, junto con la mayoría del equipo, son negras. Auriemma es blanco.

Tal vez esta repetición de la derrota del año pasado le haya provocado al entrenador de la UConn un caso de tristeza por haber perdido, pero eso en sí mismo no explica sus comentarios insultantes. Lo que subyace bajo la superficie es el racismo y la misoginia generalizados que rodean tanto al deporte universitario como al profesional.

Puede que Auriemma quisiera en privado llamar al equipo contrario con el estereotipado término “poco femenino”.

La entrenadora Staley contraatacó, llamando la atención a Auriemma por su irrespetuoso intento de desacreditar a su equipo, que está invicto esta temporada. “Jugamos en la SEC [Southeastern Conference]. Así es como jugamos. No vamos a cambiarlo”, dijo. (boundingintosports.com)

No es el primer ataque al entrenador Staley

El pasado mes de agosto, Rachel Richardson, una jugadora negra del equipo femenino de voleibol de la Universidad de Duke, se quejó de haber sido objeto de horribles insultos racistas por parte de los aficionados de la Universidad Brigham Young. La universidad de Utah está patrocinada por la Iglesia mormona, que tiene un largo historial de apoyo a la supremacía blanca. Sin embargo, Richardson felicitó al director deportivo de la escuela por lo que ella entendió como una sincera disculpa por el racismo del que fue objeto.

Lo ocurrido a Richardson llevó a la entrenadora de Carolina del Sur, Staley, a cancelar los partidos de su

equipo contra la BYU. No quería que sus jugadoras sufrieran un trauma similar.

Pero después de que la BYU llevara a cabo una “investigación” y afirmara que los incidentes nunca tuvieron lugar, los medios deportivos se llenaron de acusaciones de que la versión de Richardson era una “historia falsa” o un “engaño”. Los medios criticaron a la entrenadora Staley

por su firme postura, pero ella se negó a cambiar su posición. “¿Salió la joven [Richardson] y dijo que se disculpaba por haber oído algo incorrecto?”, preguntó Staley. “¿Ya salió a decir eso? Bien, entonces esa es su historia”.

Este es el contexto en el que tenemos que ver el último arrebato de Auriemma.

El racismo, el sexismo, el capacitismo, el fanatismo anti-LGBTQ+ y la explotación de los atletas para obtener beneficios que impregna el mundo del deporte están incrustados en todo el sistema capitalista. La postura intran-

sigente de Staley debe ser aplaudida por los atletas y otros trabajadores de todos los géneros e identidades/ expresiones de género.

El deporte -como la sanidad, la educación, la vivienda, la cultura, la alimentación y todas las cosas que permiten a los seres humanos vivir y disfrutar de la vida- debería ser para las personas, no para el lucro. □

Lo que subyace bajo la superficie es el racismo y la misoginia generalizados que rodean tanto al deporte universitario como al profesional.

La campaña de guerra de Biden aviva la resistencia

Por John Catalinotto

27 de febrero de 2023 — En la semana del primer aniversario de la guerra de Estados Unidos y la OTAN contra Rusia en Ucrania, la administración Biden ha tomado o anunciado medidas para prolongar la guerra y arriesgarse a una escalada. Los medios de comunicación corporativos han repetido como loros y amplificado cada anuncio del gobierno. Y el movimiento antiguerra comenzó a responder.

El presidente Joe Biden hizo un rápido viaje en tren el 20 de febrero a Kiev, donde se reunió con el presidente ucraniano Volodymyr Zelensky para apuntalar su tambaleante régimen. Biden ofreció al títere estadounidense 500 millones de dólares en armas y municiones.

Rápidamente de vuelta en tren a Varsovia, Polonia, Biden dijo a los periodistas en el Castillo Real que habría “días duros y amargos por delante”, y antes de regresar a Washington, prometió que Washington y sus aliados de la OTAN “cubrirían las espaldas de Ucrania”, lo que implica que más ucranianos morirán en el frente. (PBS, 21 de febrero)

El 24 de febrero, el Pentágono anunció un nuevo paquete de ayuda para Ucrania, comprometiendo 2.000 millones de dólares para enviar más municiones y una variedad de pequeños aviones no tripulados de alta tecnología a la matanza. La ayuda incluye el avión no tripulado kamikaze Switchblade 600 mejorado, así como equipos de detección de guerra electrónica. Estados Unidos ha comprometido ya más de 32.000 millones de dólares en armamento en el último año, según un informe de AP.

Ofensiva propagandística

Washington también abrió una ofensiva diplomática y propagandística. Una votación contra Rusia en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas tuvo más o menos

los mismos resultados que las convocatorias similares del año pasado. Mientras que 141 países votaron a favor de la condena, entre ellos los históricos países colonialistas de Europa, Norteamérica, Japón y Australia, entre los 39 países que votaron en contra o se abstuvieron se encontraban los de mayor población.

Cuando el gobierno chino propuso un marco perfectamente razonable para las negociaciones, Washington respondió como si la propuesta de Pekín fuera una declaración de guerra. (tinyurl.com/5bazbdj) Biden la rechazó inmediatamente. Su reacción transmitió el mensaje de que Estados Unidos y la OTAN querían que continuara la guerra de poder en Ucrania.

A continuación, las cataratas del Niágara de mentiras de los gobiernos y los medios de comunicación corporativos bombardearon a las poblaciones de los países imperialistas. Hasta ahora, los gobiernos -incluidos todos los miembros de la OTAN- se han alineado con la línea pro-guerra de Estados Unidos. Aunque este diluvio de propaganda embotó la respuesta de organizaciones y partidos que suelen ser antibelicistas -el Partido de Izquierda en Alemania, por ejemplo-, hubo indicios dentro de la clase obrera de una creciente desconfianza en los argumentos oficiales de EEUU/OTAN. Cuanto más cerca de la línea del frente, mayor era la preocupación por la guerra.

Acciones contra la guerra

Las fuerzas a favor de la guerra aprovecharon el primer aniversario para organizar el apoyo a la guerra. Las acciones contra la guerra en la mayoría de los países fueron más fuertes de lo que habían sido.

En Alemania, un partidario clave de la guerra entre la OTAN y la Rusia, salieron a la calle las primeras manifestaciones masivas contra la guerra bajo el liderazgo



‘Paz’, reza una pancarta en Berlín en protesta por la guerra de Ucrania, 25 de febrero de 2023.

de la izquierda. Decenas de miles de alemanes asistieron a la manifestación masiva del Levantamiento por la Paz en Berlín el 25 de febrero. Los principales portavoces de la manifestación fueron Sahra Wagenknecht, política del Die Linke (Partido de Izquierda), y la escritora Alice Schwarzer.

El Partido de Izquierda tiene serias divisiones respecto a la guerra de Ucrania, lo que ha frenado al movimiento antibelicista hasta ahora.

Los manifestantes pidieron al gobierno de coalición socialdemócrata de Berlín que dejara de suministrar armas al régimen de Kiev y exigieron conversaciones de paz. Como señaló Wagenknecht, la manifestación demostró “cuántos somos” y que necesitábamos un movimiento pacifista nuevo y fuerte, y “nos estamos organizando”. (junge Welt, 27 de febrero)

El artículo del veterano periodista Seymour Hersh, que revela el papel de Estados Unidos en la colocación de bombas para destruir partes de los gasoductos Nord Stream que transportan gas ruso a Alemania, expuso las tácticas terroristas que emplea Washington para mantener a raya a sus aliados de la Unión Europea, en relación con la ofensiva económica contra Rusia. (tinyurl.com/bdhn647j)

En Italia, miles de personas se manifestaron en todo el país, en Roma, Florencia, Milán y Génova, contra las sanciones occidentales impuestas a Rusia. Los

manifestantes exigieron que el gobierno de la primera ministra italiana, Giorgia Meloni, deje de suministrar armas a Kiev.

Estados Unidos ha utilizado su base de Camp Darby, cerca de Livorno, como importante depósito de armas y su base aérea de Aviano, en el noreste de Italia, para bombardear Yugoslavia en 1999 y Libia en 2011. Desde suelo italiano, muchas

bases aéreas estadounidenses amenazan a Rusia con un posible primer ataque nuclear. Estas amenazas también convierten a Italia en un objetivo.

También hubo manifestaciones en varias ciudades de Portugal y acciones más pequeñas en Gran Bretaña.

Por importantes que fueran estas protestas contra la guerra, una señal aún mayor de la resistencia de la clase obrera ha sido el creciente número de grandes huelgas en Alemania, Italia, España, Portugal y especialmente en Gran Bretaña y Francia. Son una respuesta a las décadas de usurpaciones de los niveles de vida de los trabajadores y a los sacrificios especiales exigidos por una guerra que no redunde en interés de los trabajadores.

Protestas previstas en Estados Unidos

También en Estados Unidos los trabajadores llevan dos años en movimiento, mucho más que antes, con jóvenes trabajadores que cuestionan las políticas gubernamentales en todos los frentes. Y el movimiento antiguerra ha convocado acciones nacionales para el 18 de marzo, con la acción central a las 1 p.m. en la Casa Blanca en Washington.

Esta acción une a todas las fuerzas de la izquierda que han estado agitando por el fin de la agresión de la OTAN en Europa y en todo el mundo y luchando contra el uso estadounidense de sanciones económicas, otra forma de guerra. (unacepeace.org) □