

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



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Is the battle with Trump over? What's next for the working class

By Sharon Black

November is Native American Heritage Month. It should not be lost on anyone that 97 percent of the Navajo Nation in Arizona voted against Donald Trump. That fact should be recognized as we get closer to the National Day of Mourning (the so-called Thanksgiving holiday) and pay homage to the Indigenous people's struggle.

There is little doubt that the more than 77 million people who voted against Trump, for the most part, saw their vote as a referendum against racism and all the forms of reactionary bigotry that Trump had unleashed during his presidency. It was a repudiation of the far-right and fascist groups that Trump had stoked, from the killings of immigrants in El Paso, Texas, to support of the tiki torch Nazi sympathizers in Charlottesville, Va.

What's more remarkable is that this took place under one of the most anti-democratic forms of bourgeois democracy in the world — a system based on the Electoral College, which was created to supersede the popular vote and give power to the slavocracy in the Southern U.S. states, and which remains in place today.

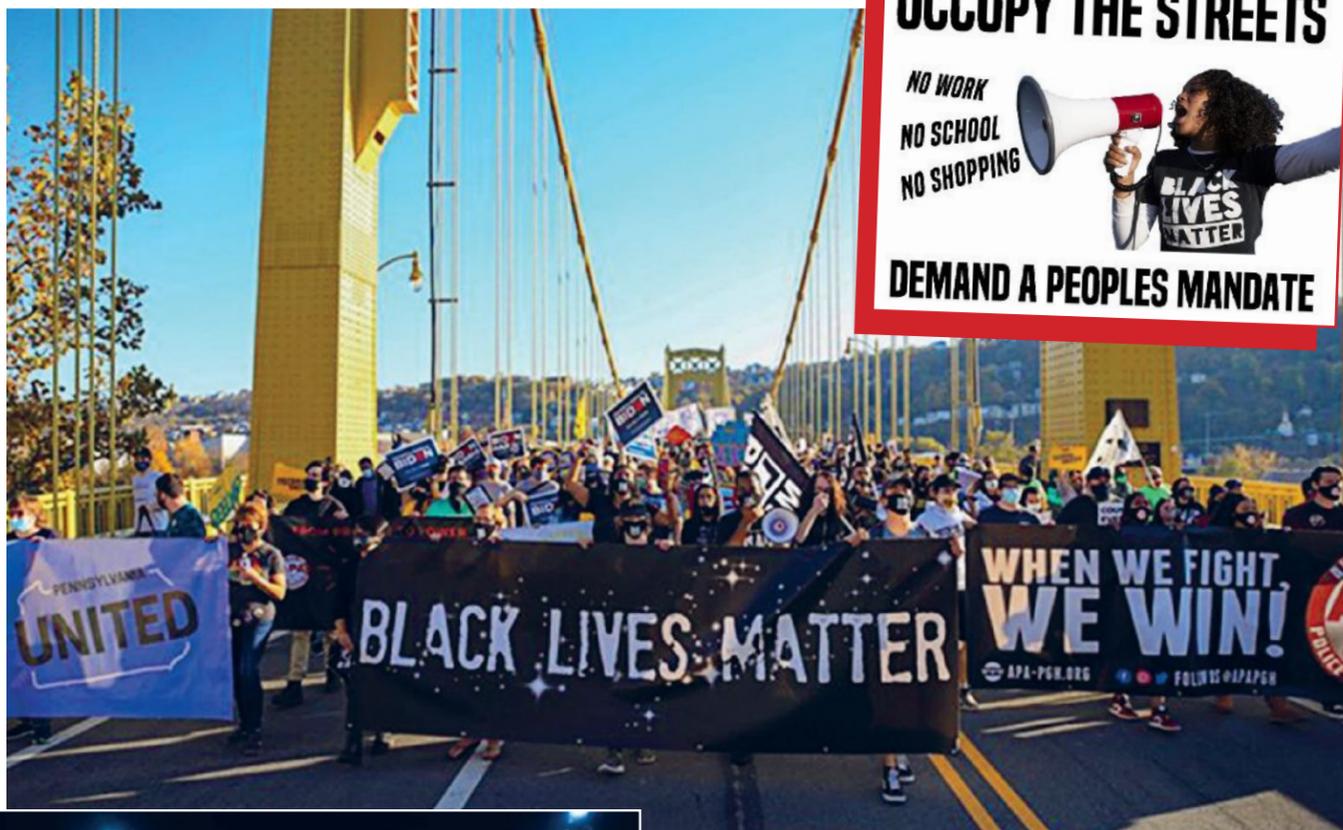
Millions of people cannot vote at all. This includes people jailed and languishing in the U.S. mass incarceration system; people who previously served time in prison; over 12 million undocumented immigrant workers; many seniors and Black and Brown people who were disenfranchised and unable to vote because of threats and physical barriers; and youth between 16 and 18. (In socialist Cuba, all youth are eligible to vote when they turn 16.)

In addition, you can add the billions of working and poor people around the world whose lives are impacted daily by brutal U.S. sanctions, whose children die of malnutrition because of imperialist economic theft or directly from Pentagon drones and bombs, who should have some kind of say over who heads the most criminal imperialist empire.

Shouldn't the world's youth be heard on how to solve the climate crisis and the burning of the planet, instead of the U.S. billionaires and bankers who head a global system of exploitation?

To sum it up, as told by one worker to another:

"When I was a union rep, the company appointed an especially abusive



March on 10th Street Bridge in Pittsburgh, Nov. 7.



Minneapolis march faced mass arrests, Nov. 4.

manager. She discriminated on job assignments and told workers they couldn't speak Spanish on the job. We filed a lot of grievances, had some slowdowns, and she got fired. The whole shop celebrated.

"No one thought we wouldn't be exploited anymore, that there would be no more layoffs and cutbacks and abuse, that the new boss would be on our side. And maybe some higher-ups didn't like her either, because they thought she was hurting productivity. But it was a victory that gave the workers more confidence to fight. It strengthened the union. It's kind of like that."

As Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin explained, elections are a kind of barometer of the mood of the people, even though they incline in a conservative direction in the service of the class that rules. After all, the capitalist state, including its elections, belongs to the billionaire ruling class.

Is the battle with Trump over?

It would be wise for the working class to "keep our powder dry."

On Nov. 9, Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper and several other high-ranking Pentagon officials. Esper had clashed with Trump over the use of military troops in dealing with protests. His replacement, Christopher C. Miller, is a former Army Green Beret who served

as the top counterterrorism policy official in the National Security Council in the Trump White House.

Then, on Nov. 11, the Pentagon confirmed that retired Army Col. Douglas Macgregor will become the senior advisor to Acting Secretary of Defense Miller. Macgregor once called for the use of lethal force against undocumented immigrants and is credited with a litany of racist comments.

In addition, on Nov. 14, Trump supporters have called for a rally at Washington, D.C.'s Freedom Plaza called the "Million MAGA March." It's sponsored by Stop the Steal — one of the pro-Trump groups trying to overturn the election results. The white supremacist Proud Boys have announced their intention to mobilize for this rally.

There is no need to go over all of the different scenarios that could attempt to reverse the election or create chaos in the period between now and Inau-

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Lil Wayne's support of Trump: a Black communist responds

By Russ Mack

On Oct. 29, New Orleans-born rap icon Lil Wayne announced his support for Donald Trump's reelection campaign in a Twitter post that included a photo of himself grinning and making a thumbs-up for the camera alongside the president.

Wayne, now 38, has been a fixture in the hip-hop scene since signing to Cash Money Records at the age of 14 and joins the ranks of 50 Cent, Ice Cube and Kanye West as the latest in a string of high-profile Black (and interestingly, male) musicians to associate themselves with the oppressive regime.

The tweet was met with praise from Trump supporters and scorn from those disappointed in the rapper for selling out.

Among the Twitter backlash for Lil Wayne's support of Trump was a series of responses from notable Chicago-based communist and rapper Noname. One reads: "Until black celebs change their love of capital, they'll always stifle the revolutionary potential of the people. The system (capitalism) that kills working-class black folks is the same system that makes black celebs rich! They'll never denounce capitalism." 📖



Chicago-based communist and rapper Noname.

Killer cop sues Breonna Taylor's boyfriend

By Lev Koufax

On Oct. 30, the attorney for one of the police officers who murdered Breonna Taylor announced that his client had filed a lawsuit against Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker.

Jonathan Mattingly was part of a squad of Louisville stormtroopers who raided Taylor and Walker's apartment in the middle of the night last March 13. The violent raid was a product of a "no knock warrant." This allowed the cops to enter Taylor's apartment without announcing themselves. What came next was a brutal scene, which included another officer spray-firing into the couple's apartment.

When the police gang initially entered the apartment, Kenneth Walker couldn't tell who was breaking into his apartment. There was no way for him to know anything except for the fact that several armed men were in his home firing weapons and deploying stun grenades.

In self-defense, Walker fired a warning shot with the intent of wounding the invaders. His shot struck Mattingly in the leg. When the exchange ended, the police had fired over 30 times and Breonna Taylor lay dying. Walker fired just



Breonna Taylor and Kenneth Walker

once. Only one of these officers was charged with any crime, and that charge was not for Taylor's murder.

Walker had the presence of mind to do something that the terrorist shock troops would never think to do — fire to wound and not kill. Nevertheless, he was arrested and charged with attempted murder. It took two months for this outrageous

charge to be dropped.

In the aftermath of the raid and his girlfriend's death, Walker filed a \$10.5 million lawsuit against the state of Kentucky and the Louisville Police Department.

In response, Mattingly filed an entirely frivolous, insulting, disgraceful and racist lawsuit against Walker. The lawsuit alleges that Walker

committed battery, assault and the infliction of emotional distress.

That's right: the cop accused a victim of racist terror of committing assault and battery. One would think it was Walker who raided Mattingly's home in the middle of the night!

Mattingly's suit alleges that Walker's conduct was "outrageous, intolerable and offends all accepted standards of decency or morality." This seems ironic in a state whose police officers are trained using quotes from Hitler.

Recently, a high school newspaper uncovered the fact that the Kentucky State Police include the fascist dictator's quotes to ensure that officers have "a mindset void of emotion" when engaging in violence against the community.

While the officers who murdered Taylor were not Kentucky State Police, this report is indicative of a racist ideology at the core of policing, not only in Kentucky, but the entire United States.

Jonathan Mattingly's absurd lawsuit should be thrown out of court immediately. Furthermore, all three of the cops involved in the March 13 raid and murder of Breonna Taylor should be arrested and jailed immediately. 📖

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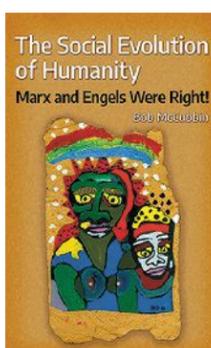
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BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019
commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped. tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5

- Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odum
- Contributions by Gloria Verdieu
- Carl Muhammad • Zola Fish • Mary Lou Finley
- Dennis Childs • Eusi Kwayana • Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Curtis Howard • Sylvia Cameron Telafaro



The Social Evolution of Humanity
Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

Kindle or paperback tinyurl.com/vwarcv7

This study augments Frederick Engels' 'Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State,' focusing on social/sexual relations, in particular, the changing social status of women.

McCubbin is the author of 'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.' First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin offers a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

Indigenous student leader: 'The racism we've faced has been intense'

By Greg Butterfield

November is Native American Heritage Month. Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Kisha James, president of the Wellesley College Native American Student Association and an activist with the Massachusetts Indigenous Peoples Day campaign.

Struggle-La Lucha: Kisha, can you tell us a little about your background? How did you become an activist?

Kisha James: I am an enrolled member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead Aquinnah and Oglala Lakota. Both of my parents are activists, so it seems natural to me that I would also be one, and I spent much of my youth attending demonstrations and political meetings.

However, I first started becoming politically active as a reaction to the neoliberal school environments I found myself in, the blind patriotism and pro-war fervor that characterized the political climate of the early 2000s, and the writings of Lenin (beginning in high school).

In terms of activism, I started small. I organized a group of my fellow kindergarteners to refuse to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance after explaining (in the language of young children) that the U.S. flag represented (to me) the theft of Native lands, the genocide of my ancestors and the deaths of millions of people in the name of U.S. imperialism. Needless to say, this got me into a lot of trouble, and I was told that I was "indoctrinating" my fellow classmates, as if the Pledge of Allegiance is not itself a form of indoctrination.

In terms of formal political activism and organizing, I first began in high school by assisting with the statewide Indigenous Peoples Day campaign in Massachusetts, as well as helping to organize the National Day Of Mourning, an anti-Thanksgiving protest that was founded by my grandfather, and which has been happening annually since 1970.

SLL: You're the president of the Wellesley College Native American Student Association (NASA), which has recently been in the news for protesting the administration's decision to have only white professors teach Indigenous Studies. Can you tell us about that struggle and your experience as a Native person at the college?

KJ: Wellesley College has never been a good place for Indigenous people, but it has gotten worse this past year in my opinion. Sometimes, it feels like Wellesley is slowly draining the life out of me and the other Native students by placing immense burdens on our shoulders.

In August, NASA called for a boycott of two Indigenous Studies courses in the Anthropology Department. We chose to call for this boycott because we felt — and still feel — that white professors should not be teaching Indigenous Studies courses, especially in the Department of Anthropology. These courses are inherently voyeuristic, and whiteness and white guilt are often centered. It is problematic for a white professor to choose which Indigenous voices get to be heard and read and which do not, and these white professors are taking space and jobs



Kisha James (left)

PHOTOS: UAINE

away from Indigenous professors.

Wellesley College has zero Indigenous professors, and Native students make up less than 1 percent of the student body, according to NASA's calculations. We decided enough was enough and published a demand letter. In it, we expound upon the microaggressions, racism and anti-Indigenous rhetoric we face on campus.

Our demands are simple — we demand that Wellesley begin recruiting Native students, hire tenure-track Indigenous faculty members, create an Indigenous Studies minor, make a public land acknowledgment and strive to make Wellesley a better place for Native students. These demands are truly the bare minimum that Wellesley College should be doing, and it should not have taken this long for the college to start thinking about the Native student population.

The bare minimum Wellesley should do

So far, several of our demands on the student-life side have been met, but the other demands have not. Recent events have made it clear that the college is going to rally behind the white anthropology professors because Wellesley College, as a settler-colonial institution, is ultimately committed to protecting whiteness and silencing Native voices.

SLL: On Oct. 10, a big march took place in Boston to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day. Can you tell us about that event and the campaign to make Indigenous Peoples Day an official holiday throughout Massachusetts?

KJ: The Indigenous Peoples Day campaign in Massachusetts is led by my mom, Mahtowin Munro. The campaign dates back to at least 2015, and Cambridge was the very first city we got an Indigenous Peoples Day resolution passed in. Since then, we have gotten many other towns and cities to make the switch from Columbus Day.

The racism we have faced has been intense. We have

been accused of being cannibals and savages by the right-wing Italian Americans who idolize Columbus. They have denied our genocide, argued that the genocide of Indigenous people was a good thing, asserted that Columbus was a "good person," and muddled and falsified historical fact.

Some of them have physically attacked the Indigenous people working on the campaign. I myself have been grabbed and pushed by them. One even accused a Native American woman of putting a "curse" on him when she spoke her Native language in his presence. In short, the treatment of Indigenous people at the hands of these racists has been nothing short of disgusting.

Whenever we encounter these reactionary and racist people, I'm reminded of the lyric, "Please get out of the new world if you can't lend a hand," from Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'." The people who support Columbus Day have chosen to live and die on the wrong side of history, and that is their choice. However, there are also many people who have changed their opinion on Columbus after reading his diary and the writings of Bartolomé de las Casas, and we have many allies, including a wonderful organi-

zation called "Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples Day."

The Oct. 10 event was extremely powerful, and we had a large turnout. We started with a rally in Boston Common before marching to Faneuil Hall to meet up with members of the movement to rename it. Peter Faneuil was a slave trader and owner, and slaves were sold at Faneuil Hall. It was a very powerful show of solidarity.

There was an amazing Taíno and Afro-Brazilian contingent as well, and there was a particularly powerful moment where a Taíno woman climbed onto the pedestal where the Columbus statue used to stand.

SLL: Protesters have forced down a lot of racist statues in different cities this year. The much-hated Christopher Columbus statue in Boston was beheaded, and, in October, Mayor Marty Walsh finally said it was going to be removed. Can you tell us how that happened?

KJ: Indigenous people have been demanding the removal of that statue for many years. When the statue was beheaded in June, my mom, who represents United American Indians of New England and Indigenous Peoples Day MA, as well as Raquel Halsey, executive director of the North American Indian Center of Boston, and Jean-Luc Pierite, president of the Board of Directors of NAICOB, held a press conference in front of the beheaded statue, where they called for its complete removal. It was at this press conference that we were physically attacked by a group of Columbus supporters.

Mayor refused to meet

Shortly afterward, it was announced that the statue would be restored. This was unsurprising to us because Mayor Walsh has always genuflected before whiteness, so we had suspected that there would be some sort of backroom deal with Columbus supporters. Mayor Walsh's office refused to meet with Indigenous people, so we went to the Boston Art Commission, which had recently voted to remove the Emancipation monument from public display because of its

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Indigenous speakers on pedestal of toppled Columbus statue at Indigenous Peoples Day march in Boston, Oct. 10.

Immigrant activist: Facebook should belong to the people

A talk given at a Peoples Power Assembly press conference in Baltimore Oct. 30 to resist the coordinated campaign by the Department of Homeland Security, Facebook and Trump supporters to sabotage organizing for a Nov. 4 protest against a stolen election.

My name is Rasika Ruwanpathirana, i am a filmmaker and activist.

I'm a Sri Lankan immigrant who moved to the U.S. 20 years ago. My immediate family still lives in Sri Lanka. I use Facebook to keep in touch with them as well as friends back home. Over the years, I have had quite a big network on my page — 4,000-plus people, a multicultural global network of friends, family, colleagues, co-workers and activists.

I don't have a separate page for activism and one for the family. I don't see any reason for it. I didn't do anything wrong. And I have nothing to hide.

Wednesday night, when my personal Facebook page was shut down, along with our organizing page and 15 other personal accounts, without a warning, without an explanation, I was devastated.

I wasn't even allowed to appeal the decision. None of us could.

These actions by the Department of Homeland Security and Facebook are not only a direct violation of my right to practice freedom of speech. It's by definition family separation — especially during one of the worst pandemics of our time. Facebook is

the only connection for many of us during this time.

They did it because they could and they had the power to do so. So they could intimidate us and keep us from mobilizing people, in order to make it easier for them to steal an election. Is there any other explanation? I don't have one.

Facebook is also where I find work. A network I built for two decades vanished into thin air Wednesday night.

I don't know how many of you have friends and family who have died and still have their Facebook pages up? Those are very important parts of our lives now. A place to remember them, that we can virtually visit and be part of the healing process — especially when you live halfway across the world. If I had to restart a new page because of what happened, I couldn't add those memories back to my new page — dead people can't accept friend requests.

Networks like Facebook shouldn't be controlled by one person who happened to get lucky by capitalizing on new technology that was inevitable. It should belong to the people in the first place. Mark Zuckerberg didn't invent social media; there was MySpace before and several others around at that time.

These networks are now extensions of ourselves, that we need to access regularly with like-minded people. To take that away, to hold that hostage to control us, suppress our freedom of speech, our right to



SLL PHOTO

organize and peacefully protest, is a violation of our constitutional rights. And there should be real consequences for that.

I'm saying this because leaving Facebook is not an option for us anymore. We want Mr. Zuckerberg to leave Facebook. 📌

Why is Trump wrecking the census?

By Stephen Millies

The 2020 U.S. census failed to count millions of people despite the best efforts of Census Bureau employees. Black, Indigenous and Latinx people — and poor people in general — were most likely to be missed. Deliberate sabotage by the Trump regime is to blame.

Schools and cities will be cheated out of federal funds. Some states, including Rhode Island, may be unfairly deprived of seats in the House of Representatives.

Since the initial census in 1790, this is the first one that has been carried out while a pandemic was raging. There were Indigenous people living on reservations that census takers weren't able to reach.

Six percent of people in northwestern Louisiana haven't been counted. Jackson, Miss., Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba estimates that the Black-majority city loses \$1,000 in funding for every person not counted.

Obviously the census needed more time. Mayor Lumumba thinks that just another two weeks would have been enough to complete the job.

The Trump administration refused, and on Oct. 13 a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to terminate the census. Justice Sonia Sotomayor disagreed. She said that “the



Census sabotage disguises the extent of poverty in the U.S.

harms associated with an inaccurate census are avoidable and intolerable.”

For more than a year, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross — whose department oversees the census — tried to include questions about citizenship and immigration status. This attempt to intimidate millions of workers from filling out the census was stopped by the courts.

Ross was trying to duplicate what Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani did in his 1993 New York City mayoral campaign. Giuliani had Roosevelt Avenue in heavily immigrant populated

Jackson Heights, Queens, plastered with posters, warning of penalties for “vote fraud.” The effort was meant to frighten immigrant voters from going to the polls.

Now, Ross is trying to stop undocumented immigrants from being counted for purposes of congressional apportionment. If Ross is successful, California, New Jersey and Texas may each lose a congressional seat.

That's illegal even according to a constitution which was originally written by slave owners and rich merchants. It's typical behavior for

vulture capitalist Wilbur Ross, who cheated thousands of retired Bethlehem Steel workers out of their medical benefits.

Statistics and the class struggle

The capitalist government can count turnips but not homeless people. According to Table 38 of the 2012 census of agriculture, there were 4,285 acres of turnips in the United States.

But the only reference to homeless people in the 2012 Statistical Abstract of the United States was in Table 575, which gives the number of beds in homeless shelters.

Speculators betting on food prices at Chicago's Board of Trade need to know about crops so they can make a killing from poor harvests and hungry people. They don't want to find out how many homeless children there are.

Such information is embarrassing and considered dangerous to their class rule. The response of capitalists to growing poverty is to suppress news of it.

The 131st edition of the Statistical Abstract that came out in 2012 was the last one published. Government bookstores in federal buildings were shut down. Even if all the same statistics and information are available online, it's still a retreat from the

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Why was the election so close?

By Stephen Millies

While Trump is still trying to steal the election, he lost the popular vote by over five million ballots. Black, Indigenous and Latinx voters were key to Trump's defeat. But why was it so damn close?

For five years, Donald Trump has been on the national stage spreading hate. His administration killed tens of thousands by its deliberate mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

So why did more than 70 million people vote for this dangerous racist fool?

Trump's election campaign was the reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement that swept the United States. At least 20 million people took to the streets following the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

In small towns never reached by the Great Migration of African Americans — like Waupaca, Wis. — people came out to demonstrate against racism. Many of them were white. If the election had been held two months earlier, Trump would have been swamped by millions more votes.

Instead, a stagnant reservoir of people continued to be saturated by the race hate of Fox News and talk radio bigots. Political consciousness always lags behind present conditions and needs.

There's a French saying that the dead grip the living. That doesn't just apply to the 18th century relic called the Electoral College, which was devised by slave masters. The not-so-dead hand of bigotry used to justify the African Holocaust also cast a vote for Trump.

This counterrevolution to Black Lives Matter was allowed to metastasize like a cancer. Biden didn't slow it down when he urged cops to shoot people in their legs instead of their chest or head.

The support of reactionaries, like former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, was eagerly sought by the Democratic Party establishment. Snyder was one of the criminals responsible for the lead poisoning of children in Flint, Mich. How was his endorsement supposed to help win the votes of poor and working people for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris?

'Law and order' on the ballot

Trump made the election a referendum on racism. He attacked the Black Lives Matter movement and cheered the assassination by U.S. marshals of anti-fascist activist Michael Reinhoehl. Trump supporters declared the killer of two anti-racists in Kenosha, Wis., to be a hero.

Police across the country mobilized for Trump. Minneapolis; Portland, Ore.; and Kenosha, Wis. — cities where people rebelled against the cops — were demonized by Trump and his cheerleaders at Fox.

White people account for at least three-quarters of the population in Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin. Despite Trump's race-baiting, the White House bleach salesman lost all three states.

The capitalist economic crisis, which was beginning even before the pandemic broke out, also benefited Trump.

Many people think massive unemployment will automatically cause workers to rebel. But it can also de-



Striking workers picket Trump International Hotel in 2016. The transformation of Las Vegas into a union town is why Nevada voted against Trump.

moralize and disorient. Because of widespread housing segregation, the main contact of many white workers with Asian, Black, Indigenous and Latinx people is on the job. Being fired severs that connection.

The thousands of union strongholds that were destroyed by deliberate deindustrialization also helps political reaction. The United Mine Workers' loss of thousands of members in West Virginia was a big reason for that state's move to the right.

"Law and order" was first used as a slogan in the 1968 presidential election. Back then, the labor movement was much stronger. It waged a last-minute fight that dialed down the vote in the North for the segregationist George Wallace, who was running for president.

A half-century later, the big losses in union membership because of automation and plant closings made it that much easier for Donald Trump to get to the White House.

The 1992 closing of the Bethlehem Steel works in Johnstown, Pa., threw thousands of union members out of work. It helps explain why 68 percent of the vote there in Cambria County is going for Trump.

On the other hand, the transformation of Las Vegas into a union town is why Nevada voted against Trump.

Don't starve, fight!

It's been over three months since the last federal supplemental unemployment check went to workers. Bans on evictions are scheduled to be lifted with families being thrown on the street.

Meanwhile a thousand people a day are dying of the coronavirus.

Things won't be magically turned around if Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are elected. Working and oppressed people have to mobilize.

The only reason Congress approved the \$600-per-week unemployment checks was because capitalists feared millions of workers being suddenly fired. We have to make them fear us again.

Ninety years ago, when the Great Depression broke out, there was no unemployment compensation or food stamps (now called SNAP benefits).

The Communist Party and Unemployed Councils raised the slogan, "Don't starve, fight!" Millions of people fought for jobs and the right to organize unions.

We have to do the same thing today. Struggle is the only way forward.

Special, special thanks to Black, Indigenous and Latinx voters who made the difference in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada and Arizona. They punched Trump in the nose! 📌

Why is Trump wrecking the census?

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people's right to know.

The coronavirus tragedy is the latest example of this war on truth. Trump made the fantastic claim that hospitals were inflating the figure of COVID-19 deaths to be larger than they really were.

A big reason for the much higher rates of COVID-19 cases in Black and Latinx communities is overcrowded housing. High rents cause this housing crisis. Many families have to double up because a sister or brother was evicted.

The government labels these doubled-up families as "related sub-families." Their estimated number grew almost fourfold from 1980 to 2010, from 1.15 million to 4.3 million families. (Table 59 in the 2012 Statistical Abstract)

That's over 20 million people living in cramped conditions. The number must have increased in the past decade because of the economic crisis. But the latest figures are ten years old.

Disguising poverty

Workers at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, like those at the Census Bureau, want to do the best job. But the unemployment figures usually cited in the media greatly undercount the actual number of jobless workers.

That's because if someone works just one hour a week, they're not officially unemployed. While the BLS also gives figures for those working part time who want full-time jobs, the media give these statistics second billing.

The millions who are not actively looking for work because of health or family reasons are not included in the most cited unemployment rate. Neither are the over two million people in prison, most of whom work for pennies an hour.

Despite these limitations, President Richard Nixon thought the BLS unemployment figures during a recession in 1971 were suspiciously high. Nixon blamed "a Jewish Cabal" within the BLS and demanded the firing of Jewish employees.

This grotesque bigotry didn't stop Nixon from shoveling billions to the apartheid state occupying Palestine.

In the late 1890s, V.I. Lenin — the future leader of the Bolshevik Revolution — wrote "The Development of Capitalism in Russia" while in Siberian exile. He wrote about the difficulty of getting accurate statistics.

The labor and people's movements can't depend on the capitalists to reveal the truth either. We need to gather our own honest statistics on rising rents, homelessness, unemployment, inflation and poverty. 📌

Indigenous student leader

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demeaning portrayal of a Black man.

After tireless campaigning on the part of Indigenous people, including my mom, Mayor Walsh finally announced that the statue would be removed.

SLL: The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for many Indigenous communities because of the U.S. government's refusal to provide the necessary resources for health care. How will this affect the annual National Day of Mourning event?

KJ: National Day of Mourning will partially be in person, with a group of us convening at Cole's Hill in Plymouth like we have done every year since 1970. It will be livestreamed, and there will be additional

online content with messages from representatives of many Indigenous struggles all around the globe.

SLL: How can folks get involved and help out with Indigenous Peoples Day in Massachusetts and United American Indians of New England?

KJ: Join the United American Indians of New England Facebook group for more information about the National Day of Mourning and daily content about Native struggles and news. And go to IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org to learn more about the statewide IPD efforts. It's also important for non-Native people to support Indigenous nations where they live.

Read the full interview at tinyurl.com/y3ewnh4 📌

Protests demand: Trump must go! Fight for a people's mandate!

By Greg Butterfield

Even before the polls closed on Election Day, Nov. 3, anti-racist activists and workers' and community organizations across the U.S. were preparing to take the streets to push forward a people's mandate, including an end to police crimes, community control of the police, jobs or income and health care for all, no evictions or utility shutoffs, stop racist attacks on immigrants, and an end to U.S. wars and sanctions, no matter which capitalist politician was elected president.

Donald Trump's repeated threats to defy the vote if he lost gave a special urgency to the protests. As expected, Trump declared himself the victor on election night even before the votes had been counted.

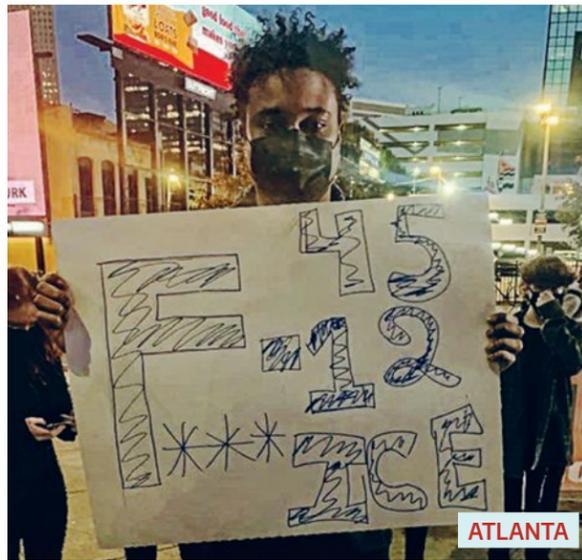
People came out the following day, Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the call of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) and other left organizations in more than a dozen cities. Marches to demand "Count All the Votes," organized by liberal groups, also drew large numbers that day.

Another wave of actions was planned for Saturday, Nov. 7. In many places they turned into mass celebrations as news broke that Trump had lost the election, as his opponent, Democrat Joe Biden, passed the threshold to secure the presidency in the Electoral College. It was already clear that Biden had won the popular vote — by 5 million votes and growing as of Nov. 11.

From New York to Los Angeles, in neighborhoods like Harlem, Jamaica, Queens and South Central, cheers erupted as the news spread. People banged pots and pans in celebration and relief. In Chicago and Brooklyn, people poured in the streets and danced. Many chanted, "Trump, you're fired!" — echoing the racist, misogynist billionaire's reality TV catchphrase.

It was clear that the mass jubilation was prompted by Trump's electoral defeat — not enthusiasm for Biden.

Now, as Trump and his backers continue to maneuver to reverse the vote, these actions lay an important groundwork to galvanize people for more protests in the two-and-a-half months before the Jan. 20 inauguration in Washington, D.C.



ATLANTA



LOS ANGELES

ATLANTA PPA

SLL PHOTO: ANTHONY DAWAHARE

'Chop down the whole tree'

In **Baltimore** on Nov. 4, more than 60 people marched from the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center to the Inner Harbor for a rally at McKeldin Square. The Peoples Power Assembly called for people to "Occupy the Streets if the Election is Stolen — Protest for a People's Mandate." One participant described the march as "small but mighty" — drawing enthusiastic support from community members and drivers as it passed.

"No more bad apples! Chop down the whole tree!" they chanted.

"The fight's not over, even after the election results are known," declared PPA's Sharon Black at the rally. "There are still forces of reaction in this country that are buoyed by the capitalist system, which still has the same problems — poverty, racism, war. All of these things still exist. We have to keep the fight up."

"I expect Trump to be pushed back. It may not be a painless pushing back," she cautioned. "We have to be out in the streets, very strong and united and together. That's the force that will push these reactionaries back into the dustbin of history where they belong."

"Biden is no hero," Black explained, "but this election turned into a referendum on racism. We have to keep the Black Lives Matter movement going. We have to fight for a stimulus for workers, not for billionaires and bankers."

Andre Powell of the Socialist Unity Party added: "I was very delighted this morning to read that, for the first time, two openly gay Black men have been elected to Congress. We've come a long way. But we still have to get a national anti-discrimination law that prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ2S people. It not only has to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, but it absolutely must prohibit discrimination based on gender identity."

In **Minneapolis**, where this summer's Black Lives Matter uprising against police killings began with the murder of George Floyd, a thousand people took the streets on the evening of Nov. 4, organized by 30 groups in response to the NAARPR call.

As the peaceful marchers prepared to exit the I-94 highway, they were surrounded by police, who arrested 646 of them, including children who were separated from their parents.

The outrageous mass arrest showed a harsh light on the empty promises of Minneapolis elected officials who had promised to disband the police after George Floyd's death.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time in five years — since the murder of Jamar Clark — that the cops have harassed families and community members on such a mass scale. But despite the intimidation by police, protesters stayed calm and organized. ... Meanwhile, the MN political establishment allowed police to detain protesters trapped on the highway for more than five hours," says a statement from the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar, one of the organizing groups.

"In addition to stopping Trump from stealing the elections and the NAARPR demands, we now demand that all charges against protesters be dropped, that the cars impounded be released without fees, that the still 'disappeared' arrestees be released. We continue to fight for and demand community control of police so that police can no longer infringe on our First Amendment rights as they did today."

'Not a one-day thing'

In **Atlanta**, where the fight for justice for police victim Rayshard Brooks continues, 35 people came out for a Nov. 4 action at the CNN Center called by an ad-hoc coalition.

At the rally, Lizz Toledo of the Atlanta Peoples Power Assembly said: "We need to keep it up. This is not a one-day thing. Between now and Jan. 20, and even after Jan. 20, we have to keep fighting for the people's mandate."

In **New York**, street actions began even before Election Day. On Nov. 2, Black Solidarity Day, the December 12th Movement led a Black Power march through Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood.



BROOKLYN, N.Y.

SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD



BALTIMORE

SLL PHOTO



WASHINGTON, D.C.



SLL PHOTO

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Over 100 people marched, chanting “Whose streets? Our streets! Whose Bed-Stuy? Our Bed-Stuy!” They took over half of Fulton Street and outmaneuvered police vans to continue the march.

Then, on Nov. 4, the newly formed New York Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression rallied and distributed leaflets calling for a people’s mandate at Columbus Circle in Manhattan. Speakers represented the New York Community Action Project, BAYAN USA, the International League of People’s Struggle, New York Boricua Resistance, the Freedom Road Socialist Organization and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper.

Members of the Socialist Unity Party in **Los Angeles** joined a Nov. 4 rally organized by Centro CSO at Mariachi Plaza in Boyle Heights. A banner proclaimed “Fight Trump” and “Stop killing Black and Brown people.”

Centro CSO member Luis Sifuentes declared: “We need to recognize that we live in a time where women in detention centers are forcibly sterilized, where children have died under ICE custody, where children have disappeared by the thousands, where families are separated at the border, where refugees are falling ill from COVID-19 and dying. It’s outrageous!”

Sifuentes concluded, “This isn’t the time to slow down. This is the time to stand up and fight back!” FightBack! News reported.

‘Battles are won in the streets’

On Nov. 7, Unión del Barrio and other groups held a 30-car protest caravan through Los Angeles declaring “¡Trump fuera! — Trump must go!” Organizers emphasized that both of the big business parties and their presidential candidates are enemies of oppressed and working-class people.

Speaking for the Socialist Unity Party, Rebecka Jackson-Moesser said: “Almost 150 years ago, Lucy Parsons prophetically told us, never be deceived that the rich will allow us to vote away their wealth. Real battles always have been and always will be won in the streets.

“For oppressed people, it’s only through organized, unified, international solidarity that we can resist the colonial framework that dominates every aspect of our lives. ... Joe Biden is Donald Trump in sheep’s clothing,” she said.

“Now more than ever, all progressive forces must unite and keep our focus on the liberation of Black and Brown people, smashing white supremacy and permanently dismantling capitalism. ... We all have a duty and responsibility to mass liberation, to give the next generation an earth they can inhabit and to eradicate the billionaire parasites who are bleeding our world dry.”

Socialist Unity Party activists also joined the Black People’s March on the White House in **Washington, D.C.**, Nov. 7, organized by the Black Is Back Coalition. People rallied at Malcolm X Park, where banners and signs proclaimed: “Black Power Matters! Down with colonialism! Black community control of the police!”

Post-election protests for a people’s mandate were also held in Chicago; Dallas; Jacksonville and Tallahassee, Fla.; Milwaukee; New Orleans; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City; San Diego; and many other cities. 

A revolutionary situation?

By Gary Wilson

Nov. 12 — An upheaval is underway. The vote against Donald Trump, while expected by many, was more significant than any had predicted. Despite multifarious efforts to suppress the Black and Latinx vote, Joe Biden’s unprecedented 5-million-plus lead in the popular vote clearly came from the Black, Latinx, Indigenous and Asian communities.

The workers will expect results. It was, after all, a vote for health care, to end the pandemic, and for jobs and housing.

Trump voters were not mostly working-class people. The biggest number of Trump voters are managers and supervisors, and the millions who make up the police-state apparatus and the prison-industrial complex. The biggest number have an income of over \$100,000 a year, according to reports. Yeah, there are a lot of them, but that doesn’t make them working class.

The vote against Trump was not a revolution, but it accelerated the government crisis that is unfolding. Not since the Civil War has there been any uncertainty as to how the government would proceed.

Behind this political crisis is the economic crisis, aggravated by a killer pandemic. The capitalist crisis is the 900-pound monster in the room that few are talking about.

There is a general capitalist crisis on a world level, and the rumbles of instability are widely felt.

The pandemic did not create the crisis, but it has accelerated the Depression-level conditions.

Karl Marx explains that capitalist production is divided into two departments: producing the means of production, and producing the products that are consumed. Both these sectors have been hit by a crisis of overproduction, often referred to as “overcapacity” by bourgeois economists.

Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said on the status of the global economy: “Global growth will turn sharply negative in 2020 ... In fact, we anticipate the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression. ... We now project that over 170 countries will experience negative per capita income growth this year. The bleak outlook applies to advanced and developing economies alike. This crisis knows no boundaries.”

The idea that the U.S. was somehow exempt from global political, economic and social problems was always untrue, but now it is clearly absurd. The U.S. economy is completely integrated in the world economy. U.S. imperialism has intractable international problems that cannot be solved through sheer military might, which itself has been scaled back due to the economic crisis.

Not only are workers disillusioned with the system, but even the capitalists have lost faith in capitalism.



In Oakland, Calif., Heena Shah marches with her family.

PHOTO: DAVID BACON

With the decline of manufacturing, Wall Street has resorted to speculative markets in place of once great industries — high-stakes gambling that is volatile and experiencing unprecedented swings up and down.

That’s the background to the U.S. presidential elections. Donald Trump’s refusal to concede the election and his declaration of victory despite losing the popular vote exposes an open fissure in the ruling class.

Not Trump’s first coup attempt

What’s unfolding is a crisis in the ruling class over how to maintain their rule, how to respond to the crisis, how to stop U.S. imperialism’s decline.

Trump’s stand is not just the megalomaniac talk of an individual. He must have support in the ruling class. This has been developing for a while. This is not Trump’s first coup attempt. On June 1, Trump called out the military.

The afternoon of June 1 saw the unprecedented sight of Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley in battle fatigues, with Attorney General William Barr, on the White House grounds in advance of Trump’s speech in the Rose Garden. They appeared to be reviewing the troops which were lined up facing the protesters in Lafayette Park across the street.

Suddenly, the whole nation witnessed the aggressive and violent action by 5,000 National Guard troops and federal agents, decked out in full body armor, to move the protesters out of the way just before the president came out to speak about dominating the streets. Trump said, “As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers” across the country.

Shortly after that, Trump led Barr, Milley, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and others over to a church, where he famously held up a Bible.

The military occupation of major cities across the U.S. didn’t happen and the coup attempt was halted. The military commanders blinked

and then pulled back their support. For one thing, a top general noted, the troops couldn’t be relied on — a great many come from the Black and Brown communities they were supposed to suppress.

Trump is now making a second coup attempt, in a different way. One of his first steps was to purge the Pentagon, putting his closest supporters into top positions.

The current crisis reveals the great instability of U.S. capitalism. Some might say that it is in a pre-revolutionary stage, though not every revolutionary situation leads to a revolution.

Symptoms of revolutionary situation

Russian Marxist V.I. Lenin asked rhetorically: “What, generally speaking, are the symptoms of a revolutionary situation? We shall certainly not be mistaken if we indicate the following three major symptoms.”

Abridged, the three are:

1. When it is impossible for the ruling classes to maintain their rule without any change; when there is a crisis, a split in the ruling classes. For a revolution to take place, it is usually insufficient for “the lower classes not to want” to live in the old way; it is also necessary that “the upper classes should be unable” to rule in the old way;
2. When the suffering of the oppressed classes has grown more acute than usual;
3. When there is a considerable increase in the activity of the masses, who are drawn in by the circumstances of the crisis and by the upper classes themselves into independent historical action.

Marxism is a method for looking at developments and making sense of them, to see the trends. Seeing a revolutionary situation is not a prediction, but more like a doctor’s prognosis after examining the patient, an assessment of the current condition and possible outcome.

A capitalist economic crisis leads to social and political crises. In the process of any revolutionary change, the first small, quantitative changes can lead to sudden, qualitative leaps forward in people’s thinking. Events are already having an impact on consciousness, and even more dramatic events are in store for the future.

A revolutionary upheaval at this time may manifest itself as a struggle for real democracy and equality for workers and oppressed peoples. 



The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

by Stephen Millies SLL articles include:

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Available in a pamphlet form at tinyurl.com/1919chicago

Protest mass arrests of activists in Turkey

By Clara Fidan

Intimidation and repression against progressive, left socialist forces and organizations of the people in Turkey continue with full speed.

Since Oct. 28, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, headed by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has led another so-called anti-terror offensive towards the popular resistance movement, trying to project its own fear of the people.

By evening, 31 police detentions were registered in various cities and provinces of Turkey.

On Oct. 29, the People's Law Office reported news sources according to which 99 persons had been detained so far, while warrants were issued for 120 people.

Arrest terror by the police continues

Resisters for terminated jobs, musicians of Grup Yorum, lawyers of the People's Law Office and names of several supporters of the resistance against injustice and state repression were listed among the detainees.

Two additional members of Grup Yorum, Ali Araci (released from prison a short time ago) and Seher Adigüzel, were arrested by the police in their house. It was also announced that group member Meral Hir was detained by police.

Dismissed teacher Selvi Polat, known from the Bakirköy Resistance, was taken into custody on Oct. 29.

Also, People's Law Office lawyer Seda Saraldi was among the detainees.

The list is growing; even some of their family members are targeted.

The repression is intensified by denial of legal assistance and the secrecy of the charges.

The authorities seem to be creating a new construct, as they did in several police operations before: Arresting hundreds of people with terrorism accusations and eventually looking for new "secret witnesses" to strengthen their accusations.

While access to lawyers and the investigation files is being denied, the press loyal to the regime printed the propaganda lies of the political police without delay and tried to as-



Protest against mass arrests in Turkey in Vienna, Austria, Nov. 6.

PHOTO: CLARA FIDAN

sociate the detainees with terror.

If there's anything for sure now, it is that these attacks on democratic protest, demands for justice and defense of the rule of law aim to consolidate a totalitarian regime and fascism in order to go on with exploitation of workers in the interest of large companies.

This course of the government will increase poverty of a major part of the people, who are left without

jobs, future or proper health care, who are denied their basic rights and finally even criminalized for their legal struggle to gain their rights.

Therefore, only the consciousness and solidarity of the people all over the world can push back repression to progressive struggle and win freedom for those who are facing the repression of a power that fears the people's reaction to its policy, shaken by a deep crisis.

Trump normalization scheme emboldens Israel's genocidal policies

By Lev Koufax

In mid-October, the apartheid Zionist government of Israel announced that it would be building 2,000 more units of settlement housing in the occupied and oppressed West Bank of Palestine. The development went relatively uncovered in mainstream media, regardless of its significance and momentous nature.

The announcement of the new West Bank settlement construction is Israel's most aggressive expansion attempt in decades. Even more concerning, the settlement construction is in clear violation of the deal that normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The entire basis of the agreement was that Israel would pledge to freeze plans to annex large chunks of the West Bank. While the construction of settlements isn't technically immediate annexation, it serves the same purpose: Israeli apartheid extension into occupied Palestinian land.

It seems that Israel intends to not only ignore parts of the normalization deal, but also to even more brazenly break international law. Israeli settlements are nothing less than a genocidal abomination.

The Palestinian community in the West Bank was already facing the brutal yoke of apartheid in the form of a violent police state and random attacks from Israeli settlers. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that in the first six months of 2020 alone, there were 143 attacks by Israeli settlers that resulted in Palestinian injuries. Over half of these attacks occurred in the middle of a COVID-19 outbreak.

As if this reality weren't horrifying enough, a recent report revealed



Women in Khartoum protest normalization of relations between Sudan and Israel.

that Israeli settlements discharge millions of cubic meters of sewage into the West Bank every year. Almost all of this sewage flows directly into Palestinian villages in the area. More settlements with their racist violence and sewage waste are exactly the opposite of what the West Bank needs. What the West Bank really needs is the immediate end to Israeli military occupation and apartheid.

Trump's pressure for 'normalization'

These new settlement plans come in a year when Israel has achieved a series of global political victories with the backing of the Trump administration. The largest of these victories have come in the form of normalized relations treaties with three majority-Muslim countries: the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.

For decades, all three countries refused to recognize Israel and solely recognized Palestine. However, the Trump administration's

willingness to withhold foreign aid based on refusal to recognize Israel has prompted a major sea change.

Further contributing to the treaties was Trump's promise to lift U.S. sanctions on Sudan. While the lifting of sanctions is a positive development, the event that triggered it was insidious. The U.S. essentially held countries hostage until they bent to imperialism and Zionism.

As a result of the normalized relations treaties, Israel achieved another large victory in the Trump era. On Oct. 22, Benny Gantz, the leader of the supposed opposition to Netanyahu in Israel, announced a deal with the UAE that focuses on commitment to Israeli military superiority in the region. The core of the deal was the sale of F-35 fighter jets from Israel to the UAE.

Beyond Israel gaining diplomatic momentum and trade partners, these developments are concerning in that they symbolize a growing U.S.-backed alliance against Iran. Earlier this year, the U.S. military

murdered Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian general who played a crucial role in defeating ISIS.

Increased economic and military pressure on Iran from Israel and the UAE could prove problematic for the Islamic Republic, an anti-imperialist bulwark in the Middle East.

Both major U.S. parties support Israel

While state and settler violence against occupied Palestine escalates, both the Democratic and Republican parties dogmatically support Zionism and its apartheid system. For decades, both parties have squabbled over which party most fervently supports the racist Israeli state. After all, Israel amounts to a strategic U.S. military base in Western Asia.

There is certainly truth in the idea that Donald Trump's pro-Israel policies are the most hardline and aggressive of any U.S. president. Trump's pro-Zionist push began with the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and has continued in the form of arm-twisting normalization deals, military aid and a "peace plan" that really is nothing more than a sanctioned Israeli power grab.

However, Barack Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, oversaw a deal in 2016 that sent \$38 billion dollars of military aid to Israel. This deal occurred less than two years after Israel viciously carpet-bombed Gaza City, killing thousands of innocent people.

While there are material differences between Joe Biden and Donald Trump in some policy fields, their position on Zionism is not one of them. Whoever wins this election will continue to support racist apartheid in Israel and Netanyahu, as he continues an escalating cru-

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Luis Arce inaugurated: 'Bolivia rose up to recover democracy, peace and social justice'

By Marco Teruggi

"We hope to be remembered as the government in which the Bolivian people rose up to recover democracy, dignity, peace, growth and social justice," said Luis Arce in his presidential speech, from the premises of the Legislative Assembly in La Paz on Nov. 8. At his side were the vice president, David Choquehuanca, and the presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Andrónico Rodríguez and Freddy Mamani respectively.

At that time, the center of La Paz was a celebration in which social, Indigenous, mining, union [movement members] and militants of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), from different parts of the country, surrounded the Plaza Murillo.

The celebration had begun the night before, at the vigil of the organizations held near where the event was to take place.

The early presence of the movements was due to the permanence of threats from a sector of the right un-



Bolivians celebrate electoral victory of the Movement Towards Socialism, Oct. 24.

PHOTO: OLLIE VARGAS

til the last hours. On Saturday night, a new concentration and march took place in La Paz under the slogan of a request for an audit and suspension of the takeover. Although at that time it was clear that the transfer of command would take place and that the social forces of the right were mostly exhausted, the alerts to possible unforeseen events were maintained until the last moment.

The political scene was one of the central points of the new president's speech. He referred to what had happened since the coup d'état as "an internal and systematic war against the people, especially against the most humble ... death, fear and discrimination were sown, racism intensified. [There was] persecution of leaders of the MAS and of the social movements, there were deaths, injuries, imprisonment, persecution, isolation and exile."

There was a minute's silence for those who had been killed and a constant acknowledgement of the massacres in Sacaba and Senkata, which took place a few days after the coup last November. The new president referred to them as "symbols of dignity and resistance." He paid homage to "the fallen, to the heroes of the people who have recovered democracy."

Several international representations were present at the inauguration, such as the governments of Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Spain, Venezuela, Uruguay, Iran, Chile, the United Arab Emirates, delegations of political parties from different countries, as well as Bolivian parliamentarians and movements.

Jeanine Añez, who had announced her departure a few days before to the city of Trinidad, in the department of Beni, was not present, as expected, refuting a possible escape from the country. The one who was present on behalf of the opposition was the leader Carlos Mesa, second place in the October elections, who recognized Arce's victory from the beginning. However, both he and his parliamentary group left the premises before the speeches.

"We must overcome the division, hatred, racism and discrimination



Presidential inauguration of Luis Arce (center) of the Movement Towards Socialism in La Paz, Nov. 8.

among compatriots, no more persecution of freedom of expression, and no more judicialization of politics, no more abuse of power ... justice has to be truly independent," stated Vice President Choquehuanca, in a message of dialogue and unity present in both speeches.

What will far right do?

The new government takes office in a context of instability. While those who formed the de facto government are in retreat and may flee the country to avoid being held accountable, and Carlos Mesa seeks to become the main opposition, there is a sector, led in part by Luis Fernando Camacho, third in the elections, who embodies the most radical wing of the right. This sector does not recognize the validity of the results or the inauguration. What will they do from now on? This is one of the main questions.

"These minority sectors raise the flag of democracy only when it is convenient for them, and when it does not they resort to destabilization, violence or coups d'état to take power," said Arce, who referred to the use that these sectors made of "paramilitary groups," which carried out actions until Friday in Cochabamba or Santa Cruz.

The government faces a triple crisis, mentioned by Arce: democratic, a product of the coup and the de facto government; health, due to the pandemic; and economic. Añez's administration left numbers in the red, with a fall of 11.1 percent of the GDP, a

fiscal deficit of 12.1 percent, a deficit of 8.7 percent of the Federal Treasury, and a debt of \$4.2 billion contracted in the last 11 months. "A day that goes by without taking action is a day that complicates the situation," the president affirmed.

There are great social expectations for the new government by those who mobilized to Plaza Murillo, like the 36 Indigenous nationalities, the organization of the Ponchos Rojos that were part of the presidential security, or the Central Obrera Boliviana, as well as by broad layers of the population that in less than a year faced the impacts of a recession, pandemic and a de facto government that threatened, persecuted and never fulfilled any of its promises.

The new president referred to the international issue and affirmed, as he had already said, that he will focus efforts on building the "political unity of the diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean" through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in the South American region, "as a space for integration and a mechanism for policy coordination, where we can all meet regardless of the political orientations of governments." The new Bolivian government emerges as a possible element for bringing together and working with different parts of progressive Latin America.

The inauguration begins a new moment in the process of Bolivian change: "We are committed to rectifying what was wrong and deepening what was right," said Arce. Within this new stage, challenges of the internal order appear, such as requests from movements for a change of leadership, as well as threats from destabilizing forces that have already indicated that they will not return — or so it seems — to a democratic path.

Sunday was a celebration in La Paz. With Evo Morales now in the country, Bolivia leaves behind one of the darkest pages of its recent history with a democratic victory and a new popular government.

Trump scheme

Continued from page 8

sade against the Palestinian people.

You won't hear either candidate denounce settlement expansion, the imprisonment of political figures like Maher al-Akhras and Ahmad Sa'adat, or the attacks on Israeli teenagers who refuse to serve in the military.

People's movement needed to combat Zionism

Now more than ever, all progressive people and organizations must unite in a movement against Israeli apartheid, Zionism and U.S. imperialism. The hateful ideology of Zionism cannot be allowed to grow without resistance domestically and globally. In particular, progressive Jews and Jewish organizations must combat Zionist socialization in our community harder than ever.

Zionism is not an ideology that benefits the majority of Jews — only the wealthy and the fascist. Zionism is a disease that has plagued and misled the Jewish community for decades. It cannot be allowed to do so any further.

The liberation of the Jewish people will not be achieved through a fascist Zionist state, but only through the end of Israeli apartheid, the liberation of Palestine and of the global working class and oppressed communities.

As Israel is emboldened by Trump to intensify its aggression, all progressive and revolutionary organizations must stand together in unity against this phenomena. We must take to the streets and demand an end to Israeli oppression and support the liberation of Palestine.

Down with imperialism! Down with Netanyahu! Combat Zionism!

Lev Koufax is a young Jewish activist based in Baltimore.

Nigerian youth fight back against police terror

By Bayani

Several reports say it started on Oct. 3 with this tweet: an eyewitness report of a young man in Nigeria shot and left for dead by an officer of SARS, who then drove away with the young man's car. Within minutes, the tweet had over 10,000 retweets. The #EndSARS hashtag has been trending worldwide continuously to the publication of this article.

SARS, or the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, is a Nigerian police unit empowered to arrest, extort and murder with impunity. The Nigerian masses, particularly the youth, knew very well that SARS had been responsible for thousands of extrajudicial killings since its inception in 1992. SARS particularly targets young men between the ages of 15 and 35, harassing them for trivial noncrimes like plaiting their hair, having expensive phones or driving nice cars.

That's why thousands of people hit the streets all over Nigeria starting on Oct. 5 calling for the disbanding of SARS and an end to police brutality. The demonstrations and international support — including from Black celebrities like Beyoncé, Naomi Campbell and John Boyega — were so massive that the Nigerian government was forced to dissolve SARS on Oct. 11. This is a historic victory for the Nigerian masses, particularly the youth.

But the protests did not end with this. This massive uprising is about more than just dissolving SARS — it is also about ending police brutality and the economic policies that destroy Nigeria's public sector and deny jobs and liveable wages for Nigerian youth, both of which are largely driven by Nigeria's neocolonial relationship with Europe and the U.S.

Despite the victory, protesters maintain their distrust, citing several occasions when the Nigerian government made similar promises and failed to deliver. Protesters have demanded a comprehensive review and investigation of the entire police system and punishment for those who have committed crimes against the people.

Moreover, the Nigerian government announced the formation of a "Special Weapons and Tactics Squad," or SWAT, which protesters see as a simple rebranding of SARS.

Protesters massacred

On Oct. 20, the Nigerian military was deployed to suppress the protests shortly after the Lagos state government announced a 24-hour curfew. The curfew was also a response to a massive prison break in Benin City.

At Lekki Toll Plaza, where the protests were more like a cultural festival, the military fired live ammunition into the crowd, killing at least 12 protesters. The military then abducted the bodies of those they had shot, leading to confusion about how many had died that day. The Nigerian army has since denied the shootings.

In response, the protests escalated both in number and intensity. Immediately, the crowds burned down



Nigerian women have a strong presence in the #EndSARS protests.

the Lekki tollgate, government infrastructure that makes billions of naira (Nigerian currency) in revenue monthly. The Lagos governor's home was torched and a television network linked to the current ruling party was burned down.

As of Nov. 8, Twitter users posting with the #EndSARS hashtag are reporting that the Nigerian government has not only been disappearing protesters, but also freezing their bank accounts and seizing their passports.

Twitter user Reno Omokri (@re-noomokri) points out the hypocrisy: "In 5 years General@MBuhari has been in power, I never read that bank accounts of Boko Haram or their sponsors were frozen, or that their passports were seized. Sadly, in the eyes of Buhari, #EndSARS protesters deserve frozen accounts and seized passports, but terrorists don't!"

Currently, the movement is calling for the freedom of Eromosele Adene, kidnapped by the Nigerian police after a raid on his home.

Pan-African Community Action and the U.S. Out of Africa Network released a joint statement highlighting the involvement of Western imperialism in Nigeria, providing a crucial historical context that helps to clarify the conditions that the Nigerian masses face today:

"The police in Nigeria are a colonial institution begun in 1920 by the occupying British Empire. The British Empire used both taxation and the police to fuel a colonial system built on forced labor, which was used to run the colonial government itself and to build the infrastructure it needed to extract revenue from the country as a whole.

"The exploitative role of the police survived Nigerian independence, and has continued until the present day: police have been deployed to raze slums to the ground to clear land for developers to make luxury real estate for the Nigerian middle and upper classes. Nigerian police, like the elites they protect, enjoy total impunity for their actions: more than three out of four Nige-

rians who have encountered police over the past year report having been extorted for bribes, and sexual assault and extrajudicial killings are also chillingly common. SARS, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, is simply the 'most notorious' perpetrator of crimes endemic to policing throughout the country."

Link to U.S. anti-racist rebellions

Abayomi Azikiwe, editor of the Pan-African News Wire, explains the political economy of Nigeria as well as the connection between these uprisings and the anti-racist rebellions in the U.S.:

"Undoubtedly the mass demonstrations against police brutality were influenced by events in the United States since the police execution of George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis. Historically, there has been an intersection between the struggles for civil rights and self-determination among the tens of millions of

people of African descent in the West and their allies, where political convergences during the 1950s and 1960s linked the movements against racism in North America with the independence campaigns to end colonialism on the African continent.

"Nigeria is a vast oil-producing state where multinational firms such as Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Total, among others, are involved with the extraction of petroleum and natural gas resources. Despite its tremendous wealth in energy, the character of the neocolonial system of dependency has deprived the majority of people from benefiting from its advances in the economic sphere."

If the global working class can lend enough support and solidarity to the Nigerian masses, perhaps these protests can be another step towards genuine peace and self-determination for people of Nigeria. 📌

Is the battle with Trump over?

Continued from page 1

guration Day on January 20, 2021. Our readers are all too aware. What is most important is that we remain vigilant.

November-December surprise?

The question remains: Will those interests of the imperialist bourgeoisie, such as the fracking and oil industries, which have grown desperate as a result of capitalist overproduction and subsequent contraction (that is, a glut in oil and gas), attempt to launch a military attack or provocation against Iran?

The possibility of a "November-December surprise" is real. Trump's secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, who bragged of a "smooth transition to a second Trump administration," plans to impose a "flood" of new sanctions against Iran in the coming weeks.

There is a small but vocal sector

of the movement that is oblivious to Trump's pro-war and imperialist actions, convinced despite all evidence to the contrary that he is, in some way, shape or form, an anti-interventionist.

It would be important to remind them that during Trump's administration, the U.S. military dropped "the Mother of All Bombs" (the closest you can come to a nuclear bomb) on Afghanistan; illegally assassinated Gen. Qassim Suleimani, Iran's beloved and respected leader of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, along with Iraqi paramilitary leader Abu Mahdi Muhandis, in what can only be seen as an attempt to provoke war with Iran; unilaterally declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel; escalated support for the brutal Saudi war on Yemen; attempted to overthrow President Nicolás Maduro and the rightful government of Venezuela; participated in the Bolivian coup against President Evo Morales;

Alexey Markov: anti-fascist commander, communist hero

By Greg Butterfield

On Oct. 24, Alexey Markov, commander of the anti-fascist Ghost Battalion in the Lugansk People's Republic, died in a car accident. His spouse Marina Markov was also killed.

Alexey Markov, a communist from Russia, came to the Donbass region (formerly the eastern part of Ukraine) to fight fascism and protect the people after Ukraine's government started a bloody war at the behest of Washington and NATO in 2014.

First, Markov gathered humanitarian aid and brought it to Donbass. Then, together with his comrade Pyotr Biryukov, he organized the Volunteer Communist Detachment, made up of internationalist fighters from former Soviet republics and eventually all over the world, and returned to join the battle as part of the anti-fascist Ghost Brigade led by Alexey Mozgovoy.

Markov and Biryukov quickly proved their mettle, becoming Mozgovoy's trusted deputies. The communist fighters played a crucial part in the battle to liberate the town of Debaltseve and push back the Ukrainian invaders in early 2015, perhaps the single most important battle in the war.

After Mozgovoy's tragic assassination in May 2015, Markov took on more leadership responsibilities in the Ghosts. Eventually, when the brigade was reorganized as the 14th Territorial Defense Battalion of the Lugansk People's Militia, he became its commander.

The warm, modest Markov was a beloved and inspiring figure to solidarity activists across the globe, and to the communities he defended and served. His fellow soldiers had given him the military call-sign "Dobry" — "Kind," in Russian — and those of us who had the chance to know him agreed it was well deserved.

Markov was not a military man.

Born in Omsk, Siberia, he trained as a nuclear physicist and mathematician at the University of Novosibirsk. Later, he was an IT worker in Moscow. But after the May 2, 2014, massacre of anti-fascist activists in Odessa, and the Ukrainian bombing and air raids against civilian targets in Donetsk and Lugansk, he said that he had to join the fight against resurgent fascism on the territory of his true homeland, the Soviet Union.

He was an example

"The death of 'Kind' is a great loss for the entire communist movement," wrote Alexey Albu, a survivor of the Odessa massacre and coordinator of the banned Ukrainian group Borotba. "He was an example for many communists. He was the defender of the disadvantaged people of Donbass, thrown under the roller of the Ukrainian-American military machine. He was a real anti-fascist, fighting with arms against the brown plague."

I corresponded with Markov and interviewed him several times during these years. I considered him a friend as well as a comrade in the struggle.

In 2016, when I attended an anti-fascist conference in Lugansk, Markov invited me and several other international activists to visit the Ghosts defending the front line against the Ukrainian Army and fascist militias near the town of Kirovsk. We were able to meet with the internationalist soldiers living in dugouts and digging trenches at the edge of the narrow "no man's land" that separated free Donbass from the area under Ukrainian occupation.

A look through a gun scope was all that was needed to see the enemy forces across the valley — flying the flag of the neo-Nazi Right Sector.

Today, the Ghost Battalion continues to defend this area. Despite an international peace agreement, Ukrainian forces regularly test the republic's defenses by attempting to



Alexey Markov, commander of the anti-fascist Ghost Battalion in the Lugansk People's Republic.

seize additional territory. Shellings and shootings by the Ukrainian side are frequent, targeting not only the defenders but the civilian population as well. Many Ghosts have died.

Despite working day and night to coordinate the defense of the area and frequently travelling to meetings of militia commanders, Markov prioritized political education for the Ghost fighters and support for the civilian population, hard hit by the effects of six years of war and blockade.

Markov was an important force for left unity for the former Soviet republics and beyond. The Volunteer Communist Detachment and the Ghosts united communists, socialists and anti-fascists of many organizations, backgrounds and languages into a cohesive fighting force. His dedication to building solidarity around concrete goals and rejecting sectarianism was unmatched.

He also prioritized internationalism. No matter how busy he was with daily life-and-death matters, Markov felt it was important to stay in touch with the international movement. He always responded to requests for solidarity statements and interviews from foreign activists.

Big capital vs. people

In an interview with Struggle-La Lucha in 2019, Markov explained: "The world is entering a phase of another economic crisis, and for big

capital it is very natural to try and channel the discontent of the masses by setting some nations against others. Uninformed people will sooner see the cause of their impoverishment in 'illegal immigrants' or the machinations of treacherous neighbors, than realize that their poverty is a necessary condition for the further enrichment of a handful of super rich.

"This was already the case at the beginning of the 20th century, when global capital relied on the Italian and German fascists in their struggle against the world labor movement. So, the current oligarchs set Ukrainians against Russians, Europeans against Asians, and white residents of the U.S. against African Americans in order to distract them from their real enemies."

Commander Markov's funeral was held Oct. 27 in the town of Alchevsk, the Ghosts' original headquarters. He was buried next to Ghost Brigade founder Alexey Mozgovoy. Words of tribute were offered by his comrade Pyotr Biryukov, now commander of the 4th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade; Alexander Borodai, first prime minister of the Donetsk People's Republic; and Kirovsk Mayor Gennady Kartsev.

A Ghost Battalion soldier, responding to fears that Markov's death might mark the end of the Ghost's internationalist, anti-fascist commitments, wrote: "The battalion commander worked at 100, 150, 200 percent. ... You can write for a very long time and a lot about what kind of person the battalion commander was, how much he did. You can write even longer and more about the fact that it is impossible to abandon our duties because of his death. But there is no time for that. The truth is, our responsibilities must be done.

"Kind" will stay with us. 'Ghost' will remain 'Ghost.' So say we all."

Commander Alexey Markov, jpresente! 📌

What's next for the working class

deepened the blockade against Cuba; and more.

This does not include the devastating impact of draconian sanctions during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left children starving and multiplied the death rate in targeted countries. Sanctions are indeed war!

What's more disconcerting is the inability of some in the movement to understand that class forces drive policies as much or more than individual leaders. We have no doubt that while policies may change here or there — and that "here and there" may be very important — that Biden will be just as deeply invested in the anti-China campaign launched by Trump, regardless of its form, as it is U.S. imperialist interests that in the end determine what his administration will do.

Just because a neoliberal form of capitalism is a criminal system does not mean that a fascist-leaning regime is against war — both are ulti-

mately driven by the needs of imperialism to expand or die.

Perhaps the most important lesson is that we as the working class can and should act in our own interests through mass action, whether in the form of an uprising, general strikes, or massive protest and resistance, to challenge imperialism.

Which way forward for the working class?

At the moment, it may appear to be more likely that the Trump movement will sputter out or be forced to recede, as the dominant capitalist interests seem more intent on proceeding with a Biden presidency. But it is important to keep our eyes and ears open, as this period remains unstable for the capitalist system.

The millions of workers who voted for Biden also have a right to know about and intervene in whatever behind-the-scenes deals and compromises are being forged with the right

wing in this period of transition. It is important to call for full transparency so that there are no illusions about the kind of battle that has to be prepared.

We should consider mobilizations on Jan. 20 and keep the idea of a workers' general strike alive in the event of any crisis that would threaten to leave Trump in office and further embolden the white supremacist far right.

On Nov. 12, the U.S. Labor Department tweeted: "Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims: Initial claims were 709,000 for the week ending 11/7 (-48,000). Insured unemployment was 6,786,000 for the week ending 10/31 (-436,000)."

A more accurate picture is to look at the "employment to population ratio." According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of October only 57.4 percent of the population of working age had a job.

Regardless of who prevails, it will

be important to continue to demand a "People's Mandate," including an end to police terror against Black and Brown people, community control of the police, jobs or income for the unemployed, safe working conditions, free quality health care for all, no evictions or utility shutoffs, shutting down ICE and freeing detained migrants, etc.

As Struggle-La Lucha's Gary Wilson explained: "The defeat of Trump, however, does not defeat racism or the ideology of white supremacy. The police have not been abolished. A battle was won, but the war continues."

The next stage of the struggle needs to be a broader and wider fight against capitalism. The capitalist crisis will continue regardless of who is in the White House. The important thing is for the working class to emerge as an independent entity, able to fight against capitalism and put socialism on the agenda. 📌

BOLIVIA:

Una celebración de los movimientos sociales, indígenas, mineros y militantes del MAS

Por Marco Teruggi

“Esperamos ser recordados como el gobierno en el que el pueblo boliviano se levantó para recuperar la democracia, la dignidad, la paz, el crecimiento, y la justicia social” afirmó Luis Arce en su discurso presidencial, desde el recinto de la Asamblea Legislativa. A su lado estaba el vicepresidente, David Choquehuanca, los presidentes de las cámaras de senadores y diputados, Andrónico Rodríguez y Freddy Mamani respectivamente.

A esa hora el centro de La Paz era una celebración en la cual movimientos sociales, indígenas, mineros, sindicales, militantes del Movimiento Al Socialismo (MAS), venidos de diferentes partes del país rodeaban la Plaza Murillo. El festejo había comenzado la noche anterior, en la vigilia de las organizaciones realizada en cercanía de dónde tendría lugar el acto.

La presencia temprana de los movimientos se debió a la permanencia de las amenazas de un sector de la derecha hasta las últimas horas. La noche del sábado tuvo lugar en La Paz una nueva concentración y marcha bajo la consigna de pedido de auditoría y suspensión de toma de posesión. Si bien a esa hora resultaba claro que la transmisión de mando tendría lugar y que las fuerzas sociales de la derecha estaban mayoritariamente agotadas, las alertas ante posibles acontecimientos imprevistos se mantuvieron hasta último momento.

El escenario político fue uno de los puntos centrales del discurso del nuevo presidente. Se refirió a lo sucedido a partir del golpe de Estado como “una guerra interna y sistemática contra el pueblo, especialmente contra los más humildes (...) se sembró muerte, miedo y discriminación, recrudesció el racismo (...) la persecución contra dirigentes del MAS y de los movimientos sociales, hubo muertos, heridos, encarcelados, perseguidos, asilados y exiliados”.

La mención a las masacres de Sacaba y Senkata, ocurridas a pocos días del golpe en noviembre del año pasado, fue permanente y se realizó un minuto de silencio por quienes fueron asesinados. El nuevo presidente se refirió a las mismas como “símbolo de dignidad y resistencia”, homenajeó “a los caídos, a los héroes del pueblo que han recuperado la democracia”.

En la toma de posesión estuvieron presentes varias representaciones internacionales, como la del gobierno de Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, España, Venezuela, Uruguay, Venezuela, Irán, Chile, Emiratos Árabes, así como delegaciones de partidos políticos de diferentes



Inauguración presidencial de Luis Arce (derecha) del Movimiento por el Socialismo en La Paz, 8 de noviembre.



Las multitudes dan la bienvenida a Evo Morales cuando regresó a Bolivia un año después de un golpe respaldado por Estados Unidos, el 11 de noviembre.

países, así como parlamentarios y movimientos bolivianos.

Quien no estuvo presente, como se preveía, fue Jeanine Añez, que había anunciado días antes su partida a la ciudad de Trinidad, en el departamento de Beni, desmintiendo una posible fuga del país. Quien sí estuvo por parte de la oposición fue el dirigente Carlos Mesa, segundo lugar en las elecciones de octubre, quien reconoció la victoria de Arce desde el inicio. Sin embargo, tanto él como su grupo parlamentario, abandonaron el recinto antes de los discursos.

“Debemos superar la división, el odio, el racismo y la discriminación entre compatriotas, ya no más persecución a la libertad de expresión, y ya no judicialización de la política, ya no más abuso de poder (...) ya no más impunidad, justicia hermanos, pero la justicia tiene que ser verdaderamente independiente”, afirmó Choquehuanca, en un mensaje de diálogo, unidad presente en ambos discursos.

El nuevo gobierno asume en un contexto de inestabilidad. Si, por un lado, quienes integraban el gobierno de facto están en retirada y posible escape del país para no tener que rendir cuentas, y por el otro Carlos Mesa busca conformarse como principal opositor, existe un sector, conducido en parte por Luis Fernando Camacho, tercero en las elecciones, quien encarna el ala más radical de la derecha. Ese mismo sector no reconoce la validez de los resultados ni la toma de posesión. ¿Qué harán a partir de ahora? Es una de las principales preguntas.

“Estos sectores minoritarios levantan la bandera de la democracia solo cuando les conviene, y cuando

no recurren a la desestabilización, a la violencia, a golpes de Estado para hacerse del poder”, afirmó Arce, quien hizo referencia a la utilización que esos sectores hicieron de “grupos paramilitares”, que realizaron acciones hasta el día viernes, en Cochabamba o Santa Cruz.

El gobierno se enfrenta a una triple crisis, mencionada por Arce: democrática, producto de lo vivido con el golpe y el gobierno de facto; sanitaria por la pandemia, y económica. La gestión de Añez dejó números en rojo, con una caída del 11,1% del PIB, un déficit fiscal de 12,1%, un déficit de 8,7% del Tesoro Federal, y una deuda de 4 mil 200 millones de dólares contraída en los once meses pasados. “Día que pasa sin tomar acción día que se complica la situación”, afirmó el mandatario.

La expectativa social con el nuevo gobierno es grande. Tanto por parte de quienes se movilizaban hasta la Plaza Murillo, como las 36 nacionalidades indígenas, la organización de los Ponchos Rojos que fue parte de la seguridad presidencial, o la Central Obrera Boliviana, sino por amplias capas de la población que en menos de un año enfrentaron los impactos de una recesión, la pandemia, y un gobierno de facto que amenazó, persiguió y no dio respuesta a ninguna de sus promesas.

El nuevo mandatario se refirió a

la cuestión internacional y afirmó, como ya había anticipado, que centrará esfuerzos en construir la “unidad política de la diversidad de América Latina y el Caribe” a través de la Celac, y mediante la Unasur en el terreno sudamericano, “como espacio de integración y mecanismo de concertación de políticas, donde nos encontremos todos independientemente de las orientaciones políticas de los gobiernos”. El nuevo gobierno boliviano aparece como un posible factor que permita acercar y trabajar junto a diferentes partes del progresismo latinoamericano.

La toma de posesión abre un nuevo momento dentro del proceso de cambio boliviano: “nos comprometemos a rectificar lo que estuvo mal y profundizar lo que estuvo bien”, afirmó Arce. Dentro de esta nueva etapa aparecen desafíos del orden interno, como pedidos de movimientos de que exista un recambio de cargos de dirección, como las amenazas de las fuerzas desestabilizadoras que ya anticiparon que no regresarán -o así parece- a las vías democráticas.

El domingo fue una fiesta en La Paz, ya Evo Morales se encuentra cerca del país, Bolivia deja atrás una de las páginas más oscuras de su historia reciente con una victoria democrática y un nuevo gobierno popular.

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