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WORKERS WORLD

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Dockworkers: ‘We won’t work for war’



The global port workers strike on Oct. 30, with themes such as “We won’t work for war” and “Ports for peace — Jobs with dignity,” was one of the largest internationally coordinated strikes in world history. Here: Istanbul; see pg. 3.



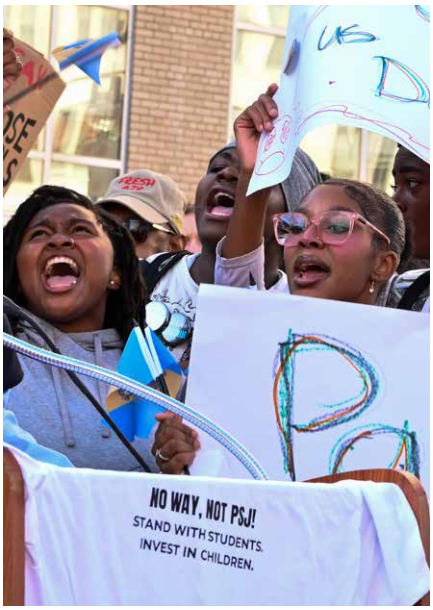
Rally organized by teachers and students demanding improvements to education and measures to address the rising cost of living in Athens, Greece, Oct. 21, 2026. The banner in French reads “Beauty is in the street.”

Rally to stop the closing of 17 Philly schools

The Philadelphia School District is proposing to close 17 schools starting in the 2027-2028 academic year, a decision that will cause upheaval for multiple communities. Over 100 students, families, teachers, school administrators, unionists and neighbors held a protest rally outside the Philadelphia Board of Education on Oct. 29 to demand that the District rethink its Facilities Plan.

Advocates have raised concerns that the plan will disproportionally affect Black students. In the original plan, 68% of the student population of the schools set to close are Black, compared to 40% for the rest of the schools in the district. (tinyurl.com/4zb7jp7y) Despite the protests and opposition from City Council members and residents, the board passed the plan 6-3.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette



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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary MarxistLeninist 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, LGBTQIA2S+ 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, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at ***www.workers.org/join-form*** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. ☐

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Global port workers action: ‘We won’t work for war’

By Martha Grevatt

The global port workers strike on Oct. 30, with themes such as “We won’t work for war” and “Ports for peace — Jobs with dignity,” was one of the largest internationally coordinated strikes in world history. At least 113 ports in 22 countries on six continents were hit by work stoppages and related actions.

A meeting in May, which took place in Istanbul and drew unions from multiple countries, including Türkiye, Morocco, Italy, France, Greece, Italy and the Basque Country, developed the demands raised by the Oct. 30 actions:



Oct.30, 2026, Milan, Italy.

1. An immediate end to the genocide of the Palestinian people and the opening of a safe corridor for humanitarian aid. An end to colonization, occupation and apartheid imposed on Palestinian people and the recognition of an independent Palestinian state by the international community on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
2. An end to the war in West Asia. No support, no facilitation, no participation in the U.S.-Israeli wars against Iran, Lebanon or any other imperialist intervention. Military fleets and bases out of the region. We express our full solidarity with the people of Cuba, Venezuela and Sudan menaced by US imperialism, and we call for defending people’s sovereignty, resources, territorial integrity, peace with justice and the right for resistance for self-determination.
3. Ports must not be used for the transport of weapons, ammunition, military equipment and troops. We call on unions to strengthen vigilance, to inform workers, to expose the cargoes of war and to organize mass collective resistance with all our rightful available means and our struggle.
4. An end to the militarization of ports and critical infrastructure. Ports belong to the people and the workers. They are not bases for NATO, the U.S. or the EU nor tools of shipowners and monopoly groups.
5. No to the war economy and armaments. The money must go to wages, collective agreements, health, education, social needs and the protection of life and safety at work.
6. Health and safety measures in the workplaces. Not one worker dead for profits. An end to intensification, subcontracting, dangerous conditions and employer arbitrariness.
7. Collective agreements with real wage increases, stable jobs with rights, a retirement policy with better pensions and a reduction of working time. Technological developments, mechanization, automation, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and the development of ports must serve the needs of workers and not lead to the intensification of work or the disappearance of their jobs.

Unions in a number of additional countries and areas held actions, including Palestine, India, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Azores, the U.S, South America and various regions in the Spanish state.

As reported in The Cradle, “Organizers say the unions involved from the start represent ports that handle about 40 percent of Mediterranean container traffic and that a single day of action could disrupt or halt the movement of around 40,000 containers.” (Oct. 30)

This is the second internationally coordinated port workers strike aimed at ending shipments of weapons to Israel that are used in the genocidal murders of Palestinians. Both this strike and a similar action on Feb. 6 were primarily political strikes, although they included some basic economic demands. Unions drew connections between the money going to war and lack of funding for social needs. One of the five Italian unions supporting the strike, Unione Sindicale Italiana, distributed a broadsheet giving examples of this, pointing out that the cost of one fighter jet was equal to the cost of erecting 25 new school buildings.

The political significance of the powerful antiwar port shutdown that just took place must not be underestimated. ☐

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Salute the defeat of fascist Bolsonaro

Flávio Bolsonaro, son of the convicted coup plotter and former President Jair Bolsonaro, came in first in Brazil's first round for president on Oct. 4, getting 2.2 million votes more than incumbent President Luis Ignácio "Lula" da Silva. Bolsonaro's party got the most seats in the National Congress, and he was expected to win in the second round.

Many people in the region south of the U.S. worried on Oct. 25, the day of the second round vote, that they would wake up the next morning and find that the largest country in the region had put the pro-fascist servant of U.S. imperialism, Bolsonaro, in the presidency.

Instead, the vote result happily surprised hundreds of millions of people in the Western Hemisphere when Lula won the election by about 4.5 million votes. Following a string of defeats for any leftist or social democratic candidate in recent elections throughout the Western Hemisphere, this was a welcome victory. One sign of the victory was Flávio Bolsonaro's decision to flee Brazil for Miami.

To be clear, simply stopping a Bolsonaro victory is in itself no guarantee of a period of gains for Brazilian workers and farmers. The Workers Party (PT) leader, Lula, will confront a hostile National Congress. Brazilian big capital and world imperialism own the industry, banks and the major media and give orders to Brazil's state apparatus — the police, the courts and the army.

Still, despite its limitations, Bolsonaro's defeat at the polls and how it was accomplished leaves Brazil's workers, farmers and youth in a better position to continue their struggle going forward. Remember that for the second round, the Bolsonaro group had the overwhelming support of Brazilian capitalists, the MAGA White House and the billionaires from the U.S. tech sector. How was this overcome?

Massive mobilizations make the difference

The first mass reaction to the Oct. 4 setback was an Oct. 5 mass demonstration of students at the Federal University at Fluminense (UFF) near Rio de Janeiro and of the Brazilian Union of High School Students (UBES).

According to reports and analyses by Brazilian and other Latin American Marxists, this outburst of youth struggle sparked an intense 20-day mobilization of all popular and working-class parties and progressive organizations, each with their own demands, to defeat what the students called the pro-fascist forces. Among these important lessons from these 20 days of mobilization was that a struggle of the masses of workers, farmers and urban poor is possible and can be won.



PHOTO: UBES OFFICIAL

Celebrating the election, high school and university students continue the struggle by demonstrating Nov. 1 in 11 of Brazil's states and the Federal District to raise their issues and to demand the defense of Indigenous peoples.

In his first two consecutive terms in office (2003-11), Lula's government brought material benefits to the poorest sectors of Brazilian society, including many of the over 112 million Brazilians of African descent, more than half the population. These benefits account for much of Lula's tremendous popularity among the poorest Brazilians. But only by reaching all his potential supporters could Lula win.

Not only most leftist political parties but groups like the Landless Workers Movement (MST), those fighting racism, misogyny and/or homophobia and transphobia, those fighting for the environment, the students and youth fighting for a decent life, those who demand protection for Indigenous peoples and all those who defend democratic rights mobilized massive demonstrations that overwhelmed the pro-Bolsonaro rallies.

Along with holding street demonstrations that had the framework of an anti-fascist united front, the anti-Bolsonaro movement had a mass strategy for making use of social media to build the campaign. Most notably, they set up a WhatsApp channel called "Lula's Army," which was made up of thousands of young people who posted their own anti-Bolsonaro messages to social media and used the existing algorithms to maximize attention to their posts and counter the corporate print and broadcast media.

The channel grew from 50,000 to 10 million in three weeks. It was used to build the mass demonstrations, which then reinforced the channel that built the demonstrations, etc. The 20 days of election organizing showed the potential for mass struggle beyond the elections.

The most important lesson is that only by continuing to mobilize massive forces to fight issue by issue will it be possible to defend what the masses have, let alone to win what they deserve.

It should be clear that the PT is a social democratic party and does not organize to overturn capitalist property relations. Lula himself, while relieving some of the abject poverty, has taken actions that disappointed many anti-imperialists. His first administration, for example, sent units of the Brazilian military to take part in the occupation of Haiti.

Regarding the need to maintain a state of mobilization, the latest news out of Brazil is encouraging. High-school and university students held demonstrations in 11 states and the Federal District on Nov. 1 to celebrate the anti-fascist election victory and demand protection for Indigenous peoples. The wave of struggle is far from exhausted.

It's a struggle that has just begun. And not only in Brazil. ☐

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¿Quiénes son los ladrones y los verdaderos autores de la violencia?

Los medios de comunicación corporativos —propiedad de la clase capitalista dominante en Europa y Estados Unidos y bajo su control— cuando finalmente decidieron cubrir las revueltas estudiantiles en Francia que llevan más de un mes ocurriendo, se centraron en la supuesta «violencia» de los manifestantes el 17 de octubre, debido a que tuvieron la audacia de «saquear» artículos de lujo y productos electrónicos en tiendas como Louis Vuitton, Celine, Decathlon y Apple, tanto en París como en otras ciudades francesas.

Ninguno de estos apologistas del capitalismo se molestó en considerar que un bolso Louis Vuitton cuesta aproximadamente 2.621 dólares estadounidenses, más que el salario medio mensual de los trabajadores franceses de bajos ingresos, que asciende a 2.092 dólares. Estos comentaristas tampoco mencionaron que apenas hubo pequeños comercios familiares que fueran objeto de estos actos.

No es un delito recuperar lo que ha sido robado. Los jóvenes en Francia ven estos establecimientos de lujo como símbolos de la codicia capitalista: un sistema que, cada vez más, les niega oportunidades educativas y laborales, al tiempo que no hace nada para detener la catástrofe climática global que amenaza su propio futuro. Este mismo sistema destina miles de millones de dólares a respaldar el genocidio perpetrado por Estados Unidos e Israel en Gaza, mientras asume, de manera creciente, los costos de la guerra de la OTAN en Ucrania.

Muchos de los estudiantes que protestan por el deterioro de las condiciones en sus centros educativos son hijos, nietos o bisnietos de inmigrantes provenientes de África occidental y septentrional, así como de otros países cuyos recursos y mano de obra fueron explotados durante cinco siglos por el violento colonialismo francés. En 1804, los gobernantes franceses castigaron el primer levantamiento revolucionario contra la ocupación colonial obligando a los haitianos a pagar reparaciones a sus antiguos esclavistas.

¿Quiénes son los ladrones y los verdaderos autores de la violencia?

El relato de los medios corporativos, centrado en la «violencia», culpa a los inmigrantes africanos y árabes, ignorando al mismo tiempo que, durante más de 60 años —hasta hace poco— Francia se benefició de la explotación de la mano de obra en Níger y del robo de sus riquezas en uranio. Hace poco tiempo, el Parlamento francés abolió el «Código Negro» que, durante más de cinco siglos, permitió a la clase dominante francesa tratar a los inmigrantes provenientes de sus antiguas colonias como si fueran propiedad —como seres inferiores a los humanos.

La verdadera violencia reside en el hecho de que el gobierno de Emmanuel Macron militariza a la policía, incluso antes de la protesta del 17 de octubre. Violencia es ver a la policía golpear con porras las cabezas de adolescentes desarmados. Violencia es el uso policial de granadas aturdidoras, que provocaron que dos estudiantes perdieran una mano, otro sufriera daños oculares y un tercero terminara con la mandíbula fracturada. Violencia es emplear gases lacrimógenos y balas de goma, no para controlar a las multitudes, sino para aterrorizarlas y dispersarlas.

Violencia es que el Estado fomente el racismo y la islamofobia. El 24 de octubre, esto llevó a un hombre blanco a recorrer en vehículo los suburbios obreros parisinos de Trappes y La Verrière —zonas con una gran población inmigrante y musulmana— y a abrir fuego con un arma automática, disparando al azar con el objetivo de «matar extranjeros», tal como declaró más tarde ante la policía. Entre sus víctimas se encontraban un hombre negro de 26 años y una mujer que llevaba un pañuelo en la cabeza. Una niña de 12 años, que también portaba velo, recibió ocho disparos.

Violencia es que el Estado prohíba las protestas legales.

La naturaleza de los levantamientos

Las rebeliones son festivales de los oprimidos que se alzan contra la violencia del Estado capitalista. Los estudiantes —no solo en Francia, sino en diversos países de Europa y más allá— exigen que los fondos que sus gobiernos destinan a la guerra se inviertan, en cambio, en programas sociales, incluida la educación. Estos jóvenes son testigos, y se sienten indignados, del genocidio perpetrado por Israel contra los palestinos en Gaza, quienes hace tres años se atrevieron a alzarse contra más de 75 años de ocupación y genocidio israelí.

En su obra «El Estado y la revolución», Vladímir Lenin describe la violencia sistémica que emplea el Estado capitalista para ejercer control sobre los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos. Desde su sistema educativo deficiente bajo el capitalismo —que abarca desde la policía hasta los tribunales, pasando por guerras militares globalizadas y ocupaciones imperialistas— no hay nada que la clase dominante no haga para proteger su sistema de explotación, ni crimen que no esté dispuesta a cometer para expandirlo.



Protesta masiva en París, 17 de octubre de 2026.

Sin embargo, lo que la juventud en Francia, en toda Europa y más allá está demostrando es que el sistema capitalista atraviesa graves dificultades: ya no les ofrece ninguna esperanza. No ven futuro alguno cuando el gasto militar se prioriza por encima de los fondos destinados a escuelas, atención sanitaria y otros programas sociales.

Desde Mundo Obrero/Workers World saludamos a los jóvenes que han emprendido estas luchas; no obstante, somos conscientes de que las manifestaciones, por muy combativas que sean, no bastan. Dado que nuestro enemigo de clase controla los medios de comunicación, ha llegado el momento de que la juventud de la clase trabajadora y de los sectores oprimidos, en todas partes, se una en una «intifada» global contra el imperio imperialista. ❐

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