By John Catalinotto and Sara Flounders

On March 13, Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto inter-viewed Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center (IAC), a member of the Administrative Committee of the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) and contributing editor to Workers World, to discuss the develop-ments of the past year of the war in Ukraine between the U.S.-led NATO alli-ance and Russia.

Workers World: We’re about to participate in antiwar demonstrations, set to take place in Washington and San Francisco. What is the nature of the war we’ll be protesting?

Sara Flounders: First I’d like to list some recent events that reinforce the points I’ll be making.

On March 10 President Joe Biden’s administration submitted a military budget to Congress of a record $886 bil-lion. With add-ons from Congress, funds hidden in veterans’ benefits and research, and supplements for arms to Ukraine, the costs will easily top $1 trillion.

That same day, China hosted nego-tiations in Beijing between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which ended with an agreement between the two major West Asian coun-tries. For the past 75 years the U.S. had been the dominant power in that region. In a symbolic way, U.S. imperialism has been pushed aside.

These events mark the serious charac-ter of the economic and diplomatic crisis U.S. imperialism faces. It means that in an Continued on page 8

Which way forward for the antiwar movement?

SVB: ‘The bank is now insolvent’

Hence the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank — the largest bank collapse since the 2008 implosion of Washington Mutual and the second-largest bank collapse in U.S. history — is being presented as an isolated event.

On the morning leading up to SVB’s collapse March 10, the news media was focused on the latest employment statis-tics. “Employers added 311,000 jobs in February, another stronger-than-expected showing,” The New York Times crowed. President Joe Biden stated, “Today’s jobs showing,” The New York Times crowed. Yellen stated that SVB’s depositors “are emphasized that the American banking system is really safe and well-capitalized; it’s resilient.” (cbsnews.com)

It’s not much different almost a cen-tury later. Typically before a recession, numbers are clear; our economy is mov-ing in the right direction.” Later that Friday a California financial regulator, referring to SVB, declared: “The bank is now insolvent.” On Sunday’s “Face the Nation,” U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen tried to soothe the public’s nerves: “What I do want to do is emphasize that the American banking system is really safe and well-capitalized; it’s resilient.” (cbsnews.com)

Yellen stated that SVB’s depositors would be made whole by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, beyond the $250,000 limit that the FDIC guarantees. So the money of larger depositors is safe. What is not safe are the jobs of work-ers in the technology sector, where there have been massive layoffs in the past few months. SVB, the 14th largest U.S. bank, was the lender of choice for tech com-panies— not only in California’s Silicon Valley but around the world. Now start- ups are scrambling to make payroll, and more layoffs are predicted.

The “experts” continue to allay wor-ries about a “contagion,” blaming SVB’s demise on a “panic” caused by a few overly worried venture capitalists, who urged investors to pull out. But in addi-tion to SVB, Silvergate Bank closed two days before and Signature Bank Continued on page 10

International Working Women’s Day

Cuban women: End the blockade

Honoring Harriet Tubman

Celebrating IWW around the world

Women bear brunt of food cuts

Supporting Palestinian resistance

France: Millions on strike

Cuba vs. mosquitoes

Walpole prisoner resistance 1973

Protesting jail deaths in West Virginia

Injustice system for LGBTQ2S+ people
It felt like the very bricks of the building housing the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco shook with the anger and fervor of Palestinian youth who blocked traffic, chanting in support of the Palestinian resistance movement against Israeli terror, March 10. The demonstration, organized by the Palestine Action Network (PAN), protested Israeli terror and murder of Palestinians in the West Bank, including in Jenin, Huwara and Nablus. A sound truck blocked the street in front of the Israeli Consulate, where young leaders from the Palestinian Youth Movement and the Arab Resource and Organizing Center emceed the rally, leading chants of “Free, Free Palestine” and “Long live the Intifada.”

Vandals of PVM, called recent massacres in the West Bank, carried out by a fascist settler group with the support of the government, a Zionist campaign of “ethnic cleansing.” This is what Zionism is. In Jericho, when they killed six people, they demolished six Palestinian homes,” she explained.

A Palestinian University of California-Berkeley law student, Malak proudly proclaimed she was the great granddaughter of a Palestinian freedom fighter. She told the crowd: “We are standing at a time when our freedom fighters’ last words are begging their brothers and sisters to continue taking up arms against the fascist, apartheid state of Israel.”

The event’s main message was that despite the fascist terror of the settlers and the Israeli government, Palestinians are more determined than ever to win their freedom. Monadel Herzallah, co-founder of the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPNCN), said: “Palestinians will continue to fight; Palestinians will continue to resist, because the enemies of the Palestinians are the enemies of peace.”

“The Zionist regime of Israel, the U.S. imperialists, may have a military victory here and there; they may have a political victory here and there, but they will never ever break our spirit,” Herzallah concluded.

PAN, a local coalition of progressive organizations supporting the Palestinian struggle includes PYM, AROC, AL-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism, Jewish Voice for Peace, ANSWER and Workers World Party. PAN is organizing a protest for this spring commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Nakba.

The Nakba (May 15, 1948) was the date marking the official expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland by the Israeli government. However Palestinians and their supporters know that Nakba, Arab for “catastrophe,” was part of the process of ethnic cleansing that began before 1948 and still continues.
Activists vow: ‘Cop City will never be built!’

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Recently, the news cycle has been filled with the struggle against Cop City, the proposed urban warfare training facility to be located on acres of forest lands which had been previously set aside as a nature preserve and for public recreation. This entire area has illegally proceeded. The wood’s original people. She has spoken or been present literally every day of the Week of Action. A contingent from a student union during a February protest in Paris.

Some 3.5 million workers in 270 locations in France demonstrated on March 7, called out in protest President Emmanuel Macron’s attempt to reduce France’s retirement benefits, the so-called “reform.”

The General Confederation of Labor (CGT) says many workers went on strike on March 7 without demonstrating, and on March 11 a million protesters came out for workers whose jobs involve harsh conditions to qualify for special treatment. Such conditions include working outside in bad weather, using strong chemicals, working on roofs, doing sanitation work, night or on-call work. This is an attack on workers who are living in struggle.

The CGT reports that this change to the retirement system still leaves women, on average, getting a pension 40% lower than men get. The CGT points out that by raising the minimum wage and setting a wealth tax, the government could increase revenue to the retirement system enough to lower the full retirement age to 60.

The issues are clear. Polls show over 80% of the public supports these protests. More than marches

In Paris, over 700,000 active workers, retirees, youth and self-employed people marched March 7 in one huge struggle, with another, with music, dancing, street theater, puppet shows, all making the point that the reform was unacceptable. French television (TV2) that night showed some dramatic vignettes: When the march along a limited-access highway was narrowed to a single lane, demonstrators got it raised and locked before continuing. Other contingents occupied traffic circles, setting up barricades, blockades, held sit-ins across tracks in train stations or used cars to conduct slow-moving traffic jams. A detachment of union electric workers cut the power to the construction site for the Olympic Village for the 2024 Olympics and some major computer net- works. The unions involved used a smoke screen to hide the identities of the workers, who continued the struggle.

If the government doesn’t have the people’s things. In the end, one person was martyred forest defender Manuel “Tortuguita” Terán. On Feb. 6, 2023, press conference organized by the family of martyred forest defender Manuel “Tortuguita” Terán. On the left is Dianne Mathiowetz.

France on strike

Millions of workers walk out, block streets

By G. Dunkel

In Paris and other big cities, sanitation workers who pick up tons of garbage every day have continued their strike, which began March 7. The garbage has been accumulating, and only cold weather has kept the smelled down.

Workers at the French oil refineries and distribution networks have been on strike since March 7. There have been scattered but significant walkouts in mass transit, on the railroads and on the docks.

French parliament

The Senate approved President Macron’s pension reform bill March 11. A joint committee consisting of lawmakers from both houses of the French parliament (National Assembly and National Assembly) is currently scheduled to meet on March 15 to review the text of the bill, with the final votes occurring in the Senate and National Assembly after that date.

If the government doesn’t have the votes to pass the bill, it can invoke a procedure in the French constitution called 49.3 that lets the government declare the bill a law, without a parliamentary vote. (1)

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Resistance behind bars

Walpole prison strike 50 years on

By Phebe Eckfeldt

March 19 will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Walpole prison strike in Massachusetts by incarcerated workers. It ended May 18, some 63 days later. What led to this stupendous, courageous event by captured workers?

Bobbi Delello, a leader of the takeover, spent 40 years in prison, much of that time at 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 and incarceration that 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 ½ 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 of the food, set fire to clothes and bedding, put the heat on at full blast or turn it off all together, do rectal searches every day. 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

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 that the incarcerated people stated that he had killed his own mother and had replaced her in the community. Delello stated he had killed her in self-defense and was prosecuted. The acting warden had called in the state police upon the “power brokers” to retake the prison. They came in at 7 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. shifts every day. The guards’ “union” continued to demand 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.

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. guards. 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)

Right outside the prison doors in Boston, Black school children riding buses to school were being assaulted and 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. John Boone was subsequently fired. Hamm stated that the NPRA was “terrorized and brutalized out of existence” for its efforts to unionize.

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 gristy 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. Delello 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 control on the ‘power brokers’ that direct and fight the prison reform. The sacrifices we 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)

San Quentin prison guards.

By Phebe Eckfeldt

The struggle was covered in the press and media and has been presented to the public. 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)

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Two rallies were held in southern West Virginia to raise awareness about the high number of deaths at regional jails throughout the state in the last year. The over 100 prisoners who spoke, or "witnessed" their friend die, were incarcerated, were Black and white, but people of color had to pay more than the white people for the same "offenses." A major focus has been on the Southern Regional Jail (SRJ), located in Beckley, a small city in Raleigh County which has a significantly larger African American population than most towns in southern West Virginia. The state chapter of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) organized a militant, black-and-white protest march on March 4 in downtown Beckley. Over 100 marchers chanted "No Justice, No Peace," and "Say his name: Quantez Burks," followed by "Say his name: Alvis Shrewsbury" — referring to two of the incarcerated people who were killed at SRJ last year. Family members of Quantez "Quan" Burks, 37, and Shrewsbury, 45, attended the March 4 rally. Burks was an African American resident of Beckley, while Shrewsbury was white and lived in a rural town in neighboring Wyoming County. Burks and Shrewsbury were thriving with unionized coal mining jobs but are now plagued with severe poverty, due to decades of union busting, corporate greed and capitalist automation that destroyed their communities. Burks died at the jail, while Shrewsbury was taken to a local hospital before he was officially declared dead.

The marchers made a symbolic stop outside the police precinct building, where many of the SRJ murder victims were booked before being incarcerated. They waved signs and held two banners that featured Burks' image.

PPC organizer Matt Kerner told Workers World, "Burks and Shrewsbury were two of 13 inmates who were killed at the hands of corrections officers at the SRJ in 2022 alone. In addition to that, there were roughly 114 inmates who died last year at the regional jails across the state; and according to our PPC study, that is more than any other state in the country."

Kerner further clarified: "A small number of the deaths have been from heroin and fentanyl overdoses, and that is still the fault of the COs who allow inmates to die. Inmates who seek medical attention are often denied." Disturbing discoveries

Quantez Burks was taken to the SRJ on Feb. 21, 2022, on a petty "obstruction of justice" charge, and he was found dead the very next day. Burks’ fiancé, Latasha Williams, said there was blunt trauma “all the way from head to his toes.” (WVVA, Oct. 31, 2022)

Workers World spoke with Kimberly Burks, Quantez Burks’ mother, at the March 4 rally. Her message was clear: “Our obtainable goal is to hold the Southern Regional Jail COs accountable for their cowardly acts of violence and their continuous efforts to destroy lives in their barbaric facility. I want justice for my son, for Alvis Shrewsbury, and for all victims of CO brutality at the Southern Regional Jail.”

Alvis Shrewsbury’s family also spoke with Workers World. Their family spokesperson stated, “Alvis was hopeful he would be released in 30 days, but unfortunately, he didn’t make it.” Another relative added, “False that we understand, corrections officers beat on him, and then they had inmates beat on him.”

March on the Capitol

The Poor People’s Campaign held another rally on March 10, which started off a press conference at the Capitol building in Charleston. Rev. William Barber was the guest speaker, along with Kimberly Burks, West Virginia Poor People’s Campaign spokesperson Pam Galgano, longstanding labor activist Sherri Acuff and Miranda Smith, Shrewsbury’s daughter. Family members of Burks and Shrewsbury joined the speakers, holding signs. Framed images of Burks and Shrewsbury were placed in front of the speakers’ podium.

"We had both gave passionate speeches that brought tears to this reporter’s eyes. Burks pointed out the inexcusable fact that the COs involved in their family’s murder were still employed at the SRJ. “We had to raise money and also save money to hold a funeral for my son,” she stated. “I don’t want any other family to experience what my family has had to go through.”

Rev. Barber informed the crowd that the PPC filed a federal civil rights investigation on behalf of the families of Burks, Shrewsbury and others. “We cannot rest until we get justice for Alvis and everyone that has depopulated this state has been given peace,” he declared.

Family members of Burks, Shrewsbury and others were distraught from the Capital steps to the nearby governor’s mansion, where they attempted to deliver the petition to West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice, as well as to members of the state legislature, who then ignored the victims’ families’ demands. Gov. Justice has refused to hold a true and genuine investigation, and his office’s only “solution” is to increase the number of COs, despite the fact they are responsible for the mass deaths being committed at these walls in our state’s regional jails.

Overrepresented in prisons: LGBTQ2S+ people

Overrepresented in prisons: LGBTQ2S+ people are overrepresented throughout the entire criminal justice system, where many of the SRJ murder victims were booked before being incarcerated. They faced harassment and discrimination, facing violence rooted in the origins of these institutions. Many LGBTQ2S+ people are people of color and many are people with disabilities. There is no data on Two-Spirit/Natives incarcerated. However, according to the Appeal, South Dakota leads the country on jail admissions based on arrests for nonviolent crimes, and Native people account for the majority of all arrests in that state.

In South Dakota, the people who are arrested and admitted to jail are disproportionately Native. Although Natives make up 8.7% of South Dakota’s population, they are roughly half of those booked into jails in the state. Racial disparities in incarceration rates exist nationwide — Black people are jailed at more than 4 times the rate of white people — but disparities in South Dakota are far greater: According to data from the Vera Institute of Justice, Natives between the ages of 15 and 64 are incarcerated at 10 times the rate of white people in South Dakota. (The Appeal, Sept. 18, 2019)

Roots of oppression

Gender-based oppression and oppression based on sexual orientation have their roots in the rise of private property and capitalism. These oppressions have similar roots as other class-based oppressions like race and disability.

Oppression based on gender and sexual orientation is maintained through various social enforcements such as, but not limited to, criminalization and the structuring of the nuclear family. These tactics rely on the punishing power of imposed isolation, confinement and imprisonment.

Overrepresentation of LGBTQ2S+ people in the criminal legal system is largely due to obstacles LGBTQ2S+ youth frequently face after fleeing abuse and lack of safe systems. This means building up social support for LGBTQ2S+ youth within families, community and schools.

Overrepresentation of LGBTQ2S+ people in the criminal legal system is largely due to obstacles LGBTQ2S+ youth frequently face after fleeing abuse and lack of safe systems. The fight represents ending the system of dehumanization and isolation centers. These structures do not keep people safe from violence but are built on the idea of creating conditions of incarceration that are similar to those that led to the creation of the country.

This means building up social support for LGBTQ2S+ youth within families, community and schools. The fight represents ending the system of dehumanization and isolation centers. These structures do not keep people safe from violence but are built on the idea of creating conditions of incarceration that are similar to those that led to the creation of the country.

LGBTQ2S+ people's liberation is bound to the struggle for Black liberation, just as it is bound up with the struggle for disability justice. Our liberation is bound to the struggle against settler colonialism and capitalism at home and around the world.

No cages! No Borders! We will accept nothing less.
New York

Cuban women headline conference to end U.S. blockade

By Monica Moorehead

An International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference took place March 11-12 at the Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan—200 activists attended the conference in person, while hundreds more, including those from around the world, live streamed the event. The conference was hosted by the New York-New Jersey Cuba Si Coalition, made up of dozens of organizations.

The main demands of the conference are to unblock socialist Cuba from the 61-year inhumane U.S. blockade and to demand that President Joe Biden remove Cuba from the U.S. State Department’s “State Sponsors of Terrorism” list. Throughout the conference, activists explained how these anti-communist U.S.-led attacks on Cuba may have stifled the revolutionary socialist process in Cuba but have not stopped that process, including in social, scientific, technology and cultural areas of advancements.

Among the many inspiring highlights of the conference was the participation of the Cubans, who educated the conference on the ongoing revolutionary progress made especially by Cuban women for gender equality.

A keynote address was made by Noemí Rahaza Fernandez, First Vice-President, Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), who commented on the negative impact of sanctions on the Cuban economy. ICAP has helped to organize brigades for many decades from around the world to travel to Cuba to show concrete solidarity with socialist construction.

There was also a delegation from the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), founded on Aug. 23, 1960, by the late Vilma Espín, a leader of the Cuban Revolution. The FMC has participated for 10 years in activities organized by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. There are over 4 million members of the FMC, roughly 93% of the female population over the age of 14.

Osmayda Hernandez, Director of FMC International Relations, spoke on the radical transformation of women’s rights in Cuba, along with rights of sexual identity and sexual orientation. The major goal of the FMC is the defense of the Cuban Revolution.

Hernandez presented statistics that show the impact of women in many sectors of Cuban society. Women make up 53.2% of the National Assembly; 43.2% of the Council of States; 60% of university graduates; 67% of technical and professional workers; 81% of professors, scientists and teachers; and 81% of prosecutors in the provisional courts. Cuban women make up the second highest number of women parliamentarians in the world, and there is parity amongst women and men workers in the state labor force.

A representative of the National Union of Cuban Jurists made remarks about the Family Code, recently passed in September, which broadens the definition of what constitutes a Cuban family and their rights. Known as the “Law of Love,” the Code broadens the rights of not only blood mothers and fathers but also grandparenets; aunts, uncles, and lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans and queer people; disabled people; and more.

In the case of adoption, a person has the right to adopt if they have taken on the responsibility to raise the child, even if an abandoning parent attempts to reclaim the child. To read a summary of the code, go to waltsleppmann.com/cuban-families-code-2022-summary/.

Newark, N.J.

Statue unveiled honoring Harriet Tubman


The statue replaces one paying homage to Christopher Columbus, the butcher of Indigenous peoples. That statue, along with hundreds more that glorified white supremacy, especially the Confederacy, were taken down when rebellions took place in response to the police lynching of George Floyd in May 2020 in Minneapolis.

Shown in the picture, Nina Cooke John, the designer of the statue, stated in a press release, “Her heroism is recognized, and space is claimed for her story in this historic park, while her humanity is made accessible so that we can all be empowered by her deeds both great and small.”

Tubman freed hundreds of enslaved people using the Underground Railroad.

Story by Monica Moorehead

March 25 in Bronx, New York:

Commemorate Women’s History Month in the streets

By Monica Moorehead

Paying homage to Women’s History Month, the International Working Women’s Day Coalition is organizing a day of outdoor speak-outs and a march, followed by an indoor discussion on Saturday, March 25, starting at 2 p.m. in the Bronx, New York. The first speak-out will be held in front of the historic Lincoln Hospital at 234 E. 149th Street, where over 30 years ago, a protracted struggle led by the revolutionary Young Lords Party took place to demand accessible health care for one of the poorest communities in New York City.

The second speak-out will take place at nearby Hostos Community College, located at 300 Concourse, where recently students won a successful campaign to reopen their cafeteria, which had been shut down due to the pandemic since March 2020.

A march will then follow to a community center at 810 Gerard Avenue, for an interactive discussion between activists representing various struggles and local residents on why billions of dollars are spent for war, instead of funding health care, housing, food and human needs. The discussion will also include scheduling solidarity actions throughout 2023.

Brenda Stokely, a co-coordinator of the coalition, told WW, “It is so important for women and other gender-oppressed people, who are denied equality and subjected to oppression, bond together by listening to each other, planning together, learning from each other and those before us who committed their lives to freedom and justice, showing up to support our sisters who are on the front lines.”

Organizations and individual activists are encouraged to bring signs and banners and to help spread the word at other events and on social media. For more information including flyer pickups, email iww.coalition@gmail.com. There will be Spanish translation if needed.
Women bear brunt of deepening economic crisis

By Monica Moorehead

No matter how large or small, no class struggle can be put into its social context without understanding the current global capitalist economic crisis. Neoliberal policies flow from long-term and short-term fluctuations within the capitalist system, which no ruling class can ultimately control. There used to be periods of ebbs and flows, where the system could find a way out of a cyclical crisis with some kind of stimulus — such as a bank bailout or a war — to revamp the system, but now the system is in permanent crisis and has been that way at least since the 2008 global meltdown.

This crisis brought us the “Great Recession” due to permanent capitalist overproduction — when workers on a global scale cannot afford to buy the products and services they produce. This recession made the poor even poorer, labor unions weaker and created more precarious jobs, especially for women.

In 2008, the ruling class allowed Barack Obama to become the first Black president, in part as insurance against rebellions.

Food cuts heavy impact on women

Workers stand to lose their homes through eviction or foreclosure, lose their pensions, have cars repossessed and become unable to provide food for their families. Speaking of the food crisis, the Biden administration announced on March 1 devastating cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that helped sustain low-income families and individuals with extra allotments during the pandemic that began March 2020. These allotments expired in 52 states and impacted 30 million people enrolled in the program. This will deepen hunger and malnutrition in the richest country in the world.

In May 2018, when there were over 44.2 million SNAP recipients, the National Women’s Law Center and Food Research and Action Center put out a fact sheet on the significance of SNAP in the lives of women and their communities across social lines. (tinyurl.com/j6by3yb) These following statistics show the need for militant, organized campaigns led by women and gender-oppressed people, like occupying grocery stores to demand the release of healthy foods:

- Women are 63% of adult recipients;
- Women of color are 34% of nonelderly adult recipients and 31% of elderly adult recipients;
- White women are 24% of nonelderly adult recipients and 32% of elderly adult recipients;

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth and boldly states that socialism is the only system that can ensure real liberation for women, workers and oppressed people here and worldwide.

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From Philadelphia to Pretoria, supporters demand “Free Mumia!”

By Betsey Piette Philadelphia

An event titled “Bearing Witness in the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal” brought together over 150 people to the Workers World office in Philadelphia, March 11. With a live-stream option, over 2,000 more supporters were able to view the event from other cities and countries. In several places, activists organized pre-conference phone calls that were part of the 30th anniversary of shooting white Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner but main- tains his innocence.

Washington reminded the audience that Abu-Jamal, while best known as a political prisoner in Pennsylvania, is a radio journalist and author of over 3,000 commen- taries and eight books. They were all handwritten, as he has no access to a typewriter. Washington addressed key issues in Abu-Jamal’s case, including evidence in hidden file boxes withheld from defense attorneys.

Washington explained: “One of the most common forms of misconduct by district attorneys is the with- holding of evidence of innocence that they are obligated to make available to the defense, under the 1963 Brady v. Maryland. Since 2013, of the 33 exonerations in Pennsylvania, all were from hiding evidence.”

Larry Krasner, who became Philadelphia District Attorney in 2017, had made his career about hearing evidence. Now a judge [Lucretia Clemons] is saying some of the evidence is time-barred, but it evidence takes 100 years to be uncovered, as the records were just discovered.

Judge Griffen expanded on this: “If the government is charging us, they cannot hide stuff that clears us. They have an obligation to produce and deliver all evidence they have of our innocence. You don’t need a law degree to know that things got jacked up in Mumia’s case.”

State hide boxes of evidence

Six concealed file boxes pertaining to Abu-Jamal’s case were uncovered by DA Krahas in late 2018. The boxes contained documents indicating that key state wit- nesses were compensated for their testimony.

Fernández went into more detail: “The cab driver [Robert Chobert] was fed, housed in a hotel and driven around by prosecutors all during the trial. But evidence found in the hidden boxes — a letter to Prosecutor Joe McGill asking ‘Where’s my money?’ — showed he expected more. In the case of the state’s other chief witness, sex worker Cynthia White, all 33 of her pending convictions went away. Then after the trial White also disappeared.

Schiemann, who appeared via video conferencing, explored the holes in the state’s case, which were exposed in the trial taken held in 1981. The photos show that Chobert’s cab was not where he claimed. This called into question his testimony about directly witnessing the shooting. Other key evidence withheld by the prosecutor included the fact that the driver’s license of a fourth man at the scene — Kenneth Freeman — was found in Faulkner’s pocket.

The program was organized by The Mumia United Nations Liaison Group and was co-sponsored by Uncle Bobbie’s Coffee & Books, MobilizationMumia, Love Not Nuke, Campaign to Bring Mumia Home and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abu-Jamal’s supporters held meetings and demonstra- tions around the U.S. and in several other coun- tries, calling on lawmakers to pass the right thing and release him. South Africa’s largest union, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, demanded “Free Mumia!” in a spirited protest outside the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria. See NUMUSA Facebook page for photos and videos of the protest in Pretoria. (tinyurl.com/ynpfksr)

In French Guiana, activists hung a banner calling for Abu-Jamal’s release on the gates of the courthouse in the city of Cayenne.

In the United States, we have coordinated actions in more than 70 cities and with an even broader coalition in more than 90 January 2023.

The demonstration at the march in 18 pro- jected to be different from Feb. 19.

SF: The United National Antiraw Coalition — UNAC, which I have been part of since its founding 12 years ago — chose to build an alliance determined to strengthen left and anti-racist forces that target, not glorify, the cap- italist system. This was a defining moment in direction.

UNAC held demonstrations from the beginning of the war in March 2022. In October of 2022, we organized coordinated actions in more than 70 cities and with an even broader coalition in more than 90 January 2023.

In the upcoming march 18 Peace in Ukraine rallies, on the 20th anniversary of the criminal U.S.-invaded of Iraq, which I have been part of since our founding 13 years ago — chose to build an alliance determined to strengthen left and anti-racist forces that target, not glorify, the cap- italist system. This was a defining moment in direction.

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By Stephanie Hedgecock

Mosquito-carried disease vectors have plagued humanity for millennia. Mosquitoes carry dengue, yellow fever, filariasis, malaria, and many other vector-borne diseases of encephalitis, Rift Valley fever, Chikungunya and Lymphatic filariasis, as well as Dog heartworm.

According to IUCN, to cause 96 mil- lion symptomatic cases a year, resulting in around 400,000 deaths. Malaria, carried by Anopheles mosquitoes, killed 659,000 people in 2021, according to the World Health Organization, Dec. 8, 2022. Worldwide, malaria-carrying mosquitoes caused 247 million cases in 2021, and Africa bore the heaviest tolls with 95% of those cases and 96% of malaria deaths. WHO reports some 80% of all malaria deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mosquitoes have even long impacted human history. In the 19th century, malaria epidemics helped drive people to a small, much perished faith that [then] emphasized healing and care of the sick, propelling Christianity to world prominence. And Vineyard relates that with the arrival of the conquisadores and Cristobal Colon, the previously uninfected mosquitoes in the Caribbean Islands became carriers of diseases, and 5 million to 8 million Taino died from vectors carried by the then-infected mosquitoes and the mammals brought there by Spain.

Around 95 million Indigenous peoples of the Americas are estimated to have died from introduced diseases following 1492.

By colonization and war, humanity has historically created fresh environments for mosquito populations to invade and explode within. However, campaigns to eradicate vector-ridden mosquito populations, through out the 20th century and since, have been based on pesticides.

Sixth Extinction

Meanwhile, our biosphere is experiencing the Sixth Extinction, driven by human activity, due to climate change, pesticides, unau- nised trade, the destruction of Earth’s lands and waters, plastic pollution, use of fossil fuels and petrochemicals. Some 40% of all land has been converted to agricul- ture use, causing massive defor- estation; plus Big Agriculture uses up 80% of the water. According to the World Wildlife Fund, “A mass extinction is a short period of geological time in which a high percentage of biodiversity, or distinct species—bacteria, fungi, plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates—dies out... note that, in geological time, mass extinctions happen on average over the last 100 years. Mosquitoes have spread into new parts of the world, on average over the last 100 years. While in Cuba with the 50th Venceremos Brigade in August 2019, in a visit to Labiofam, one of Cuba’s socialist state-owned enterprises, this writer learned how the Global South. As a socialist state-owned enterprise, it engages in collaborative trade, where Cuba exports its products in return for needed raw materials—the Cuban system of trade is very effective and is in high demand in tropical areas of Africa. But while WHO reports that Africa has 96% of malarial deaths, Cuba’s Balbina strain of Aedes aegypti is very effective in malaria control and its populations are especially desired. The Dominican Republic bought 30 tons of Cuba’s Balbin’s rates in the cold.

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Cuba shows another way

Since Cuba’s 1959 revolution, the U.S. has constantly threatened this small island and has exercised economic blockade of the Cuban people. The U.S. was defeated on its attempt to invade and break Cuba at the Bay of Pigs (Playa Girón), and the imperialist colossus tried multiple times with- out success to assassinate Fidel Castro. The U.S. even went so far as to introduce swine flu in a 1960s bioterrorist attack. President Donald Trump increased the brutality of the economic sanctions with Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

But Cuba has consistently created its own industries and facilities in response to the blockade, from organic agriculture to medicine and health care. All Cuban agri- culture is organic; the U.S. blockade long ago prevented any corporate export there of pesticides. Cuba makes its own medicines and veterinary medicines and its beauty products, all from natural sources.

The challenge of mosquito-borne disease vectors has plagued humanity for millennia. Mosquitoes carry dengue, yellow fever, filariasis, malaria, and many other vector-borne diseases of encephalitis, Rift Valley fever, Chikungunya and Lymphatic filariasis, as well as Dog heartworm.

According to the U.N. 2019 Sustainable Development blog: “The average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20%, mostly since 1900. The numbers of invasive alien species per country have risen by about 70% since 1970 across the 21 countries with detailed records. The distributions of almost half (47%) of land-based flightless mammals, for example, and almost a quarter of threatened bird species have already been negatively affected by climate change.” But while even greater numbers of insect species are in decline, mosquito populations are spreading, due to global warming.

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ABOLISH THE POLICE!

After a two-year investigation of Louisville, Kentucky, police—prompted by the murder of Breeonna Taylor on March 13, 2020—the U.S. Department of Justice published its findings March 8. According to the bipartisan New York Times, “In a damning 90-page report, investiga- tors painted a grim portrait of the Louisville Metro Police Department, detailing a variety of serious—at times shocking—misconduct.”

The DOJ document gives detailed descriptions of “pattern or practice of conduct” of the LMPD, formed in 2003 as part of a consolidated city/county govern- ment incorporating the city of Louisville with Jefferson County:

• LMPD uses excessive force, includ- ing unjustified neck restraints and the unreasonable use of police dogs and tasers. LMPD conducts searches based on invalid warrants. LMPD unlawfully exe- cutes search warrants without knocking and announcing, LMPD unlawfully stops, searches, detains and arrests people during street searches and enforcement activities, including traffic and pedestrian stops.

SVB: ‘The bank is now insolvent’

Continued from page 1
two days after. All three were heavily involved in the crypto-currency mar- ket. Last year the multibillion-dollar crypto company FTX went belly-up. Wild speculation, such as what fueled the crypto bubble, may lead to fan- tastic growth of monetary wealth. But because it does not involve the exploita- tion of workers’ labor power, there is no creation of surplus value, which is the foundation of the capitalist mode of pro- duction. That is why the crypto bubble — an example of what Marx called fictitious capital — is like the real estate bubble leading to the US financial crash. It likewise will expand at a galloping pace until it burns. By the evening of March 14 the breaking news was “Global markets

LMPD unlawfully discriminates against Black people in its enforcement activities. LMPD violates the rights of people engaged in protected speech critical of policing. Louisville Metro and LMPD discriminate against people over 60,000 Asian Americans, including in their ability to respond to the complaint. While this may be “shocking” to an estab- lished capitalist mouthpiece like the Times, these scenarios are all too familiar to Black Lives Matter activists throughout the U.S.—and in most of the world.

“Most Metro employees and LMPD officers are dedicated public servants who work hard to promote public safety.” Yet these “dedi- cated public servants” all belong to organi- zations—misled unions—that operate to protect violent cops from disciplinary actions. They rally together when one of their own is charged with misconduct, even when fatalities occur.

Reform or abolition?

Also familiar to the anti-police brutality movement are reports and investigations by the DOJ, often leading to a consent decree, which the Times indicates will likely follow the investigation of the LMPD. These decrees mandate actions such as improved training of officers, stron- ger policies on excessive use of force, and more effective investigations of complaints and civilian oversight.

Other cities’ experience indicates that Louisville Metro residents are unlikely to see much change from DOJ-mandated reforms.

As far back as 1979, the DOJ filed a first- of-its-kind lawsuit, charging Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo and 18 other city offi- cials with allowing numerous abuses by Philadelphia police, including 164 killings in the previous eight years.

The DOJ said then that the pattern of excessive force in Philadelphia “shocks the conscience.” But two years later, in December of 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was brutalized by police following his arrest. His commitments to the left had frequently condemned Rizzo and the Philadelphia Police Department.

In March 2015 another DOJ review of the PPD revealed a force that routinely shoots civilians, is inadequately trained and lacks a transparent review process of police-involved shootings. Then-Mayor Michael Nutter appointed a panel of “experts” to oversee implementation of the DOJ recommendations. Nothing came of it. In 2020 Philadelphia police were among the most violent in repressing protests over the death of George Floyd.

A consent decree was in place by the DOJ in Cleveland in 2014, which among other things created a Community Police Commission. Yet there has been little change; a federal judge, who has the power to end the consent decree, extended it for two years in September, stating the consent decree’s “objective is achieved and a substantial and effective compli- ance at this time.”

The investigation that led to this con- sent decree followed the 2012 slaying of Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams, when Cleveland and East Cleveland police fired 137 bullets into the unarmed couple’s car. Two years later CPD officers shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice; prosecutors declined to charge the officers involved. Since then, those murdered by CPD include Desmond Franklin, a 23-year-old father of four fatally shot in 2020.

In November 2022 city voters passed Issue 24, which creates a Community Police Commission that will not go away if the community police model ends. But now the CPC is at risk of being defunded by Cleveland City Council.

The Cleveland and Cleveland provide two of numerous examples of ineffective federal mandates for police reform.

The question not asked—and therefore unanswered—why are police departments across the country, who we are taught are responsible for enforcing the law and protect- ing rights, so routinely violating those same rights with impunity?

The truth is that the police do not exist to uphold anybody’s legal, civil or Constitutional rights. They are part of the repressive capitalist state apparatus, which is an instrument of class rule cre- ated by and for the wealthy.

The DOJ’s “damning” report is but another argument for the only true means to halt police terror: ABOLISH THE POLICE!

Women bear brunt of deepening economic crisis

Continued from page 7

• 18% of nonelderly women recipients are women with disabilities;
• 58% of all SNAP households with children are headed by a single adult, 92% of them by women;
• 44% of SNAP recipients are children (3.5% of whom have a disability);
• 18% of nonelderly women recipients are women with disabilities;

Women, bear the brunt of deepening economic crisis, such as the cost of living hikes. The labor movement, that organizes— are still relevant today on a global scale.

What is needed now more than ever is a worldwide, class-wide struggle for socialism, where capitalist greed for profit will be swept away, replaced by provision of human needs such as housing, health care, education, child care and much more will be guaran- teed for women and all humanity.

The writer is a co-coordinator of the International Working Women’s Coalition in New York City and an executive board member of the International Women’s Alliance.

What is happening is that the police do not exist to uphold anybody’s legal, civil or Constitutional rights.
Weapons against workers and oppressed

Drugs and the ‘War on Drugs’

La campaña de guerra de Biden aviva la resistencia

Por John Catalinoto

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 medidas que han reforzado la perspectiva de una larga guerra y se ha encendido el fuego de los armamentos en el mundo. La guerra se ha convertido en un foco de preocupación para los ciudadanos del mundo, y la resistencia contra ella se ha intensificado.

Washington ha desempeñado un papel crucial en la guerra de Ucrania en el pasado, y su contribución a la actual guerra ha sido significativa. La administración Biden ha anunciado el envío de 2.000 millones de dólares en armamentos a Ucrania, comprometiéndose a continuar apoyando a Kiev y a reforzar su capacidad militar.

Por otra parte, la administración Biden ha anunciado el envío de un nuevo paquete de ayuda para Ucrania, que incluye el avión no tripulado Switchblade 600 mejorado, además de tecnología a la matanza. Esta ayuda incluye el avión no tripulado. El avión no tripulado Switchblade 600 mejorado, así como la tecnología a la matanza, se ha encendido el fuego de los armamentos en el mundo. La guerra se ha convertido en un foco de preocupación para los ciudadanos del mundo, y la resistencia contra ella se ha intensificado.

Los ciudadanos de todo el mundo se han unido en la lucha contra la guerra, demandando un cese inmediato de la violencia y la paz para Ucrania. La protesta pacífica ha sido el método más ampliamente utilizado para exigir la paz y la resolución de la guerra.

La resistencia contra la guerra ha crecido en varios países, con manifestaciones en todo el mundo. En Italia, miles de personas han demostrado en contra de la guerra, marchando silenciosamente por las calles de Roma, Florencia, Milán y Génova, contra las sanciones económicas imponidas por la UE y la OTAN.

En Alemania, la izquierda organizó una marcha en Berlín el 25 de febrero. Los principales portavoces de la izquierda alemán llevaron la marcha, demostrando “cuántos somos” y que necesitábamos un movimiento pacífico nuevo y fuerte, y “nos estamos organizando” (Junge Welt, 27 febrero).

En el Reino Unido, la protesta pacífica ha sido el método más ampliamente utilizado para exigir la paz y la resolución de la guerra. En Londres, cientos de personas marcharon en silencio por las calles, sosteniendo pancartas y carteles que pedían la paz y la resolución de la guerra.

En España, la protesta pacífica ha sido el método más ampliamente utilizado para exigir la paz y la resolución de la guerra. En Madrid, cientos de personas marcharon en silencio por las calles, sosteniendo pancartas y carteles que pedían la paz y la resolución de la guerra.

La participación de la izquierda en la protesta pacífica ha sido un reflejo de la voluntad de la gente de todo el mundo por la paz y la resolución de la guerra. La izquierda ha sido un motor importante de la resistencia contra la guerra, y su participación en las protestas ha sido un reflejo de su compromiso con la paz y la resolución de la guerra.

Las fuerzas a favor de la guerra han aprovechado el primer aniversario para organizar el apoyo a la guerra. Las acciones de amenaza y violencia han salido a la luz, con grupos y movimientos que han utilizado la violencia y la amenaza para reforzar su perspectiva y para rechazar las protestas pacíficas.

Por otro lado, la resistencia pacífica no ha cesado, con manifestaciones y protestas en todo el mundo. La resistencia pacífica ha sido el método más ampliamente utilizado para exigir la paz y la resolución de la guerra, y su participación en las protestas ha sido un reflejo de su compromiso con la paz y la resolución de la guerra.
Por Defend the Atlanta Forest

La policía ataca un festival de música

El 7 de marzo, El escritor de Mundo Obrero Dianne Mathiowitz declaró: "Acabo de estar en una conferencia de prensa conducida por varios clérigos locales y nacionales que denunciaron la acción policial de nuevo como prueba de que no hay nada en Cop City que sugiera desescalamiento y protección de los derechos de los ciudadanos. Se han reportado incidentes de que cientos de escuelas públicas, redujo drásticamente las pensiones de los trabajadores, impulsó la privatización de los recursos públicos y creó las condiciones de la destrucción para el bosque Weelaunee como espacio público. Se informa de que se prendió fuego a vehículos de construcción y de que los asistentes al festival exigieran ser liberados, la policía Weelaunee como espacio público. Se informa en el Boletín de la policía de los intentos de interrupción de la iluminación que cierne en el bosque Weelaunee, cerca de la Granja de la Vieja Prisión, y el castillo hinchable y compartir comida. Los niños y los músicos se mantuvieron unidos y coreaban "Puerto Rico No se Vende", lo que significa que no necesitamos el apoyo del gobierno para detener la privatización y la ruptura de sindicatos por la clase trabajadora."

El 6 de marzo — Anoche, varias agencias policiales ataviadas con equipos de guerra acústica. La policía ametralló con sus armas y lo derribaron. A continuación, un grupo de protesta, con cientos de personas, marcharon hacia el bosque, cerca de la Granja de la Vieja Prisión, y el castillo hinchable y compartieron comida. Los niños y los músicos se mantuvieron unidos y coreaban "Puerto Rico No se Vende", lo que significa que no necesitamos el apoyo del gobierno para detener la privatización y la ruptura de sindicatos por la clase trabajadora."

Se reconocen diversas tácticas. En la rueda de prensa, los agente de la Policía de DeKalb, al menos 22 personas han sido acusadas de terrorismo doméstico.

Dos mujeres activistas de la campaña "Puerto Rico No se Vende", lo desafiaron y se negaron a retirarse de su posición. "Tenemos que estar en esta lucha, porque estamos en la lucha por la libertad de Puerto Rico. Nosotros somos los que estamos luchando por la libertad de Puerto Rico", dijo Miranda. "Somos las mujeres que están luchando por la libertad de Puerto Rico, y nuestra lucha es por la libertad de todos los pueblos de Puerto Rico."

Sobre su cabildo por el plan de Industry City para desplazar a los boricuas y otros, y el cabildo contra los trabajadores, Miranda afirmó: "Estos dos cabildos son un ejemplo de lo que está sucediendo en Puerto Rico. Estamos luchando por la libertad de Puerto Rico, y nuestra lucha es por la libertad de todos los pueblos de Puerto Rico."

Hay muchos informes adicionales de agresiones policiales que no se están informando. El Fondo de Solidaridad de Atlanta declaró: "Violación policial indiscriminada esta noche contra los asistentes al festival Stoph Cop City. La policía parece arremeter contra cualquier persona presente en el festival de música. No es un delito; protestar no es un delito. Las personas que ejercen legalmente los derechos de la Primera Enmienda no pueden ser detenidas por la desea libertar al grupo de obra y en otros lugares."

Puede visitar defendtheatlantaforest.org/calendar para consultar el programa completo. La semana de defensa de Defend the Forest, defendtheatlantaforest.org calendario de eventos.