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Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 10 March 7, 2024 $1

United. Workers and community members made the connection between the struggle of National Day of Action Feb. 22, across 25 college campuses, supports Starbucks Workers gains include a series of benefits that the
company formerly withheld from unionized stores, namely the implementation of credit card tipping and wage increases. To allow benefits in non-union stores while withholding them from union locations is an illegal Unfair Labor Practice.

The union also announced the company’s agreement to a framework for bargaining a contract. Up until now, the company had refused to negotiate, opting instead to stonewall talks and increase pressure against the union.

Credit card tipping was a very popular demand among workers who were fighting for the union. The pressure the union was able to exert against the company caused Starbucks to implement credit card tipping for non-union stores in the first place. It is an example of the tangible benefits gained, even before bargaining, because the workers exercised their collective power.

Whether Starbucks begins bargaining in good faith, or if this is just another delay tactic, remains to be seen. But these victories over raises and credit card tipping are substantial by themselves, and the company knows the workers are willing to keep fighting to ensure contract negotiations commence as promised.

First organized in 2021

Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) organized its first stores in Buffalo, New York, in 2021 and has continued growing since. The union has won elections at nearly 400 stores across the country, with many more still fighting for recognition.

SBWU has been able to lead successful large-scale strikes encompassing hundreds of stores, including on Red Cup Day, which is one of the biggest days each year for in-store sales, and the Pride strike, when workers shut stores down in support of trans workers who faced retaliation for their union organizing.

It wasn’t a change of heart among management that brought these gains, nor the National Labor Relations Board rulings on thousands of Unfair Labor Practice charges workers brought. The credit lies in the determined effort of the workers to organize and to muster support from sympathetic customers. This is only the beginning of what workers can achieve by banding together in their common work-class interests.

Impact of genocidal war

These developments take place amid a massive worldwide boycott of Starbucks, protesting the company’s role supporting the Israeli genocide against Palestine. Starbucks lost billions of dollars from reduced sales, partly due to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which names the undying Vietnamese resistance and the world wherever there was a base or Navy ship, including inside Vietnam.

Long live the Palestinian resistance! ☐

Pressured by union drive, BDS campaign, Starbucks agrees to negotiations

By Arjae Red
Buffalo, New York

Starbucks Workers United, which represents workers in 380 Starbucks stores, announced a major victory on Feb. 27. The gains include a series of benefits that the

Veterans protest genocide, burn uniforms

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Oregon

Aaron Bushnell, the 25-year-old U.S. Air Force soldier who self-imolated in front of the Israeli Consulate in Washington, D.C. to protest the U.S. military role in the Israeli genocide in Gaza, has inspired millions of people around the world for his sacrifice—from Yemen to Malaysia to Palestine to right here in the U.S.

Despite rain, a crowd of Portlanders holding candles gathered to hear anti-war speakers and cheer as U.S. veterans burned their military uniforms on Feb. 28. The protest was to honor Aaron Bushnell and to oppose the U.S.-Israeli imperialist war on Gaza. There was international coverage of the uniform-burning, which was organized by About Face Veterans Against the War.

Johnnie Lewis, a member of Workers World Party and a Vietnam war resister, got a passionate response from the crowd of nearly all young people, while addressing them: “In 1967 I was 22. I was drafted into the U.S. army but refused to go. The FBI arrested me and threatened to send me to jail for three years. At the time, there were hundreds of thousands of young men who were resisting the draft, many of whom went to prison. "While at an anti-war conference at the University of Kentucky, I met members of the American Servicemen’s Union. They were in their military uniforms talking about organizing against the war within the army. And I thought, ‘what the hell, I’m going to do that too instead of going to prison!’ “There was a huge anti-war movement, and military prisons during that time were full of soldiers. Anti-war service members who were put into the Fort Dix stockade in New Jersey burned the jail down in June of 1969. While at Fort Dix, I wrote for and helped distribute the ASU newspaper, 'The Bond.' It was read by military men at Fort Dix and circulated around the world wherever there was a base or Navy ship, including inside Vietnam.”

Lewis asked the crowd: “Millions upon millions of young men were drafted. Can you imagine a draft today?” There was a resounding, unanimous “No!”

Concluded Lewis: “Young people today want the U.S. out of Gaza. We in the military, the young veterans and older veterans, like me, who were a factor in ending the Vietnam war. The undying Vietnamese resistance was the main factor resisting U.S. imperialism, just like the Palestinians are today.”

Long live the Palestinian resistance! ☐

Portland vigil for Aaron Bushnell

National Day of Action Feb. 22, across 25 college campuses, supports Starbucks Workers United. Workers and community members made the connection between the struggle of the Starbucks baristas and Palestinian liberation.

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Gen. Austin threatens war with Russia

The Biden administration faces two big problems regarding the war it provoked in Ukraine by expanding NATO to Russia’s border.

The first is the collapse of the Ukrainian military under the pressure of the Russian military. The second is its inability to get additional funding from the U.S. Congress for another $80 billion to arm Ukraine, its statement threatens Russia. He’s telling Moscow: “You win the war with Kiev, and you’ll be fighting NATO.”

The U.S.-led military alliance, NATO, since 1999 has attacked and destroyed Yugoslavia and Libya. NATO helped occupy Iraq and Afghanistan. NATO recently added Sweden and Finland as members. Finland has an 832-mile border with Russia.

To increase the weight of this threat to Russia, French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking publicly, refused to rule out sending ground troops from NATO into Ukraine. Later, when pressed by reporters’ questions, he defended this statement.

To show that he took the threat seriously, Russian President Vladimir Putin reminded his NATO adversaries that Russia possesses nuclear weapons and delivery systems. So far U.S. strategists have sabotaged any attempts by the Russian and Ukrainian governments to end the war through negotiations. Washington has appeared satisfied with using Ukrainian youths as cannon fodder, sending tens of thousands of them to die in the hope of weakening Russia. But now the well of sacrifice in Ukraine has dried up.

Do Macron and Biden plan to send Romanian, Bulgarian, Latvian and Lithuanian troops to fight Russia? Or are they really considering sending Swedish, Finnish, French, German and Italian youths or U.S. youths? Does Gen. Austin believe he can order U.S. troops into a war with Russia without inciting a rebellion in the United States — including among those troops?

We remind Austin, Biden and Co. that hundreds of thousands of young people inside the U.S. consider the current administration’s approach to the war against Iraq and Afghanistan to be a war crime, and “unfit among those who claim to uphold the United States as a world leader.”

The young people who already consider this administration’s criminal actions and the war itself to be a war crime and to be the United States’ military role in genocide.

Workers World Party can counter Gen. Austin’s predictions. If Biden orders U.S. youths into a war with Russia, we predict widespread resistance among the working class will challenge these orders.

The people who already consider this administration’s criminal actions and the war itself to be a war crime and to be the United States’ military role in genocide.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multinationalized and multicultural 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 everresounding quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means homelessness, 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.

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organizing. On the international front, it tries to ride out the storm brought on by the boycott.

Le desemos a Aaron Bushnell salvaguardar la integridad de su mensaje amplificando las voces de la resistencia palestina, que ya ha reconocido su contribución. Cada vez más personas se verán afectadas por el acto de este soldado. La resistencia palestina —en todas sus formas y de todas las naciones— también debe ser abierta y vocalmente apoyada y abrazada de la misma manera y por las mismas personas que ahora están —o que estarán— asombradas por el acto de resistencia de Aaron Bushnell.

Por la resistencia de Bushnell, que ya ha reconocido su contribución, lo que el movimiento BDS recibe es una lección acerca de la eficacia del movimiento sindical de masas en la transición de un orden capitalista hacia uno socialista. Al obligar a Starbucks a sus bajos calculos sobre la dirección de su empresa.

Workers World/Mundo Obrero se solidariza plenamente con esta declaración.

1. “¡PALESTINA LIBRE!” fueron sus últimas palabras y su motivación – esto debe centrarse siempre.

La administración Biden dio el último aliento como su fuerza motriz. Es "¡Liberad Palestina!

2. Dale a los luchadores de la resistencia la misma energía que le están dando a Aaron Bushnell.

La declaración de Aaron Bushnell de que "ya no será cómplice del genocide" subraya un punto crucial: no estaba protestando por "la guerra de otro país", sino por el papel directo de Estados Unidos no sólo en la financiación del genocidio, sino en su orchestración activa.

3. Un soldado estadounidense prenderse fuego para protestar por un genocidio que Estados Unidos está perpetuando es un golpe duro para el imperialismo.

El mes pasado, se reveló que la administración Biden envió oficiales de la Fuerza Aérea de Estados Unidos a Gaza para ayudar a la Fuerza de Ocupación israeli a atacar a Gaza, implicando directamente al Pentágono en las acciones de la IOF. Las órdenes para que miembros de la Fuerza Aérea como Bushnell se desplegaran en la Fuerza de Ocupación israeli para ayudar a la Fuerza de Ocupación israeli a atacar a Gaza, implicando directamente al Pentágono en las acciones de la IOF. Las órdenes para que miembros de la Fuerza Aérea como Bushnell se desplegaran en la Fuerza de Ocupación israeli para ayudar a la Fuerza de Ocupación israeli a atacar.

4. Aaron Bushnell hizo el último sacrificio para combatir el último crimen.

Debemos aprender que este crimen sólo sirve a la clase imperialista multimillonaria a la que sirve el Pentágono. El movimiento debe explicar esto. Los actos de abnegación a menudo encienden movimientos mayores que implican la acción de masas y pueden desatar directamente la máquina de matanza militar. Que el sacrificio de Bushnell sea una llamada a la acción para que más personal estadounidense se sume en servicio activo rechace el imperialismo, y que su memoria y los crímenes estadounidenses persigan a todos los que permanecen en silencio o son cómplices del genocidio en Gaza.

El sacrificio de Aaron Bushnell

By Bronx Anti-War Coalition. Workers World/Mundo Obrero se solidariza plenamente con esta declaración.

1. “¡PALESTINA LIBRE!” fueron sus últimas palabras y su motivación – esto debe centrarse siempre.

Las últimas palabras de Aaron Bushnell, “¡Liberad Palestina!” encapsulan tanto su último aliento como su fuerza motriz. Es imperativo que este movimiento de masas en la transición de un orden capitalista hacia uno socialista.

2. Dale a los luchadores de la resistencia la misma energía que le están dando a Aaron Bushnell.

Lo que Bushnell se comprometió a hacer -el autoascraficif por una causa mayor- es lo que los combatientes de la resistencia palestinos, árabes e islámicos han hecho durante décadas para liberar a Palestina y al mundo del sionismo. Los combatientes de la resistencia palestina merecen el mismo honor y reconocimiento que Aaron Bushnell.

3. Un soldado estadounidense prenderse fuego para protestar por un genocidio que Estados Unidos está perpetuando es un golpe duro para el imperialismo.

La declaración de Aaron Bushnell de que “ya no será cómplice del genocidio” subraya un punto crucial: no estaba protestando por “la guerra de otro país”, sino por el papel directo de Estados Unidos no sólo en la financiación del genocidio, sino en su orchestración activa.

4. Aaron Bushnell hizo el último sacrificio para combatir el último crimen. En contra de la idea de que la enfermedad mental implica un distanciamiento de la realidad, el último mensaje de Bushnell en Facebook y su vídeo introductorio demuestran una aguda conciencia de las sombrías realidades que a menudo ocultan las narrativas dominantes. La instrumentalización de una supuesta enfermedad mental es otra táctica deplorable empleada por los sionistas y los medios de comunicación corporativos para perpetuar sus propios delirios.

Lamentamos la pérdida de Aaron Bushnell porque el mundo no puede permitirse perder a personas con tanta conciencia moral.

Aaron Bushnell, está en el corazón de todas las personas libres del mundo.

Esto es un buen momento para recordar a todos los que hablan sobre Aaron Bushnell y el genocidio en curso en Gaza que la mejor fuente de información es directamente de los palestinos activos en territorio libre del mundo.

Sigue a Resistance News Network en Telegram: https://t.me/palestineresist.

¡Viva la resistencia! ¡Viva Palestina!

Pressured by union drive, BDS campaign, Starbucks agrees to negotiations

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Some countries, like Morocco, have experienced mass closures of Starbucks stores. While Starbucks denies that the boycott propelled the closures, it has undoubtedly reduced the company’s profits, especially in Africa and the Middle East.

Management is now fighting a class war on two fronts. On the home front, it attempts to crush the union movement and curtail the expansion of the workers’ organizing. On the international front, it tries to ride out the storm brought on by the boycott.

Organizing works!

Starbucks corporate managers are making their own calculations about where they can relieve pressure. It is possible that the decision to work out an agreement with the union is partially motivated by a desire to close the war on the domestic front and focus its resources elsewhere.

One thing is absolutely clear: Both the militant grassroots organizing of U.S. workers and the mass boycott initiated by the global Palestinian solidarity movement have impacted Starbucks.

Working-class and oppressed people hold the true power, and when they come together to realize this in collective action, they can win benefits that would otherwise be impossible.

Starbucks Workers United came out strongly in support of Palestine immediately after October 7 and has subsequently issued some of the most principled statements in solidarity with Palestine of all U.S. labor unions. The union movement and the Palestine solidarity movement are two manifestations of the global class struggle, and both movements have everything to gain from their united actions.

The author is a former Starbucks worker and helped organize the first unionized Starbucks in Buffalo, New York, and has also been active in the Starbucks movement to support the liberation of Palestine.

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