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Despite government attacks

Workers, students in France stay strong

By G. Dunkel

Since President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne rammed through the "reform" of France's pension system March 16 – an attack which will require workers to work longer to obtain a full pension — the class struggle has grown more intense.

Millions of workers struck on March 23 to protest this new law, which extends their retirement age to 64 from 62. The law must still be reviewed by the Constitutional Council, which can reject or modify it.

The new pension law provides fewer protections for workers who have arduous jobs and/or dangerous working conditions. These include sanitation workers, who collect garbage and are exposed to traffic, inclement weather and do heavy, repetitive lifts. It includes refinery workers who need to handle dangerous chemicals and heavy equipment in any weather.

Women, whose careers may be interrupted by child or elder care, get no relief from the new law. Women's pensions currently average 40% less than men's.

On March 23 nearly 3.5 million people protested in over 200 locations, according to the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), which does the counting for the unions. Police estimated the participation

The demonstrations involved many students, inspired by their teachers,



Women retirees on the front lines, March 2023.

and were in small cities and towns, like Besancon near the Swiss border. Student unions said that over 500,000 youth participated in March 23 protests.

Demonstrators held signs that called for the following: full retirement at 60; higher minimum wages, as a step for higher wages for all; equal pensions for men and women; and an end to police violence, which has grown sharper since the protests began in January.

The workers' determination has already affected French diplomacy. France and England had spent months negotiating the new British King Charles III's visit to France. This visit was to begin March 28, which is coincidentally the day the union coalition scheduled the next, the 10th day of protest/strikes. The CGT announced that its members, who would be responsible for setting up the red carpet and carrying out the services to greet a foreign monarch, would go on strike instead.

With no red carpet to underline the importance of this visit, Paris and London agreed to postpone the visit. The absence of a red carpet would have illustrated the power of the working class.

Sanitation workers

Sanitation workers in Paris went out on strike March 5. Sanitation pickups in Paris are divided by zones; in many of the zones, the workers didn't strike. Strikes were concentrated in the wealthier and tourist-oriented districts of the city. Not only the collectors who load the garbage trucks are on strike, but the incinerator workers who dispose of it also went out.

Class consciousness is so high these days that when three National Guard members were noticed picking up garbage around their headquarters, the public outcry forced the Minister of Interior to step in and explain that the soldiers were only trying to clear a path in case they had to respond.

When the garbage piled up on Paris sidewalks neared 10,000 tons, the prefect of the Police for Paris — the official directing the national police in Paris – demanded that the Socialist Party mayor send him a list of sanitation workers, so he could "requisition" them and force them back to work. Anne Hidalgo, the mayor, refused because she supported the strike. The Ministry of the Interior managed to get a copy of the list, and it forced 674 workers back.

The amount of sidewalk garbage after a

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WHO PASSES BAILOUT "MEANS-TESTING"



OWES \$100,000 IN STUDENT LOANS FOR MED SCHOOL, COVID HERO



E. PALESTINE RESIDENT, LOST HOUSE, KIDS VOMITING AFTER "CONTROLLED RELEASE" OF TOXIC FUMES

UNDER CAPITALISM



SILICON VALLEY BILLIONAIRE AND VULTURE CAPITALIST



The banking crisis

Will it push the working class or fascism to rise up?

WW COMMENTARY

By Larry Holmes

The capitalist ruling class is worried that the banking crisis, which began less

than a month ago with the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank and quickly

spread, could ultimately mushroom into a global financial crisis bigger than the crash of 2008. All talk of a "soft landing" has ended. The tech industry, a pillar of U.S. capitalism for a long time, is teetering on the edge of the cliff, and so is the commercial housing market.

Despite the emergency around-theclock efforts by the White House, the

Federal Reserve, the **Treasury Department** and Wall Street to bail out the banks and pre-

vent contagion, runs on mid-level banks have spread across the U.S. and around the world. High on the growing list of fears for the capitalist system is that this new crisis, which has already choked off

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WORKERS WORLD→ editorial

Vive la classe ouvrière de la France!

Long live the working class of France!

The working class of France is in the streets, with millions of people striking and demonstrating.

The proverbial straw — more like a whole big bundle of straw – was French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64. Macron, who imposed this attack on pensions by presidential edict, also raised by two years the length of time a worker must work before retiring with maximum benefits. For most retirees in France, in both the public and private sectors, the state pension is their only source of income.

Why is this so important?

A fight over pensions is essentially a fight over deferred wages. Part of the compensation a worker receives is paid out in the form of a regular paycheck, while another portion is set aside to be paid at a later date as a pension and/ or social security. It's money already earned, usually over a period spanning decades.

To extract more of what Marx called surplus value —

unpaid labor realized in the form of profit - without paying more wages, it would be hard for capitalists to do in 2023 what they did in the 19th century. Back then they just made the workday longer without raising pay. That would provoke a hell of a revolt today!

So instead, the French bourgeoisie is attempting to squeeze another two years worth of value from the hides of the workers - without paying one euro more for it! But if they thought there would be no fight-back, it was a gross miscalculation.

The class battle lines could not be clearer. For workers in the rest of the world,

including the U.S., the question is simply, "Which side are you on?" The labor movement here should be calling actions in solidarity with the workers in France fighting to hold the line on pensions. An injury to one is an injury to all! And a win for one is a win for all.

Not only should U.S. workers join in unity with workers across the ocean, they should emulate them. There are but a few examples in U.S. labor history of mass, unified strikes: 1919 in Seattle; 1934 in San Francisco, Minneapolis and Toledo, Ohio; the May Day 2006 strike of immigrant workers across the country; and a handful

Imagine if the AFL-CIO were to call out its ranks, along with the ranks of unorganized workers, to demand a halt to union-busting by Amazon and Starbucks! It's time for workers everywhere to start talking along those lines.

Workers rights are human rights! □



Protest at French Mission to the United Nations in New York, March 28.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at - and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

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

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Call for June 3 work stoppage for better prison conditions

Calling all activists, protesters and supporters to join us in refusing to move on June 3, until prison and education reform has been accomplished.

This is a call to action for all Pennsylvania prisoners and supporters. We encourage every person incarcerated throughout the country to join us in solidarity to combat our nation's judicial iniquities and oppression of the lower class. Our nation's elite have been profiting from the incarceration of those who can't afford to defend themselves in the court of law. The state of Pennsylvania has become a paragon example of how state officials take advantage of and incarcerate people for profit.

Philadelphia [police] officers are recognized for abuse and ignoring people's rights in order to arrest and convict our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and children. The courts are known to protect this fraternal brotherhood that is made up by a majority of corrupt officers. Judges in this state have their own list of discernable injustices against humanity and have been locking away the lower class and innocent people at an exorbitant rate.

An example of this became public after a poor child committed suicide during the "cash for kids" scheme the courts had going on, where they [judges] were paid by the [private] prisons to throw children into prison. Prisons also have been cashing in on our flesh, as a few examples have been made public: In 2019, a prison superintendent was given the opportunity to resign as opposed to being arrested, when he was caught stealing money from inmates and paying off parole board members so that they deny people their freedom. The more people incarcerated, the more money is made by these few elites. This all happens as a result of making money, and the victims of this are our schools and children.

We have had enough of sitting silently in our cells. We watch as the teachers in this country struggle to get children proper supplies to educate, because all the money is being wasted on incarceration for profit, and they are continuing to make money from us. The prison has cut food portions and increased commissary prices. We are forced to beg our families for money so that we are no longer hungry. Our jobs, which run the prison, only pay 19 to 42 cents an hour. Some state prisoners are forced to work for no

The state pays million-dollar contracts

they receive more monetary incentives. A \$3 million-\$4 million contract was made with a company in Florida to scan our mail, then fax it to our prison. State elites have invested in this company and others, such as the phone and email systems that charge our families outrageous amounts of money to communicate with us. An electronic cigarette company charges \$6 for a dangerously made cigarette.

I'm asking that we all stand together and refuse to work, beginning June 03, are thousands who have received this sentence and have never even hurt anyone.

The courts will manipulate wording so that they could convict you. A conviction rate has replaced the agenda of justice, and anyone without the financial means or political ties is subject to this judicial abuse. The government has made too many abject failures and lies so that they may profit from our lives. The war on drugs has made it so that police focus more on arresting drug addicts rather

and wives. We need alternatives to incarceration.

3. Implement a new impartial grievance and misconduct procedure, so that issues could be resolved and not ignored. There is too much abuse and assaults by prison staff that gets swept under the rug. People are being thrown into solitary confinement just to fill bed space. Misconducts are being used as a form of intentional harm that lands people in solitary confinement. There should be alternatives to solitary confinement for people. Have we not evolved from the days of cruel and unusual punishment? Are we not better than Caligula and Adolf Hitler?

4. A better and more efficient way for parole. There are thousands in Pennsylvania alone [who] are being denied parole for years based on negligible reasons. Many of these people are nonviolent offenders, now serving many years in prison for things like misconduct. If the parole board is to determine if a person is ready for society, they need to come out of their offices and get to know the people they are adjudicating. You cannot know a person's character based on biased reports.

5. Medically treat addiction with adequate Medicated Assisted **Treatment.** The prisons are now filled with people who suffer from addiction and are being released back to society in the same or worse condition than when they were received. Treatment needs to be allocated without prejudice to prisoners, long before they are released, in order to properly rehabilitate and reduce recidivism.

6. Better tobacco products, food and increased pay for employment. We should not be forced to beg our families and friends for support. A plain soup should not cost 40 cents, when we are making 19 cents an hour. The e-cigs offered have created a violent and tumultuous environment, because of

the pathetic manufacturing.

We should be focusing on rehabilitation, not basic survival. This should be a priority to our country just as it is to us. Many of us will be released back to the community. Do you not recognize the increase in crime? People are being treated as animals, then released. These are not arduous or unreasonable requests and should be a priority for all.

We are doing this because we love our country, and we want our country to love us back. Please help us pass this message and join in our movement. Email, post on social media, send to the news or media: This is for everyone, and everyone may join in our stand for reform on June 03, 2023. We will stand until these issues are amended in Pennsylvania and throughout the country.

This is an anonymous message, created anonymously for those voices that are suppressed by the razor wire and judicial system. For those who have been inaudible but wish to have a voice, and for those who want to help others but don't have the ability because you are incarcerated. You don't need to shout anymore; just stand and refuse the work on June 03, 2023.

United in solidarity, A.T.I.K.O.R. □



BY KEVIN CAPLICKI FOR JUSTSEEDS.ORG

2023. The inmates in Alabama did it, because they too were left with no choice, and I'm sorry we didn't hear of it sooner so that we could have stood with them.

We're standing now though, for all the people in this state and country who have been oppressed by the judicial system. We are doing this for our families, who suffer without us and support us regardless of these companies extorting them; for the children, for the teachers and people who truly deserve the attention and money; for those sitting in a prison cell [who] don't belong there but are there, because the state withheld or manufactured evidence; and those who have done more than enough time in jail; and those who are held past their release date. We are fed up with it. The elite have

> got enough from us and our families.

If you're wondering how we let this happen, it's because we sat quietly as our state has circumvented and manipulated the Constitution, so that they may imprison and continue to imprison people who can't afford a defense in court. The U.S. Supreme Court determined that mandatory sentencing was unconstitutional, yet Pennsylvania continues to sentence people to "mandatory" life in prison without the possibility of parole. There than going through the rigorous investigation of many violent crimes.

It's easier to arrest and convict a drug addict. The arrest quota is the new limit

to public safety. No longer is investigating a crime to discover the actual perpetrator the objective. It's the first and easiest target to convict. We are not safe with this form of justice anymore, and there are a lot of innocent people in prison.

We need to intervene now, and our demands are to benefit the people of this country, not to harm it. June 03, 2023, we are all going to

refuse to do the work you need us to do; we are going to stand up to your oppression once and for all until the following occurs:

- 1. Reduce prison funding and allot that money into public schools and education for children. A simple audit of prison funding will show how much money is wasted and abused, which could/should be going to our state's schools. Find a way to invest into education programs.
- 2. Eliminate mandatory life without parole and implement sentence reform. Offer things like good-time and incentive. Rehabilitation should be the goal, not profit. There are too many people in prison [who] don't belong, or who have been there for far too long. There are women in prison for defending themselves while in a caustic relationship or because of some insignificant reason. These are our mothers, daughters



The banking crisis

Continued from page 1

lending and exposed the magnitude of the systemic debt crisis, will bring bank lending to a virtual halt, exacerbating the dreaded "liquidity" crisis.

When that happens, the dominoes begin falling even faster, and a global collapse of the financial system and a worldwide economic superstorm become harder and harder to avoid. The contradiction is that the capitalists themselves lit the fire that morphed into this new bank crisis by raising interest rates, in order to bring the economy to a halt. The central bankers were following the old playbook.

When the economic system is descending into deeper crisis and threatens profit-making, the solution throughout the history of capitalism has been to slow or even stop the economy, throw tens of millions of workers out of their jobs and attack the workers and the oppressed in a thousand ways, until the system is returned to profitability. The problem now with the save-capitalism playbook is that the capitalists can't stop or control the fire that they've started and the slide toward unprecedented catastrophe.

What must revolutionaries do?

Discussing the dimensions of the banking crisis and where it's headed is essential, but it's not enough. It is vital that revolutionaries, socialists and communists understand and respond to the dangerous political crisis that all of this creates for the working class. Either the working class and oppressed and their organizations and movements turn this crisis into an opportunity to get organized-rising up and breathing life into a militant, massive, class struggle against capitalism—or the neofascist forces will fill the vacuum, build up their strength and open up an all-out war on the working class.

Lest we forget, it was the near collapse of the capitalist financial system in 2008, the bailout of Wall Street and the "Great Recession" that paved the way for the rise of Trump and a fascist movement that has engaged in violent attacks on the most oppressed.

In the aftermath of 2008, the labor movement as well as other progressive movements, with some notable exceptions, were held in check by the Democratic Party. Stopping the working class from rising up, breaking with capitalism and doing what is necessary to come into its own as a social force, conscious of itself as a class, is the primary purpose of the Democratic Party. We must, by all means necessary, avoid a repeat of the post 2008 political trap that stopped the working class from rising up.

The good news is that, over the last two years, we have seen the beginnings of a young worker rebellion that holds the potential of pushing the working class forward to a higher level or organization and class struggle. Starbucks workers, Amazon workers and countless other workers at chain stores, hospitals, factories and tech companies, along with gig workers and migrant workers, have created the biggest opening for mass revolutionary progress in the working class in

The labor movement has noted this development and offered it some support. But that support is a drop in the bucket when it comes to stopping one of the biggest union-busting wars in recent history, led by the corporate leaders of Amazon and Starbucks.

like the Teamsters and the UAW are

almost a century.

Unions must break with the Democrats

Some interesting things are happening in the labor movement. Older unions



WW COMMENTARY

undergoing rank and file-based change. But corporate, top-down unionism that is tied to the Democratic Party is still the norm. It's time to open up a new political struggle inside the labor movement, a struggle that brings in the energy and militancy of the young workers, who are on the move.

We have watched the French workers strike and take to the streets by the millions to stop Macron's and the French bourgeoisie's attack on their hard-won rights. We have to ask: Why hasn't the U.S. labor movement organized a protest in front of the French mission to the United Nations to show their support for the French workers? U.S. workers could learn a lot from the French workers, and that is how it should be. After all, we are in the same class, a global class that should recognize no boundaries.

Last summer Liz Shuler became the president of the AFL-CIO. Probably the overwhelming majority of workers who are not in unions, or even many who are in unions, don't even know her name. It's likely that more workers have heard of Chris Smalls, the president of the Amazon Labor Union, who won the first union victory against the transnational behemoth, which in many ways is the most powerful capitalist corporation in the world.

Why is it that the labor movement has not called a major, serious march on Amazon or Starbucks, in support of the workers and against union busting? This has to change, and we must understand that it is our duty as revolutionary fighters for the working class to find the ways to become the agents of that change. \Box

Workers, students in France stay strong

Continued from page 1

few days decreased to about 9,300 tons and then started to creep up toward 10,000 as workers adjusted their work rhythms — downward.

In militant nighttime demonstrations following union marches, protesters built barricades from this trash and set them ablaze to complicate pursuit by cops on motorcycles.

Refinery workers

Refinery workers, who also face requisitions, have held numerous strike days since this struggle over pensions began Jan. 19. Refinery workers have other special grievances and have been on strike since October 2022.

Combined with strikes in fuel depots where the tanker trucks are loaded, some of the refinery shutdowns led to temporary shortages in gas stations in western and southern France. Lines for fuel have stretched for miles.

According to Alexis Antonioli, secretary general of CGT Total Normand, in the online news source Left Voice, the Paris airports "only have two days of kerosene in pure stock left. They went into downgrade mode. They canceled 30% of the flights. They are asking the medium-haulers to work double-duty. They are in a critical situation.

"The government will do anything to break the strike. They'll do anything to get kerosene . . . They are completely panicking — the strikes are continuing; the mobilization is strengthening, and the momentum among the youth is growing."

Management of the refineries tried to negotiate with the strikers, but workers refused to do shift turnovers the discussions preparing the incoming workers — while requisitions were in force.

The outcome of this struggle around the refineries is still unclear, as the workers develop a strategy to combat requisitions.

A need for solidarity

French workers have a long revolutionary history. As they like to point out to President Macron when he is acting like a king, a particularly self-satisfied king, the last feudal king of France was guillotined during the 1789 Revolution. Macron and his gang are refusing to bargain because the ruling classes of the European Union and North America are united with them against the French

Some explicit class solidarity from workers in other countries could only help the workers in France, whose victory would be a victory for workers worldwide. □

As Zelensky speaks, Austrians demand neutrality

Workers World received this petition and call for a co-financing of arms supvigil from the Austrian group, the Social Alliance for Peace and Neutrality. Translation: John Catalinotto.

Vigil: Building peace without weapons

March 30, Parliament building

The Ukrainian war President [Volodymyr] Zelensky is scheduled to speak virtually to the deputies of the Parliament on March 30. What he will say is already clear. He wants more weapons, more sanctions, more

Pushed by the political-media elites, this will add up to another step in dismantling neutrality, as does the constant NATO military transports through Austria; delivery of helmets, vests or fuel for the Ukrainian army;

plies via the European Union; and for — what for the time being was a failed test balloon for training Ukrainian tank drivers, etc. But together with the vast majority of the Austrian population, we are firmly convinced that NATO endangers our security and that only neutrality can keep us

We demand:

- no support of NATO;
- no military support of Ukraine, not even indirectly;
- End the economic war stop the sanctions; and
- Maintain Austrian neutrality.



Vienna protest of German decision to send tanks to Ukraine, Jan. 30, 2023.

Education workers in Los Angeles, Oakland strike for a fair contract

By Judy Greenspan Oakland, California

When education workers are under attack, what do they do? They rise up and go on strike! And that's exactly what these workers in both Los Angeles and Oakland did.

On March 21, 30,000 members of Service Employees International Union Local 99 the bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals

and other education workers in the Los Angeles Unified School District - went on a three-day Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) strike for a living wage. They were joined by 35,000 teachers and other educators in the United Teachers of Los Angeles, who held a sympathy strike with their sibling union. UTLA announced that they would not cross the SEIU picket line.

SEIU Local 99 members earn incredibly low wages, are forced to work part-time and are not paid for holidays. The education workers went on strike demanding a 30% raise over four years, paid holidays, health care benefits and an immediate \$2-an-hour raise for the lowest-paid workers.

Then on March 24, just a day after



Oakland teachers, students and supporters rally in front of the OUSD building, March 24.

SEIU workers returned to work in L.A., Oakland teachers and other educators went on a one-day unsanctioned wildcat strike. Led by rank-and-file members of the Oakland Education Association, teachers from the high schools and middle schools set up morning picket lines in front of their schools, organized marches and eventually rallied at the empty school district building in downtown Oakland.

These teachers are in the midst of bargaining with the Oakland Unified School District. According to OEA bargaining team members, the district has been absent at most organized bargaining sessions. OEA has been working on an extended contract for the past year, and educators in Alameda County.

Bargaining demands include increased funding for community public schools, benefits for substitute teachers and the hiring of more librarians and therapists. Teachers are demanding a pay raise of 22.9%, which would bring their salary to the middle range of teacher pay in the Bay Area. The regressive district counteroffer of 8% over two years, with a longer workday and work year, infuriated teachers and sparked the one-day Oakland wildcat action. OEA also filed an ULP claim on March 23.

Low wages lead to Oakland strike vote

Education workers both in L.A. and the Bay Area are suffering from soaring housing costs. In L.A., SEIU members earn an average of \$25,000 a year working for LAUSD, and the median price of a one-bedroom apartment is nearly \$20,000 a year. (LA Times, March 24) Many of these workers are forced to take an additional parttime job to make ends meet.

At a rally at Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland, several hundred secondary school teachers, students and supporters came together for a rally as part of their wildcat action. Several speakers pointed

Oakland teachers are the lowest-paid out that low educator salaries combined with the high cost of living in the Bay Area are responsible for the exodus of young teachers from the Oakland public schools.

Other speakers pointed out that OUSD spends far more on administrators than any other district in the state. The gap between teacher and administrator pay has increased exponentially.

What effect do strike actions have? Well, the day after the 3-day strike by L.A. education workers, a tentative agreement guaranteeing raises of 30% was reached between SEIU Local 99 and the district. Of course, the members of the union still have to approve it, and UTLA is currently in contract negotiations with LAUSD.

In Oakland, there is no indication that OUSD will begin to bargain fairly with OEA. With its ULP filed, the teachers' union will now move forward with strike readiness plans, which include polling the membership for a strike vote.

This spring began with tens of thousands of education workers in the streets in L.A., including the inspirational sympathy strike by teachers. The school year may well end with additional strikes and job actions by education workers, who are fighting for their very survival and for the future of public education in California. □

Seattle Starbucks workers hold the line

Bv Jim McMahan Seattle

Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) struck the coffee chain March 22 at numerous stores across the U.S. Outside corporate headquarters in Seattle that day, over 400 Starbucks workers and allies marched protesting the bosses' union busting. Representing a broad spectrum of labor in Seattle and beyond, they loudly chanted: "Baristas Yes, Bosses No!"

Inside the towering headquarters, the corporate big shots celebrated "Founder's Day" to honor Howard Shultz, who had stepped down as CEO of the company for the third time but remains on the board of directors.

The rally outside featured SBWU speakers and supporters, many of whom

a Bellingham store, told of her experience when her apartment was so flooded she had had to move out. She had to take four days off work, and it cost her thousands of dollars, but Starbucks wouldn't accommodate her. They soon fired her. She then led a successful union organizing drive at her store.

Workers from at least 10 unions were on the picket line. Homegrown sandwich workers, who led a successful organizing drive of 200 workers with UNITE HERE, spoke. Sam described how they had to fight the racism and misogyny of the bosses to win. Another Homegrown worker, Zane said, "You can draw a direct line from the murder of George Floyd to the mass organizing of workers across the country!"

Latinx workers organizing against sexual harassment at McDonalds in California addressed the crowd. Marchers attacked the capitalist system. Gwen, from were inspired by the enthusiasm of Union

of Southern Service Workers members, who helped lead the march to Starbucks' front door.

The next day the company held its shareholders meeting, where more SBWU supporters challenged Starbucks. When asked if Starbucks would commit to a labor neutrality agreement with SBWU, the company's chief communications officer and executive vice president Aranthan (AJ) Jones said, "No." He also said the company wouldn't agree to a basic union "card check" agreement.

But the many actions on March 22 demonstrated Starbucks workers' resolve to keep fighting for their rights on the job. \square



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Seattle, March 22, 2023.

Women activists meet in **Bronx, New York**

the cancellation of an outdoor march, 50 activists packed a room in the base- progressive social media; and resistance ment of an apartment building in the to U.S. neocolonialism from Puerto Rico Bronx, New York, to hold a three-hour discussion on issues rooted in capitalism and imperialism impacting women of all ages, genders and nationalities. Speakers raised struggles at home and abroad, including attacks on education, health

Although a rainy, windy day forced care and the right to abortion; housing; services for children with disabilities; to the Philippines.

> The meeting was organized by the International Working Women's Coalition in honor of Women's History Month.

- Story by Monica Moorehead



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS



Protest over police murder of Forest Defender

More than 100 people sat cross-legged hands up when killed by a team of Georgia at Atlanta's State Capitol March 25, with their hands raised and palms inward with red X's on the backside, to indicate where Manuel Paez Terán's body.

Teran family revealed that the young Forest Defender, aka Tortuguita, had been sitting cross-legged in their tent with

Patrol officers participating in an armed raid on the Weelaunee Forest on Jan. 18.

Manuel's mother, Belkis Terán and some of the 14 bullet wounds pierced Manuel's brother, Pedro Santema were joined by others who knew "Tort" well The autopsy commissioned by the from their gentle spirit and community work to stop Cop City.

— Story by Dianne Mathiowetz

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Buenos Aires, decenas de miles de manifestantes llenaron las calles el 24 de marzo.

Superexplotación de niños inmigrantes

editorial

'La acuñación de la sangre de los niños en capital'

York Times sobre el trabajo infantil de los inmigrantes demuestra la actualidad de lo que escribió Karl Marx hace 156 años.

La monumental obra de Marx, "El Capital", fue una tremenda contribución teórica, que describe con meticuloso detalle cómo funciona el sistema capital-

ista de explotación. Una clase de trabajadores, la clase obrera, produce MUNDO OBRERO "plusvalía" (beneficios) para una élite de holgazanes, la clase capitalista.

El Capital" de Marx hace algo más que desmenuzar, de manera científica, el funcionamiento del capitalismo; su obra es una acusación poderosa y apasionada contra la clase que se enriquece. "La jornada laboral", capítulo 10 del volumen I -publicado en 1867- expone los horrores laborales de la Inglaterra del siglo XIX, documentados por los propios inspectores de fábrica del gobierno.

Niños de ocho años, y a veces incluso más jóvenes, trabajaban largas horas en condiciones peligrosas en lugares de trabajo como alfarerías, panaderías, fábricas de seda y siderurgias. Los informes describen a niños de nueve y diez años trabajando en turnos de 12 horas o más, a menudo de noche, en laminadoras de acero.

"En su pasión ciega e irrefrenable, su hambre de hombre lobo por el excedente de mano de obra, el capital usurpa no sólo los límites morales, sino incluso los físicos de la jornada laboral. Usurpa el tiempo necesario para el

El horror retratado en un reciente reportaje del New crecimiento, el desarrollo y el mantenimiento saludable del cuerpo", escribió Marx. Denunció "la acuñación de la sangre de los niños en capital".

En el siglo XXI, condiciones del siglo XIX

Lamentablemente, las cosas no son tan diferentes en 2023. Esto quedó muy claro en un artículo publi-

cado el 25 de febrero en el New York Times: "Solos y explotados, los niños migrantes realizan trabajos brutales en todo Estados Unidos".

Sólo el título lo dice todo. De los cientos de miles de menores no acompañados que han cruzado la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México en busca de una vida mejor, muchos "han acabado trabajando en empleos peligrosos que infringen las leves sobre trabajo infantil, incluidas fábricas que elaboran productos para marcas conocidas como Cheetos y Fruit of the Loom".

Otros -adolescentes e incluso niños más pequeñosenvasan cereales y barritas de cereales, manejan ordeñadoras, limpian habitaciones de hotel, trabajan en la construcción de tejados y fabrican piezas de automóviles para Ford y General Motors.

Muchos trabajan de noche e intentan ir a la escuela durante el día, pero se quedan dormidos en clase o acaban abandonando los estudios. Estos niños explotados sufren frecuentes lesiones, a veces mortales. Trabajan para ayudar a sus familias en sus países de origen y pagar grandes deudas a los "patrocinadores", que les ayudaron a entrar en Estados Unidos.

"En muchas partes del país, los profesores de secundaria y bachillerato de los programas para estudiantes de inglés afirman que ahora es habitual que casi todos sus alumnos se apresuren a hacer largos turnos cuando terminan sus clases", según el informe del Times.

Las enormes corporaciones de Fortune 500 muestran el mismo "hambre de hombre lobo" por los beneficios que Marx observó en la Europa del siglo XIX. Esto sigue impulsando la explotación de los trabajadores, incluidos los niños, no sólo dentro de Estados Unidos sino en todo el mundo.

Ningún niño debería tener que sufrir un nivel tan alto de abuso y estar "solo y explotado".

Los sindicatos tienen la responsabilidad de enfrentarse frontalmente a este brutal ejemplo de racismo y xenofobia. Los sindicatos que representan a los trabajadores de las empresas que se benefician ilegalmente del trabajo infantil deben hacer de esta cuestión un tema de negociación colectiva, como en el caso de las empresas automovilísticas, cuvos contratos con United Auto Workers expiran este año. Los sindicatos de maestros deben defender a los niños inmigrantes a los que enseñan sus miembros.

La lucha de clases en los años 30 consiguió la Ley de Normas Laborales Justas que, entre otras cosas, limitaba el trabajo infantil. Hará falta un movimiento global y de clase para detener "la acuñación de la sangre de los niños en capital".

Otro mundo es posible - y necesario. □

El ciclón Freddy pone de relieve las desigualdades ¡Reparaciones para África!

editorial

Estados Unidos tiene el 5% de la población mundial, los mosquitos. Muchos de los fallecidos están enterrados pero es responsable del 28% de las emisiones anuales de carbono del mundo: unas 15 toneladas per cápita al año. partes de la zona afectada podrían permanecer bajo el

En el caso del 10% más rico, ise aproxima a las 55 toneladas per cápita!

MUNDO OBRERO Por el contrario, el segundo continente más grande y poblado -Áfricaproduce sólo el 4% de los gases de efecto invernadero del mundo. Pero África sufre de forma desproporcionada las catástrofes provocadas por

El ciclón Freddy, con más de un mes de duración, ha causado más de 500 muertos y va en aumento, y ha devastado Madagascar, Malawi y Mozambique. La Asociación Meteorológica Mundial lo considera el ciclón Freddy de mayor duración jamás registrado.

Freddy también fue excepcional en otros aspectos, ninguno de ellos beneficioso. Esta tormenta especialmente potente generó tanta energía como toda una temporada de huracanes en EE.UU. Tuvo un elevado número de aceleraciones repentinas, con rachas de hasta 212 kilómetros por hora. El ciclón tuvo una trayectoria poco común, golpeando primero Madagascar, luego moviéndose al oeste hacia Mozambique, de vuelta al este hacia el Océano Índico, a Mozambique de nuevo y finalmente golpeando Malawi, habiendo viajado un total de 8.000 kilómetros. (npr.org)

Malawi fue el país más afectado, con el 80% de las muertes. Decenas de miles de personas han perdido sus hogares, y muchos sobreviven en los árboles para mantenerse por encima del agua. Los tres países sufrieron daños masivos en sus infraestructuras, con hospitales y escuelas arrasados. La población se quedó sin acceso a

La región del suroeste de África ya sufría una epidemia de cólera; ahora la destrucción aumentará el sufrimiento, ya que las inundaciones aceleran la propagación de enfermedades transmitidas por el agua y también por en el fango y puede que nunca se les encuentre. Algunas agua durante algún tiempo.

> Las emisiones de carbono de Malawi son inferiores a una décima de tonelada per cápita. Los habitantes de la antigua colonia británica están

sufriendo enormemente una catástrofe de calentamiento global que ellos no crearon.

Legado de esclavitud y colonización

Las dificultades para recuperarse de la tormenta se ven agravadas por la división mundial entre la fabulosa riqueza y la privación extrema. Aunque África es rica en minerales, tiene la tasa de pobreza más alta de todos los continentes. De sus 54 países, 34 se encuentran entre los 50 más pobres del mundo, y el 40% de la población africana sobrevive con menos de un dólar al día. Sin embargo, las Naciones Unidas han ofrecido a los tres países afectados por el ciclón Freddy sólo 10 millones de dólares de ayuda para la recuperación.

La pobreza de África tiene su origen en la brutal historia de esclavitud y colonización. El robo masivo -no sólo de riqueza mineral, sino de entre 12 y 20 millones de seres humanos-financió la expansión del capitalismo, convirtiéndolo en el modo de producción dominante a escala mundial. El imperialismo, la fase superior del capitalismo, caracterizada por el crecimiento del monopolio y la dominación del capital financiero, nació sobre las espaldas de los pueblos africanos.

Se deben billones de dólares a África y a los africanos de la diáspora por los recursos, el trabajo y las personas

iReparaciones ya! iQue paguen los multimillonarios! □

Argentina

A 47 años del golpe criminal del 1976

Resumen Latinoamericano

24 de marzo de 2023 - Decenas de miles de manifestantes se concentraron en Plaza de Mayo este 24 de marzo por la tarde. La movilización independiente convocada por el Encuentro Memoria, Verdad y Justicia unificó la pelea contra la impunidad de ayer con la lucha contra las políticas de ajuste del presente.

En la Plaza de Mayo se dio lectura a un documento consensuado por todas las organizaciones que integran el Encuentro Memoria, Verdad y Justicia. Allí, entre otras cosas, se denunció que la dictadura militar desapareció, torturó y asesinó a miles y miles de militantes populares; que robó cientos de bebés; que organizó más de 600 centros clandestinos de detención, tortura y exterminio, ejecutando además los llamados "vuelos de la muerte".

En el texto también se denunció la relación entre la represión del régimen genocida y el ajuste en curso. Allí se planteó que "la dictadura fue alentada por el imperialismo acá y en todo el Cono Sur, financiada por el FMI y apoyada por las multinacionales, los capitalistas locales y las cúpulas de la Iglesia.

Su objetivo fue bien claro: derrotar la lucha obrera y popular e imponer un modelo económico de entrega total de nuestro país. A sangre y fuego, cayeron a pique los salarios y aumentaron los ritmos de trabajo. Multiplicaron la deuda externa de 7.000 millones de dólares en 1976 a 47.000 millones en 1983. Y estatizaron la deuda privada de los mismos grandes grupos capitalistas a los que hoy se sigue beneficiando con exenciones fiscales, el dólar-soja o son formadoras de precios. Todos los gobiernos post dictadura pagaron esa deuda fraudulenta e ilegítima a costa de ajuste, privatizaciones y entrega".

(El artículo y fotos aquí: tinyurl.com/ycyc8zvb)