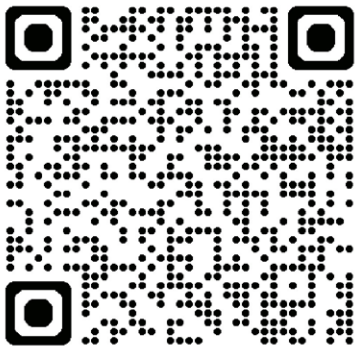




Books or bombs?

Student uprisings go global!

By Betsey Piette

Protests by youth and students over failed education systems that began in late August in several former French colonies and then spread to continental France have now spilled out into a global struggle over failed public services, rising living costs and prioritized military spending in capitalist countries that increasingly impact the very futures for Gen Z youth.

Protests led by youth in France were joined by teachers, nurses, firefighters, parents and some “yellow vest” activists on Oct. 17. They brought over 800,000 people to the streets of Paris and 140 other cities in France. The General Confederation of Labor (CGT), one of France’s major unions, backed these protests, adding demands for “higher wages and pensions, lower prices and the protection of public services.”

The newspaper Le Monde reported Oct. 18 that police tried to prevent gatherings at several designated meeting points in

Paris, particularly in front of train stations, that had been announced earlier. Demonstrators were banned from entering the historic Place de la Republique in the center of Paris, with police firing tear gas and charging at protesters as they entered the area.



High-school students initiated the uprising in France. Here, Paris, Oct. 17, 2026.

According to Al Jazeera, Oct. 18, the faces of the three figures representing Liberty, Equality and Fraternity at the base of the plaza’s monument were painted with black tears.

In central France, protesters in Limoges, who were able to overwhelm

police, used a battering ram to breach the town hall before setting the building on fire. In Lyon, demonstrators targeted a local tourist office, setting it ablaze. Severe clashes with police were also recorded in Marseille, Bordeaux and Strasbourg.

More than 2,400 people were arrested and two deaths were reported. Protest organizers noted, however, that most protests went as planned. Organizers were critical of the bourgeois media for focusing coverage mainly on violent clashes, especially when the police were the source of much of the violence.

Evidence of this brutality is beginning to surface. According to Drop Site News, in the city of Saint Etienne, a high school student lost a hand. In Guadeloupe, one of France’s neo-colonies in the Caribbean, another teenage girl is reported to have received a sublethal bullet in the temple. World Riots reported that a 22-year-old paramedic died in Paris after being beaten by police. A 17-year-old girl permanently

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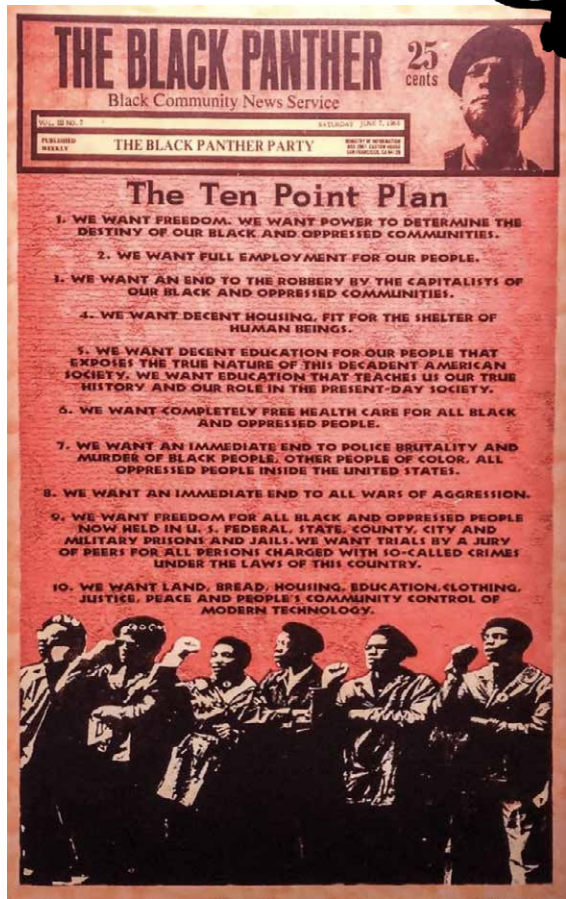
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TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS

Shut down death row!

Stop execution of Hasan!

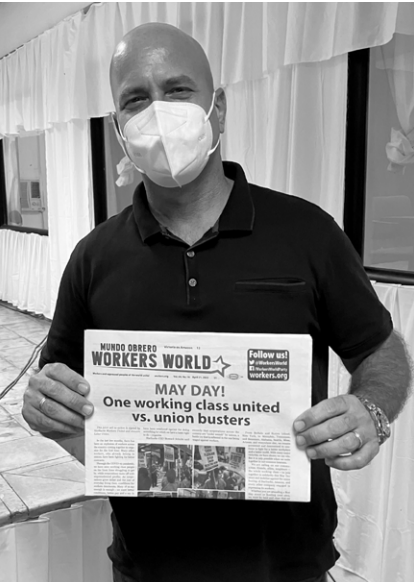
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If you are looking for a real workers’ newspaper that tells class truth, is wholly anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist, sides with the global working class and oppressed peoples and opposes war, misogyny, racism, homophobia, ableism and all bigotry while supporting the socialist countries and the struggle for socialism here at home, then Workers World newspaper is the publication for you. Our articles cut through and expose the corporate media’s distortions and biases and present the truth.

WW articles and editorials oppose U.S. designs in West Asia and weapons for Israel's genocide and denounce Washington's attacks on Venezuela and abduction of its leaders and its blockade and threats against Cuba. Additionally, this newspaper supports students’ actions and community movements against ICE and other injustices, as well as workers’ organizing and job actions here and abroad. It is resolutely pro-class struggle at home and worldwide.

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. It has no corporate or government backing and is wholly independent. The WW Supporter Program was launched 49 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and 35 years ago to support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily



Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban 5 heroes, unjustly imprisoned for 16 years by the U.S. government and today head of Cuba's Committees to Defend the Revolution.

and the weekly paper’s PDF is displayed and archived. Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-activists join and report on anti-capitalist and people’s movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné, Indigenous, Asian and Arab peoples, women, workers, migrants, prisoners, gender-oppressed, LGBTQIA2S+, low-income, elderly and disabled individuals. **Prisoners are sent free print issues. This website is a resource for political activists.**

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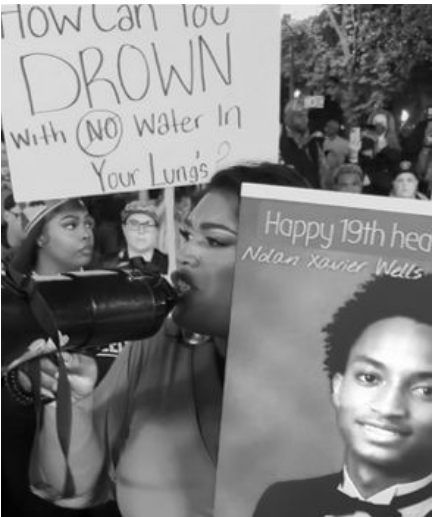
NYC rally demands justice for Nolan Wells

Qween Jean of Black Trans Liberation Kitchen addressed hundreds of transgender and queer people and supporters who overflowed Union Square Park in New York City on Oct. 14 to protest the racist, bigoted murder of Nolan Wells, who was Black and trans masc, in July in Mississippi.

The so-called “authorities” lied and claimed Nolan died from drowning. However, there was no water in his lungs, and the medical examiner said there was blunt force trauma to the back of Nolan’s head!

There must be Justice For Nolan Wells and all oppressed trans and queer youth!

– Photo and report by Renée Imperato



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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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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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Boston Indigenous Peoples’ Day

“From Turtle Island to Palestine – Land Back!”

By Steve Gillis
Boston

In a powerful demonstration of global Indigenous solidarity, Boston-area Native American and Palestinian-led organizations combined forces with the Boston Coalition for Palestine on Oct. 10 at the Massachusetts Statehouse — an original outpost of European settler colonialism — to demand “Land Back!” and “Free Palestine!”

Speakers and the hundreds who joined them called for the abolition of the U.S. holiday named after the genocidal enslaver Columbus — and state recognition of “Indigenous Peoples’ Day now!” Organizers also chose the date to commemorate the third anniversary of the October 7 Al-Aqsa Flood of Palestinian resistance to the decades-long, U.S.-sponsored Israeli occupation of Palestine and the ongoing, accelerated genocide in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

Jean-Luc Pierite (Tunica-Biloxi), president of the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), and Lea Kayali, a Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) leader, co-chaired the opening rally on the statehouse steps, which followed an opening spiritual offering by Rosalba Solis (Maya). Solis raised the Zapatistas of her homeland as models for the world’s peoples to free the earth from capitalism’s destructive forces.

The Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda

In response to both emcees’ opening remarks, the crowd loudly booed Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, a Democrat who has, with the majority of the state’s establishment politicians, refused to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. The governor has also championed economic and military deals between Massachusetts and Israeli corporations complicit in the murderous genocide of Palestine’s Indigenous people.

Pierite highlighted other aspects of the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda that the political establishment have stonewalled for years. The Agenda includes bills to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in public school curricula; expand educational opportunities for Native youth; ban racist Native American mascots; protect sacred Indigenous artifacts and funerary objects; and redesign the Commonwealth’s racist flag and seal. (mainindigenousagenda.org)

Janelle Pocowatchit (Comanche and Mi’kmaq) of NAICOB called attention to the thousands of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, whose cases have been ignored by settler media. A striking orange NAICOB banner behind her read: “Honoring the Indigenous children who survived residential schools and remembering those who did not come home.”

From South Asia to Turtle Island

Nafisa Nipun Tanjeem said: “I am here with my amazing comrades from the Boston South Asian Coalition [BSAC] to express solidarity against settler-colonial violence here in Turtle Island and all over the world. And I want to emphasize that the struggles of South Asian communities are not separate from the struggles of Indigenous communities on this land and Indigenous communities around the world.

“We must remember that the same forces of white supremacy and settler-colonial violence that destroyed Indigenous lands and lives on Turtle Island are now determining who is deserving and who is undeserving of belonging on this land.



Native American and Palestinian lead contingents at Indigenous Peoples’ Day march, Boston, Oct. 10, 2026. WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

“The same white supremacist and settler-colonial forces have unleashed ICE attacks against immigrant communities, killing, torturing and detaining people and tearing communities apart. There have also been numerous cases in which ICE has arrested and detained Indigenous people, because they did not look like they belonged on this land. As members of South Asian communities, we have an obligation to recognize that the U.S. has never simply been a land of immigrants.”

United American Indians of New England (UAIINE)’s message was shared by three youth organizers — Sam (Mashpee Wampanoag), Ayanna (White Mountain Apache) and Kaylee of the Indigenous Student Organization at Tufts University. They emphasized: “This summer, settlers celebrated the 250th birthday of their nation built on our stolen land and buried bones. They raised their flag of conquest once more. To them, it is a symbol of freedom. To us, it is a symbol of the genocide that began long before it was ever sewn. It flew over the Trail of Tears. It flew over Wounded Knee. It flew over boarding schools. It flew over every treaty signed and every treaty broken. We do not rise for it. They call it hatred. We call it memory. ...

“When their empire falls, we will remain. We resist, because we are still here. We refuse to abandon our Indigenous kin in Palestine, in Sudan, in Congo, in Kashmir, West Papua, in all nations resisting occupation!”

Evict Israeli war criminals

PYM leaders then called the crowd into the street, with chants of “Free, Free Palestine!” reverberating throughout Beacon Hill and winning raised fists of support from thousands of tourists in Boston’s downtown streets.

First, marchers targeted the City Hall Plaza offices of war criminals at the Israeli Consulate. Saleh Abbas of PYM put it succinctly: “We have a responsibility to turn these feelings of anger and outrage into organized confrontations of Zionism. ... Despite Zionism being the most hated idea right now, why do we still see it around us? Why the hell is this consulate continuing to be in our city?

“It is because Zionism is actually entrenched in all of society and all of imperialism. It is in our governments, in our economies, in our universities, in our hospitals, in our cultural institutions, in our technology hubs. It is here in Massachusetts and in Boston. And what do we do about that? We kick them out! [The crowd points and chants “War criminals work here!”] That’s right!”

Abbas concluded with an excerpt of PYM’s statement, published in full in Mondoweiss on Oct. 9, titled

“No Redemption for Genocide”: “The Palestinian resistance tradition refuses to understand martyrdom as finality, but as ‘امتداد’ [extension in Arabic]. Every universe extinguished is carried forward into our present and our future.



Palestinian Youth Movement, Boston march, Oct. 10, 2026. WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

“For the living, our people under genocide and our prisoners experiencing living death must remain the compass of our struggle and the engine of our organizing. For the land, we remember that across Palestine the land is the battlefield as it is the home, and that Palestinians remain rooted in it and continue to resist erasure.”

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Thursday, November 26, 2026

12 Noon - Cole’s Hill (above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Massachusetts

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims, and the unjust system based on white supremacy, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world
From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a Crime!
Close the detention centers & abolish ICE!

Livestream from Plymouth: bit.ly/4AOkjGH

Masks required . Transportation info: TBA
Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19bteju1GY/>
No sit-down social, but box lunches will be available.

Donate: <https://chuffed.org/project/116129-united-american-indians-of-new-england-uaine-fundraiser>

United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)
Web: www.uaine.org Email info@uaine.org
Twitter, Insta & Bluesky: UAIINE@mahtowin1
Facebook Event <https://www.facebook.com/share/19bteju1GY/>



Union labor donated

Austin, Texas: Hundreds say ‘Death row? Shut it down!’

By Gloria Rubac
Austin, Texas

Anti-death penalty activists came from around the state on Oct. 10 to participate in the 27th Annual March and Rally for Abolition at the Texas Capitol in Austin. Speaker after speaker put a human face on executions, and all agreed that due to Christa Pike’s horrific botched execution, Tennessee should release her with time served immediately.

Cheers went up as this writer, who chaired the rally, said, “Torture like Pike’s happens all the time. It is time we stop experimenting on how to kill people, and stop the death penalty now, today!”

It was also the World Day Against the Death Penalty, which was being celebrated as close as Dallas and as far away as Japan. More than 180 countries held events.

Shujaa Graham, who spent years on death row in California and is still traumatized decades later, stated: “I can’t get those words out of my head — ‘we sentence you to die December 8 at San Quentin until gas penetrates upon your personhood, and you will no longer be in society.’ Bam! 15 minutes later, I was on San Quinten’s death row. After 11 long years, my greatest nightmare had finally come to an end, and I was exonerated. Forty years later, it still haunts me to death.”

Innocent people on death row

Gary Drinkard spent almost six years on Alabama’s death row. He is now an activist with Witness To Innocence and speaks around the world about the injustices of the death penalty. “The system is broken,” he told the crowd. “There were people committing suicide,



Austin rally, Oct. 10, 2026.

PHOTO: CALEB GRANGÉ

because they wanted to cheat the executioner back when I was on death row.

“They didn’t want to sit in an electric chair at the time,” Drinkard said: “I’m trying to tell people that death is not right. There are innocent people on death row. There are innocent people who have been killed ... especially here in Texas.”

Incredibly moving talks were given by Chris Castillo and Suzanne Bosler with Journey of Hope, from Violence to Healing. Both lost parents to murder. Bosler’s father, a pastor, was in church when an intruder stabbed him 24 times. Bosler was also stabbed, but played dead and survived. Castillo’s mother was murdered in 1991, and he eventually learned to forgive the men who killed her. He is on the Board of Directors of Journey of Hope and has shared his mother’s story for almost 25 years in efforts to end the death penalty.

An emotional John Lucio, son of innocent but still incarcerated Melissa Lucio, told the crowd that Melissa was crying tears of joy as she listened to the rally on a phone call from her cousin at the rally: “My Mama Bear is so happy that we are talking about her and her

innocence. She sends her love to everyone here today.” There were over 25 people from Lucio’s family, the young and the elders, who made the trip from the Rio Grande Valley to Austin.

Fight for air-conditioned prisons

Incarcerated people and their families won a great victory this year when a federal court ordered the Texas prison system to provide air conditioning to ALL Texas prisons. Two women and their organizations who were part of the lawsuit are the heroes of this fight — Amite Dominick with Texas Prisons Community Advocates (TCPA) and Jennifer Toon, executive director of Lioness Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance. Lioness is founded and led by currently and formerly incarcerated girls, women and gender-expansive people.

TPCA led a struggle to end the heat in prisons, which can be over 120 degrees during Texas summers. Dominick said: “Through our 85 to Stay Alive campaign to end deadly heat, I learned that abolition and humane conditions are the same fight. Nearly every man on Texas death row lives in solitary confinement, often for decades, in

conditions the United Nations recognizes as torture. Human dignity has to mean something for every person the state holds.”

Toon spoke from her lived experience to elevate the voices of system-impacted individuals, with a focus on LGBTQIA2S+ people, youth and people with disabilities. Her involvement with the criminal legal system began at age 15, leading to 27 years of incarceration. She said: “Lioness began as a promise made inside a Texas prison, shaped by survival and a refusal to forget the women we would one day leave behind. In 2022, that promise carried us back to one another on the outside, as we organized to stop the execution of Melissa Lucio.

“It is especially meaningful to be with Melissa Lucio’s family again today and witness their incredible love and support for her. We will always stand with Melissa and her family, and we will never stop fighting for justice. Progress isn’t always a straight line, but setbacks are not defeat! Our hope and commitment remain steadfast.”

Juan Balderas spent nine years at the county jail before he was tried. He was convicted of capital murder and has been on death row for 12 years. Balderas has steadfastly maintained his innocence. His spouse, Yancy Balderas, spoke of all the errors in his case and demanded a new trial. His mother, Vicky Reyes, speaking in Spanish, thanked everyone for coming out year after year and asked the crowd to keep supporting her son until he comes home.

Terri Been spoke about her brother, Jeff Wood, who did not kill anyone yet was given a death sentence under Texas’ unjust Law of Parties. Wood was in his pickup

while a “friend” went inside a convenience store. A few minutes later Wood heard a gunshot and went inside. His “friend” had killed the clerk. Both men were convicted of capital murder and put on death row. Wood’s family has fought for 28 years for his freedom and the abolition of the Law of Parties.

No rally would be complete without some spoken word, and activist Jorge Antonio Renaud, who spent decades incarcerated, did just that. He is an activist with Grassroots Leadership in Austin, which believes that no one should profit from the incarceration of human beings, and works with communities to abolish for-profit private prisons, jails and detention centers. Here’s his poem:

Until all of us are free
You say you want
justice for all

but do you mean
even that one
at the end of the run
gibbering in his puddle of piss
who has painted pretty pictures
in various shades of shit
on the walls of his cage
or have you too reveled
in the mass of media
that massive exhalation of bile
about his singular vileness
of his crime
because that one,
that one too,
is my brother.

The event ended with a loud and militant march to the governor’s mansion led by the Kids Against the Death Penalty. News coverage was so good that even those who did not attend the event were able to feel the power of the people in action. □

Stop the execution of Nidal Malik Hasan!

By Monica Moorehead

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced on Oct. 8 that the execution of Nidal Malik Hasan by a firing squad will be livestreamed on Dec. 3. If this would have happened, it would have been the first federal execution by the U.S.

WW COMMENTARY

military since World War II and the first public execution since 1936. A week later on Oct. 15, President #47 canceled the livestream.

Hegseth’s announcement had understandably aroused condemnation from the pope to anti-death penalty groups to the majority of people in the U.S. to even some Republican politicians. Of course, those same Republicans are more afraid of their image being further tarnished, since their party is pro-death penalty.

Hasan was convicted by a military court in 2013 for the 2009 premeditated murder of 13 soldiers and the wounding of 24 more at the Fort Hood Army military base located in Central Texas. Hasan, a Muslim and son of Palestinian immigrants, was an army psychiatrist opposed to the deployment of more troops to the war in Afghanistan during that time, including himself. He was wounded during the shooting, resulting in him becoming partially paralyzed.

It is no coincidence that the Dec. 3 execution date of the disabled Hasan has been officially recognized by the United Nations as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities since 1992. According to the U.N. website,

Dec. 3 “aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.” Even though this heinous act will not be

livestreamed, it will remain a deterrent from

any events observing Dec. 3.

Also, the irony that Hasan, although born in the U.S., is Palestinian should be a serious consideration regarding him receiving the death sentence.

Abolish the death penalty!

Since the federal death penalty was reinstated in 1988 by the U.S. Supreme Court, there has been ongoing debate on which method of execution is more “humane.” Is it lethal injection, electrocution, hanging, gas chamber or firing squad? President #47 has even suggested bringing back the guillotine! This debate has intensified since the recently botched execution of Christa Pike in Tennessee, who survived being lethally injected not once but twice.

As was stated in a recent World Work commentary written by Gloria Rubac calling for an end to the death penalty: “Only poor and working-class people are executed. The death penalty is racist. About 58% of those sent to death row are people of color, while they make up just 38% of the U.S. population. The death penalty is even used to execute innocent people. There are 203 people who have been exonerated



Nidal Malik Hasan

off death rows, because they were found innocent. People are arrested, tried and convicted by racist cops, corrupt district attorneys and judges who don’t give a damn.” (workers.org/?p=95187)

Another important reason for abolishing the death penalty is that every time an execution takes place, the state apparatus is strengthened and is more consolidated. The death penalty is not a deterrent against any kind of crime, even those crimes deemed anti-social. The death penalty is a weapon of terror on the part of the capitalist ruling class against the working class. It is tied to the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the courts and the prisons.

Multimillionaires and billionaires do not get executed or even spend long periods of time in prison for the crimes they commit, be they of a personal or political nature. They have all the money needed to hire the best lawyers and to bribe judges so they are found “innocent.”

In order to abolish the death penalty, the capitalist system that created this horrific terrorist machinery must be abolished. It is the Hegseths of the world who should be put on trial, convicted and jailed for crimes against humanity worldwide, not someone like Hasan whose main motivation was to stop the imperialist war on the Afghan people. □

Pa. Court considers sentencing relief

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

In March 2026, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling in Commonwealth v. Derek Lee struck down automatic mandatory sentences of life without parole (LWOP) for second-degree murder — a murder committed during another felony, even if the defendant did not kill anyone. While determining that the LWOP sentence was unconstitutional, the court stopped short of reviewing the sentences of over 1,100 individuals currently imprisoned in Pennsylvania for second-degree murder.

The court said it put that decision on hold for 120 days so the state’s General Assembly could write new sentencing law, but measures introduced in both the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democratic-controlled House failed to pass.

However, on Sept. 29, the state Supreme Court agreed to rule in the case of Jerome Coffey, a Philadelphia man currently serving an unjust LWOP sentence stemming from a 1992 killing. Coffey, who has maintained his innocence, is one of five individuals who have appealed to the court to review their sentences based on the March ruling.

There was no physical evidence tying Coffey to the killing, and a key prosecution witness recanted before the trial. His lawyers contend that the prosecution



Jerome Coffey

Continued on page 5

The Black Panther Party’s 60 year-old legacy

By Benny Schaft

Sixty years ago, after examining conditions in Oakland, California, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, along with other Black youth, founded the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California. They looked most closely at the Oakland Police Department’s occupation and terrorism.

For years the department had served as the vicious arm of the ruling class, doing nothing less than brutalizing the Black community. Due to these material conditions, Newton and Seale formed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense on Oct. 15, 1966, to combat the state terror used against the Black community.

Armed patrols and self-defense were nothing new in the community, contrary to the position pushed by bourgeois historians. Historians have often promoted the myth and stereotype that the Black working class was defenseless against the violence of the white supremacist power structure. That they needed the help of heroic whites to fight back.

That myth is not only false but also revisionist and reactionary because these historians purposefully leave out how, from the time of being kidnapped from Africa to the present day, Black people have always practiced self-defense. This tradition spans centuries and goes back to Africa, where different groups and kingdoms formed armed patrols to resist slave-trading parties.

It was because of this revolutionary Black radical tradition that the Black Panther Party would emerge for the entire country to see when, on May 2, 1967, dozens of their members defiantly stood on the steps of the California State Capitol in Sacramento with guns to make the point that they had a legal right to bear arms to protect themselves from the repressive state, especially the police. This act electrified the Black community and the movement.

The Party began to organize the people and give a clear analysis of the conditions that affect Black people. Using dialectical materialism to understand the conditions the Black proletariat is subjected to, they wrote and published the BPP’s Ten Point Program. It was written plainly to break down demands for comrades in the Black community.

The Black Panther Party was able to do this not only for the Black proletariat but also for the proletariat in general, as shown

by organizations such as the Brown Berets, the Young Lords, the White Panther Party and the Young Patriots, among others. This, in addition to the survival programs, is also why the Panthers earned the nickname “the Vanguard of Revolution.”

All of this tears apart the image the bourgeois media still portrays to this day of the Panthers as a bunch of gun-toting radicals with no revolutionary discipline, running wild and causing the violence that forced law enforcement to act. That is false, as the historical record shows how often Panthers were mainly unarmed when police murdered them.

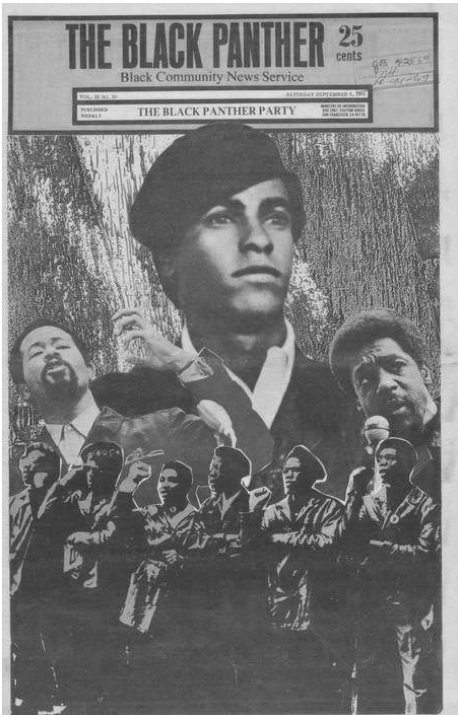
An example is Fred Hampton, Deputy Chairman of the Illinois chapter. On Dec. 4, 1969, he and Deputy Minister of Defense Mark Clark of Peoria were murdered by the Chicago Police Department (CPD). An investigation the Black Panther Party and people in the community carried out helped debunk the narrative the police and media tried to push that Hampton and the Panthers inside his home attempted to assault and murder the police sent to kill him — police who in reality were a death squad.

The investigation showed that all but one of the hundreds of bullets fired came from the police. That single bullet came from Mark Clark, the only member in the house who was armed, who accidentally fired his gun into the ceiling as he was dying after being fatally shot by a CPD officer. Fred Hampton, meanwhile, was incapacitated during the assault, and was completely defenseless and unarmed when police shot him multiple times while he was asleep.

Need for revolutionary theory

The Party was also strict about discipline, especially when carrying out the will of the people and organizing in the community. As Fred Hampton stated in a 1969 interview, members had to meet explicit requirements before being fully accepted. These included reading the party’s Ten Point Program and understanding what it was about.

They also had to read “The Wretched of the Earth,” by Frantz Fanon, “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.” and “Black Reconstruction,” by W.E.B. Du Bois. Members were also required to attend political education classes, and BPP leadership made sure to stress why attendance mattered.



Black Panther Party archived front page

In her autobiography “A Taste of Power,” Elaine Brown, who became the first woman to head the Party, famously recalled: “We would have to attend political education classes regularly and read certain books. There was a long list of intraparty disciplinary rules.”

Due to its revolutionary program relevant to the Black community at home and the anti-imperialist struggles abroad, these are important reasons why Hoover called the party the greatest threat to the internal security of the United States. It was also the reason the state engaged in a completely illegal campaign to oppress, murder and carry out terrorism against the Party, leading to its demise by 1981.

People may wonder now what we can make of the Black Panther Party 60 years later? What can we make of the revolutionary movement among Black people today? The answer is that the struggle did not die with the Black Panther Party, even though many of its revolutionaries were killed and imprisoned. The struggle continues, and the Panthers serve as a revolutionary symbol of what organizing and education can do for the people.

An example is that the ruling class attempted to replicate a free breakfast

program similar to ones the Panthers ran in all of their chapters to feed thousands of Black children who were not being protected by the government at the time, and then later put it on the chopping block. Government-sponsored free lunch programs are now being threatened by drastic cutbacks. This goes to show that the Panthers’ organizing forced the state to give this small crumb, a temporary concession, to the people.

Demands still relevant today

The Ten Point Program, the core of the Party’s organizing and its analysis of the conditions of Black people in the belly of this reactionary beast, is still relevant today.

A point that speaks volumes today is Point 7, which says, “We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of Black people.” This is more relevant than ever, given the surge in police murders and especially the coverups and the ignoring of the murders and lynchings of Black youth.

The most notable recent case is that of Nolan Wells. There is also Athoneil Williams II, who was shot over 22 times by Austin, Texas, police, who were quick to justify their actions by saying he committed so-called “suicide by police.” No action has been taken against the officers who murdered him.

Then there was the murder of one-year-old Kohen Wiley in Mississippi, where police riddled the car he and his mother were in with bullets, on the account that she had allegedly stolen diapers from a store, which she hadn’t. These are among so many other murders committed by the armed wing of the state.

What makes it even more poignant is that the youngest leader of the Black Panther Party, Bobby Hutton, who was himself murdered by the Oakland Police Department, was 17 when he was killed, the same age as Athoneil Williams II.

We must continue to stress and support the self-determination of the Black proletariat to decide what happens in their own community. And we must continue to organize and educate, because we sometimes catch ourselves believing the lies of the media and this system that the Panthers were successful because they had guns. The reality is that the Panthers preached and defended the right to self-defense.

Read the entire article at workers.org.

Oakland renames street: Black Panther Boulevard

By Susan Sherrell and David Welsh
Oakland, California

October 18 – An enthusiastic crowd of over 150 people gathered at Latham Square on Broadway in downtown Oakland today for an official renaming of the street. It is now Black Panther Party Boulevard in honor of the Black Panther Party, started in

Oakland on Oct. 15, 1966.

Members from former chapters around the country attended. These included Bunchy Crear, Stephen Edwards and James Aaron from the Houston chapter, Elmer and Aaron Dixon from the Seattle chapter, and Larry Little from the Winston-Salem North Carolina chapter.

The BPP was known for defending Black

people from police brutality, and also for its many survival programs, which included the first free breakfast program for children, medical clinics, a free ambulance, a sickle cell detection program and an award-winning school.

Frederica Newton, the spouse of co-founder Huey Newton, welcomed the crowd. “We’re going to keep this going!” she promised. Historian Billy X thanked the Panthers and supporters.

Mayor Barbara Lee declared: “Everyone understands that the spirit of the Black Panther Party lives on. I was a proud volunteer for the party registering voters for Shirley Chisholm. Later, when Chairman Bobby Seale ran for mayor of Oakland, I was his finance manager. It’s come full circle. I am now the first Black woman mayor of Oakland.” Lee noted that Oakland was recently named #6 of the 10 best cities to visit in the U.S.

Lauren Williams Jackson of the Oakland and San Francisco chapters spoke about working on the Black Panther newspaper: “They couldn’t stop us. They took Bobby, they took Huey, they took Erica



PHOTO: STEPHEN P. EDWARDS

Plaque renaming street in Oakland, California.

[Huggins] — the paper went on.”

Fred Hampton Jr. of Chicago, son of the legendary Fred Hampton, who was murdered by the Chicago cops in December 1969, ended the program calling out: “Revolutionary love, y’all! We got to serve the people, y’all!”

The ceremony ended on a jubilant note. The ribbon was cut. The crowd of all ages and ethnicities chanted, “Power to the People!” The ceremony was one of many honoring the Black Panther Party’s 60th anniversary weekend. □

Jerome Coffey

Continued from page 4

withheld evidence that could have helped Coffey’s defense.

Bret Grote, director of the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC), which represents Coffey and also represented Derek Lee, said, “This [the court hearing Coffey’s case] is what those who have been serving this sentence have been waiting for.” In a press release from ALC, Grote noted that Coffey, who founded the grassroots Human Rights Coalition from prison, will be “well able to demonstrate why the decision should apply to people like him who need to be home with us out here in our communities.”

Coffey’s case started in Philadelphia, and

the city’s District Attorney Larry Krasner has voiced his support for retroactivity in Coffey’s case, noting, “We cannot have a legal system where people sit in jail for the rest of their lives for an unconstitutional sentence.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 29)

Unfortunately, Coffey’s appeal may not be resolved quickly. Other prosecutors across the state have indicated opposition to changing the LWOP sentencing without a determination by the legislative bodies, which will likely not happen until after the November elections.

Jerome Coffey has been a frequent contributor to Workers World’s Tear Down the Walls.

Temple Univeristy

Labor coalition protests higher tuition, staffing cuts

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Over a hundred students, faculty and workers rallied and marched on Oct. 15 outside a meeting of the Temple University Board of Trustees to demand accountability, transparency and safe and responsible staffing.

The North Philadelphia protest was held in the wake of this summer’s Board vote to increase housing costs and student fees and raise tuition by 3.5% while simultaneously cutting 300 positions across the university and slashing the academic budget. The cuts have resulted in increased workloads for instructors and reduced resources. They pose an existential threat to the Temple Health System.

Members of the Temple Association of University Professionals (TAUP) American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 4531 handed out “Ditch Mitch”



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

buttons to rally participants. The buttons refer to Mitchell Morgan, the chairperson of the Board and the 607th richest man in the world, possessing \$6.6 billion. He’s a real estate tycoon with no teaching, research or healthcare experience.

Among the Temple University Labor Coalition speakers was TAUP President Jeff Doshna, who said: “When Mitch Morgan and his Board approve budgets year after year that keep cutting those positions, is it any wonder that we have a student retention problem? There aren’t enough advisors for students to get appointments. There aren’t enough librarians and library staff to help students complete their research projects. There aren’t enough faculty to ensure that students can get the classes they need.”

One student speaker raised the youth protests over education cuts in France and questioned why similar resistance isn’t widespread here in the U.S.

The rally ended with a march through campus, including around the administration offices in Sullivan Hall, led by a “When injustice is law, resistance is duty” banner, a Palestinian flag, and numerous “Workers over billionaires” placards. □

Cleveland healthcare workers’ strike makes gains

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Workers at Cleveland Clinic’s Lutheran Hospital began striking over health benefits, wages, staffing levels and other issues on Sept. 23. After 16 days on the picket line, the caregivers ratified a new contract on Oct. 8. Cleveland Clinic is the largest healthcare system in the U.S.

The new contract raises workers’ pay by 11% over a three-year period and includes longevity pay and other gains. Management agreed to negotiate with the union over health benefits; the Clinic had tried to get the union to agree to higher costs for workers. Workers of all faiths will have the right to take time off for their



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Third day of strike at Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital, Sept. 25, 2026.

religious holidays.

Cleveland Clinic bosses had retaliated against striking members of Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 1199 by canceling their health insurance on Oct. 1, giving workers only a few hours notice of

the benefit cut. The union considered this an intimidation tactic.

“About 150 members decided to show the Cleveland Clinic enough was enough, they’re not going to be disrespected, they want to feel valued,” said Brian Higgins, a power plant mechanic and member of the union’s executive board. “I’m proud of members who stood the line for 16 days and stood up to Goliath.” (ideastream.org, Oct. 9)

Meanwhile, members of the Cleveland Orchestra, whose strike began two days after the walkout at Lutheran Hospital, won a contract that was overwhelmingly ratified after less than three full days on the picket line. Their strike threatened to cancel the Orchestra’s European tour. □

International Dockworkers call Oct. 30 ‘Day of Action’

By World Federation of Trade Unions

Cinzia Della Porta, from the World Federation of Trade Unions Secretariat, conveyed the WFTU’s greetings and support at the press conference held on Oct. 15, 2026, in Rome to launch the International Day of Action of Dockworkers and Port Workers against War and Militarisation on Oct. 30, 2026.

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the militant voice of hundreds of militant trade unions from all over the globe with more than 105 million workers in their ranks, I bring here our solidarity and support to this important action day.

In an era of increased military expenses and amid the general enforcement of the war economy and the rearing of fascism, racism and xenophobia, in an era in which there is the “normalization” of the genocide of the Palestinian people, in which Cuba is under siege, in which war is the only way they are looking for to get out from the capitalist crisis, the militant and class-oriented trade unions and workers all over the world should stand up and fight back, unequivocally condemning imperialism and its wars.

The peoples all over the world know there is nothing to expect from [imperialist] war but death, misery, refugees, poverty and deterioration of their living conditions. Workers all over the world



Dockworkers in Ancona, Italy, February 2026.

PHOTO: POTERE AL POPOLO

know that the tremendous resources channeled into the war economy are drained away at the expense of the welfare state, education, healthcare, wages, pensions and benefits for the popular strata.

The WFTU firmly reiterates the demand for an end to all imperialist interventions and full and unconditional respect for the sovereignty, independence and the right of every people to determine their own present and future. We reject the exclusions, discriminatory measures, blockades and sanctions imposed by the U.S., the European Union and their allies on numerous countries, which directly affect the daily lives of ordinary people.

We assert the demand for the dissolution of NATO and all military coalitions and for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. No participation in imperialist wars or military missions. Military forces must return to their own countries, and the struggle of the working class in every country for disengagement from NATO, the EU and every imperialist alliance and for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons must be strengthened.

We unequivocally condemn and denounce the genocide against the Palestinian people by the murdering

state of Israel, and we demand an immediate end to ethnic cleansing practices; we demand an end to occupation and settlements in the occupied Arab territories; we denounce the intensified imperialist aggression against Cuba, the criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade and ideological war imposed by the United States, which aims to suffocate the Cuban economy and deliberately creates enormous difficulties for the Cuban people.

In this context, the October 30 action is a concrete example of the struggle the class-oriented trade unions have to do, an example of concrete international solidarity, an example of the necessity to connect our struggles against war and militarization.

The WFTU salutes the militant initiatives and the relentless struggles of the working class and their unions that send a clear message that they oppose any involvement of their countries in wars, refusing to work for the production, loading and transfer of weapons and military equipment and boycotting any collaboration or facilitation linked with the active battlefronts.

We support the International Day of Action of Dockworkers and Port Workers against War and Militarization on Oct. 30, 2026, and we call on workers all over the globe to organize and support initiatives in this direction.

United we continue! □

Books or bombs? Student uprisings go global!

Continued from page 1

lost an eye after being struck by a tear-gas canister fired by police in Mulhouse.

Denouncing police brutality during the protests, budget cuts and the deterioration of public services, on Oct. 19, college students from the Ecole du Louvre blocked access to the famous museum in support of the high school youth movement.

From Minneapolis to Saint Denis

In Saint Denis, a suburb north of Paris, students from the Paul Eluard High School — among the first to strike in mid-September — held a peaceful cultural event. Dakota/Boricua rapper Tufawon traveled from the U.S. to France to join the event. He shared the experience he and many others drew from the resistance to Operation Metro Surge carried out by 3,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Minneapolis this year.



Teachers and students strike in Madrid, Spain, October 2026.

Tufawon said that the youth in Saint Denis were responding to “many incidents of discrimination and injustice in the schools on the outskirts of Paris. Learning conditions are horrible. Back home, we have similar conditions with segregation in the schools, with the most marginalized communities hit the worst.

“We see the same dynamic of state repression here that we faced back home. I am always inspired by youth when they take a stand against oppression and colonialism.” (youtube.com/shorts/C7bPrQ5diFw)

Global character of protests

These protests have taken on a global character, spreading to other countries, including **Belgium, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Albania, Brazil, Argentina and Chile**. In **India**, the lack of educational opportunities has been a major focus of the youth uprising that took the name Cockroach Janta Party after government leaders used the name “cockroach” in an attempt to insult them.

In Florence, Italy, on Oct. 16 over 2,000 students from 15 schools demonstrated against government education policies under the banner of “No Meloni Day.” Palestinian flags were prominent in the crowds, as demonstrators chanted “We are all anti-fascists!” and other slogans targeting Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.



French students protesting at the Louvre Museum, Paris, Oct. 19, 2026. PHOTO: @REVPERMANENTE

(theflorentine.net, Oct. 17)

Elsewhere across Italy, youth demonstrated against education funding cuts, deteriorating school buildings, the rising cost of living and proposed restrictions on the number of foreign students in individual classrooms. The protests coincided with a children’s climate strike in Florence.

Other demonstrations took place in Rome, Turin, Genoa and Cagliari. In Milan, protests against rising living costs began peacefully but ended with riot police using teargas to disperse the crowds. Demonstrators threw paving blocks at the police, set fire to barricades made from bar tables and severely damaged a state police car. (theflorentine.net, Oct. 17)

Spiraling housing costs

In Lisbon, **Portugal’s** capital and largest city, people marched on Oct. 17 to protest rising living costs, in particular soaring housing costs, which increased by 124% between 2015 and 2024. The

General Confederation of Portuguese Workers called an earlier protest in Lisbon for better public services and pension and wage increases. Protests also took place in Porto and Coimbra.

Demonstrators set up a tent camp similar to the one established in Madrid, **Spain**, three weeks ago by protesters demanding action to address their housing crisis. (theguardian.com, Oct. 18)

Earlier in the week, teachers and students in Madrid began an indefinite strike to demand stronger public education support and an end to regional governments’ policies promoting school privatization. Tens of thousands of students emptied classrooms to protest in the streets. The strike was mobilized by a joint union front that included branches of the General Union of Workers, the Workers’ Commissions and the General Confederation of Labor. (breakthroughnews.org, Oct. 16)

Protests rocked Tirana, **Albania’s** capital, where demonstrators demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama over university conditions and high tuition. The Guardian reported that protesters threw rocks and other projectiles at police, while police fired rubber bullets on the demonstrators for the first time since earlier protests this year when the “flamingo movement” opposed attempts by Trump family members to take over protected



Protesters confront police in France, Oct. 17, 2026.

wildlife land. A court, banks and post office in Tirana were set on fire. (Oct. 17)

In **Belgium**, where secondary and university students are striking against higher university fees and educational “reforms” they argue will limit low-income families’ access to higher education, large crowds demonstrated in Brussels and Liège on Oct. 17. Cars were overturned and projectiles thrown at police who used water cannons and tear gas against protesters.

Militarization vs. social programs

In **Germany**, students protesting the austerity closely linked to rearmament and militarization are demanding no reinstitution of military conscription, along with better learning conditions in schools.

Beyond Europe, student-led actions against proposed education cuts have

broken out in Chile and Brazil and against graduate unemployment disparities in India.

Within these protests there is a common thread linking Gen Z’s opposition to military spending, especially in opposition to their governments’ support for Israeli genocide in Gaza. Many protesters are raising the slogan: “Books not Bombs!”

In a message from Saint Denis Mayor Bally Bagayoko recorded on Oct. 17, he speaks directly to the youth of the world: “I say to our friends and inhabitants of the Overseas Territories [France’s neo-colonies] that we trust them entirely, that they belong to our ranks. I also speak to the European youth and to the international youth to say: Seize this dynamic because it also belongs to you.” □



In Germany, high-school students protest the threat to reintroduce conscription. The lead banner says “The rich want war. The youth want a future.”

Colombia Nationwide strike challenges right-wing regime

By Monica Moorehead

A nationwide strike erupted Oct. 14 in at least 10 cities in Colombia just two months after the far-right government of President Abelardo de la Espriella took office.

Unions, teachers, student groups, opposition parties such as the Historical Pact, LGBTQIA+ collectives, labor unions, and Indigenous communities, filled the city streets of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, Barranquilla, Manizales, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Pereira, and Riohacha. At least 1,500 organizations were involved in the organizing.

The masses in Colombia were protesting this Trump-like president’s economic and security agenda, along with the rising cost of living, an increase in crime and violence, the rollback of social programs, limits to the right to abortion, and measures aimed at criminalizing and intimidating the right to protest. Indigenous communities protested against megaprojects and economic policies that threaten to destroy their ancestral lands.



Armed police were stationed on the top of rooftops of buildings in an attempt to intimidate the protesters.

Many of the protesters carried the Palestinian flag. This crucial solidarity gesture countered the reactionary new government, which had just announced the establishment of a Colombian Embassy in occupied Palestine. The Espriella regime’s action legitimizes the Zionist state of Israel and is a breach of international law.

How long the strike will last remains to be seen. □

National Coming Out Day Oct. 11

By Sierra Ward

Each year on October 11 all around the world we celebrate National Coming Out Day. This day reminds us all that LGBTQIA2S+ liberation isn't just a simple act of self-acceptance; it is a part of an ongoing collective struggle. From the Marxist view, the fight for queer liberation is inseparable from the broader struggle against exploitation and discrimination.

The date was chosen to commemorate the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights that was held on Oct. 11, 1987. Hundreds of thousands marched on Washington, D.C., demanding equality, an end to discrimination, equal education, support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), for action against AIDS, reproductive rights for women and an end to apartheid

in South Africa. Union leaders gave speeches, and a massive AIDS Memorial Quilt, made to honor those lost during the crisis, was shown in full for the first time.

Inspired by the solidarity, in 1988 activists Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary established National Coming Out Day on the march's anniversary. In doing so, they transformed the memory of a mass mobilization into an annual call for queer visibility and solidarity. Despite "National" in its name, National Coming Out Day is internationally observed.

Eight years prior, the First National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights took place. On October 14, 1979, tens of thousands of people marched together to demand comprehensive civil protections and an end to discrimination. It helped unite a movement that had previously been isolated in different cities



and towns across the country.

The 1987 march carried this legacy forward. Despite being eight years apart, both marches forced the demands of LGBTQIA2S+ people into the political arena.

While queer people face different conditions across the globe, most still confront police violence, economic exclusion, family rejection and even state-sponsored persecution. Coming out can challenge prejudices, and the visibility can help someone not feel so alone. It can break down that isolation and help build solidarity.

But coming out isn't equally safe for everyone, which is why days like this are needed in the first place. No one should be forced to choose between their identity and their security or between their liberation and their livelihood. This struggle cannot be separated from the material conditions people face, nor can those

conditions be eliminated by individual acceptance alone. It takes a collective effort to solve a collective problem.

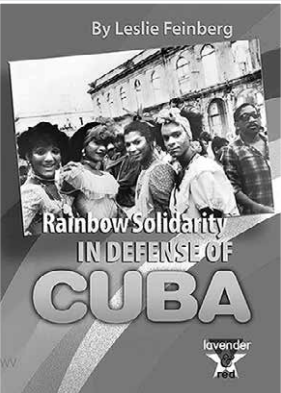
Right now in the United States, trans people are facing attacks on our access to healthcare and legal recognition. We're also facing employment discrimination and general attacks on our public lives. The attacks on gender-affirming care, legal recognition and sports/education — which affect women as a whole — are a continuation of the President Donald Trump administration's attack on marginalized groups. They must be confronted through organized resistance, mass mobilization and solidarity.

Reactionary attitudes work to divide the working class by shifting attention on oppressed groups, blaming them for the crises capitalism creates. This can only be combated by a collective effort. Unions, communist and socialist organizations, community groups and movements for social justice must firmly resist anti-LGBTQIA2S+ discrimination.

National Day of Coming Out must be viewed as more than a celebration of visibility. It must be viewed as a continuation of a radical legacy and a renewed commitment to struggle. We must continue the fight and honor the legacy of the marches of 1979 and 1987, not by just simply remembering them but by carrying their revolutionary spirit forward.

LGBTQIA2S+ liberation is a working-class struggle. We must remember our radical history and that our struggle will not end until every queer person across the globe can live with dignity, safety and freedom. □

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba



by Leslie Feinberg

This ground-breaking book is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba's pre- and post-revolutionary history.

Available, along with complete Lavender & Red series, as free download at workers.org/books.

Courthouse rally demands 'Free Cilia Flores!'

By Brenda Ryan
New York City

Protesters held a four-hour rally outside the Manhattan federal courthouse Oct. 8 in a powerful show of support for Venezuelan First Combatant Cilia Flores as her lawyers argued for her release to home detention. Chanting "Cilia fight, The people are by your side," they demanded her freedom and denounced the criminal actions of the Trump administration in invading Venezuela and kidnapping and imprisoning Flores and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

"We know that Cilia and her partner Nicolás Maduro are political prisoners. They are in jail for daring to stand up to U.S. imperialism and empire," said Larry Holmes, First Secretary of Workers World Party. "They

should not have been kidnapped. The brave Cuban and Venezuelan people who died trying to protect them is mass murder.

"We want Cilia to know that we love her, and our arms and our hearts reach out to her and surround her and protect her, and that she is not isolated. We are here in downtown New York and all over the world," he stated.

The U.S. troops abducted Maduro and Flores, his spouse and a member of the National Assembly, on Jan. 3, when they illegally attacked Venezuela and killed over 100 people. The Trump administration falsely charged them with narco-terrorism and drug trafficking.

In an application seeking her pretrial release, Flores's lawyers said she deserved to await her trial while in home confinement as she recovers from

heart surgery. They noted that her health has deteriorated during her imprisonment at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. She has suffered from chest pains, reflux and gastritis, has lost two molars and more than 25 pounds, and likely suffered a minor heart attack on July 29. She also has not received her monthly injection to manage her ongoing mitral valve prolapse. They noted that the medical team consulted by the prison has advised that she should undergo cardiac catheterization.

"Her reticence to undergo cardiac exploration and surgery only to return to the conditions which have contributed to the deterioration of her health is reasonable," a legal filing in support of her release states.

Precedents for pretrial release

The lawyers cited several cases in which judges have granted home arrest to defendants, including Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former head of the International Monetary Fund, who was charged with sexually assaulting a hotel housekeeper and Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng, who was sentenced to prison for his role in a scheme to bribe United Nations ambassadors to build a conference center in Macau.

Despite these precedents, the proposed conditions of house detention, including 24-hour armed surveillance and GPS location monitoring, and the

unprecedented nature of her case, Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein denied the request for Flores's pretrial release.

After the hearing, prosecutors lined up outside the courthouse to speak to the media. Their comments were inaudible beyond the microphones in front of them. But the chants of protesters gathered across the street were clear. Many of the protesters crossed the street carrying signs and calling for the release of Flores. News outlets then followed them back to the rally site for a press conference.

Activists who had been inside the courthouse described the proceeding. Tom Burke, of Freedom Road Socialist Organization, said that before Judge Hellerstein allowed Flores's attorney Mark Donnelly to talk about her medical condition and request for home detention, prosecutors stood up and introduced new charges against Flores and Maduro of conspiracy to commit torture of anti-government Venezuelans, including of U.S. citizens.

Burke said the judge remarked that Flores looked better than she did the first time she appeared in court, and that Donnelly replied that she had just been beaten up by U.S. military forces during her abduction and had 20 stitches across her forehead when she first appeared in court. The legal filing in support of her application for pretrial release says that

during the U.S. military invasion, Flores was thrown against a wall or dresser and suffered significant lesions on her forehead.

Willaim Camacaro of Alliance for Global Justice said the new charges against Maduro and Flores are extremely ridiculous. "Who has been torturing for decades? Who has been bombing, killing, destroying an entire planet?" The U.S. government "admits they want the oil, gold, minerals of Venezuela, the total control of all resources."

Sara Flounders, of the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) and Workers World Party, said the prosecution claimed Flores was a flight risk because Venezuela has resources even though she has been denied them.

"They make up the rules as they go along, never with any consideration of even being consistent," she told the supporters. "They want the message to go out everywhere that they're vicious, violent, vindictive. They use torture, they use abuse, they use racism and sexism. That's how they operate. And our challenge is to be there again, and again, to resist, to stand up for the political prisoners held in these horrible cages, to defend them as well and to defend every country that's resisting."

Supporters will continue to rally outside the Metropolitan Detention Center on the third day of every month to demand Maduro and Flores be released. □



New York City, Oct. 8, 2026

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Beyond profits

Why China's socialist planning will outpace U.S. tech drive

By Sara Flounders

While headlines obsess over artificial intelligence (AI) as an existential threat, a deeper story unfolds beneath the surface — advanced technology produces radically different outcomes depending on which society wields it. The real divide isn't between machines and humans — it's between profit-driven markets and strategic socialist planning that benefits billions of people rather than a few billionaires.

Infrastructure investment reveals different priorities. U.S. tech giants — Alphabet, Microsoft, Meta and Amazon — are pouring approximately \$765 billion combined into AI infrastructure this year alone, with projections suggesting it could hit \$1 trillion next year. According to [finance.yahoo.com](#) (June 3), these four “hyperscalers” will invest a combined \$5.3 trillion from fiscal year 2025 to 2030.

Yet this investment flows almost exclusively through private channels, contingent on immediate profitability for shareholders.

China takes a fundamentally different path. The Chinese government has outlined a \$295 billion commitment to build data centers over five years, complementing its broader Made in China 2025 initiative. ([bloomberg.com](#), June 9) Since 2014, state-led semiconductor investment has exceeded \$150 billion — roughly triple what the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act earmarked, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

This isn't about quarterly returns; it's about long-term national development.

When infrastructure decisions serve public rather than private imperatives, the beneficiaries multiply by leaps and bounds. In the U.S. capitalist system, profits concentrate among tech executives and venture capitalists. In China's model, technological advancement functions as public infrastructure — comparable to electrification in the 20th century or internet expansion in the 1990s.

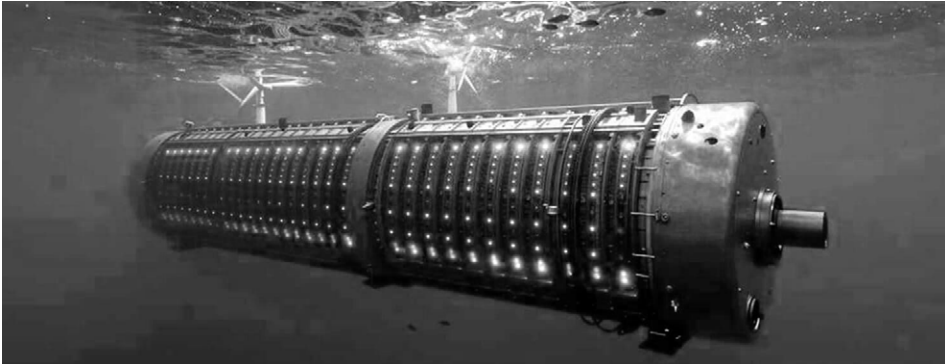
Rare earth mastery: education as strategic foundation

Rare earth magnets power everything from wind turbines to data center cooling systems. China controls roughly 60% of global mining and 90% of refining capacity. But the advantage extends deeper than resource extraction — it's embedded in skilled human labor power development itself.

According to a Reuters investigation (May 31), at least 11 Chinese universities run dedicated rare earth degree programs,

with specialized curricula covering the entire supply chain from processing to magnet manufacturing.

Keith Bradsher, Beijing bureau chief for the New York Times, reports that China also maintains 39 universities with programs to train engineers and researchers



AI rendition of China's offshore, wind-powered, underwater data facility.

for the rare earths industry. Meanwhile, Bradsher notes, the U.S. offers no comparable undergraduate degrees anywhere.

When technology becomes embedded in education itself, it creates generational advantages that market fluctuations cannot erode. China has built an ecosystem of more than 40 specialist rare-earth laboratories producing cutting-edge research, creating a knowledge infrastructure that sustains China's position regardless of individual company performance.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is projecting rare earth plants faster than it is building rare earth engineers.

Underwater innovation: When coordination trumps markets

Out of 32 countries that host AI data centres, around 90% of these facilities are located in China and the United States, according to a U.N. report. ([tinyurl.com/e9t8t7mf](#))

Both China and the United States aim to be market leaders in AI and other complex computing operations. While many U.S.-based data centers are powered by fossil fuels, such as gas, China is increasingly looking to transition to green energy to meet its power needs, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and boost energy security over the coming decades. ([tinyurl.com/4uwys2ep](#))

In June 2026, China officially inaugurated the Shanghai Lingang Underwater Data Center, the world's first offshore, wind-powered, underwater data facility. Built with \$238 million in combined investment by HighCloud Technology Team and the state-owned China Communications Construction Company,

the project will install 24-megawatt server units 10 meters beneath the ocean surface. By deploying beneath seawater, the facility eliminates traditional HVAC cooling needs entirely. Connected directly to offshore wind farms just kilometers away, the center achieves near-zero fresh water

consumption while delivering data to Shanghai in just 0.5 milliseconds.

Microsoft pioneered underwater data centers through Project NATIC off Scotland's coast in 2020, testing nitrogen-filled pressure vessels at 117 feet depth. Despite successful trials, the tech giant abandoned further deployment. Why? Because underwater infrastructure doesn't fit neatly into quarterly return models — it requires long-term coordination between energy policy, maritime zoning and computational demand that market actors rarely prioritize. ([emergege.com](#), May 21, 2025)

As one analyst noted in Scientific American coverage (July 2025), the difference is that a company can "springboard toward large-scale deployments of offshore, wind-powered, undersea data centers with the support of the Chinese government."

Remote clean energy: Geographic logic versus real estate markets

China's data center expansion follows geographic logic rooted in resource availability, not real estate speculation. Eight designated hubs span western regions — Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Gansu, Xinjiang — where renewable energy abundance meets sparse population density. Under the National "East-West Computing Strategy," all new data centers in these hubs must source at least 80% of electricity from clean/green sources such as solar and wind.

The scale demonstrates coordinated planning; a pilot data center in remote Qinghai operates fully on a solar micro-grid. In northern China's desert regions, facilities connect to 500 megawatts of

solar and 1.5 gigawatts of wind power.

According to Bloomberg reporting from 2023, some 225 similar solar and wind projects will add 455 gigawatts of capacity by decade's end.

Contrast this with profit decisions in the U.S. In May 2026, Goldman Sachs Research forecast U.S. data center power demand jumping from 31 gigawatts in 2025 to 66 GW by 2027 — a 113% increase in just two years. Northern Virginia's "Data Center Alley" strains local utilities, with data centers' share of peak summer demand climbing from 4.1% to 5.3% in 2026, threatening grid stability.

Driving data center construction primarily through a short-term profit motive is leading to severe environmental and economic risks and rising anger at the staggering cost and impact to surrounding communities. The threat is real: massive energy consumption, water depletion, pollution and noise, along with tax breaks only to wealthy investors. Underneath this is the growing fear of speculative, AI-driven overbuilding of more than 5,000 projected data centers. This can leave communities with massive, underutilized infrastructure if tech demand shifts or companies abandon facilities.

Perhaps most revealing is the cost differential: China's underwater data centers cost less than half of what comparable land-based facilities, according to Inside China Business. Savings come not from cheaper materials but from integrated planning, where seawater eliminates cooling costs and offshore wind avoids transmission losses.

The choice ahead

The question isn't whether AI will arrive. It already has. The question is whether we accept a future where technological progress serves only those who can afford it or whether we demand systems where innovation strengthens communities broadly.

Throughout history, technological breakthroughs have disrupted social relations built around older systems. The steam engine dismantled artisanal crafts. The automobile transformed urban geography. Each transition generated anxiety — and opportunity. AI represents no fundamental departure from this pattern.

What matters is not whether machines become intelligent, but whose interests those machines serve. In a profit-maximizing system, automation displaces workers without regard for community stability. In a socially-planned economy, technological deployment considers labor absorption, regional equity and long-term human development.

China's infrastructure push demonstrates that technology need not follow market demands alone.

This technology is changing rapidly and globally. What is sustainable is still being tested. What is already observable is that different systems produce different outcomes.

As we are at this technological turning point, one lesson is clear. Advanced technology always arrives embedded within social relations. The task ahead isn't just mastering machines — it's understanding and choosing which social relations deserve mastery. Billions of people can benefit from deliberate planning decisions rather than watching a handful of billionaires capture the rewards of collective technological advancement. □

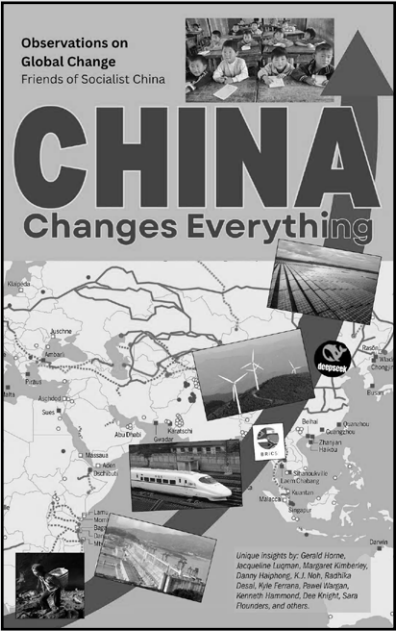
Audiobook available: 'China Changes Everything'

By Sue Harris

At the third annual Socialist China Conference in London on the weekend of Oct. 10-11, experts and activists said, “China’s peaceful rise, its contribution to the Global South, and its vision of a shared future for humanity deserve to be better understood and promoted in the West.”

In service of this goal, Friends of Socialist China produced an audiobook based on the published book “China Changes Everything.” Like the print book, the audiobook features the talks of 33 social activists, journalists and commentators covering all aspects of Chinese life, from its healthcare system to its transit system to its educational system, from the Chinese role in preventing global warming to the restoration of Africa’s economy, from Chinese relations with the West to efforts to maintain a peaceful world.

The audiobook is available as a podcast on YouTube. The results are a visually beautiful display of pictures of the 33 speakers with small descriptions of each one and a clear and inspiring rendition of each talk. To listen, visit [youtube.com/@World_View_Forum/podcasts](#). □



We are all Jane Doe! Smash the patriarchy!

The struggle against rape culture is, at the moment, focused on Cornell University. There a rape survivor filed a lawsuit in September accusing the university, the chapter of the Chi Phi fraternity, seven individual fraternity members accused of raping her and other parties of negligence, breach of contract and failure to protect.

Supporters of the survivor, referred to as “Jane Doe” to protect her privacy, have held demonstrations on the Cornell campus and in a number of other locations. Protest signs include the message “We are all Jane Doe!”

The suit stems from a 2024 incident where the student, while drugged and highly intoxicated, was raped by the seven Chi Phi members. Outrageously, members of the fraternity advertised the survivor’s availability on SnapChat; not one of its over 50 members who saw the post attempted to prevent the rapes from taking place.

Cornell downplayed the sexual assaults from beginning to end; some of the seven perpetrators were not even expelled.

This sharply contrasts with how pro-Palestine students have been treated by school administrations across the country. Simply for demonstrating or speaking out, they have been suspended, expelled, arrested, attacked by police, accused of antisemitism and more.

Right wing blames the victims

Now right-wingers on social media have doxxed Jane Doe and are attempting to make her legal name public. Under unimaginable pressure, Doe withdrew from Cornell.

This incident is not exceptional or

isolated. Quite the opposite. Rape culture, often referred to as toxic masculinity, is pervasive on college and university campuses and in society at large. Surveys show that one in five women have experienced completed or attempted rape (nsvrc.org), and nearly half have experienced some form of sexual violence. (cdc.gov, Dec. 17, 2025) About four in five women have suffered sexual harassment! Women of color are particularly vulnerable.



Demonstration in solidarity with sexual assault survivors, Washington, D.C., Oct. 8, 2026.

Nor is this situation new; a 1957 survey showed one in five women on college campuses were victims of rape or attempted rape. Things have not improved almost 70 years later!

Toxic masculinity, which would be discouraged in a society focused on human needs, is ingrained in a vast majority of

men across all social backgrounds before they even reach adulthood. The dehumanization of women and gender-oppressed people is normalized. Capitalist society desensitizes men and boys to the fact that a sexual assault victim is a living human being who should not be treated like a mere object available for their pleasure.

Survivors are put on the defensive. If they press legal charges and confront their rapist in court, they are the ones who

Outside the realm of academia, one need only look to the mistreatment of scores of women and girls who endured unspeakable sexual abuse by predator Jeffrey Epstein. In a wide range of circumstances, rape survivors are displaying incredible courage.

Why is misogyny the norm?

There have been commentaries in the media eloquently decrying the toxic rape culture that has normalized sexual assault — which is all too common. But these commentaries don’t ask, let alone answer, a fundamental question: Why? Why is misogyny so prevalent?

The oppression of women and gender-oppressed people has economic origins. As Friedrich Engels explained in the classic Marxist work, “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State,” for most of human history human relations were cooperative and based on equality. The patriarchy only emerged with the transition from pre-class society to private property.

The class roots of patriarchy have to be understood if humanity is ever to put an end to it. Misogyny can only be abolished when the class that profits from it, using it to keep workers divided, is abolished by the working class and oppressed people.

Capitalism is a dying system in its final stage of existence. When it is finally pushed into the dustbin of history, a socialist society will begin the process of eradicating sexism and all forms of oppression that the capitalist class upholds.

Smash the patriarchy! We are all Jane Doe! □

Ukraine: Whose side should you be on?

Why has Workers World often used the words “proxy war” to describe the nearly five years of warfare between Russia and Ukraine? It’s because the Ukrainian soldiers are serving the interests of NATO imperialism. That is, they fight to advance the interests of the ruling class of the European Union (EU) and the U.S.

To make sure Ukraine keeps fighting, the U.S. government at first and EU governments now have been financing the Ukrainian side of the war. They supply the weapons and provide intelligence for the Kiev regime to launch drone attacks on the Russian lines and on Russia itself.

It was the U.S. secret service and diplomatic intervention that brought about a “color revolution” in 2013-14 that overthrew the government of Ukraine, which had normal — even friendly — diplomatic and trade relations with Moscow. The overthrow replaced that government with a regime backed by all sorts of reactionary chauvinist anti-Russian groups, including pro-fascist groups.

This took place during the second Obama administration. It was carried out by a Democratic Party government and also had the support of the Republican Party. The officials of both imperialist parties agreed to try to weaken Russia to more easily exploit its resources.

Part of this strategy was to expand the NATO military alliance ever further eastward. Even some of the Baltic states, which were once part of the Soviet Union, joined

NATO. Western troops, bases and war exercises were moving ever closer to the Russian border. Ukraine was considered for NATO membership.

In February 2022, after giving many warnings that it considered NATO’s expansion an existential threat, Moscow ordered the Russian military to intervene. Then, when an agreement to end the fighting seemed imminent in March 2022, the Biden administration sabotaged it.

NATO’s proxy war against Russia in Ukraine is imperialist aggression aimed to serve the interests of the superrich and no one else.

Capitalist media’s flood of lies

The ruling class media and most politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties — both pro-imperialist parties representing the interests of the ruling class centered in the U.S. — present a false narrative about the proxy war between Ukraine and Russia.

Since that same corporate media lies about the U.S. war on Iran and the Israeli genocide of Palestinians, and about Cuba and Venezuela, not to mention China, it should be no surprise that they also spew out torrents of lies about Ukraine and Russia. Mainly they demonize Russian President Vladimir Putin, and they make the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, elected in 2019 and who has sus-

pending any further elections, into a pristine hero. Before he was elected president in 2019, Zelensky was known in Ukraine as a successful actor and comedian.

His main experience in politics was that he played a president on Ukrainian TV from 2015-19.

Don’t be confused by Trump’s machinations!

What might confuse the issue for people in the U.S. is that President #47 makes public statements hostile to Zelensky. #47 is a warmonger who is also racist, anti-migrant, anti-women, anti-LGBTQIA2S+ and has an economic program that wrecks the lives of workers.

Thus, it is easy to make the assumption that if #47 is hostile to someone, that someone must be doing something right. In Zelensky’s case, that assumption leads to a gross error. He has little choice but to hand over what’s left of Ukraine’s wealth — farm land, mineral resources — to Western imperialist interests, and he does this by sacrificing Ukrainian lives.

NATO expansion led to this extended war in Ukraine. The regimes controlling the major EU countries have acted as warmongers. They have painted Russia as a military threat to them to justify the biggest military expansion of those countries since World War II. They have cut social benefits won over decades by the West European working class and have goaded the workers and all the youth into rebellions in many EU countries.

The people in the EU countries are beginning to rebel against the decline in their social support and in their basic wages that have been made worse by the expansion of military costs. The Oct. 17 battles in France gave the strongest example.

The people of the U.S. — whose attention is more focused these days upon the failed U.S. war against Iran and the Israeli genocide against Palestinians and the costs of those wars — must see that the aggression against Russia is in the same category and battle to end the war. It is aggression aimed to serve the interests of the superrich and no one else. □

Why does #47's vendetta vs. Rep. Ilhan Omar continue?

By Monica Moorehead

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), executed a warrant to search the Washington, D.C., residence of Representative Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) on Oct. 12. According to reports, the agents were looking for “evidence of fraud and false statements in her immigration paperwork.”

Eyewitnesses in the neighborhood stated that they noticed boxes being removed from her home. Also, neighbors heard loud knocking by the agents at Omar's house at 4 a.m. that Monday morning. She was not there.

Omar's sister, Sahra Noor, and one other family member received a subpoena to appear before a grand jury. When learning about the search of her home, Omar criticized #47, saying it was his goal “to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement.” (Washington Post, Oct. 12)

Attorneys for Omar sent a letter to the Justice Department stating that the search of her residence “violates Representative Omar's constitutional rights and threatens the separation of powers” because the search was motivated by #47 attack on her. (Washington Post, Oct. 16) The lawyers are also demanding that all the boxes taken from her home be immediately returned.

Ilhan Omar was born in Somalia and was nine years old when her family moved to the U.S. and became legal citizens. DHS is investigating whether Omar's late father falsified certain information in his

immigration papers.

She was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018, winning Minnesota's 5th Congressional District race. Minnesota is home to the largest



Somali street fair, Minneapolis

Somali migrant community in the U.S. with a population of over 61,000.

A history of racist, sexist hostility

The current White House occupant has expressed utter disdain for Omar beginning with his first term in office and currently. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand why. She is not a revolutionary socialist, but while not an official member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), she does identify as a

democratic socialist. She has supported Medicare for All and has condemned the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

The main reasons for #47's hatred of Omar is that she is a woman who comes

from Somalia — which he has dismissed as a “non-country.” This is the same Somalia, located in the Horn of Africa, whose population opposed the U.S. invasion there (1992-94), carried out under the guise of “humanitarian aid.”

This latest political attack on Omar is part of #47's xenophobic, fascistic war on migrants, especially migrants of color from the Global South. And because Omar won her congressional seat due to the mass support of the Somali community, Minneapolis

was targeted by ICE earlier this year, leading to the murders of Renée Good and Alex Pretti for defending migrants.

If #47 had his way, every Somali would be detained and deported back to their home country. Fortunately, the nonmigrant Minneapolis residents have shown broad solidarity with their migrant siblings by organizing watch squads that warn people when ICE has invaded their neighborhoods.

The right to self-determination is primary

The recent development involving Ilhan Omar goes much deeper than the need to defend one individual. It is not about supporting her as a Democratic politician — her party, just like the Republican Party, represents racism, war and the interests of the billionaire ruling class.

One cannot separate Ilhan Omar from the Somali community that voted her as their representative — which is their right. Minnesota's Somalis have always defended her when she has come under attack. The DHS and its armed apparatus, ICE, are extensions of the repressive state, aimed at targeting migrants. The Somali migrants are among the most oppressed within our class because of divide-and-conquer white supremacy.

In order to forge working-class unity to strengthen our class for the anti-capitalist struggle, every revolutionary movement must defend the fundamental right to self-determination of an oppressed people, including the right to vote for representation, which is under constant assault by the imperialist bourgeoisie. □

Midterm madness and fraudulent elections

By Jim McMahan

The midterm elections are coming up on Nov. 3. The elections cover all members of the House of Representatives, 33 members of the Senate, a majority of governors' seats, and multiple state and local representatives.

Workers are always told the elections are part of the democratic process. But it's hard to believe that the working class holds any real power in a system where billionaires like Trump and Musk own and control most of the wealth. They then make most of society's economic decisions. The workers become spectators while being talked down to by elitist candidates.

It's important to affirm workers' and oppressed peoples' right to vote, which was achieved by many struggles, especially national liberation movements, across the world. Struggles that won the right to vote include bourgeois democratic but also socialist revolutions where the workers actually seized power. Not the least of them was the Civil War in the U.S., followed by the period of Reconstruction, but this remains an unfinished revolution.

The problem with the elections is that under capitalism they are always controlled by big business — big money. The politicians are forced to answer to their fat-cat donors. The establishment candidates dole out taxpayer money for things such as weapons contracts, war in West Asia, transportation money for highway contractors, etc.

Elected officials in both parties do this. But to only blame the Democrats and Republicans for the injustices of the system is to come up short in analyzing the

elections. In the struggle against racism and war it is essential to attack the war corporations like Boeing and Amazon.

The ruling class spreads its money to both big business parties. Even ultra-right Republican President Donald Trump used to be a Democrat, because his real estate empire was based in New York City, a Democratic Party stronghold.

A vote against Trump

Many workers will vote in the midterms to protest Trump and his minions' policies of cutbacks, racism, bigotry and war — especially his quagmire in West Asia. His deployment of ICE goon squads against immigrant workers is opening another class war at home. A vote against Trump's pals in Congress would be very welcome and show the maturity of the working class.

The Trump government could lose control of the House and the Senate. Yet with a \$1 billion dollar war chest, the Republicans could outspend the Democrats on air time in the closing weeks before Nov. 3.

In any case, working people need to realize that the current war in West Asia began with former President Joe Biden's genocidal war against Palestine. Democrats in Congress have been exposed time and again for not really being against Trump's policies.

The two parties of big business always work to quash or at least tone down any working-class struggle or opposition to capitalism. Their leading candidates call their opponents names and engage in personal attacks, debasing the political struggle. Opposition to imperialist wars is usually muted, even though these wars are on the cutting edge of the workers'

world struggles. Capitalist candidates prefer to discuss worker exploitation with terms like “affordability.”

Both parties uphold capitalism

So is there a dime's worth of difference between the Democratic Party's base and the Republicans? They both represent the same class interests. But it needs to be recognized that the Democratic Party is made up of workers, and there are many workers of color, immigrants, women and gender-oppressed people, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+ people and union members in the organization. The ranks of the Republicans tend to be more privileged and very bigoted.

The Republican Party specializes in using racism, sexism and anti-LGBTQIA2S+ bigotry — shown in horrendous anti-trans and anti-migrant campaign ads — to keep workers divided.

Nevertheless, both the Democrats and Republicans have a history of nearly 200 years of promoting or at least not challenging white supremacy, instigating imperialist wars and many corruption scandals. They're not going to change.

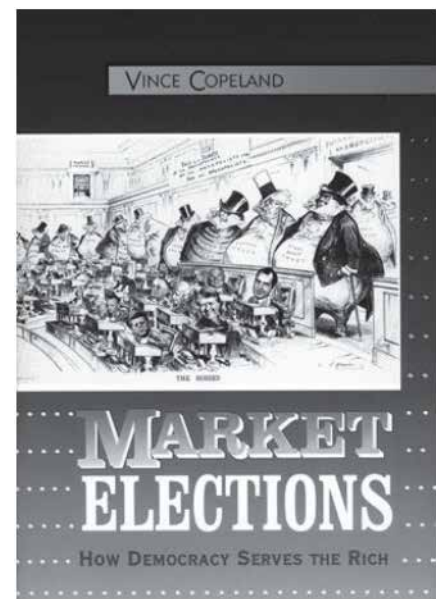
The twin parties of the bourgeoisie have a long, sordid history of making false promises. It gets ugly. Their candidates are professional opportunists. They'll stand in the limelight and grab lots of media credit for a reform they didn't have anything to do with. The working class has been frustrated and burned from one generation to the next by big business politicians and parties who promise them the moon but don't do a thing to get to the goal.

Since most of the young generation is open to and friendly to socialism and class struggle, the Democratic Socialists of America have gotten on the ballot, put out

a progressive program and even won elections. While their leadership is certainly not revolutionary, their party is a strong indication of acceptance of socialism.

Although bourgeois elections are held to derail the class struggle, the working class can intervene. With Trump gallivanting around the country to speak at rallies, his speeches are being disrupted. Candidates' forums or appearances of any establishment candidates can be protested, but protesters must go beyond boosting one bourgeois party over another.

Workers World Party has had a great history of running candidates with a revolutionary platform in a number of states. Whether or not the party participates in elections by running candidates, we will always reach out to workers and oppressed people with an unapologetically anti-capitalist program. □



Go to workers.org/books to download a PDF copy of this book.



Huelga general en Colombia contra el nuevo presidente pro imperialista. 14 de octubre de 2026 en Bogotá.

¿Por qué continúa la venganza contra Ilhan Omar?

COMENTARIO DE WW/MO

Por Monica Moorehead

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), que incluye al Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE), ejecutó una orden de registro en la residencia de la diputada Ilhan Omar (demócrata por Minnesota) en Washington, D.C., el 12 de octubre. Según los informes, los agentes buscaban «pruebas de fraude y declaraciones falsas en su documentación de inmigración».

Testigos presenciales del barrio afirmaron que vieron cómo se sacaban cajas de su vivienda. Además, los vecinos oyeron fuertes golpes en la puerta de la casa de la Sra. Omar a las 4 de la madrugada de ese lunes. Ella no se encontraba allí.

La hermana de la Sra. Omar, Sahra Noor, y otro miembro de la familia recibieron una citación para comparecer ante un gran jurado. Al enterarse del registro de su domicilio, Omar criticó al n.º 47, afirmando que su objetivo era «atacar a sus enemigos políticos y utilizar las fuerzas del orden federales como arma». (Washington Post, 12 de octubre)

Los abogados de Omar enviaron una carta al Departamento de Justicia en la que afirman que el registro de su residencia «viola los derechos constitucionales de la congresista Omar y amenaza la separación de poderes», debido a que dicha diligencia estuvo motivada por un ataque en su contra por parte del «número 47». (Washington Post, 16 de octubre). Los abogados exigen, además, la devolución inmediata de todas las cajas que fueron retiradas de su domicilio.

Ilhan Omar nació en Somalia y tenía 12 años cuando su familia se trasladó a EE.UU. y obtuvo la ciudadanía. El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) está investigando si el difunto

padre de Omar falsificó cierta información en sus documentos de inmigración.

Fue elegida por primera vez para la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados



Feria callejera somalí, Minneapolis

FOTO: SAHANJOURNAL.COM

Unidos en 2018, al ganar las elecciones en el 5.º distrito congresional de Minnesota. Minnesota alberga la mayor comunidad de inmigrantes somalíes de los Estados Unidos, con una población de más de 61.000 personas.

Un historial de hostilidad racista y sexista

El actual inquilino de la Casa Blanca ha expresado un desprecio absoluto hacia Omar desde su primer mandato hasta la actualidad. No hace falta ser un genio para entender por qué. Ella no es una socialista revolucionaria, pero, aunque no es miembro oficial de los Socialistas Democráticos de América (DSA), sí se identifica como socialista democrática. Ha apoyado el

«Medicare para todos» y ha condenado el genocidio israelí en Gaza.

Las principales razones del odio del n.º 47 hacia Omar son que es una mujer

procedente de Somalia —país al que él ha descartado como un «no-país»—. Se trata de la misma Somalia, situada en el Cuerno de África, cuya población se opuso a la invasión estadounidense en ese país (1992-94), llevada a cabo bajo el pretexto de la «ayuda humanitaria».

Este último ataque político contra Omar forma parte de la guerra xenófoba y fascista del n.º 47 contra los migrantes, especialmente contra los migrantes de color procedentes del Sur Global. Y dado que Omar ganó su escaño en el Congreso gracias al apoyo masivo de la comunidad somalí, Minneapolis fue blanco de ICE a principios de este año, lo que condujo a los asesinatos de Renée Good y Alex Pretti

por defender a los migrantes.

Si el n.º 47 se saliera con la suya, todos los somalíes serían detenidos y deportados de vuelta a su país de origen. Afortunadamente, los residentes no migrantes de Minneapolis han mostrado una amplia solidaridad con sus hermanos migrantes organizando grupos de vigilancia que alertan a la gente cuando el ICE ha invadido sus barrios.

El derecho a la autodeterminación es primordial

Los recientes acontecimientos relacionados con Ilhan Omar van mucho más allá de la necesidad de defender a una sola persona. No se trata de apoyarla como política demócrata: su partido, al igual que el Partido Republicano, representa el racismo, la guerra y los intereses de la clase dominante multimillonaria.

No se puede separar a Ilhan Omar de la comunidad somalí que la eligió como su representante —lo cual es su derecho. Los somalíes de Minnesota siempre la han defendido cuando ha sido objeto de ataques. El DHS y su aparato armado, el ICE, son extensiones del Estado represivo, cuyo objetivo es perseguir a los migrantes. Los migrantes somalíes se encuentran entre los más oprimidos de nuestra clase debido a la estrategia de «divide y vencerás» de la supremacía blanca.

Con el fin de forjar la unidad de la clase trabajadora y fortalecer así a nuestra clase para la lucha anticapitalista, todo movimiento revolucionario debe defender el derecho fundamental a la autodeterminación de un pueblo oprimido, incluido el derecho a votar para elegir a sus representantes, derecho que se ve constantemente amenazado por la burguesía imperialista. □

¡Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje a la China socialista!

El 1 de octubre marca el 77.º aniversario de la fundación de la República Popular China. Diez días antes, el 21 de septiembre de 1949, el líder chino Mao Zedong pronunció el discurso de apertura ante la Conferencia Consultiva Política del Pueblo Chino. Declaró que «la gran mayoría del pueblo chino ha logrado su liberación» y que «el pueblo chino, que constituye una cuarta parte de la humanidad, se ha puesto en pie». (marxists.org)

Hoy, en 2026, los logros de China han asombrado al mundo. Antes de la Revolución, menos del 20% de la población sabía leer y escribir; ahora, la tasa de alfabetización se sitúa en el 95%. Antes de 1949, la pobreza extrema estaba generalizada y las hambrunas ocurrían con frecuencia. Sin embargo, la China socialista ha erradicado la pobreza extrema para 800 millones de personas.

En el libro *China Changes Everything* (China lo cambia todo), Sara Flounders señala: «Los trabajadores chinos han tendido decenas de miles de millas de vías férreas de alta velocidad que conectan 500

ciudades chinas y que siguen expandiéndose para conectar con países vecinos. Mientras tanto, en Estados Unidos, los ferrocarriles tanto de carga como de pasajeros están en declive». Los empleos ferroviarios en EE.UU. se ven amenazados a medida que las compañías ferroviarias se fusionan y recortan gastos. (iacenter.org)

Flounders también destaca: «Una parte significativa de la educación superior gratuita en China pone énfasis en las disciplinas STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas), graduando a unos 3,5 millones de profesionales en estas áreas cada año. Esta cifra es aproximadamente diez veces mayor que la de las instituciones educativas de Estados Unidos. Un alto nivel de cualificación y una educación avanzada son esenciales para desenvolverse en el mundo actual».

Las mujeres, brutalmente oprimidas en la antigua China patriarcal, constituyen ahora una gran parte de estos graduados.

Las credenciales «verdes» de China no tienen parangón. Global Energy Monitor

informó en 2024 que «China alberga casi dos tercios de la capacidad mundial de energía solar y eólica a gran escala que se encuentra actualmente en construcción». GEM informó que «China añadió casi el doble de capacidad de energía solar y eólica a escala de servicios públicos en 2023 que en cualquier otro año. Para el primer trimestre de 2024, la capacidad total de energía solar y eólica a escala de servicios públicos de China alcanzó los 758 GW [gigavatios], aunque los datos del Consejo de Electricidad de China sitúan la capacidad total —incluida la solar distribuida— en 1.120 GW. La energía eólica y solar representan ahora el 37% de la capacidad eléctrica total del país, un aumento del 8% respecto a 2022, y se espera ampliamente que superen en 2024 a la capacidad del carbón, que actualmente constituye el 39% del total». (globalenergymonitor.org, julio de 2024)

Mientras las empresas capitalistas de inteligencia artificial venden la nueva tecnología como un medio para eliminar trabajadores, China ofrece su IA al mundo como un medio para mejorar la calidad de vida.

China ha expresado su solidaridad con Irán y Cuba en medio de la hostilidad del imperialismo estadounidense hacia ambos países. También ha proporcionado tecnología vital a países subdesarrollados, especialmente en África.

En aquel mismo discurso de 1949, Mao afirmó que los antiguos gobernantes imperialistas de China «sin duda se dedicarán al sabotaje y a provocar disturbios de una forma u otra, y tratarán de volver al poder a cada instante». Esto sigue siendo cierto 77 años después. China ha logrado muchísimo a pesar de décadas de hostilidad militar y guerra económica; Estados Unidos ni siquiera reconoció a la República Popular China hasta 1979.

Hay mucho más que podríamos decir. ¿Qué hace posibles los logros de China, que van más allá de los de los países capitalistas más desarrollados? El hecho de que China es un país socialista, donde el bienestar de las masas prima sobre los beneficios de un puñado de multimillonarios.

¡Mundo Obrero saluda los 77 años de construcción socialista en China! □

editorial