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Boston march Oct. 7 to demand:

Indigenous Peoples Day now!

By Workers World Party Boston bureau

United American Indians of New England (UAINE), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and other organizations have called for a march and rally on Oct. 7 to demand that the Massachusetts legislature forever replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

This decades-long struggle of Indigenous peoples in Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims carried out “first encounter” land thefts and genocide, aims to overturn centuries of entrenched racist mythology wrapped up in the triumphalist federal holiday known as Columbus Day.

The 2017 murder of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia, at the hands of fascists, and the police lynching of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, sparked a national wave of actions targeting racist icons, including Christopher Columbus.

On June 10, 2020, a statue of Christopher Columbus in Boston’s North End was beheaded, and statues in Richmond, Virginia, and St. Paul, Minnesota, were similarly targeted. Indigenous organizers succeeded in winning Indigenous Peoples Day declarations

in cities and states coast to coast, but not in Boston, where a 1675 law banning Native Americans from entering the city remained on the books until 2004.

Past time to replace colonial myths

UAINE and NAICOB witnessed the signing of an executive order replacing Columbus Day in Boston with Indigenous Peoples Day in 2021. “Observing Indigenous Peoples Day is about replacing the colonial myths passed down from generation to generation with the true history of the land upon which our nation was founded,” said Mayor Kim Janey, Boston’s first woman and first Black mayor. Unfortunately, in 2022, incoming Democratic Mayor Michelle Wu bent to political pressure from racists and declared the day “Italian Heritage Day” alongside Indigenous Peoples Day.

Intransigent Massachusetts legislators continue to defend the Columbus myth, holding IPD bills in committee year after year, despite persistent efforts by the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda and thousands of supporters across the state to get the bills passed. The state flag, which depicts a white arm brandishing a sword above an Indigenous man’s head, still flies three years after the



Boston Indigenous Peoples Day, lead contingent marches to Massachusetts State House, Oct. 8, 2022.

PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

legislature voted to change it.

Mahtowin Munro (Lakota), co-leader of UAINE and lead organizer for Indigenous Peoples Day Massachusetts, said: “We call on the Massachusetts State Legislature to step up now and

pass our statewide Indigenous Peoples Day bill and our other legislation currently before them, including bills to ban Native American team mascots, to provide for Indigenous curriculum content in

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UAW strikes Big Three all at once

By Martha Grevatt
Toledo, Ohio

For the first time in its 88-year history, the United Auto Workers is striking Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (which includes Chrysler) simultaneously. When the 2019-23 contracts between the union and the corporations expired at midnight the night of Sept. 14, the selective strike targeting one assembly plant at each company was launched.

Workers at GM’s Wentzville, Missouri, plant; Ford’s Wayne, Michigan, plant; and the Toledo, Ohio, Jeep plant are maintaining militant picket lines around the clock. Workers at more plants will walk out if sufficient progress is not made in negotiations by 12:00 noon Sept. 22.

It was a noisy scene in Toledo with non-stop honking from supportive drivers,



First day of strike at Toledo, Ohio, Jeep assembly plant, Sept. 15, 2023. WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

including working truck drivers. Only a small minority were quiet. Donations of food and beverages began to pile up on the first day of the strike. A recent poll showed that three out of four people in the U.S. were sympathetic to an auto industry strike.

Messages of support are flowing from around the U.S. and globally. The AFL-CIO and many of its member unions put out statements in solidarity with the UAW strike. UAW-represented graduate students at Harvard and UMass Boston held signs on campus backing the strike.

The Teamsters union stated that its members will not make pickups or deliveries at struck plants, and Teamster car haulers will not transport vehicles during the strike. Teamsters President Sean O’Brien reminded the auto companies

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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Protests hit deaths in
Rhode Island & Georgia
Attica anniversary
Free Leonard Peltier!

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Occupy Wall Street: Tasks for the movement

By Larry Holmes

Excerpted from a talk given by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes at the WWP National Conference in New York City, Oct. 8-9, 2011. Sept. 17 was the 12th anniversary of the start of Occupy Wall Street.

Occupy Wall Street has opened up space. This development, mostly white now, is getting more multinational. It's growing, and it is affecting oppressed sectors of our class. In the hundreds of cities that are now either engaged in or planning protests, many of these cities are predominantly African American.

The AFL-CIO endorsed it. Other state labor bodies are endorsing it. This is an instance where they should support and not take it over unless they are revolutionary militant trade unionists.

There is something very distinct about this occupation. It is not a demonstration against budget cuts. It is not targeting any mayor. It is not a demonstration defending pensions or Social Security or cuts in education.

It is a demonstration against Wall Street. What does Wall Street represent? Capitalism! It is, in an incipient form, a protest against capitalism. They saw that this crisis created an opportunity to have a political demonstration and a political movement.

Anybody who is a veteran of the revolutionary struggle in this country has had to ask themselves: Did we see this coming? Should we have seen this coming?

I think we should have seen it coming. The evidence was there: the growth of the movements in North Africa, especially Egypt, and how that spiraled into Europe.

The world has changed. The scientific-technological revolution has changed how people relate to each other, and it has changed politics on a global basis. The world is smaller. Social relations are closer. Europe is not thousands of miles away; it is a click away on a computer. Athens is New Jersey. Spain is the next city. So is Egypt. It is not like it was, even a generation ago.

This is what all this technology has done. Even after the brutal exploitation and oppression, the

silver lining is that a lot of what is happening has brought us together and given us new weapons to fight the class enemy.

Then there is the radicalization of so many youth and others because capitalism is falling apart.

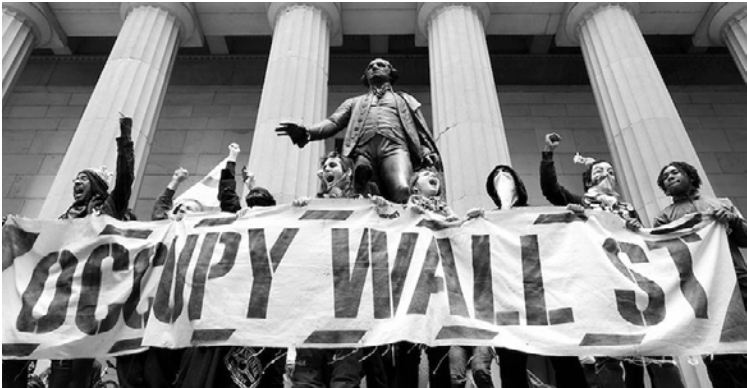
Hopefully, Occupy Wall Street is going to wake up the left. The comrades who spoke before me pointed out the many contradictions in Occupy Wall Street. One really regrettable part of one of their documents is one of the reasons Black, Latine and Asian people are saying, "I don't know about this." They say in it that we're all equal. Well, that is nice, but I am afraid it is not true.

No, sorry. Racism, sexism, anti-lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer bigotry, classism and all sorts of lesser inequalities mean we are not all equal. We need solidarity with those who don't have equality to liberate them so that they will have equality.

But despite that and other contradictions, we have to support this movement, help it grow. We have to help it spread. We have to defend it against the state.

In this movement there will ultimately be a left, a right and a center. There will be those who will go into the Democratic Party, into some petty-bourgeois thing, and then there will be those who go to the class struggle, to an anti-imperialist perspective, to solidarity with the oppressed, to socialism — that's the left. Our job is to strengthen that wing. We have to do more.

Occupy everywhere! Build socialism! Shutdown capitalism! Strengthen the revolution! It may be closer than you think. □



Occupy Wall Street, 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Seattle ‘Justice for Jaahnavi!’

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Police officer Kevin Dave was speeding at 74 mph in a 25 mph zone on Dexter Avenue North in Seattle on Jan. 23 when he smashed into pedestrian Jaahnavi Kandula, knocking her body 100 feet and killing her. Kandula, a 23-year-old graduate student from Andhra Pradesh, India, was attending Northeastern University’s Seattle campus, near the site of her death. Dave had suddenly accelerated his cruiser’s speed and hit Kandula in a marked crosswalk. An eyewitness reported he didn’t hear the sound of brakes!

A protest was held in January at the scene of this police crime to denounce this act of racist police brutality and murder. An investigation was undertaken, but so far Dave has not been disciplined, fired or criminally charged.

Finally, information about the investigation came to the surface in August. But it wasn’t only about Dave’s actions. The story has unfolded, implicating leaders of the Seattle Police Officers Guild for joking and making light of Kandula’s killing right after Dave’s cruiser hit her.

On Sept. 11, bodycam footage worn by SPOG vice president Daniel Auderer was revealed by the police department; it showed him laughing. He had been sent to evaluate whether Dave was “impaired” when he plowed into Kandula. As he left the scene of the crime, still wearing his body camera, Auderer called SPOG president Mike Solan.

Only Auderer’s voice was heard saying, “she is dead,” followed by laughter. Then he followed up with, “It’s a regular person. [The department should] just write a check [for] \$11,000. She was 26 [she was 23] She had limited value.” He continued laughing. He made these outrageously racist comments to Solan, a known hater of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The SPOG has been criticized for its racist policies and condemned by the Martin Luther King Labor Council since 2020 for not representing the authentic union movement.

When this body camera footage was made public, it compounded the suffering of Kandula’s family, school friends and the Indian and South Asian community.

They knew of Kandula as a “brilliant” software engineering student who was “full of hope” and expected to receive her master’s degree in December. She sent money home to her single mother in India and planned to help her in the future.

Outcry against racist police

Just three days after release of the video footage, on Sept. 14, hundreds of people from the neighborhood where Kandula went to school came out in a multinational protest. They took to the streets and went to the downtown police station. People came out of their apartments to join them. The crowd’s signs read “Jail killer



Hundreds demand ‘Justice for Jaahnavi,’ Seattle, Sept. 14, 2023.

cops!” “End police terror!” and, of course, “Justice for Jaahnavi!”

TouthliRt Williams, a wood carver from the Nuuchah-Nulth First Nation, spoke to the crowd about the injustice done to his brother, John T. Williams, also a wood carver, who was killed by Seattle cops in 2010. He urged the people there to keep pushing for justice. The march was called by the Seattle Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Two days later, on Sept. 16, members of the Indian and South Asian community held a rally at the scene where the police car crashed into Kandula. They ended with a call for justice. After a meeting with the mayor and police chief, community members sent a clear message

that they wouldn’t back down until the police are held responsible and justice is obtained.

The outpouring of protest by the Indian and South Asian communities gives Kandula’s case more meaning because it makes more room for the voices of oppressed people to be heard. The masses’ entry into the struggle always makes a difference.

Lalita Uppala, Executive Director of Indian American Community Services, emphasizes: “We want justice for Jaahnavi and demand that the SPD officers show respect for the lives and dignity of all marginalized communities particularly the Black, Indigenous, Latino, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Muslim, Asian and all people of color, the LGBTQ+, the

unhoused, those with challenges in behavioral health, special needs and disabilities.” (king5.com, Sept. 17)

The outrage felt by Kandula’s community in Seattle is also felt in her home country. The Indian Consulate is demanding a thorough investigation of her death and action from U.S. officials in Washington D.C.

Workers World Party demands the arrest of these racist cops and the filing of criminal charges against Dave, Auderer and Solan. WWP joins Indian and South Asian individuals and organizations in the continuing fight for justice for Jaahnavi Kandula.

Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.

Indigenous Peoples Day now!

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the public schools, to protect sacred Native American heritage and to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students.” (IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org)

Indigenous Peoples Day action targets Faneuil Hall

For many years, Indigenous Peoples Day supporters have joined Rev. Kevin Peterson and The New Democracy Coalition in their movement to rename Faneuil Hall, one of Boston’s most popular tourist traps. Faneuil Hall’s namesake, Peter Faneuil, was one of Boston’s wealthiest settler capitalists who perfected for profit the buying and selling of enslaved Black and Indigenous persons.

Many in Boston’s Black and Indigenous communities

have joined Rev. Peterson in speaking out and protesting at the very site where Faneuil conducted his despicable auctions of hundreds of enslaved children, women and men. This year’s Indigenous Peoples Day march plans to again encircle and rally at the site, typically thronged with thousands of tourists, before marching to the waterfront Christopher Columbus Park to demand an immediate name change there as well.

Munro said: “In a city and country that largely erases Indigenous people, Indigenous Peoples Day is a day to learn about and celebrate Indigenous history and contemporary Indigenous peoples and cultures. It should be only a first step for Boston to begin to build relationships with Indigenous people and begin to address the many injustices faced by us here and elsewhere. It is time for us to stop being ignored and erased.” □

Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World!

Boston’s proclamation two years ago that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day “in lieu of” Columbus Day was a victory for Native peoples, since the U.S. settler-colonial project, which resulted in genocide and the theft and devastation of their lands and cultures, began and continued in what is now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Then, on Oct. 8, 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed a federal Indigenous Peoples Day and acknowledged the atrocities “European explorers inflicted on Tribal nations and Indigenous communities.” These pronouncements came about due to the strong, unified struggles by Indigenous peoples and their allies, notably at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the courageous, militant fight that shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, and more.

The movement for recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day began in the 1970s. A delegation of Native nations to the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in

Geneva in 1977, first proposed replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day; their resolution passed.

Then, in July 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous nations from throughout the Americas met in Quito, Ecuador, at the First Continental Conference on “500 Years of Indian Resistance.” They unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day in 1992 “into an occasion to strengthen our process of continental unity and struggle towards our liberation.” (Telesur, Oct. 11, 2015)

In 1992, Berkeley, California, became the first U.S. city to adopt Indigenous Peoples Day. Since then, more than 14 states, Washington, D.C., and over 130 cities have dumped the Columbus Day holiday honoring the genocidal conqueror and recognized Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and cultures on that day.

Workers World has continually supported the righteous struggles of Native peoples on the streets and in our newspaper. WW joins Indigenous communities to demand: Sink Columbus Day! Celebrate

Indigenous Peoples Day in every city, town and state! Down with white supremacy!

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If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth, and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalism and for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

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We appreciate your help in building Workers World. □

Stop the Shock rally rocks Boston Common

By Brian Shea and Edward Yudelovich

Stop the Shock – a coalition of more than 30 organizations in the Disability Justice and Neurodivergent community – organized a rally and press briefing at the Boston Common on Sept 9. The rally succeeded in garnering greater publicity and support for passing House H180 in the Massachusetts state legislature to outlaw the use of aversion therapy.

Aversion therapy includes skin shocks, pinching, ammonia face spraying, contingent food programs (using food deprivation as punishment), long-term restraints, sensory deprivation and white noise helmets used primarily against children with disabilities. All of these methods are used at the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC) in Canton, Massachusetts.

Rotenberg is sometimes called today's Willowbrook, after the infamous state-supported institution for children with intellectual disabilities, which was forced to close due to public outcry in 1987. Similarly, Rotenberg has been shocking disabled children with the graduated



Some of Stop the Shock rally participants at Boston Common, Sept. 9, 2023. WW PHOTO: BRIAN SHEA

electronic decelerator for decades. Condemned as torture by the United Nations, the use of GED has been linked to the deaths of six children.

At the rally, Rhoda Gibson, founder of the Massachusetts Chapter of ADAPT, gave a history of the struggle against Rotenberg. She played an audio clip of screams from Andre McCollins, a child who was

tortured and shocked at Rotenberg many times, because he wouldn't take off his coat.

Gibson explained that 80 percent of Rotenberg's residents are disabled children of color from New York state, where Andre's mother, Cheryl McCollins, is leading a movement to pass "Andre's Law" to ban sending children from New York state to Rotenberg to be shocked and tortured.

In 2016, ADAPT organized a protest in which over 200 people, mostly wheelchair users, converged on the Rotenberg after ADAPT took over several Massachusetts trains to transport protesters to the center. This action was supported with the solidarity of many transit workers who assisted in getting folks on and off the trains.

A book about this struggle, "Pain and Shock in America: Politics, Advocacy, and the Controversial Treatment of People with Disabilities" by Jan Nisbet, with contributions by Nancy R. Weiss, is now available from Barnes and Noble and Amazon or online (free with trial membership) at [tryscribd.com](https://www.tryscribd.com). A video of this rally is available by clicking the link: tinyurl.com/5n7upa6u. □



By Marie Kelly

Durham sanitation strike

The courageous Durham, North Carolina, sanitation workers, members of United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 150, ended their six-day strike Sept. 12 amid threats from the City Council to suspend them without pay. Despite these union-busting tactics, the workers will continue their struggle; a rally is set for Sept. 18 at Durham City Hall.

This is an all too familiar scenario where essential workers continue to be mistreated by their bosses. The sanitation workers have legitimate concerns around hazardous conditions due to the nature of their work and severe understaffing.

Vincent Williams, a stormwater maintenance worker, stated that his department is responsible for providing safe drinking water for city residents, but, unbelievably, only four workers are employed for this task. Keisha Barnette, a city employee for 24 years, explained that the workforce failed to grow as the city grew. Willie Brown, from the pub-

lic works department, reported that 48 workers share the burden of public works jobs meant for a workforce of 177!

The workers' demands include a \$5,000 bonus, a wage increase and for all temporary workers to be made full time. Weighing in on the labor struggle, the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People stated: "One significant factor in the development of the strike appears to be the very success of our city and this region, which is attracting people from all over the country to move here and has driven up the cost of housing for city employees and other long time residents who want to live in Durham." (The News and Observer, Sept. 11)

The city can well afford to compensate the Durham workers without raising taxes, according to union organizer Dante Strobino. The Durham general fund has money available. One commenter rightly pointed out that the city allows corporations to use loopholes to avoid paying taxes.

Favorable social media comments support the Durham workers, and a petition to the City Council is circulating. The rally Sept. 18 will coincide with the Durham City Council voting on whether to provide relief to these union workers.

Virginia Tech workers form unions

On Sept. 5, graduate students, staff and faculty at Virginia Tech university rallied on campus and announced they are fighting on behalf of campus workers. Two unions have been formed: the Virginia Tech Graduate Labor Union and the United Campus Workers-Virginia Tech.

VT GLU is affiliated with the Virginia Education Association. Of the full-time graduate students at Virginia Tech, 84% are employees of the university. UCW-VT is

part of the Communications Workers (CWA) and is open to all faculty and staff. Labor law in Virginia puts restrictions on collective bargaining at state-funded schools. The VT workers say that part of their organizing will focus on advocating for labor laws that benefit workers.

The two unions will work in solidarity with each other in efforts to make university administrators meet their demands for better working conditions and compensation.

Washington Parish school workers strike

Teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and custodians in Washington Parish, Louisiana, are demanding the school board take them seriously. The workers demonstrated how essential they are to that community when they called a strike that effectively delayed the start of the new school year. The school is open, using a skeleton crew of line-crossers while most workers are still on the picket line along with parent and student supporters.

A living wage is the top demand. At an emergency meeting, school board members heard how wage increases are not distributed fairly, with raises going to district central office workers and not teachers and school staff. One teacher explained that every raise she received came with a jump in her health insurance premium.

Kevin Knight, a cafeteria worker, said the only wage increase he has received in his 15 years employment is through stipends provided by the state. Yet both the superintendent and assistant superintendent receive a 2% wage increase every year. Their salaries are over \$100,000 and \$90,000 respectively. ([wdsu.com](https://www.wdsu.com)). □

UAW strikes Big Three all at once

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that, "Teamsters don't cross picket lines."

Autoworkers in Brazil, Mexico and South Africa have all voiced their solidarity with the auto strike in the U.S.

The 13,000 workers now striking represent almost 10% of UAW members at the Detroit Three companies. UAW President Shawn Fain has stated that workers at more plants will walk out if the companies don't deliver an acceptable contract proposal that addresses union demands that include higher wages, an end to tiered pay and benefits, a raise in retiree pensions, job security and a shorter work week with no cut in pay.

No more tiers!

Ending tiers — where workers' pay and benefits vary based on their date of hire — was one of the key issues of concern that Toledo Jeep workers shared with this writer. In the current contract, workers hired after October 2007 do not get a pension or health insurance when they retire. Temporary or "supplemental" workers are paid even less, have fewer benefits and have far less protection from discipline and firings.

On the shop floor and on social media,

rank-and-file autoworkers are expressing a range of views on the strategy of only striking a few plants. Some have the position that "if one goes out, we should all go out." Others see the need to target plants that make components such as engines or body parts because of the impact a strike there would have on the overall corporate supply chain. Assembly plants only build certain products.

However, workers at the struck plants build some of the three companies' most profitable vehicles. The decision to strike three assembly plants created chaos at Ford and GM after the bosses had products moved out of some engine plants on the assumption that those essential plants would be struck — but weren't. Some autoworkers describe as "brilliant" the strategy that "keeps the companies guessing and builds economic leverage against the Big Three over time if they refuse to negotiate a contract we deserve." (uaw.org)

The option of striking all the facilities at all three companies has not been ruled out. In the meantime, Toledo workers are loud and proud when they chant, "No contract, no Jeeps!" □

Countrywide actions on Starbucks Worker Solidarity Day

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Called by Starbucks Workers United, Sept. 14 was a national day of solidarity with Starbucks workers in their union organizing drive. In the almost two years since Buffalo, New York, Starbucks workers organized the first store, over 350 stores have won union representation elections. Yet the union-hating corporation has not sat down and negotiated a single contract.

Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 1 conducted petitioning outside a Starbucks store in Cleveland Heights. Most customers were happy to sign the petition demanding Starbucks stop its vicious union busting.

Members of the Buffalo Workers World Party branch came out alongside



Starbucks workers and customers this week to support the union effort and educate the community about Starbucks' war against its workers. Management called the cops, which it has done before, accusing a former Starbucks worker of "trespassing." But the union showed it will not be intimidated.

Pride at Work, the LGBTQ+ Constituency Group of the AFL-CIO, urged its members to join an action Sept. 14, pointing out that: "More than 60% of these workers identify as LGBTQ+. By attacking the workers organizing, Starbucks is attacking queer and trans workers as well."

Actions took place from coast to coast on Sept. 14. Union strong! □

Felony charges against 61 Stop Cop City activists

Movement ‘not afraid’

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

First bulletin, Sept. 11: Atlanta City officials refused to verify signatures in time for the November election in a memo issued by the City Clerk’s office. This development followed a dramatic and exuberant delivery of 16 cardboard boxes holding petitions of 116,000 registered Atlanta voters to have the issue of stopping the construction on the upcoming ballot.

Second bulletin, Sept. 17: Mounting pressure from Atlantans, outraged over the refusal of the City Clerk’s office to verify the 116,000 signatures, caused members of the Atlanta City Council to vote 15-0 to order the first step of the verification process to begin. The leaders of CopCityVote.org are cautiously calling this a victory, inasmuch as the Council separated themselves from mayor Andre Dickens’ obstructionism and obedience to the corporate-controlled Atlanta Police Foundation.

Undoubtedly, the city law department will attempt to find another legal maneuver, but even the mayor’s closest allies on the Council are tired of being in the hot seat when they have themselves been misled on the details of Cop City. In addition to hundreds of calls daily from constituents demanding Cop City be up for a vote in November, national Democratic Party figures like Senator Raphael Warnock and Stacey Abrams and numerous civil rights organizations are urging the city to put the measure on the ballot.

The office of Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr held a news conference on Sept. 5, announcing that 61 people, previously arrested for activities opposing the construction of a massive militarized police training facility known as “Cop City,” have been charged with violating the state’s Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

People may be more familiar with the federal RICO Act which originally targeted the Mafia and other organized crime enterprises. Georgia passed a more far-reaching version in 1980, which most recently has been employed by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis to indict former President Donald Trump and 18 others for illegally attempting to overturn Georgia’s 2020 presidential election results.

Carr, a Trump supporter who has said he would seek



Kamau Franklin from Community Movement Builders speaks in front of Atlanta City Hall, Sept. 11, 2023.

the governorship in 2024, had previously charged some of the same defendants with “domestic terrorism.” Among those charged with terrorism are three people who distributed a leaflet that named the Georgia State Patrol officer involved in the killing of Forest Defender Manuel “Tortuguita” Terán in January.

Another 23 activists were arrested on the grounds of a family-friendly music concert on March 5, far from the site where construction equipment was damaged. The 23 were terrorized by heavily-armed police and then selectively arrested, especially targeted if they were from out of state. Organizers of a bail fund, whose home was raided in May by a SWAT team, were arrested around that time for “money laundering.”

People who received reimbursements of \$11.91 for glue and other office supplies are facing a mandatory five years in prison if convicted on the RICO charges.

Solidarity growing

Statements of solidarity and outrage at the threat to civil liberties — including the rights to protest and free speech — have poured in from across the country. Lawyers are volunteering to defend those indicted. Other bail funds are stepping up to secure the release of protesters, including five faith leaders and community members who chained themselves to construction equipment at the contested training site on Sept. 7. They were arrested with supporters surrounding them, chanting “Cop City will never be built!” and carrying signs saying “We are not afraid!”

The spirit of resistance to this attack on the right to dissent was evidenced again Sept. 8, as a multinational, multigenerational demonstration gathered outside Carr’s office across the street from the State Capitol.

The Movement to Stop Cop City is fueled by the unabated deaths at the hands of police, including 62-year-old church deacon John Hollman, who was tased to death following a minor traffic accident on Aug. 11, and six deaths in six weeks at the Fulton County Detention Center, the latest being 24-year-old Shawndre Delmore from cardiac arrest (!) on Sept. 3.

These tragedies converged with the continuing pollution of the South River by the clearing of thousands of trees at the Cop City site and the ongoing media lies and political attacks from the Atlanta

Police Foundation, intended to whitewash the reactionary and racist purpose of the police-training facility.

Multipronged resistance

On another front in the Stop Cop City campaign, on Sept. 11 petitions containing over 116,000 signatures of registered Atlanta voters to put canceling the lease and all agreements concerning Cop City on the ballot were delivered to the Atlanta City Clerk’s office. There were more than twice the number of signatures required to get the ballot initiative approved, leaving no question of the people’s opposition to Cop City.

However, the method of verifying the signatures as those of valid voters has come under scrutiny as the term “exact match” has been raised by city officials. Handwriting can change as people age or under varying conditions. For example, most signatures were gotten in outdoor settings on a clipboard during some of the hottest days of the summer.

CopCityVote.com will be monitoring the signature checking closely, given the history of this method being used to deny the right to vote to communities of color and in poor and working-class neighborhoods.

This remarkable, sustained opposition to Cop City over more than two years reflects the capacity of a broad-based, politically defined grassroots movement to alter the relations of power between the elite and the people.

For more information, go to stopcopcity.org, Community Movement Builders on instagram, or southriverga.org. □

Justice for Junito!

By D. R.

Bulletin: Mark Dial, the Philadelphia police officer who killed Eddie Irizarry Jr. was arrested on Sept. 8, and charged with first-degree murder and more. Dial was jailed Sept. 19 after his \$500,000, bail covered by the Fraternal Order of Police, was revoked.

There were just five seconds between when police officer Mark Dial got out of his police car and when he shot and murdered Eddie Irizarry Jr. on the summer afternoon of Aug. 14, in the East Kensington section of Philadelphia. Another state-sanctioned murder leaving a family reeling with anger and confusion and the Philadelphia community searching for answers.

These are not irregular circumstances. This is the role of the police – to protect property and the elite while suppressing working-class and revolutionary movements and the senseless killing of colonized people throughout the world.

Eddie Irizarry Jr. was a 27-year-old Puerto Rican man who came to the United States seven years ago. His family, who affectionately called him Junito, describes

him as a young man who enjoyed reggaeton, fixing cars and dirt bikes. He spoke and understood little English and struggled with mental health issues, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, according to his father and sister. His family noted that he was a good person, protective of his sister and helpful to his family. (Inquirer.com, Aug. 24)

According to police reports, Dial and a second police officer pulled Irizarry Jr. over for “driving erratically” and against traffic. In their initial report to the press, the officers claimed Irizarry parked his car and got out, lunging at Dial with a 3-inch pocket knife, only to later recant the story when witnesses and bodycam recordings showed that Irizarry never got out of his car. The bodycam shows he was sitting in his car with the windows rolled up when Dial approached the front of the car and rapidly fired six shots through the windshield and side window, killing Irizarry. (Inquirer.com, Aug. 17)

In the recording, police are heard searching the car for the knife. Dial has been suspended for 30 days, pending firing, for failure to cooperate with the investigation and failure to follow orders,



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Demonstrators calling for justice for Eddie Irizarry Jr., Philadelphia, Aug. 31, 2023.

not for Irizarry’s murder. But as can be expected, he has the full support of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

Family, community rally for Junito

The Irizarry family and multiple community groups rallied at Taller Puertorriqueño on North Fifth Street, on Aug. 31, with around 90 people calling for “Justice for Junito.” They demanded transparency in the handling of the case; the immediate release of all bodycam footage of all the officers involved in Irizarry’s murder; and an independent investigation to hold accountable all of the officers involved.

Speakers called for police to face the full extent of the law for their murder and for an end to the police violence wielded mostly against Black and Brown people, the most vulnerable members of our community.

Robert Saleem Holbrook, executive director of the Abolitionist Law Center, criticized the FOP for failing to respond to years-long calls for police accountability and justice: “The reason why we can’t get accountability is because the FOP prevents that. The FOP sues politicians that attempt to bring police accountability.”

Continued on page 8

WW COMMENTARY

A socialist view of climate crisis

By Otis Grotewohl

The summer of 2023 was recorded as the hottest summer, at least in a very long time, according to the European Union Climate Change Service. The average temperatures between the months of June and August were abnormally high in many parts of the world, surpassing previous records. In one alarming study, the global ocean had the warmest daily surface temperature on record and had its warmest month overall. (Reuters, Sept. 7)

Despite this summer's scorching heat, some experts warn the summer of 2023 "may be the coolest summer" in comparison to what they believe is to come. Ashley Ward, director of the Heat Policy Innovation Hub at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability, predicted: "It isn't beyond the scope of our imaginations to believe that this might be the coolest summer for the rest of our lives." (today.duke.edu, July 24)

The thought of increasing summer temperatures is scary for many working-class and oppressed people who are directly impacted. Many UPS drivers have died as a result of heat exhaustion and lack of air conditioning. In late August, one 57-year-old Teamster died while making deliveries for UPS in Texas, where the heat was 101 degrees Fahrenheit. (HuffPost, Aug. 31) Nonunion delivery drivers tend to also lack air conditioning, but without representation, they cannot speak out without the risk of being fired.

The summer of 2023 faced the possibility of a major nationwide strike led by the Teamsters against UPS. The strike was averted when a contractual tentative agreement was reached in late July. One of the major victories of the agreement between the Teamsters and UPS is for the company to require in-cab air conditioning in most UPS delivery vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2024.

Heat is detrimental to other workers, as well. Many migrant workers and incarcerated workers are especially impacted by high temperatures.

Wildfires and other disasters

The summer of 2023 also had an epidemic of wildfires in Canada that are still wreaking havoc. The fires started in late April in the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, displacing more than 30,000 people at their peak.

(Reuters, Aug. 19)

Wildfires in Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia were particularly unusual this year. The wildfires have harmed and displaced Indigenous communities and taken the lives of at least six people, including four firefighters.

The fires in Quebec and Ontario also affected the air quality of cities and towns throughout the East Coast and Midwest in the U.S. At one point, people in New York City witnessed a dense orange sky as a result of the smoke that was carrying over from Canada. People were discouraged from going outside as the smoke in the air was potentially hazardous for people with asthma and other respiratory illnesses.



Demonstration to 'End Fossil Fuels' in New York City, Sept. 17, 2023.

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Wildfires also plagued working class and oppressed people in Hawai'i, particularly Native Hawaiians, this summer. While no one knows the definite cause of the fires in Hawai'i, many experts say that the wildfires' devastation is due to a mix of high temperatures, strong winds from a Category 4 storm near the islands, and drought conditions that dried out grasses, all of which are undoubtedly tied to the climate crisis. (Time, Aug. 15)

Information also came out "implicating the privately owned utility Hawaiian Electric, which left its poorly maintained power lines running despite the threat of fire. Preliminary data have identified critical faults in other Hawaiian Electric lines at the sites of the major fires."

(Workers.org, Aug. 22)

Severe storms also caused flooding and other devastation in the U.S. and around the world, including thousands of lives lost in the coastal city of Derma, Libya. In July, Montpelier, Vermont, received a record-breaking 5.28 inches of rain, flooding the city and damaging thousands of homes. (noaa.gov, Aug. 8).

Socialist revolution is best solution to climate crisis

There are forces on the right who deny the existence of the climate crisis, but their ignorance only benefits the class interests of billionaire industrialists and big business.

Technology and automation, including artificial intelligence (AI), can be helpful to advance material conditions of the working class, but only if the devices, gadgets and programs are owned and operated by the working class. Under capitalism, technology and automation, especially AI, are a disaster for working people and have a reputation of being job killers.

In contrast to capitalist countries, technology in socialist countries, such as China and Cuba, is used to benefit people. While capitalist countries use technology to help the wealthy few, Cuba sends doctors around the world. China is expanding green technology at home while assisting with the building of infrastructure in many African countries, with the use of technology.

No one truly knows with 100% certainty what future summers will be like. As Sam Marcy, founder of Workers World Party, would often say, "Marxists don't have a crystal ball," meaning we cannot predict the future.

At the same time, as dialectical materialists, we do look at scientific evidence to reach conclusions. Studies show that climate change is due to the burning of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gas emissions and trap the sun's heat and provoke temperatures to rise. (Greenly Institute, Aug. 8)

Climate change started with the large extraction and burning of natural resources, such as oil, gas and coal, in the late 1800s. Resource extraction and consumer use led to an increase of carbon dioxide in the air. The plundering of Indigenous lands was conducted for the sake of profits, and irreparable damage was done in the process of stealing minerals for capital gains.

Unusual and abnormal weather conditions are a painful reminder of the harm inflicted upon the Earth. While a lot of the destruction may be irreversible, any revolt or struggle against corporations responsible for environmental devastation is a step forward. Unity among environmental and labor activists is important because our class enemy is the same.

Due to the severity of the climate crisis, an anti-capitalist and pro-working class response is most needed. The only way to truly ensure a sustainable ecosystem and put a halt to the ongoing crisis is to put a stop to the very same profit-driven system responsible for the crisis. □

Mass march targets Biden for an 'End to fossil fuels'



Sept. 17, 2023, New York City

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

By Monica Moorehead
New York City

An estimated 50,000 to 75,000 people were in the streets of New York City Sept. 17 for a march and rally at the United Nations to bring attention to the global climate catastrophe.

The main demand of the protest was that President Joe Biden "End Fossil Fuels," the primary cause of this unprecedented global warming. Another important aspect of the protest was the overwhelming anti-capitalist and anti-U.S. military sentiment amongst the protesters, who were multigenerational.

There was a strong presence of Indigenous nations leading the way in protecting and defending "Mother Earth." Demonstrators

linked important struggles to the climate crisis, like stopping the building of "Cop City," which is destroying forests in Atlanta, and an end to police brutality.

The protest was held a few days before the Climate Ambition Summit taking place Sept. 20 as part of the annual opening session of the U.N. General Assembly. A direct action is scheduled for Sept. 18 at Zuccotti Park, home to the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2011.

A number of organizations, such as Workers World Party, brought a message to the protest that only socialist revolution can save humanity from the profit-driven energy corporations and the Pentagon which created the climate crisis. □



Sept. 17, 2023, New York City

WW PHOTO: MARSHA GOLDBERG

Rhode Island

Protesters demand an end to prison deaths and torture

By mYia X
Providence, Rhode Island

“What we did yesterday taught us that nothing is impossible. After all, what seemed impossible yesterday, was possible today. So, nothing will seem impossible tomorrow.” — Fidel Castro

“Too many people in the U.S. support death and destruction without being aware of it. They indirectly support the killing of our people without ever having to look at the corpses.” — Assata Shakur

“To win we have got to wear down our oppressors, little by little, and at the same time, strengthen our forces, slowly but surely.” — Assata Shakur

Under the calm of the sunset and cool breezes in Providence, Rhode Island, attendees gathered for the 2023 PVDfest, an arts festival, on Sept. 8. At approximately 7:30 p.m., the rallying chant “No justice! No peace!” loudly reverberated, coming through the bullhorns and voices of protesters. They marched across the scenic Michael Van Leesten Memorial Bridge in unison to defiantly fight back, protesting the seven recent deaths at the Adult Correctional Institution (ACI).

The ACI, located in Cranston, consists of seven prison buildings on the grounds of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections and has an operational capacity of 3,854 people.

The marchers represented Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE) and the Behind the Walls committee, alongside community and family members, allies and activists from Rhode Island-Massachusetts Solidarity With Incarcerated Workers (SWI), the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Workers World Party. They were led by a banner emblazoned with a message: “The sound

of the people pounding on the doors for help at the ACI.”

Seven wooden coffins, along with cardboard headstones and photos, displayed the names of the deceased, as banners and placards were hoisted to visibly expose the deaths by medical neglect, tor-



WW PHOTO: MYIA X

Protest against deaths in Adult Correctional Institution, Providence, Rhode Island, Sept. 8, 2023.

ture and rampant disregard for the lives of those incarcerated at the ACI. The grief, loss, rage and revolutionary fervor were palpable as the militant protesters seized ground in the midst of the outside venue, directly in view of attendees, bystanders, police officers and the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC Providence).

Solar candles were strategically placed around the coffins as the names of the seven deceased were called out by the

protesters. Joe Benton, a minister and member of Behind the Walls, opened with prayer and stated the reasons for the protest: “This year seven incarcerated people died. In the last two months, two died. ... Four of them committed suicide after being in segregation for long periods. So right now, we want Governor Dan McKee to respond to the bodies before us.”

Various speakers, including Brandon Robinson of Stop the Torture Coalition, pointedly gave remarks regarding the conditions inside the ACI, as well as the lack of investigations into the deaths, torture and medical neglect faced by those incarcerated.

Providence mayor confronted

Across the street, inside the CIC, Providence Mayor Brett Smiley Jr. was confronted by protesters who attended the ticketed gathering taking place there. This strategic and coordinated direct action was held to voice the stories of the deceased at the ACI and demand accountability from the state.

Meanwhile, the coffins and headstones were once again hoisted and maneuvered through the crowd as the protesters outside headed toward the performance stage area to distribute informational flyers to the public. The portable speaker continuously blasted the sounds of the incarcerated banging on the cells inside the ACI. An artist performing on the stage, moved



by the demonstration, paused and declaratively encouraged the audience to listen to what the protesters were saying and take their flyers.

With bullhorns in hands and surrounded by police officers, the procession advanced militantly across the street to solidify the group’s presence with those who were inside the CIC. They explicitly demanded action from Gov. Daniel McKee.

As the demonstration culminated, mYia X of WWP and SWI shared words of solidarity and remembrance of the Attica Uprising that happened 52 years ago on Sept. 9, 1971. She read an excerpt of the fiery rallying cry, “What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed!” spoken by Eliot “LD” Barkley, one of the 29 Attica martyrs. mYia X bridged it with, “The sound of the people pounding on the doors for help at the ACI,” calling for these words to be a reminder cemented across the U.S. and around the globe that, “We must continue the struggle to abolish this system because it cannot be reformed!”

The people united will never be defeated!

The protestors from DARE, along with their allies and activists, concluded by chanting, “We’ll be back!”

In the days following, members from DARE were able to disrupt and confront Gov. McKee during a public meeting of his Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force. For a detailed report, go to tinyurl.com/pny4uymw.

From Sept. 27-29, Brown University will host a symposium, Voices of Mass Incarceration, featuring Pam Africa, Julia Wright, Johanna Fernandez and the exhibition “Mumia Abu Jamal: A Portrait of Mass Incarceration.” (tinyurl.com/2p8wvhnd) □

Death toll mounts at Fulton County Jail

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

In the last five weeks, five inmates have died while being held at the massive Fulton County Jail in Atlanta. Since September 2022, 16 people have died while being detained there.

Built in 1989 in advance of the 1996 Olympic Games — to house initially 1,125 prisoners, then expanded to hold 2,591 — it has been overcrowded since the day it opened. The city engaged in a massive sweep of houseless people prior to the games, and that practice has continued through to today.

Earlier this year, it was reported that some 3,200 people were held there, many sleeping in makeshift beds in hallways and common areas. At least 500 or more people had been arrested for petty violations but could not make the bail. Still many others were never formally indicted or given a court date because of the backup caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the particularly gruesome details of Lashawn Thompson’s death last September have brought about an investigation by the U.S. Justice Department. The body of Thompson, a homeless man with mental health issues who had been housed in the psychiatric wing of the jail,

was discovered covered in insects, including lice and bedbugs. His cell was filthy with black mold on the floor, walls and fixtures. There was no evidence that he had been given food or water recently.

Clearly Thompson was left to suffer and die, “eaten alive” by insects according to his relatives. Just days ago, his family received a \$4 million settlement from Fulton County, eager no doubt to prevent more damaging details from becoming public in a court case.

Crimes against humanity

However, the horrors of the Fulton County Jail are sure to be further exposed by the Aug. 26 death of 34-year-old Samuel Lawrence, who was found “unresponsive” in his cell. Despite having been held for seven months, he still had not been formally charged with any crime and therefore had no bond set. A 2022 ACLU report found that at least 500 people had been held for 90 days or more without having been formally charged, leaving them in legal limbo.

Lawrence, however, just days before his death, filed a 12-page civil rights complaint that detailed the regular beatings he received from inmates and guards, denial of food and medical care, being held in an isolation cell without water and a working toilet and being forced to sleep

on the bare floor. His actions to document his grievances in a legal complaint will bring heightened scrutiny to the failure of the carceral system to reduce, much less solve, anti-social behavior.

The names of the other four people who died in August in the Fulton County Jail are Montay Stinson, 40 years old, on Aug. 1, who had been held since Oct. 2022 without charges; Christopher Smith, in jail since Oct. 2019 with no bond, found “unresponsive” in the medical unit on Aug. 11; Alexander Hawkins, 66 years old, found “unresponsive” in the medical unit on Aug. 17; and on Aug. 31, 23-year-old Dayvion Blake was killed in a knife attack which injured three others.

Most officials, including Fulton County Sheriff Patrick Labat, claim the solution is to build a new jail at the cost of \$1.7 billion and in the meantime transfer 700 inmates to the Atlanta City Detention Center, which has its own history of neglect, human rights violations and deaths.

In fact, it had been slated to be closed and refigured as a community resource

center until Mayor Andre Dickens and the Atlanta City Council reneged on their prior vote and promise.

The people who have been named in this article were Black and poor and were challenged in some cases with mental health issues for which this profit-driven system provided no care or solutions.



Inside notorious Fulton County jail

Their unnecessary deaths underscore the truth of the abolitionist slogan, “Prisons are concentration camps for the poor.”

Some resource information came from the Atlanta Journal Constitution Sept. 2 article entitled “Inmate who died sought help from feds.” □

Survivors of 1971 rebellion demand: ‘Shut down Attica!’

By Monica Moorehead
New York City



Left, Monica Moorehead with Heather Ann Thompson, “Blood in the Water” author, Sept. 9, 2023.

The Attica Brothers Foundation (ABF) organized an event at Trinity Church in New York City on Sept. 9 to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the heroic uprising of prisoners. Participants in the uprising were murdered and tortured by guards, state troopers and the National Guard at the notorious Attica Correctional Facility on Sept. 13, 1971.

Prisoners were forced to take guards hostage to present to the world their righteous demands to be treated as workers and human beings. The official report stated that 32 unarmed prisoners and 11 guards were shot to death.

Wearing “Attica is all of us” shirts, Attica brothers, including Che Nieves, Akil Lawrence Killebrew, Carlos Roche and Tyrone Larkins, spoke eloquently about surviving the massacre and continuing the fight for social justice for people inside and outside the walls. A main

theme of the program and an ongoing campaign of the ABF is to shut down Attica once and for all.

The program also featured a presentation by author Heather Ann Thompson, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, “Blood in the Water.” The book gives an account of the horrific conditions inside the prison that sparked the four-day rebellion, the cowardly massacre ordered by the late New York governor and billionaire, Nelson Rockefeller, and the aftermath of the rebellion.

Go to facebook.com/AtticaIsAllOfUs and atticabrothersfoundation.org for



Attica survivors Che Nieves and Akil Lawrence Killebrew, Sept. 9, 2023. WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

more information. Read “WW interviews Attica survivor, Che Nieves” in three parts at workers.org dated Aug. 11, Aug. 18 and Aug. 20, 2021. □

Tell Biden: Free Leonard Peltier!

By Leonard Peltier

The excerpted remarks were written by political prisoner Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) for the 53rd annual National Day of Mourning, Nov. 24, 2022, at Plymouth, Massachusetts. On Sept. 12, 2023, Peltier turned 79 years old. He has been falsely imprisoned for



over 47 years for allegedly killing two FBI agents in 1975. The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee continues to demand clemency from the White House for the ailing Indigenous leader. Go to whoisleonardpeltier.info.

All the world now faces the same challenges that our people foretold, regarding climate damage being caused by people who take more than they need, dismissing the teachings of our fathers and the knowledge of countless generations living upon the Earth in harmony.

Our people have been through a lot; generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought, so we might live.

We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the Earth, in my given circumstances. To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same. □

Justice for Junito!

Continued from page 5

(Kensington Voice, Sept. 2)

The march through the Latiné community that followed grew to around 200 participants, many carrying white flowers and Puerto Rican flags. They stopped on East Willard Street where Irizarry Jr. was killed. A prayer was led by the pastor who presided over his funeral, and rally members paid respects to the family. Participants laid white roses at a temporary memorial set up at the site.

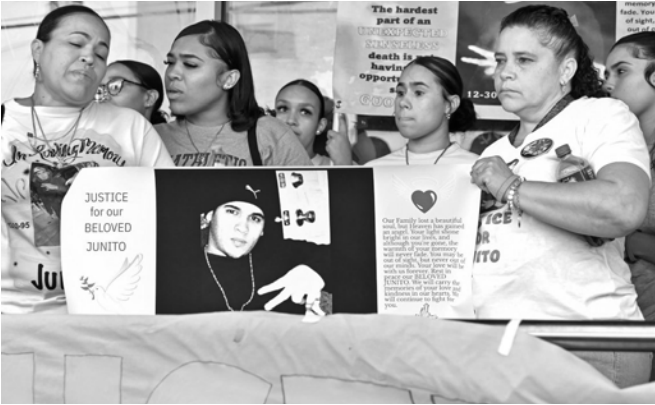
Chanting “No justice, no peace” and “El pueblo unido jamás será vencido” (the people united will never be defeated), demonstrators marched to the 24th District police headquarters, where they held a concluding rally, chanting, raising fists and calling out their demands before a group of lined-up police officers. Only bike lane posts separated them.

Irizarry’s family members took the mic to speak directly to the police officers. “For you to have the respect of the community, as police officers, you have to earn it,” said Eddie Irizarry

Sr. in Spanish. Another speaker, Alfredo Santiesteban, gave a moving, emotional account of witnessing the murder.

The community demands answers for the murder of Eddie “Junito” Irizarry Jr. The state’s violence against the most oppressed and marginalized is a common occurrence in this country. The violence the U.S., its military and police wield on the working class and colonized people of the world is part of the fiber of this capitalist country. The militarization abroad is the same used against us here, and the people are demanding change.

Betsey Piette contributed to this article.



Members of Eddie Irizarry Jr.’s family outside Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, Aug. 31, 2023. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Remembering the martyrs of the 1963 Birmingham bombing

By Monica Moorehead

The 60th anniversary of the infamous Birmingham, Alabama, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church occurred on Sept. 15. On this day in 1963, four Black girls — Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Wesley — ranging from ages 11-14, were murdered while participating in a Bible study class in the basement of the church. Members of the fascistic Ku Klux Klan claimed responsibility for this heinous crime, along with a stream of other bombings targeting Civil Rights activists. Three of the four KKK members responsible for the bombing were convicted years later of the murders.

The event was brilliantly documented in Spike Lee’s 1997 Oscar-nominated

film, “4 Little Girls,” which included moving interviews with the families of

the victims.

The bombing took place less than four

weeks after the historic March for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C., and four months after a Children’s Crusade march that was savagely attacked in Birmingham. On May 3, 1963, 1,000 Black elementary, junior high and high school students left their classes to take part in the crusade action against segregation.

The notorious police commissioner, Bull Connor, gave orders to the racist police to unleash vicious dogs and fire-fighters to aim water in high-pressure fire hoses on these young people before many of them filled jail cells when they refused to end their march. This incident, which created national and international outrage, prompted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to write his famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” □



Left to right: Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley

From Managua

Solidarity delegation joins Nicaraguan celebration

By Danny O'Brien
Managua, Nicaragua

O'Brien, from Portland, Oregon., and Mairead Skehan-Gillis from Boston represented Workers World Party as part of a solidarity delegation to Nicaragua organized by the Jubilee House Community. They joined other delegations in celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution. Their delegation included a proud Nicaraguan-American, who was visiting his home country with his daughter for the first time in 45 years, as well as two Palestinian solidarity activists and trade union leaders from Britain, plus a Veterans for Peace member who has been going on solidarity trips to Nicaragua for many years.

A visit to Nicaragua on July 11-21 provided a living example of a socialist project at play and gave examples of how a country with a project like this can consistently adapt and improve, despite imperialist attempts to cut its throat. It revealed how small the world is, and how there are people the world over engaged in working-class struggle and fighting for their rights who look to the example of the Sandinista Revolution with respect, reverence and solidarity.

The agenda of the delegation included meetings with Nicaragua's Ministry of Finance, with doctors and officials at the Dr. Fernando Vélaz Paiz public hospital in Managua, house visits with doctors from a private clinic in the Nueva Vida neighborhood of Ciudad Sandino, a visit to a state-owned geothermal energy plant, meetings with the national workers' assembly, meetings with various unions, immersion into arts and culture by visiting marketplaces and national parks, attending a local Catholic mass, and visiting an internationally renowned traditional potter.

The last few days of the trip were hosted by the Nicaraguan government in conjunction with a series of international delegations from all over the world. Our delegation joined the festivities of the Día de Alegría, the day before the 44th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution, celebrating the happy day in 1979 when former dictator Anastasio Somoza fled the country after a decisive victory by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Thousands of people joined that celebration, congregating in Plaza de Fé Juan Pablo II in downtown Managua, across from Lake Xolotlán (Lake Managua). FSLN banners and regalia were omnipresent, as was the still-burning revolutionary spirit of the people. A concert of various bands played revolutionary music, entertaining the people while vendors, who had parked their trucks in a massive tailgate and cookout, sold drinks and food for the masses. Fireworks and cries of "Viva Sandino!" capped the night.

The following night we again joined a massive international crowd of solidarity activists, foreign ambassadors, journalists, and representatives of Communist parties from Colombia, Chile, Panama, Spain, Catalonia, Costa

Rica, Brazil, and other countries for speeches from President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo. The Nicaraguan leaders emphasized international solidarity, giving tribute to the late African revolutionary Thomas Sankara and solidarity to recent events in Sankara's country, Burkina Faso.

A few things stood out from the trip: (1) the incredible scope and efficacy of their socialist project; (2) the impact of U.S. imperialism on Nicaragua; and (3) the intoxicating air of international solidarity in the country.

Efficacy of socialist project

At the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Minister Bruno Guallardo and Director of Planning Juan Carlos Sanchez gave our delegation a macroeconomic look at Nicaragua. They described with pride the gains since the Sandinista Front took back power in 2007.

Some 57.8% of their \$250 billion annual budget goes towards social spending, with 25% to healthcare and 29% to education. Another major item is infrastructure. In 2007, only 54% of the population had access to electricity. Now, there is 99.3% access.

In 2007, Nicaragua had 1,270 miles of paved roads, with only 31% in satisfactory condition, and provided road access to only 68 of the 153 municipalities. Since then, 3,728 miles of roads have been paved and 90% are in good condition. In 2007, only 66% of the urban population had access to running water and rationing was necessary, while just 26% of the rural population had access. Now there is 93% access to water in urban areas and, in rural areas, 55%, with an 80% goal set for 2026 in the National Development Plan.



Left to right: Bruno Guallardo, Deputy Finance Minister; Danny O'Brien; Mairead Skehan Gillis; and Juan Carlos Sanchez, Director of Planning, in Managua.

In all social facets, there is an inherent responsibility to meet, interact, and communicate with the community. Our delegation joined neighborhood house visits with doctors from a private clinic. The public hospital system in Nicaragua not only includes house visits, but also market, church, school, and park visits. This encourages preventive checkups during the work day for people who otherwise might avoid giving priority to medical care in their time off.

The government publishes primers to educate the population on social issues, such as gender identity and sexual orientation. These primers encourage the acceptance of family members who have come out as queer and trans. They also educate on the dangers of addiction, mental health, and homelessness that can follow familial evictions.

In the spirit of uplifting the LGBTQ+ people of Nicaragua, Ciudad Sandino had just had its 4th annual "Miss Belleza Gay" beauty pageant for trans women, whose winner gets to propose a social project to the government.

Union membership is strong and organized, with a firm organizational structure that allows for participatory democracy at all levels: 20 workers in a union local, 1,000 in a "federación," three to four federaciones in a "central," and all centrales come together as the Nicaraguan workers' assembly, the National Workers Front (Frente Nacional de Trabajadores — FNT). Leading members of the FNT remain at work in the sectors their unions represent.

Oppressive role of U.S. imperialism

Nicaragua's revolutionary history is intertwined with cruel exploitation by U.S. big business. Driving from central Managua to Ciudad Sandino, one sees an Americanville set up around the U.S. Embassy, with a Walmart, a subway, a string of hotsheet (pay-by-the-hour) hotels — one of which has a giant Statue of Liberty replica in front — and a U.S.-style highway overpass.

This \$70 million embassy, an unwelcome gift, is jutting up against Ciudad Sandino, a less-developed part of Managua with a generally high concentration of Sandinista supporters. The embassy has a dual role: It tries to entice the people with consumer goods and surveil them at the same time.

In 2018 the embassy was a player in a U.S. coup attempt. That episode is a still-living reminder of the landlust Washington has for Nicaragua. Many people brought it up in discussions about the country's recent history. This was unsurprising, as the coup plotters had blocked roads throughout the country in an attempt to cut off all commerce and economically bleed Nicaragua.

The coup failed, showing the people's revolutionary spirit and their willingness to fight to defend the Sandinista gains. Someone helping with transport during our visit told the delegation that he had been skeptical of the Sandinistas and tried to remain apolitical. He had come to Nicaragua as a conservative. After witnessing the 2018 coup attempt, he knew he was for the Sandinistas' cause.

When the windows of the CIA wing of this same U.S. Embassy were shattered by mortars fired by members of the Sandinista Youth League in righteous defense, Uncle Sam retaliated by taking \$6,000 of taxpayer money per window to install bulletproofing and bombproofing material. This embassy building can be seen diminished by a large hill, now emblazoned with "FSLN" in a testament to the people's will to resist an imperialist aggressor.

Besides having a physical and propaganda presence, Washington targets Nicaragua's economy, imposing sanctions that freeze and block its assets and prohibit some transactions. As of March 2023, there were a reported 54 U.S. sanctions against Nicaragua, 43 of which were



WW PHOTO: DANNY O'BRIEN

Celebration of FSLN anniversary in the streets of Managua, July 19, 2023.

against key individuals (mainly political, legislative, and judicial) and 11 of which were targeted towards entities (including the Nicaraguan Petroleum Distributor and the Empresa Nicaraguense de Minas, a state-owned mining company).

On top of this, the European Union, as of January 2022, had imposed sanctions on 21 individuals and three entities, including Nicaraguan telecommunications and postal services.

A recent wave of U.S. sanctions in 2022 targeted and blocked Nicaragua's gold sector, affecting about \$900 million of exports, as well as the sugar sector, removing Nicaragua from the list of countries that can trade sugar with the U.S. with reduced import tariffs. There exist visa restrictions on a reported 800 Nicaraguans and their family members.

These sanctions exist in an attempt to create a load of chokeholds, inconveniences, and recessions for a country whose only crime was that its people dared to resist U.S. domination.

On June 27, 1986, the International Court of Justice had declared that the United States must pay Nicaragua \$12 billion for all the damages caused by U.S. military and paramilitary activities against the country in the years following the 1979 Sandinista revolution. Any further economic damage against Nicaragua caused by U.S. sanctions could be added to this still unpaid bill.

Now, in addition to sanctions on Nicaragua, the U.S. strategy includes encouraging a "brain drain." Earlier this year, Washington loosened its immigration restrictions under a parole system for select, qualified individuals who might provide the U.S. "significant public benefit" or be accepted under "urgent humanitarian reasons" from Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, should they have a financial sponsor in the United States.

Many Nicaraguans told our delegation of the damage this is doing to their communities. Many of their friends and many experts they've come to know and trust are being lured away by the U.S. through its propaganda — and through programs meant to skim off trained professionals from the workforce of a targeted country.

But the Nicaraguans prevail through all of this. Speaking to officials at the hospital, we heard that organizationally, they

Bidenomics = poverty for masses, more money for war

The primary plank in Joe Biden’s re-election campaign centers around what he calls “Bidenomics” — the premise that he can “grow the economy from the middle out and bottom up” as opposed to the trickle down economics of some earlier administrations.

But two years into Biden’s first administration, workers are worse off economically as inflation and poverty rates soar, and social programs — including expanded Medicaid, food stamps and childcare credits — have been drastically cut or eliminated.

But the worsening economic conditions for workers and the poor have nothing to do with a lack of resources to fulfill human needs. Biden has made it his priority to satisfy the capitalist drive for profits, especially weapons manufacturers and energy executives, rather than improve social and economic conditions for the majority of the U.S. population. Any talk of “from the middle out” is just an empty phrase.

Under “Bidenomics,” a priority is supposedly to “empower and educate workers

to grow the middle class.” Exactly how this is supposed to happen remains a major question when student loan debt has been reinstated, affirmative action has been dismantled by the U.S. Supreme Court and college tuition is rising at record rates.

While Biden promises to “make smart public investments,” there is no indication of how he would do this with a federal budget that prioritizes military spending while gutting funding for public education.

Emergency measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic had begun to offer working families a step up out of extreme poverty. Introduced in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan, President Biden’s pandemic-relief package, the expanded child tax credit helped pull some families out of poverty. Had the extended tax credit remained in place, child poverty would have been nearly 50% lower in 2022.

However, faced with opposition from Republicans and members of his own

party, Biden dropped efforts to extend this program. The result was a dramatic rise of poverty rates, especially among children, in 2022, when the poverty rate rose to 12.4% from 7.8% in 2021 — the largest one-year jump on record.

In 2023, millions of people who had relied on government-funded healthcare, also started during the pandemic, found their benefits cut or even eliminated. Federal programs that succeeded in lifting millions of people out of poverty were abandoned.

In their article on the rise in poverty rates in 2022, even the New York Times concludes “that poverty is very much a policy choice.” (Sept. 12, 2023)

With the escalation of the U.S./NATO-driven war in Ukraine in February 2022, Biden’s spending policies dramatically shifted to billions of dollars on weapons. Over a year and a half later, there is no indication that this spending spree for weapons of destruction will stop.

Any gains that working families have made in terms of wage increases have

been the result of a growing movement of workers organizing unions and striking for long overdue increases in wages and benefits. The current United Auto Workers strike against the Big Three auto companies is a prime example, as autoworkers demand the same 40% increase in income that their company CEOs enjoyed over the past four years.

Is it possible to lift millions or even billions of people out of poverty? Yes! For a majority of the U.S. population, poverty is a capitalist-driven choice. This choice could not be clearer when you compare capitalist U.S. to socialist China, which has dedicated years of planning and serious resources to and has succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty.

Workers World is in solidarity with all immigrants and migrants forced to attempt unsafe border crossings, driven by economic oppression caused by decades of U.S. neoliberal policies in their countries and U.S.-backed political repression. □

WWP COMMENTARY Role of U.S./NATO war in Libyan flood

By John Catalinotto

A close look at the catastrophic flood that hit the port city of Derna in northeastern Libya Sept. 9 shows that it was no natural disaster. Nor was its scale due only to the climate crisis. Those Western leaders who ordered the 2011 U.S./NATO war that destroyed the then-existing Libyan government are responsible for the vast number of victims.

News media of all types have reported on the destruction of Derna, on the 11,300 deaths reported by Sept. 17 and on 10,000 more missing. Photos show large swaths of the port city of 90,000 people swept away when two dams broke following hurricane-level rains.

It might seem excessive to blame a disaster of such scale on the actions of U.S.-led institutions like the Pentagon, the CIA and NATO some 12 years earlier. But that’s only because the same media that report the details of the disaster hide the pernicious role of U.S. imperialism and its leaders, who in 2011 were in the Barack Obama administration.

According to reports from Libya, the

dams had no maintenance during the last 12 years, there was no warning system in place, there were no popular organizations to provide emergency service and during the first week there was no organized rescue operation, either from the two contesting Libyan regimes or from foreign organizations.

No conspiracy theory

It’s no conspiracy theory to state that the inhumane acts of the humans who act on behalf of the capitalist ruling class worldwide are responsible for much of the suffering in Libya. And the government most responsible resides in Washington.

This week the protests at the United Nations drew attention to the change in the climate brought upon by the burning of fossil fuels. As Workers World explained in a recent article, the capitalist system is responsible for the uncontrolled use of fossil-fuel energy, which has increased the severity of recent “natural” disasters. (workers.org/2023/09/73359)

Excessive heat all through summer 2023, wildfires in Europe, Canada and Hawai’i, and floods in East Asia have made every-

one aware that the climate catastrophe is no joke, although the leaders of the imperialist countries — the G7, for example — are doing little to nothing about it.

NATO destroyed Libya 2011

For decades before 2011, the 6.5 million Libyan people had a functional government. They enjoyed the best standard of living of any African country, with free health care and widespread education support. The Libyan economy provided jobs for Libyans and for another million migrants from countries further south in Africa.

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi invested much of the country’s wealth into storing and providing water, promoting the most extensive underground aqueduct in the world, with 1,750 miles of pipelines.

The NATO imperialists, however, considered Gadhafi a threat and an enemy, as they had since the Libyan leader deposed a puppet monarchy in 1969. NATO used the pretext of an internal opposition to open a war on Gadhafi’s government. The war began in February 2011, with missile strikes from French jets. Soon the U.S. Air Force took the lead, carrying out regular



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO
At budget protest in New York City, March 21, 2011, activists hit NATO war against Libya.

bombing runs from bases in Italy to strike Libyan government targets.

One of NATO’s targets was a factory producing pipes to transport water underground.

After NATO bombing wore down the government army, Gadhafi’s internal enemies murdered him in August. Then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton laughingly commented a month later, “We came, we saw, he died.” (CBS News, Oct. 20, 2011)

The U.S./NATO crushing of the Gadhafi-led government destroyed Libya as a stable, unified state, depleted its treasury, ushered in a long civil war that still has Libya divided in two and created chaos through much of North Africa and the Sahel. Small terrorist groups from around the region obtained arms and threatened local governments. Referred to in the corporate media as “jihadists,” these groups were a pretext for military intervention, mainly by the French and U.S. military.

One can assume a functioning government of the type Gadhafi led, which had given priority to water supplies, would have at least maintained the dams’ structures, would have trained meteorologists predicting the dangerous weather and would have had popular organizations prepared to evacuate the population.

As our hearts go out to the victims of the unnatural disasters in Libya, Morocco and Hawai’i, we should be clear that the world capitalist system dominated by the G7 is a major contributor. In Libya particularly, U.S./NATO aggression is the direct cause of the catastrophe. □

Nicaraguan celebration

Continued from page 9

don’t allow sanctions to affect them much, even if it can sometimes be hard to come by certain materials. The people hold firm their beliefs in their education system and in the youth, and know the U.S. cannot fully empty Nicaragua of its specialized labor with the foundations they have in place.

The U.S. government has continued its meddling in Nicaragua, refusing as always to be gracious in defeat. From the Americanvilles around the embassy to the effect of sanctions and parole, and from testimonies of everyone about the coup attempt in 2018, it is clear that Washington aims to continue intervention in Nicaragua — and it is clearer that Nicaragua is ready and steeled against the attacks from the U.S. and will continue to hold on to its sovereignty.



WW PHOTO
Danny O'Brien with President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, July 19, 2023.

Nicaragua’s extremely adaptive socialist project has rapidly achieved wonders in efforts for poverty alleviation and continues to strengthen its hold despite the presence of a “free” market and private enterprise in the mixed economy of the country.

International solidarity

What stood out most for visitors was the intoxicating air of international solidarity. Ortega and Murillo’s speeches were splendid examples of diplomatic grace and good relations. Ortega spoke at length of his reverence for the revolutions and social projects of other countries before mentioning his own.

Prime Minister Kyélem De Tambèla of Burkina Faso spoke fondly of the relationship between Thomas Sankara and Ortega in 1986. This mutual fostering of diplomatic relations and solidarity between Nicaragua and Burkina Faso comes with impeccable timing: the announcement of the anti-Western military alliance of Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, and Niger in early August.

It was revealed, through international celebrations and through the big picture presented to us by the Ministry of Finance, how this small world is rapidly binding together against the forces of U.S. hegemony and towards multipolarity. □

Cuban president speaks Challenges facing developing countries

By Betsey Piette

The inaugural session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 plus China was held in Havana, Cuba, Sept. 14 to 16. Established in 1964, the G77 now has 134 members, with a rotating chair alternating among member countries from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries, with two-thirds of the U.N. member states, and accounts for 80% of the world’s population. Although China is not an official member, it consistently supports the G77 positions and demands.

Mexico, a founding G77 member which withdrew from the alliance in 1994, rejoined this year.

This year’s summit specifically addressed “current development challenges: the role of science, technology and innovation,” tackling “core” development issues. The summit was held in Cuba this year, and President of the Republic of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel

Bermúdez addressed the opening session, which was attended by U.N. Secretary Antonio Guterres.

Díaz-Canel opened his remarks by addressing the six-decade U.S. imperialist blockade of Cuba and “all the problems that go with that siege, which has recently been intensified.” He addressed “the immense challenges generated by the prevailing unjust international order,” noting, “but we are not alone.”

He called for dismantling, now, the “international barriers that have obstructed access by the developing countries. ... This summit occurs at a time when humanity has reached unimaginable scientific-technical potential. This has an extraordinary capacity to generate wealth and well-being that, under conditions of greater equality, equity and justice, could ensure decent, comfortable and sustainable living standards for almost all the inhabitants of the planet.

“Considering the length of time during which the North has adapted the world to suit its interests, at everyone else’s expense, the moment has arrived for the South to change the rules of the game.

“‘It’s the hour of the furnaces, in which all there is to see is light,’ José Martí would say. With the rights we — the vast majority of the Group of 77 members — acquire by being the primary victims of the world’s present multidimensional crisis; of the cyclical imbalances in international trade and finance; of the abusive, unequal exchange; of the science, technology and knowledge gap; of the danger

stemming from progressive destruction and exhaustion of the natural resources on which life on earth depends, we demand realization now of the overdue democratization of the system of international relations.

“It is the countries of the South which suffer most from poverty, hunger, indigence, deaths from curable diseases, illiteracy, human displacement and other effects of underdevelopment. Many of our nations are labeled poor, whereas they should properly be referred to as pauperized. The need is to rectify a situation which centuries of colonial and neocolonial dependence have left us in: It is unjust, and the South can no longer bear the deadweight of all the problems.

“We have proposed as this summit’s theme the role of science, technology and innovation as essential components of the political debate associated with law.

“We do so in the conviction that the achievements and advances in this field are those that will finally reveal whether and when it will be possible to fulfill the ideal sustainable development goals, relating to: ending poverty; zero world hunger; health and well-being; high-quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; solution of the problems of energy, employment, economic growth, industrialization and social justice.”

Díaz-Canel stressed that, “It is necessary to remove the international barriers that have hindered access to knowledge by developing countries and their use of such determining factors for economic and social progress.”



PHOTO: JUVENAL BALÁN
Cuban President Díaz-Canel addressing G77 plus China summit in Havana, Cuba, Sept. 14, 2023.

Rome antiwar conference set

By Richie Merino

Support is growing for an international conference demanding the dissolution of NATO, an end to arms shipments to Ukraine, and an end to sanctions on Russia. The conference, taking place in Rome, Italy, on Oct. 27-28, seeks to build a strong international coalition against NATO and advocates for a multipolar world based on respect for the sovereignty of nations and the self-determination of peoples.

The stated objectives of the conference challenge the narrative presented by Western imperialists and their spokespeople in corporate media, who justify their direct support for the regime in Kiev as necessary to repel “Russian aggression.” Instead, the conference organizers identified the U.S.-NATO-European Union coalition as the real aggressors, who are taking advantage of the dissolution of the Soviet Union to subdue the former Soviet bloc nations and encircle Russia politically, economically and militarily.

The ultimate goal of the Western imperialists is regime change in Moscow, to impose a weak government or even to break up Russia into many smaller, weaker, and easy-to-control countries. This would allow corporate oligarchs in the U.S., Western Europe and Japan to exploit Russia’s people and natural resources. And it would remove Russia as an obstacle to a U.S.-led war against China.

The conference appeals for immediate actions to defuse the conflict, including the cessation of U.S./Western arms shipments to Ukraine, an end to the sanctions on Russia as well as the Russophobic campaign, and the invalidation of the statement condemning Russia as a terrorist state. Additionally, the conference calls for a truly neutral and democratic Ukraine and the dissolution of NATO to stop the nuclear arms race and prevent the outbreak of a third world war.

Building a united, anti-imperialist front

By bringing together anti-imperialist individuals and organizations worldwide, the conference seeks to build a united

front against U.S./European militarism and imperialism, with the ultimate goal of building a multipolar world based on respect for all peoples and nationalities. The Anti-NATO Conference in Rome aims to establish a strong international coalition that can work towards ending U.S. global hegemony and promoting cooperation and mutually beneficial trade among nations.

The organizers invite individuals, organizations and peace advocates worldwide to endorse and attend an international peace conference to “stop the Third World War” in Rome on Oct. 27-28, 2023. Already, over 86 organizations from more than 33 countries have signed on to the list of demands, urging immediate action to defuse the tensions and promote dialogue. These organizations recognize the active role the international working class must play in dismantling NATO, the attack dog of U.S./European imperialism, as a precondition to achieving lasting peace.

By endorsing the list of demands, you can add your voice to the growing coalition that advocates for:

- The immediate halting of arms shipments to Ukraine.
- An end to the sanctions on Russia, as well as the cessation of the Russophobic campaign.
- The invalidation of the statement condemning Russia as a terrorist state.
- An armistice between the belligerent forces, allowing for peaceful negotiations.
- The establishment of a truly neutral and democratic Ukraine.
- The cessation of the arms race and the dissolution of NATO.

Your endorsement can make a difference. We urge you to join us in Rome and be part of this historic event. Only the popular struggle of the international working class can defeat the forces of U.S./Western militarism and imperialism.

Go to internationalpeaceconference.info to sign on and endorse. □

MUNDO OBRERO

¡Justicia para Junito!

Continúa de página 12

Según los informes policiales, Dial y un segundo agente de policía detuvieron a Irizarry Jr. por “conducir de forma errática” y contra el tráfico. En su informe inicial a la prensa, los agentes afirmaron que Irizarry había aparcado el coche y se había bajado, abalanzándose sobre Dial con una navaja de 7 cm, pero luego se retractaron cuando los testigos y las grabaciones de las cámaras corporales demostraron que Irizarry nunca había salido del coche.

La cámara corporal muestra que estaba sentado en su coche con las ventanillas subidas cuando Dial se acercó a la parte delantera del coche y disparó rápidamente seis tiros a través del parabrisas y la ventanilla lateral, matando a Irizarry. (Inquirer.com, 17 de agosto)

En la grabación se oye a la policía buscando el cuchillo en el coche. Dial ha sido suspendido durante 30 días, a la espera de su despido, por no cooperar con la investigación y no acatar las órdenes, no por el asesinato de Irizarry. Pero, como era de esperar, cuenta con el pleno apoyo de la Orden Fraternal de la Policía (FOP).

La familia Irizarry y múltiples grupos de la comunidad se reunieron en el Taller Puertorriqueño en North Fifth Street, el 31 de agosto, con alrededor de 90 personas pidiendo ‘Justicia para Junito’. Exigieron transparencia en el manejo del caso; la publicación inmediata de todas las grabaciones de las cámaras corporales de todos los oficiales involucrados en el asesinato de Irizarry; y una investigación independiente para responsabilizar a todos los oficiales involucrados.

Los oradores pidieron que la policía se enfrente a todo el peso de la ley por su asesinato y que se ponga fin a la violencia policial ejercida sobre todo contra las personas de raza negra y parda, los miembros más vulnerables de nuestra comunidad.

Robert Saleem Holbrook, director ejecutivo del Abolitionist Law Center, criticó a la FOP por no haber respondido a los llamamientos realizados durante años para

que la policía rindiera cuentas y se hiciera justicia: “La razón por la que no podemos exigir responsabilidades es porque la FOP lo impide. La FOP demanda a los políticos que intentan que la policía rinda cuentas”. (Kensington Voice, 2 de septiembre)

La marcha que siguió a través de la comunidad Latiné contó con unos 200 participantes, muchos de ellos portando flores blancas y banderas puertorriqueñas. Se detuvieron en East Willard Street, donde Irizarry Jr. fue asesinado. El pastor que presidió su funeral dirigió una oración, y los participantes en la manifestación presentaron sus respetos a la familia. Los participantes depositaron rosas blancas en un monumento provisional instalado en el lugar.

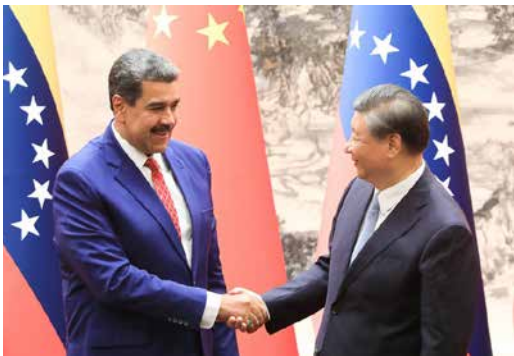
Al grito de “Sin justicia no hay paz” y “El pueblo unido jamás será vencido”, los manifestantes marcharon hasta la comisaría del distrito 24, donde celebraron una concentración final, coreando, levantando los puños y expresando sus reivindicaciones ante un grupo de policías alineados. Sólo les separaban los postes del carril para bicicletas.

La comunidad exige respuestas

Los familiares de Irizarry tomaron el micrófono para dirigirse directamente a los policías. “Para que tengan el respeto de la comunidad, como agentes de policía, tienen que ganárselo”, dijo Eddie Irizarry padre. Otro de los oradores, Alfredo Santiesteban, relató conmovedora y emotivamente cómo presencié el asesinato.

La comunidad exige respuestas por el asesinato de Eddie “Junito” Irizarry Jr. La violencia del Estado contra los más oprimidos y marginados es algo habitual en este país. La violencia que los EE.UU., sus militares y la policía ejercen sobre la clase obrera y los pueblos colonizados del mundo es parte de la fibra de este país capitalista. La militarización en el extranjero es la misma que se utiliza contra nosotros aquí, y la gente está exigiendo un cambio.

Betsey Piette contribuyó a este artículo.



Los presidentes Nicolás Maduro de Venezuela y Xi Jinping de China en Beijing, 15 de septiembre de 2023.

Visión socialista de la crisis climática

Por Otis Grotewohl

El verano de 2023 se registró como el más caluroso, al menos en mucho tiempo, según el Servicio de Cambio Climático de la Unión Europea. Las temperaturas medias entre los meses de junio y agosto fueron anormalmente altas en muchas partes del mundo, superando récords anteriores. En un estudio alarmante, el océano mundial registró la temperatura superficial diaria más cálida jamás registrada y tuvo su mes más cálido en general. (Reuters, 7 de septiembre)

A pesar del calor abrasador de este verano, algunos expertos advierten que el verano de 2023 “puede ser el más fresco” en comparación con lo que creen que está por venir. Ashley Ward, directora del Centro de Innovación en Políticas de Calor del Instituto Nicholas de Energía, Medio Ambiente y Sostenibilidad de la Universidad de Duke, pronosticó: “No está fuera del alcance de nuestra imaginación creer que éste podría ser el verano más fresco del resto de nuestras vidas”. (today.duke.edu, 24 de julio)

La idea de que aumenten las temperaturas durante el verano atemoriza a muchas personas de clase trabajadora y oprimidas que se ven directamente afectadas. Muchos conductores de UPS han muerto como consecuencia del agotamiento por calor y la falta de aire acondicionado. A finales de agosto, un camionero de 57 años murió mientras hacía entregas para UPS en Texas, donde el calor alcanzaba los 101 grados Fahrenheit. (HuffPost, 31 de agosto) Los repartidores no sindicados también suelen carecer de aire acondicionado, pero sin representación, no pueden hablar sin correr el riesgo de ser despedidos.

El verano de 2023 se enfrentó a la posibilidad de una gran huelga nacional liderada por los Teamsters contra UPS. La huelga se evitó cuando se alcanzó un acuerdo contractual provisional a finales de julio. Una de las principales victorias del acuerdo entre los Teamsters y UPS es que la empresa requiere aire acondicionado en cabina en la mayoría de los vehículos de reparto de UPS adquiridos después del 1 de enero de 2024.

El calor también es perjudicial para otros trabajadores. Muchos trabajadores inmigrantes y encarcelados se ven especialmente afectados por las altas temperaturas.

Incendios forestales y otras catástrofes

El verano de 2023 también fue testigo de una epidemia de incendios forestales en Canadá que siguen causando estragos. Los incendios comenzaron a finales de abril en las provincias occidentales de Columbia Británica y Alberta, desplazando a más de 30.000 personas en su punto álgido. (Reuters, 19 de agosto)

Los incendios forestales de Quebec, Ontario y Nueva Escocia han sido especialmente inusuales este año. Los incendios forestales han perjudicado y desplazado a comunidades indígenas y se han cobrado la vida de al menos seis personas, entre ellas cuatro bomberos.

Los incendios de Quebec y Ontario también afectaron a la calidad del aire de



MO FOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

El cartel dice: “Abolir el Pentágono, el mayor contaminador”.

ciudades y pueblos de la costa este y el medio oeste de EE.UU. En un momento dado, los habitantes de Nueva York vieron un denso cielo anaranjado como consecuencia del humo procedente de Canadá. Se desaconsejó a la gente salir a la calle, ya que el humo en el aire era potencialmente peligroso para las personas con asma y otros problemas respiratorios.

Los incendios forestales también afectaron este verano a la clase trabajadora y a los oprimidos de Hawai, especialmente a los hawaianos indígenas. Aunque nadie conoce la causa definitiva de los incendios en Hawai, muchos expertos afirman que la devastación de los incendios forestales se debe a una mezcla de altas temperaturas, fuertes vientos de una tormenta de categoría 4 cerca de las islas y condiciones de sequía que secaron los pastos, todo ello indudablemente vinculado a la crisis climática. (Time, 15 de agosto)

También salió a la luz información que “implicaba a la empresa privada Hawaiian Electric, que dejó funcionando sus líneas eléctricas en mal estado a pesar de la amenaza de incendio. Datos preliminares han identificado fallos críticos en otras líneas de Hawaiian Electric en los lugares de los grandes incendios”. (Workers.org, 22 de agosto)

Las fuertes tormentas también causaron inundaciones y otros estragos en Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo, como la pérdida de miles de vidas en la ciudad costera de Derma (Libia). En julio, Montpelier, Vermont, recibió un récord de 5,28 pulgadas de lluvia, inundando la ciudad y dañando miles de casas. (noaa.gov, 8 de agosto).

La revolución socialista es la mejor solución a la crisis climática

Hay fuerzas en la derecha que niegan la existencia de la crisis climática, pero su ignorancia sólo beneficia a los intereses de clase de los industriales multimillonarios y las grandes empresas.

Durante los debates de las primarias republicanas del 23 de agosto, el candidato del Partido Republicano Vivek Ramaswamy afirmó ridículamente: “La realidad es que está muriendo más gente por las malas políticas sobre el cambio climático que por el cambio climático real”. La afirmación de Ramaswamy no se alinea con los hechos científicos ni con la realidad, pero aun así recibió aplausos.

Una encuesta reciente muestra que el 71% de los estadounidenses cree que la crisis climática es una amenaza peligrosa. (axios.com, 15 de agosto) Muchas personas de mentalidad progresista tienen ideas diferentes sobre cómo combatir la crisis climática.

Para los marxistas, el futuro del planeta y de la crisis climática depende en gran medida de qué clase posea los medios de producción. La tecnología y la automatización, incluida la inteligencia artificial (IA), pueden ser útiles para mejorar las condiciones materiales de la clase obrera, pero sólo si los dispositivos, artilugios y programas son propiedad de la clase obrera y son manejados por ella. En el capitalismo, la tecnología y la automatización, especialmente la IA, son un desastre para los trabajadores y tienen fama de ser asesinos de empleos.

En contraste con los países capitalistas, la tecnología en los países socialistas, como China y Cuba, se utiliza en beneficio de las personas. Mientras que los países capitalistas utilizan la tecnología para ayudar a unos pocos ricos, Cuba envía médicos por todo el mundo. China está expandiendo la tecnología verde en su país mientras ayuda a la construcción de infraestructuras en muchos países africanos, con el uso de la tecnología.

Nadie sabe con certeza al 100% cómo serán los veranos del futuro. Como solía decir Sam Marcy, fundador del Partido del Mundo Obrero, “los marxistas no tenemos una bola de cristal”, lo que significa que no podemos predecir el futuro.

MUNDO OBRERO COMENTARIO

Al mismo tiempo, como materialistas dialécticos, nos fijamos en las pruebas científicas para llegar a conclusiones. Los estudios demuestran que el cambio climático se debe a la quema de combustibles fósiles que crean emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero y atrapan el calor del sol provocando el aumento de las temperaturas. (Greenly Institute, 8 de agosto)

El cambio climático comenzó con la gran extracción y quema de recursos naturales, como petróleo, gas y carbón, a finales del siglo XIX. La extracción de recursos y el uso de los consumidores provocaron un aumento del dióxido de carbono en el aire. El saqueo de las tierras indígenas se llevó a cabo en aras de los beneficios, y se produjeron daños irreparables en el proceso de robar minerales para obtener plusvalías.

Las condiciones meteorológicas inusuales y anormales son un doloroso recordatorio del daño infligido a la Tierra. Aunque gran parte de la destrucción puede ser irreversible, cualquier revuelta o lucha contra las corporaciones responsables de la devastación medioambiental es un paso adelante. La unidad entre los activistas medioambientales y laborales es importante porque nuestro enemigo de clase es el mismo.

Debido a la gravedad de la crisis climática, lo que más se necesita es una respuesta anticapitalista y a favor de la clase obrera. La única forma de garantizar realmente un ecosistema sostenible y poner fin a la crisis actual es acabar con el mismo sistema basado en el beneficio que es responsable de la crisis. □

¡Justicia para Junito!

Por D.R.
Filadelfia

Boletín: Mark Dial, el oficial de policía de Filadelfia que mató a Eddie Irizarry Jr. fue arrestado el 8 de septiembre y acusado de asesinato en primer grado, homicidio voluntario, agresión agravada, agresión simple, poner en peligro imprudentemente a otra persona y opresión oficial. Dial fue encarcelado el 19 de septiembre, después de que se revocara su fianza de 500.000 dólares cubierta por la Orden Fraternal de Policía.

Sólo pasaron cinco segundos entre el momento en que el agente de policía Mark Dial salió de su coche y el momento en que disparó y asesinó a Eddie Irizarry Jr. la tarde del 14 de agosto, en el barrio de East Kensington de Filadelfia. Otro asesinato sancionado por el Estado que deja a una familia sumida en la ira y la confusión y a la comunidad de Filadelfia en busca de respuestas.

No son circunstancias irregulares. Este es el papel de la policía: proteger la propiedad y a la élite mientras reprime a la clase



MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Miembros de la familia de Eddie Irizarry Jr. frente al Taller Puertorriqueño, Filadelfia, 31 de agosto de 2023.

trabajadora y los movimientos revolucionarios y el asesinato sin sentido de personas colonizadas en todo el mundo.

Eddie Irizarry Jr. era un puertorriqueño de 27 años que llegó a Estados Unidos hace siete años. Su familia, que lo llamaba cariñosamente Junito, lo describe como un joven al que le gustaba el reggaeton, arreglar coches y las motos de cross. Según su padre y su hermana, hablaba y entendía poco inglés y sufría problemas de salud mental, como esquizofrenia y trastorno bipolar. Su familia señaló que era una buena persona, protector con su hermana y servicial con su familia. (Inquirer.com, 24 de agosto)

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