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# Socialist countries beat back COVID-19

By Scott Scheffer

Nov. 22 — Another wave of COVID-19 is raging across the U.S. The death count has now reached a quarter-million; Black, Brown and Indigenous communities have suffered the heaviest toll.

After actively discouraging all recommended methods of slowing the spread of the disease and cutting lockdowns short to try to get capitalist production restarted, the Trump regime has focused for months exclusively on the development of a vaccine.

In March, in an article about the efforts to develop a vaccine, the New

*Continued on page 2*



Workers at the Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac Biotech.

## INSIDE

▶ Capitalism's viral catastrophe

▶ Kaepernick: FREE MUMIA



▶ Vets call to soldiers

▶ Black votes matter

▶ Giuliani, thug-in-charge

▶ Philippines: Typhoons and student strikes

▶ Puerto Rican elections



▶ Revolutionary feminism

# Whoever's in the White House, get ready to fight

By Greg Butterfield

Nov. 25 — The year 2020 has been exhausting.

At the beginning of this year, a U.S. war of aggression against Iran seemed imminent. President Donald Trump ordered the illegal, provocative and downright racist assassination of Gen. Qasem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Quds Force, responsible for beating back the threat of Islamic State (ISIS) forces in Syria, Iraq and throughout West Asia.

Then came the global pandemic, which killed almost 1.5 million people worldwide by late November. While some countries were able to take swift, organized, community-supported action to stop the spread — especially socialist countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba — those based on market-driven capitalism, with inadequate, privatized health care, were unable to meet the challenge.

That was the U.S. most of all, with 12.7 million cases reported on Nov. 25 and 260,000 deaths, the worst in the world. Both numbers continue to soar with no end in sight.

Millions of workers are reeling from the unnecessary, preventable deaths of loved ones, especially in the hardest-hit Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities.

Entwined with the pandemic, and looming even before COVID-19 was identified, was the latest global capitalist economic crisis, which has hit the world harder than any boom-and-bust cycle since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Millions were thrown out of work.

Families are scraping by and joining miles-long lines for food assis-

tance after the U.S. Congress and the White House failed to extend emergency benefits or further cash relief. At the end of 2020, more than 13 million unemployed workers will lose their jobless benefits. Almost 7 million households are threatened with eviction when emergency protections end on Dec. 31.

For those low-wage workers and health care workers lucky enough to keep their jobs — the so-called essential workers, also disproportionately oppressed and poor people, including undocumented migrants — every day is a struggle to stay safe from infection.

A study by National Nurses United, the country's largest nurses' union, found that Filipinx workers have been one-third of the nurses who have died, despite being only 4 percent of nurses in the U.S. That's because they are disproportionately on the frontlines in emergency rooms and care centers, and have less access to necessary equipment and health care themselves.

## Black Lives uprising

In May, Minneapolis cops murdered George Floyd, a Black man, in broad daylight. The city and the whole country erupted in a mass uprising against racist police violence. Led by Black youth, millions took to the streets against the killer cops and their political enablers from city halls and statehouses to Washington. The New York Times reported that as many as 26 million people in the U.S. participated in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd.

The multinational uprising, which some have termed the largest protest movement in U.S. history, shook

Anti-eviction protest in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 1.



the racist foundations of the capitalist system.

Lacking coordinated national leadership, this heroic movement was unable to sustain its early momentum as the capitalist state brought its forces to bear to suppress it. But valuable lessons were learned and the anger of the people has not gone away.

Each new outrage, like the blatant grand jury manipulation to let off the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., brings people back into the streets.

And then there was the election. No, let's call it what it really was: the selection, between two wealthy racist white men handpicked by the capitalist ruling class, by the billionaire oligarchs and landlords, to steer their ship of state.

Having once more sabotaged Bernie Sanders and his campaign driven by idealistic young people just beginning to learn what socialism is (and isn't), the Democratic Party bosses pushed Joe Biden onto the masses — Biden, a paragon of old-school Washington war mongering, systemic racism and mass incarceration, a trusted friend of Wall Street — as their only alternative to Donald Trump's open appeals to white supremacy and fascism.

Despite the Democrats' and Re-

publicans' best efforts, though, the Black Lives rebellion turned the November presidential election into a referendum on Trump's racism. And Trump lost, by 6 million votes and counting.

Now, as we enter the last month of 2020, with Trump in office for eight more weeks, the threat of U.S. war on Iran looms again.

## Get ready to fight

After all this — when the media announced on Nov. 7 that Trump had been defeated and Biden had won the necessary Electoral College votes to take office — the masses of workers and oppressed people let out a collective sigh of relief. In many places, people spontaneously came out into the streets to celebrate Trump's defeat.

This feeling is completely understandable.

The tension ramped up again as Trump denied the results. To this day, Trump has refused to concede defeat. He and his backers in the ruling class, the capitalist state, and fascist gangs like the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and Wolverine Watchmen, have not stopped plotting to overturn his electoral defeat.

Until Trump is out of the White House, we must remain on guard and

*Continued on page 4*

# Capitalism's coronavirus catastrophe

By Stephen Millies

Wall Street's war machine includes 11 aircraft carriers and 5,800 nuclear weapons. Yet the capitalist government in the United States is helpless to combat the latest coronavirus surge.

Daily cases have soared to 180,000 with over a thousand deaths per day. Hospitals throughout the Midwest are being overwhelmed. New York City has closed its public schools again.

None of this was inevitable. Donald Trump has blood on his hands. By sabotaging absolutely necessary public health measures — like wearing masks and practicing social distancing — Trump guaranteed thousands of more deaths.

The Trump regime follows decades of cutbacks and privatizing government programs. Hundreds of hospitals have closed with tens of thousands of hospital beds lost. Now they're needed.

Some of the closed hospitals — like St. Vincent's in Manhattan's Greenwich Village — have been turned into luxury housing. Real estate profits are more important than human lives.

Contrast the tragedy unfolding in the U.S. with how socialist countries are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty-two new cases of the coronavirus were reported on Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 in the People's Republic of China.

That's 10,000 times fewer cases than in the U.S. How has socialist China been able to control the pandemic?

People's health comes first under socialism. China's government, led by President Xi Jinping, didn't hesitate to temporarily shut down the economy in order to save lives.

No consideration was given to private profit. That's unlike the capitalist U.S., where President Trump issued an executive order keeping the meatpacking plants open without safety guarantees.

Tyson Foods and other big meatpackers demanded it to shield themselves from lawsuits. Trump compiled on April 28, which was Workers' Memorial Day.

Talking about his billionaire friends in the dead-animal industry, Trump said: "They're so happy. They're all gung-ho, and we solved their problems."

No thought was given to the problem of thousands of meatpacking and poultry workers getting sick and dying.

## Socialism vs. COVID-19

In socialist countries, people are encouraged to be organized. Members of communist parties volunteer for duty in the war against the coronavirus.

So do members of women's associations and youth groups. Unions are mobilized to enforce safe working conditions.

Police kill an average of three people per day in the U.S. At least half are Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

When the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan was shut down to fight COVID-19, unarmed socialist police delivered meals to people's homes.

Thirty-five people have died of COVID-19 in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a country of 97 million people. North Dakota's 762,000 people suffered 732 deaths from the virus as of Nov. 13.

The Pentagon killed at least three million people in Vietnam, using napalm and phosphorus bombs to burn children to death. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people suffer

Philadelphia-area nurses are preparing to strike to demand safe conditions for patients and health-care workers.

from the effects of Agent Orange, dropped by U.S. planes, as do thousands of U.S. veterans.

Another million people were killed in neighboring Laos. The U.S. killed over three million people during the Korean War.

Today, both the socialist Lao People's Democratic Republic and the socialist Democratic People's Republic of Korea have reported no deaths from COVID-19.

For 60 years, socialist Cuba has been economically blockaded by the U.S. Its socialist health care system has become world famous. Cuban medical workers have gone to Italy to help during the pandemic.

Cuba, with 11.3 million people, has had 131 deaths due to COVID-19. The 11.7 million people in Ohio have had at least 5,700 deaths.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is also beating back the coronavirus, despite Trump's cruel sanctions. Venezuela's 28.4 million people have suffered 844 COVID-19 deaths. The 29.5 million people living in Texas have had at least 19,917 deaths from COVID-19.

## Africa fights back

Africa has been pillaged for over 500 years by European and U.S. capitalists. Yet African countries have been able to tackle the coronavirus much more effectively than their colonial exploiters.

With four times the population of the U.S., all of Africa has had less than one-fifth of the cases of COVID-19.

The people of Zimbabwe have been



punished by the U.S. and the European Union for daring to take back their land from white settlers. These capitalist governments are trying to strangle Zimbabwe's economy.

With around 15 million people, Zimbabwe has had 257 COVID-19 deaths. Pennsylvania, with around 13 million people, has had at least 9,353.

## More than a vaccine is needed

People are hoping for the rollout of vaccines against the coronavirus. Capitalists see dollar signs.

After Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech announced a potentially effective vaccine, \$44 billion poured into U.S. stock markets.

U.S. billionaires have grabbed another trillion dollars during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, 15 million workers are scheduled to lose their unemployment benefits the day after Christmas. Temporary moratoriums on evictions and home foreclosures are set to expire.

We have to demand the reinstatement of the \$600 weekly supplemental unemployment benefits that ended in July, with the missing weeks paid in full. A complete ban on evictions and foreclosures must be enacted.

This won't happen automatically even if Trump is kicked out of the White House. We have to organize the power of the people to win it. ☒

## Socialist countries beat back COVID-19

Continued from page 1

York Times said that "the United States, China and Europe are battling to be the first." That competition does exist in the major capitalist countries. It is an all-out, cutthroat battle — each country prioritizing their economy, trying to reopen businesses that are shut down. Secrecy abounds and the competition is even between companies in the same country. But the New York Times was being deceitful to include China in the battle "to be the first."

China, Cuba and communists and socialists the world over have led amazingly successful campaigns against the virus and have a different perspective and a different goal than the capitalist countries. They don't view gaining control of the virus in their own countries as the end of the fight — their goal is to help the rest of the world as well.

### China's death toll under 5,000

China's Communist Party prioritized saving lives over keeping their economy going and shut down huge areas where around 100 million people live as soon as COVID-19 was identified. Their economic sacrific-

es paid off. With no evictions, no job losses, and food distributed as people isolated and quarantined, China limited its death toll to less than many single states and cities in the U.S. — under 5,000.

While still vigilant to prevent a new wave of the virus with social distancing, contact tracing and other measures, China is now working furiously to share medical equipment and supplies, and developing vaccines to help break the back of the pandemic in the poorest countries in the world. They have joined Covax, an international alliance committed to providing two billion doses of vaccine to poor countries. The U.S. declined to participate and given the current status of their vaccine development efforts, China is likely to be the largest contributor to the effort.

Following up on the propaganda attacks emanating from the U.S. earlier this year, China's commitment to try to help the rest of the world has been attacked in the capitalist press as "schemes" to achieve their "foreign policy goals."

But the attacks on China's efforts may not be limited to slander. There is even well-founded suspicion around

the cancellation of a trial in Brazil of a Chinese pharmaceutical company's vaccine. President Jair Bolsonaro — a reactionary and a close ally of Trump — pressured their pharmaceutical regulators to cancel Sinovac's trial after a suicide by a participant. Bolsonaro later gloated to the press that it was "a victory for me." There has been a huge outcry from medical professionals, virologists and epidemiologists in Brazil because the suicide had nothing to do with the safety of the vaccine.

As four of China's vaccine candidates have progressed through Phase 3 trials they have inoculated up to one million people at home, including students, front-line workers, workers who travel frequently as part of the Belt and Road Initiative and the People's Liberation Army — on an emergency basis. As of yet, there are no reports of serious or unexpected side effects.

### U.S. sanctions block progress

China's achievements in fighting the pandemic have been unparalleled. And even though terrible U.S. sanctions have damaged the economies of some progressive and social-

ist countries and hindered progress, all evidence shows that socialist and communists in government, from Vietnam to Cuba, from India to China, are still better equipped than even the most developed capitalist countries to deal with this world crisis. If the deadly U.S. sanctions regime were defeated, the world's population would be far better off in dealing with this pandemic.

In India, Communist Party (Marxist) member K.K. Sailaja astounded observers around the world as she swung into action to limit an outbreak in her densely populated home state of Kerala, where she serves as minister of health. The entire state government of Kerala is in the hands of her party. Shailaja was honored by the United Nations because her sensitivity to local traditions won the trust of the population and allowed a vigorous campaign that kept the number of cases as well as the case fatality rate much lower than in the rest of India in January and February.

Now, due to many people returning to Kerala from abroad and because of many traditional festivals taking place, a second wave has hit.

Continued on page 3

# Colin Kaepernick: Now is the time to release Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Gloria Verdieu

“Release Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners” was the message of the Nov. 16 Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Press Conference that featured a video appeal from Colin Kaepernick, calling on the movement against racist policing to join in the work to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home.

Listen to and view Kaepernick’s entire presentation on YouTube — at [tinyurl.com/y5g2szul](https://tinyurl.com/y5g2szul).

Johanna Fernandez opened the virtual press conference with an urgent emergency message regarding 77-year-old political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoats. Shoats, suffering stage 4 cancer for the last year and a half, has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

This infection is no doubt a result of the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in Pennsylvania state prisons and the callous disregard shown by prison authorities to elderly and infirm incarcerated people, including withholding testing and unhygienic isolation of those who report symptoms. The message included a request for all supporters to call the office of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and demand the unconditional release of Russel Maroon Shoats and all elder prisoners with COVID-19. The message was signed by Russel Maroon Shoats Jr., son of Shoats. The number to call (717-787-2500) was posted on the chat and Fernandez repeated this information throughout the press conference.

Fernandez, the chair of the virtual press conference, is an associate professor of history at Baruch Col-

lege, author of “The Young Lords: A Radical History” and producer of “Justice on Trial: An examination of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

## Police frame-up of Mumia

Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal followed, explaining why this is a critical moment in the fight to release Black political prisoner and world renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Mumia is clearly a target of judicial, prosecutorial, police misconduct and terrorism. District Attorney Larry Krasner has already released fifteen people who had been subjected to judicial and prosecutorial misconduct. The police frame-up of Mumia has been in the foreground, internationally recognized, as Krasner knows, but he has not released Mumia.

“We must demand that Krasner do for Mumia what he did for the other fifteen exonerees, thirteen Black, one white, and one Latino,” Pam Africa said.

“We are asking people to help us stop the plot and stop the plan. It is clear they are trying to kill this innocent man. Mumia could have been released just before the Kings Bench Act, which Linn Washington will talk about later.”

Africa continued, “I cannot express enough how very ill Mumia is in that prison, not like he was two years ago. Mumia has cirrhosis of the liver.”

Cirrhosis is a liver disease that involves loss of liver cells and irreversible scarring. Viral hepatitis B and C are common causes of cirrhosis of the liver. According to the

Mayo Clinic, life expectancy for advanced cases of cirrhosis of the liver is six months to two years depending on complications.

“Mumia is now living under the threat of COVID-19, which is the case for everyone else inside the prisons,” Africa continued. “The thing is, he should be on the streets based on the evidence. We need to immediately put pressure and demand that Krasner release Mumia based on judicial and prosecutorial misconduct.”

Pam Africa added, “I cannot express this enough. The plots, the failed plots for 39 years where they tried to kill Mumia. If it were not for a judge in Scranton and the movement, Mumia would be dead today! The prison officials were in a plot that got exposed inside the courtroom before a lot of people that they were manipulating papers to kill him. We are not just talking about judicial and prosecutorial misconduct. We are talking about a plot, a continuous plot to try to kill Mumia.”

Fernandez explained that Pam Africa was referring to bribery on the part of the prosecutor’s office in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The bribery of witnesses to obtain a conviction and also when Mumia fell ill with hepatitis C. Fernandez said the committee supported a court suit that revealed that the department of corrections manipulated their own doctor to say that Mumia’s critical case of hepatitis C was not serious. In court, the doctor said that the prosecutor was trying to get him to say that Mumia is not seriously ill, but the science and the records suggest that he is. At that point, the judge intervened, saying that someone is about to perjure themselves and there are going to be serious problems in the case. Eventually the struggle was won and Mumia got the health care and services he needed. As a result of this health lawsuit, other prisoners across the country are now receiving treatment for hepatitis C.

Linn Washington, a professor of journalism at Temple University, explained that the “King’s Bench,” gives the Pennsylvania Supreme Court the power to intervene in matters brought before the court and take up cases that are before a lower court. This power is supposed to be done in extraordinary instances of the public interest. What the Pennsylvania Supreme Court did was to involve itself by granting a petition filed by the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) to block Mumia’s legal appeals, which had been granted by the state’s Superior Court.

Kwame Ajamu, one of three wrongfully convicted prisoners in Cleveland, Ohio, was exonerated in 2014. All three were initially sentenced to death for murder based on the testimony of a 12-year-old, Edward Vernon. Their sentences were commuted to life in prison, and, after forty years, Vernon came forward and said the Cleveland police detectives coerced him to testify falsely at the trial. Kwame was 17 years at the time of his conviction. Ajamu was paroled in 2003 and exonerated in 2014.

Ajamu is currently the chairman of Witness to Innocence, an organization that has an intention, desire



The Nov. 16 Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Press Conference featured a video appeal from Colin Kaepernick, calling on the movement against racist policing to join in the work to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home. Johanna Fernandez, in the top corner of the screen, opened the virtual press conference.

and strong mission to stop capital punishment and end the death penalty. Ajamu said he will stand behind Mumia until eternity.

## Mumia’s words brought life

Dwayne Betts is director of the Million Book Project at Yale Law School, public defender and award-winning author. Betts read a prepared poetic statement that began:

“My name is Reginald Dwayne Betts; I am a poet; I am a lawyer; I am a convicted felon. In 1997 I went to prison as a 16-year-old. I pleaded guilty to a carjacking, sentenced for nine years. During those years in cells, I discovered Mumia Abu-Jamal’s writing. I discovered him in the same way that I discovered As-sata Shakur, and George Jackson, and James Foreman, and Stokely Carmichael, and H. Rap Brown, Fred Hampton, Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, Malcolm X, Dr. Angela Davis.” Betts said that Mumia’s words brought life to him when he was in solitary and he speaks for all people in prison regardless of their innocence.

Professor Angela Davis, author of “Are Prisons Obsolete,” registered her unwavering support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. “It is right and just for us to accelerate our efforts to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners,” Davis said.

Mumia’s grandson Jamal spoke of how “This is something I’ve had to endure all my life.” He said it is great to see so many organizations coming together, strategizing and figuring out action plans to get my grandfather free. Jamal spoke the names George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Walter Wallace, who was recently shot by the police in Philadelphia.

Jamal said, “It’s a good time to have my grandfather’s case come to the forefront. There are a lot of individuals who are miseducated, so much misinformation provided by the Fraternal Order of Police. I am grateful for so many that are participating in this press conference.”

The press conference concluded with a powerful statement from Colin Kaepernick. Watch the complete event on YouTube.

For more on the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal go to [Mobilization4Mumia.com](https://Mobilization4Mumia.com).

*Continued from page 2*

Still, under the leadership of “Shailaja Teacher,” as she is known, the case fatality rate has been kept down to an incredibly low 0.37 percent.

## Cuba, a world leader against COVID-19

Cuba has also been a world leader in the fight against COVID-19. With a great deal of experience in biologic medicine accumulated during past outbreaks of dengue fever and a host of tropical diseases, their expertise not only helped them keep their own death toll to just 131, but has enabled them to save lives throughout the world.

Interferon-a2b, a biologic drug, was developed by Cuban scientists in 1986. One clinical study showed that when administered early during the infection, it cuts the case fatality rate from 2.95 percent to 0.92 percent. When they laud the success against COVID-19 in South Korea, the mainstream Western press omits that Cuba’s biologic drug was instrumental in keeping South Korea’s case fatality rate to about 1.65 percent.

Now Interferon-a2b is being manufactured in China to keep up with demand from all over the world. Ever worsening U.S. sanctions make it impossible for Cuba to manufacture enough to meet the international need. The sanctions are also blocking the progress of Cuba’s own four vaccines currently in Phase 2 trials

— early testing on small groups of humans.

A Mint Press News article notes the effect of sanctions on Cuba’s vaccine production and the potential help to other countries that they might be able to provide otherwise:

“Should any of these efforts ultimately succeed, the Caribbean nation — already a medical powerhouse that has developed a lung cancer vaccine and methods to stop mother-to-baby HIV and syphilis transmission — will likely become an important supplier to other Latin American and developing countries that have been effectively shut out from purchasing COVID vaccines from Western companies, as rich nations have already begun hoarding coronavirus medicines.” (“Cuba Could be on the Brink of a Revolutionary COVID Vaccine, But US Sanctions Are Slowing It Down” MPN, Nov. 16)

There is a healthy mistrust of capitalist corporations — including giant pharmaceuticals run by billionaires. If they do come up with a safe and effective vaccine or more than one, it will be due to the research and work of the tens of thousands of scientists employed by them and should be recognized as an important achievement of science. But this pandemic has shown that the drive for profit above all else that is inherent to capitalism is obsolete, and worldwide cooperation — a socialist world — is long overdue.

# Vets, activists call on soldiers to reject orders to overturn election

By Greg Butterfield

Last June 1, as reported by Struggle-La Lucha, President Donald Trump attempted to carry out a coup d'état when his administration ordered U.S. soldiers and National Guard troops to "dominate" Washington, D.C., during mass protests against the police murder of George Floyd.

Trump's plan was to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 — first enacted to suppress slave rebellions — and dispatch the military to put down Black Lives Matter protests across the U.S.

The scheme collapsed when Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper lost their nerve, fearing that rank-and-file soldiers, mostly from the working class and many from Black and Brown communities, would refuse to carry out these orders and join the protesters.

Instead, Trump deployed an illegal secret federal police force, including agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security and the Border Patrol, to Portland, Ore., Seattle and other cities for a smaller-scale attack on protesters. In September, Trump's stormtroopers carried out the cold-blooded execution of anti-fascist Michael Reinohl near Portland, Ore.

But Trump and his closest supporters have never given up their desire to use the military to secure their hold on power and crush workers and oppressed communities. Rumblings of possible troop deployments began before the Nov. 3 election. And since Trump has refused to acknowledge his defeat, and contin-



U.S. National Guard troops called out in Los Angeles, May 31, 2020.

ues to try and overturn the vote, the rumblings have grown louder.

Just a week after Election Day, Trump abruptly replaced several high-ranking officials in the Defense Department, the civilian body that oversees the Pentagon, and the National Security Council with ultraright loyalists. Esper, who had balked at the June 1 coup attempt, was replaced as secretary of defense by Chris Miller, previously the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, who had only served in that post since August.

Others moved into high posts include both civilians and former military personnel known for public displays of racism and anti-Muslim bigotry, and advocates of war with Iran.

## Support for resistance

Since the beginning of the Black Lives uprising this summer, the organization About Face: Veterans Against War (formerly known as Iraq Veterans Against the War) has urged National Guard soldiers to

resist deployment to suppress the protests. A letter signed by 700 veterans called on these troops to "Stand Down for Black Lives."

The group reiterated its appeal in the runup to Election Day: "This election is critical and as vets we know troops are often put in questionable positions and told they have no choice. You have options and we're here

to help." About Face publicized ways for National Guard members to report "ethical, legal or safety concerns" and request support.

The National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force also announced it would provide support. "MLTF ... shares the concerns of many in the public and the legal community, that U.S. servicemembers may be given illegal orders or face real conflicts with their moral, political or religious beliefs in the context of the 2020 Presidential election and its aftermath. In particular, we are concerned that National Guard members and other military personnel may be used in voter suppression or repression of progressive demonstrations.

"The Task Force is troubled about the lack of effective legal alternatives for servicemembers dealing with possible illegal orders and believes it is essential that members of the military are fully informed about their rights under the law. ... For this reason, the Task Force has set up a system for free, confidential telephone consultations with attorneys

to discuss possible illegal orders and related issues."

And a popular appeal to U.S. soldiers was issued by Detroit's Moratorium Now! Coalition, "Attention! Refuse to Follow Trump's Illegal Orders to Overturn the Election." The call is endorsed by the Peoples Power Assembly, the Peoples Alliance-Bay Area, Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha, the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement and Youth Against War and Racism, among others.

## 'You do have a choice'

The call states: "At some point, Trump may declare the 2020 election to be 'null and void.' He would then order you, U.S. servicemembers, into cities and towns across the country, to suppress the millions of people who pour into the streets to protest his illegal coup d'état. Are you ready to shoot down civilians, just to keep Trump illegally in power despite the election outcome?"

"Union locals and labor councils across the country are already preparing for a national general strike if Trump refuses to recognize the people's decision and overturns the election. Are you ready to bayonet workers standing up for our democratic rights?"

"Some 42 percent of U.S. soldiers are people of color. Are you willing to kill for this racist bigot as he tries to hold his grip of power and unleashes bloody revenge on any who oppose him?"

The call goes on to point out the hypocrisy of Trump and his allies when they attempt to use the troops to circumvent the capitalists' own

*Continued on page 6*

# Whoever's in the White House, get ready to fight

*Continued from page 1*

ready to mobilize against a coup attempt. If Trump's four years in power have taught anything, it is that the "venerable institutions" in which the Democratic establishment and corporate media urge the people to put their trust will not protect us.

But even if Trump departs and Biden takes the oath of office peacefully on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2021, the fight is not over. Far from it.

Just look at who Biden is lining up as his Cabinet appointees and other high positions in his administration. Most are carryovers from the Obama administration or other representatives of the right-wing Democratic leadership.

Biden's former chief of staff, Bruce Reed, an advocate of austerity and cuts to Social Security, is his likely pick for the Office of Management and Budget. Antony Blinken, a warmonger on Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine, is Biden's choice for secretary of state. To head the Department of Homeland Security is Alejandro Mayorkas, an anti-communist Cuban American whose family fled the socialist revolution. And so on.

Biden is expected to nominate several women and people of color to

positions that have been exclusively held by white men. Representation is important. Those who discount or ridicule it are not doing themselves any favors; it will not gain them an audience with the workers.

But if those being appointed to these positions are loyalists of the system that oppresses women, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ2S people and all workers, then the value of that representation is limited.

Biden has also suggested that he may appoint "mainstream" Republicans, in the same spirit that his campaign solicited and trumpeted the support of war criminal George W. Bush and racist former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

## A return to 2016 won't save us

The Democratic establishment epitomized by President-elect Joe Biden wants to turn the clock back to the "good old days" before Trump's election in November 2016.

Good days for them and their backers on Wall Street and the military-industrial complex, perhaps. For the workers and oppressed? Not so much.

What was the period of U.S. history before Trump turned up the flame of bigotry and repression? It was the

period that gave rise to Trump and the resurgence of white supremacist, fascist movements.

It was the police murder of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Mo.; the birth of the phrase "Deporter In Chief"; the violent, coordinated crushing of the Occupy Wall Street movement; the declaration of Bolivarian Venezuela as a "special threat to U.S. national security."

It was the pinnacle of mass incarceration of young Black and Brown men and women, built on policies that Sen. Joe Biden had an intimate part in crafting. It was Biden himself overseeing the construction of a regime in Ukraine based on the power of neo-fascist, white supremacist movements to serve U.S. military, political and corporate interests.

Anyone hoping for the incoming Democratic administration to enact a massive retooling of the country to be more equitable is in for a big disappointment. The will for a New Deal or a Green New Deal doesn't exist within the capitalist class.

The global decline of U.S. imperialist power and the tendency of the rate of profit to fall, as described 150 years ago by Karl Marx, undercut any liberal hopes. That's why the best that the system can offer the

workers is Biden and a return to pre-2016 misery. That's why the return of Trump (or someone similar) in 2024 will hang over the next four years.

Will Biden enact the national shutdown needed to bring the virus under control?

Will Biden rein in the police, much less defund them?

Will Biden fight for Medicare for All?

Will Biden stop wars and sanctions?

Will Biden stop the war on immigrants?

Will Biden defeat the white supremacist gangs threatening our communities?

Will Biden put workers before Wall Street?

Trump's electoral defeat was a victory. It was a battle, and an important one. But the class war continues.

Under Trump or Biden, the job of socialists and communists, of all class-conscious workers, is to organize and fight for the rights of the workers and oppressed. Let's use this historic moment to help our class shed its illusions and build a militant movement against the whole rotten capitalist system, for a socialist future. 📌

# BLACK VOTES MATTER

By Stephen Millies

Trump's campaign to steal the election hasn't stopped. It still depends on stealing Black votes. His No. 1 thug Rudy Giuliani wants the votes in Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee and Philadelphia thrown out.

All these cities have large Black communities with Atlanta and Detroit having Black majorities. If Trump is able to ditch the votes in these cities, he can overturn the results in Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and win the Electoral College.

That's what Trump supporter Monica Palmer tried to do in Michigan's Wayne County, which includes Detroit. Sitting on the county election board, Palmer wanted to certify just the votes of Detroit's suburbs but not those of Detroit itself.

That's despite the suburb of Livonia having the second highest number of county precincts with irregularities. While Detroit is nearly 80% Black, Livonia is less than 5% African American. Detroit also has large Arab and Latinx communities whose votes would have been thrown away.

It was the power of the people that stopped this outrage. Hundreds mobilized to stop the steal. Local congressperson Rep. Rashida Tlaib — a Palestinian member of "the squad" — denounced the racist attempt to disenfranchise Detroit's voters.

In Milwaukee, racist Trump supporters are harassing election workers, many of whom are Black, during a recount. "It looks like [Trump is] looking to do pretty much everything he can to disenfranchise voters of color," said Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, the first Black person elected to that post.

That's nothing new. After the 1976 presidential election, former Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles claimed Black people were being driven around Milwaukee in a school bus and voting a zillion times.

Then there's North Carolina. Peaceful marchers, most of whom were Black, going to polls on Halloween in Alamance County were pepper-sprayed and 23 were arrested by sheriff's deputies. The Reverend Greg Drumwright and two others are now facing frame-up felony charges.

Sheriff Terry Johnson, who ordered the attack, is also a notorious anti-immigrant and anti-Latinx bigot.

## Black voting power under attack

It was Black voters who prevented David Duke from being elected Louisiana's governor in 1991. While 55% of white voters cast their ballots for the neo-Nazi, the Black community, with support from progressive whites, mobilized to stop Duke.

A Black shield stopped the deluge of anti-Jewish racism and fascist violence that would have followed Duke's election.

Ollie North wasn't elected a U.S. senator in 1994 from Virginia because of the Black vote. North helped flood the U.S. with crack cocaine while Ronald Reagan was in the White House. Drug sales financed the contra terrorists trying to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

And it was the Black vote that blocked the super bigot sexual predator Roy Moore from becoming a U.S. senator from Alabama in 2018.



Detroit, Nov. 23, 2020.

The Black vote was won by Black soldiers during the U.S. Civil War and by bloody struggles during the Reconstruction period that followed. The Fifteenth Amendment, passed in 1870, was supposed to guarantee the right to vote.

That right was swept away by the overthrow of Reconstruction by Ku Klux Klan terror. Black people fought for decades to defend their right to vote without any support from the federal government.

In 1898, the city government of Wilmington, N.C., was overthrown by a white racist mob. Sixty Black people were massacred in the coup. Within two years the right to vote was stolen from virtually all African Americans in North Carolina.

People died for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Harriette Moore and Harry T. Moore were bombed in their home on Christmas Day 1951. They were murdered by the Klan for registering Black voters.

NAACP leader Medgar Evers fought for voting rights in Mississippi and was assassinated on June 12, 1963. The attack on demonstrators in Selma, Ala., in 1965, in which future Congressperson John Lewis was nearly beaten to death by George Wallace's state troopers, shocked the world.

More than 40 years of political reaction in the U.S. have included vicious attacks on Black voting rights. The voter ID laws passed by over 30

states are deliberately crafted to limit voting by Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and poor people in general.

The 24th Amendment, enacted in 1964, banned poll taxes. Since photo identification usually costs money, isn't that a poll tax? Yet the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld almost all these discriminatory state ID laws.

Six judges on that capitalist court threw out the vital enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act in the 2013 Shelby v. Moore decision.

## "We're not a democracy"

The struggle for Black voting rights empowers all poor and working people. Literacy tests were used to stop Indigenous people from voting in Arizona until 1970.

One of the enforcers in Arizona who tried to prevent Black, Indigenous and Latinx people from voting in the 1964 election was William Rehnquist. The thug was rewarded for his strong-arming by being made chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Millions of white workers benefited when Harlem's Adam Clayton Powell Jr. was chair of the Education and Labor Committee in the House of Representatives. The Black congressperson pushed through increases in the minimum wage and extended coverage to millions of low paid workers.

The Trump and Giuliani attack on Black votes is aimed at overturning

Trump backtracked on his statement that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College seated Joe Biden. Trump tweeted Nov. 28: "Biden can only enter the White House as President if he can prove that his ridiculous '80,000,000 votes' were not fraudulently or illegally obtained. When you see what happened in Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia & Milwaukee, massive voter fraud, he's got a big unsolvable problem!" —Editor

the vote of 80 million people who voted against Trump. Among them were Asian voters who helped defeat Trump in Georgia.

While the super rich, like Michael Bloomberg, are willing to spend billions to buy elections, they sneer at democracy. Even cockroach capitalists consider it intolerable that the vote of poor and working people should count as much as theirs.

That was Robert L. Bartley's attitude when he was the Wall Street Journal's editorial page editor. He justified George W. Bush becoming president in 2000 despite getting half-a-million fewer votes than Al Gore.

Bartley did so on the basis that many of the Democratic votes came from "union households" and "Blacks" while Republican voters were allegedly "producers of wealth."

Listen up Wall Street Journal: if an election was held of only the essential workers who kept society together during the coronavirus pandemic, Trump would have lost in a landslide.

Attacks on the idea of democracy used to come from the wingnuts of the John Birch Society. In an Oct. 7 tweet, Utah Sen. Mike Lee declared "We're not a democracy."

Lee wasn't admitting that money talks during capitalist elections. He wants to get rid of any notion of democracy.

Poor and working people will show all the Trumps what real democracy looks like. That includes over two million workers in prison. Evicting Trump from the White House is just the first step.

Only by taking real democracy to the streets will we stop evictions and win compensation for all the jobless. We need to organize and fight more than before. 📌

# Rudy Giuliani, the thug-in-charge of stealing the election for Trump

By Stephen Millies

Most of the media are laughing at Rudy Giuliani. The racist clown deserves it.

He's been exposed as a greedy pig who wants to charge Trump's reelection campaign \$20,000 per day for his dubious legal services.

Giuliani's Nov. 7 Philadelphia news conference — sandwiched between a porno bookstore and a crematorium — became a national joke. His loopy claims of voter fraud in an election that Trump lost by six million votes are being ridiculed.

None of this makes Giuliani any less dangerous. He's attempting to have the votes of Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples in Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities

thrown out.

Make no mistake about it: Trump is attempting to overturn the election with Giuliani as his thug-in-charge.

Trump called Monica Palmer — who's on the Wayne County, Mich., Board of Canvassers — and pressed her to reject the hundreds of thousands of votes cast in Detroit and surrounding communities.

Trump also summoned Republican members of Michigan's Legislature to the White House on Nov. 20. The plot is to have them nominate pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College despite Trump losing the state by 153,000 votes.

This is reminiscent of Trump's June 1st coup attempt. That's when he marched from the White House

with the Pentagon brass. Tear gas and stun grenades were used to clear demonstrators from Lafayette Park.

Trump wanted to invoke the Insurrection Act — which was passed in 1807 to suppress revolts of enslaved Africans — to crush the Black Lives Matter movement. The millions of people on the streets stopped Trump from declaring martial law.

Another coup attempt is happening right now. The people must stop it.

## Two media creations

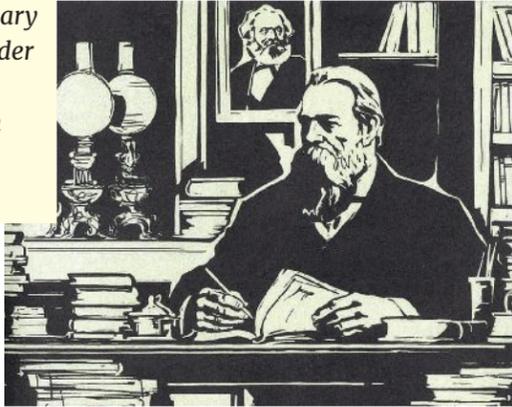
Both Giuliani and Trump were made national figures by the capitalist media. NBC gave Trump his own TV show.

This wasn't just a matter of publicity. Trump used the \$427 million

Continued on page 7

# Frederick Engels at 200 – better than ever

Nov. 28, 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Engels, co-founder of scientific socialism with Karl Marx. Following is an abridged article, written by the Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin after Engels' death in 1895.



By V.I. Lenin

**What a torch of reason ceased to burn,  
What a heart has ceased to beat!**

On Aug. 5, 1895, Frederick Engels died in London. After his friend Karl Marx (who died in 1883), Engels was the finest scholar and teacher of the modern proletariat in the whole world.

From the time that fate brought Karl Marx and Frederick Engels together, the two friends devoted their life's work to a common cause. And so to understand what Frederick Engels has done for the proletariat, one must have a clear idea of the significance of Marx's teaching and work for the development of the contemporary working-class movement.

Marx and Engels were the first to show that the working class and its demands are a necessary outcome of the present economic system, which together with the bourgeoisie inevitably creates and organizes the proletariat. They showed that it is not the well-meaning efforts of noble-minded individuals, but the class struggle of the organized proletariat that will deliver humanity from the evils which now oppress it.

In their scientific works, Marx and Engels were the first to explain that socialism is not the invention of dreamers, but the final aim and necessary result of the development of the productive forces in modern society. All recorded history hitherto has been a history of class struggle, of the succession of the rule and victory of certain social classes over others. And this will continue until the foundations of class struggle and of class domination – private property and anarchic social production – disappear. The interests of the proletariat demand the destruction of these foundations, and therefore the conscious class struggle of the organized workers must be directed against them. And every class struggle is a political struggle.

**'Engels' name should be known  
to every worker'**

These views of Marx and Engels have now been adopted by all proletarians who are fighting for their

emancipation. But when in the 1840s the two friends took part in the socialist literature and the social movements of their time, they were absolutely novel. There were then many people, talented and without talent, honest and dishonest, who, absorbed in the struggle for political freedom, in the struggle against the despotism of kings, police and priests, failed to observe the antagonism between the interests of the bourgeoisie and those of the proletariat. These people would not entertain the idea of the workers acting as an independent social force.

On the other hand, there were many dreamers, some of them geniuses, who thought that it was only necessary to convince the rulers and the governing classes of the injustice of the contemporary social order, and it would then be easy to establish peace and general well-being on earth. They dreamt of a socialism without struggle.

Lastly, nearly all the socialists of that time and the friends of the working class generally regarded the proletariat only as an ulcer, and observed with horror how it grew with the growth of industry. They all, therefore, sought for a means to stop the development of industry and of the proletariat, to stop the "wheel of history."

Marx and Engels did not share the general fear of the development of the proletariat; on the contrary, they placed all their hopes on its continued growth. The more proletarians there are, the greater is their strength as a revolutionary class, and the nearer and more possible does socialism become. The services rendered by Marx and Engels to the working class may be expressed in a few words thus: they taught the working class to know itself and be conscious of itself, and they substituted science for dreams.

That is why the name and life of Engels should be known to every

worker. That is why in this collection of articles, the aim of which, as of all our publications, is to awaken class-consciousness in the Russian workers, we must give a sketch of the life and work of Frederick Engels, one of the two great teachers of the modern proletariat.

**An enemy of tyranny**

Engels was born in 1820 in Barmen, in the Rhine Province of the kingdom of Prussia. His father was a manufacturer. In 1838 Engels, without having completed his high-school studies, was forced by family circumstances to enter a commercial house in Bremen as a clerk.

Commercial affairs did not prevent Engels from pursuing his scientific and political education. He had come to hate autocracy and the tyranny of bureaucrats while still at high school. The study of philosophy led him further.

At that time Hegel's teaching dominated German philosophy, and Engels became his follower. Although Hegel himself was an admirer of the autocratic Prussian state, in whose service he was as a professor at Berlin University, Hegel's teachings were revolutionary. Hegel's faith in human reason and its rights, and the fundamental thesis of Hegelian philosophy that the universe is undergoing a constant process of change and development, led some of the disciples of the Berlin philosopher – those who refused to accept the existing situation – to the idea that the struggle against this situation, the struggle against existing wrong and prevalent evil, is also rooted in the universal law of eternal development.

If all things develop, if institutions of one kind give place to others, why should the autocracy of the Prussian king or of the Russian tsar, the enrichment of an insignificant minority at the expense of the vast majority, or the domination of the bourgeoisie over the people, continue forever?

Hegel's philosophy spoke of the development of the mind and of ideas; it was idealistic. From the development of the mind it deduced the development of nature, of man, and of human, social relations. While retaining Hegel's idea of the eternal process of development, Marx and Engels rejected the preconceived idealist view; turning to life, they saw that it is not the development of mind that explains the development of nature but that, on the contrary, the explanation of mind must be derived from nature, from matter. ...

Unlike Hegel and the other Hegelians, Marx and Engels were materialists. Regarding the world and humanity materialistically, they perceived that just as material causes underlie all natural phenomena, so the development of human society is conditioned by the development of material forces, the productive forces. On the development of the productive forces depend the relations into which men enter with one another in the production of the things required for the satisfaction of human needs. And in these relations lies the explanation of all the phenomena of social life, human aspirations, ideas and laws.

The development of the productive forces creates social relations based upon private property, but now we see that this same development of the productive forces deprives the majority of their property and concentrates it in the hands of an insignificant minority. It abolishes property, the basis of the modern social order, it itself strives towards the very aim which the socialists have set themselves. All the socialists have to do is to realise which social force, owing to its position in modern society, is interested in bringing socialism about, and to impart to this force the consciousness of its interests and of its historical task. This force is the proletariat.

**Socialism and the working class**

Engels got to know the proletariat in England, in the center of English industry, Manchester, where he settled in 1842, entering the service of a commercial firm of which his father was a shareholder. Here Engels not only sat in the factory office but wandered about the slums in which the workers were cooped up, and saw their poverty and misery with his own eyes.

But he did not confine himself to personal observations. He read all that had been revealed before him about the condition of the British working class and carefully studied all the official documents he could lay his hands on. The fruit of these studies and observations was the book which appeared in 1845: "The Condition of the Working Class in England."

We have already mentioned the chief service rendered by Engels in writing "The Condition of the Working Class in England." Even before Engels, many people had described the sufferings of the proletariat and had pointed to the necessity of helping it. Engels was the first to say that the proletariat is not only a suffering class; that it is, in fact, the disgraceful economic condition of the proletariat that drives it irresistibly forward and compels it to fight for its ultimate emancipation. And the fighting proletariat will help itself. The political movement of the working class will inevitably lead the workers to realise that their only salvation lies in socialism. On the other hand, socialism will become a force only when it becomes the aim of the political struggle of the working class.

Such are the main ideas of Engels' book on the condition of the working class in England, ideas which have now been adopted by all thinking and fighting proletarians, but which at that time were entirely new. These ideas were set out in a book written in absorbing style and filled with most authentic and shocking pictures of the misery of the English proletariat.

The book was a terrible indictment of capitalism and the bourgeoisie and created a profound impression. Engels' book began to be quoted everywhere as presenting the best picture of the condition of the modern proletariat. And, in fact, neither before 1845 nor after has there appeared so striking and truthful a picture of the misery of the working class.

**Meeting Marx**

It was not until he came to England that Engels became a socialist. In Manchester he established con-

*Continued on page 7*

## Vets, activists call on soldiers to reject orders to overturn election

*Continued from page 4*

highest law, the U.S. Constitution, with which the boss class tries to justify its role as global arbiter of "democracy":

"You do have a choice. We know that you have been told over and over again that you must follow orders. Trump may be for now the commander-in-chief, but you swore an oath to defend the Constitution, not Donald Trump. Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

dictates that you must follow only lawful orders.

"You know that if Trump seizes power by using the military against the people, that would break the law. And 'just following orders' would be no excuse.

"If that day comes and Trump orders you to attack the people, stand down! Tell your commanders that you will not enable Trump to overturn the will of the people. Join with the people in the streets and help uphold all our democratic rights!" 📌

# Frederick Engels

Continued from page 6

contacts with people active in the English labor movement at the time and began to write for English socialist publications.

In 1844, while on his way back to Germany, he became acquainted in Paris with Marx, with whom he had already started to correspond. In Paris, under the influence of the French socialists and French life, Marx had also become a socialist.

Here the friends jointly wrote a book entitled "The Holy Family, or Critique of Critical Critique." This book, which appeared a year before "The Condition of the Working Class in England," and the greater part of which was written by Marx, contains the foundations of revolutionary materialist socialism, the main ideas of which we have expounded above.

"The holy family" is a facetious nickname for the Bauer brothers, the philosophers, and their followers. These gentlemen preached a criticism which stood above all reality, above parties and politics, which rejected all practical activity, and which only "critically" contemplated the surrounding world and the events going on within it. These gentlemen, the Bauers, looked down on the proletariat as an uncritical mass.

Marx and Engels vigorously opposed this absurd and harmful tendency. In the name of a real, human person – the worker, trampled down by the ruling classes and the state – they demanded, not contemplation, but a struggle for a better order of society. They, of course, regarded the proletariat as the force that is capable of waging this struggle and that is interested in it.

Even before the appearance of "The Holy Family," Engels had published in Marx's and Ruge's *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher* his "Critical Essays on Political Economy," in which he examined the principal phenomena of the contemporary economic order from a socialist standpoint, regarding them as necessary consequences of the rule of private property. Contact with Engels was

undoubtedly a factor in Marx's decision to study political economy, the science in which his works have produced a veritable revolution.

## 1848 and the Communist Manifesto

From 1845 to 1847 Engels lived in Brussels and Paris, combining scientific work with practical activities among the German workers in those cities. Here Marx and Engels established contact with the secret German Communist League, which commissioned them to expound the main principles of the socialism they had worked out. Thus arose the famous "Manifesto of the Communist Party" of Marx and Engels, published in 1848. This little booklet is worth whole volumes: to this day its spirit inspires and guides the entire organized and fighting proletariat of the world.

The revolution of 1848, which broke out first in France and then spread to other West European countries, brought Marx and Engels back to their native country. Here, in Rhenish Prussia, they took charge of the democratic *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* published in Cologne.

The two friends were the heart and soul of all revolutionary-democratic aspirations in Rhenish Prussia. They fought to the last ditch in defense of freedom and of the interests of the people against the forces of reaction. The latter, as we know, gained the upper hand. The *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* was suppressed. Marx, who during his exile had lost his Prussian citizenship, was deported; Engels took part in the armed popular uprising, fought for liberty in three battles, and after the defeat of the rebels fled, via Switzerland, to London.

Marx also settled in London. Engels soon became a clerk again, and then a shareholder, in the Manchester commercial firm in which he had worked in the forties. Until 1870 he lived in Manchester, while Marx lived in London, but this did not prevent their maintaining a most lively interchange of ideas: they corresponded almost daily. In this

correspondence the two friends exchanged views and discoveries and continued to collaborate in working out scientific socialism.

## Engels and 'Capital'

In 1870 Engels moved to London, and their joint intellectual life, of the most strenuous nature, continued until 1883, when Marx died. Its fruit was, on Marx's side, "Capital," the greatest work on political economy of our age, and on Engels' side, a number of works both large and small. Marx worked on the analysis of the complex phenomena of capitalist economy. Engels, in simply written works, often of a polemical character, dealt with more general scientific problems and with diverse phenomena of the past and present in the spirit of the materialist conception of history and Marx's economic theory.

Of Engels' works we shall mention: the polemical work against Dühring (analyzing highly important problems in the domain of philosophy, natural science and the social sciences), "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State," "Ludwig Feuerbach," an article on the foreign policy of the Russian government, splendid articles on the housing question, and finally, two small but very valuable articles on Russia's economic development ("Frederick Engels on Russia," translated into Russian by Zasluch, Geneva, 1894).

Marx died before he could put the final touches to his vast work on capital. The draft, however, was already finished, and after the death of his friend, Engels undertook the onerous task of preparing and publishing the second and the third volumes of "Capital." He published Volume II in 1885 and Volume III in 1894. (His death prevented the preparation of Volume IV.)

These two volumes entailed a vast amount of labor. Adler, the Austrian Social-Democrat, has rightly remarked that by publishing Volumes II and III of "Capital" Engels erected a majestic monument to the genius

who had been his friend, a monument on which, without intending it, he indelibly carved his own name. Indeed these two volumes of "Capital" are the work of two men: Marx and Engels.

Old legends contain various moving instances of friendship. The European proletariat may say that its science was created by two scholars and fighters, whose relationship to each other surpasses the most moving stories of the ancients about human friendship. Engels always – and, on the whole, quite justly – placed himself after Marx. "In Marx's lifetime," he wrote to an old friend, "I played second fiddle." His love for the living Marx, and his reverence for the memory of the dead Marx were boundless. This stern fighter and austere thinker possessed a deeply loving soul.

## First International

After the movement of 1848-1849, Marx and Engels in exile did not confine themselves to scientific research. In 1864 Marx founded the International Working Men's Association, and led this society for a whole decade. Engels also took an active part in its affairs. The work of the International Association, which, in accordance with Marx's idea, united proletarians of all countries, was of tremendous significance in the development of the working-class movement.

But even with the closing down of the International Association in the 1870s, the unifying role of Marx and Engels did not cease. On the contrary, it may be said that their importance as the spiritual leaders of the working-class movement grew continuously, because the movement itself grew uninterruptedly.

After the death of Marx, Engels continued alone as the counsellor and leader of the European socialists. Let us always honor the memory of Frederick Engels, a great fighter and teacher of the proletariat!

Written in autumn 1895

Source: [tinyurl.com/yyjclchv](http://tinyurl.com/yyjclchv)

# Rudy Giuliani, the thug-in-charge of stealing the election for Trump

Continued from page 5

he collected from NBC to cover his real estate and casino losses.

The same newspapers and magazines that are now mocking Giuliani were for years his biggest cheerleaders. They ignored his racist campaign to defeat David Dinkins, who was the only Black mayor New York City has ever had.

Declaring Giuliani to be "mayor of the world," Time magazine named him "person of the year" in 2001. The New York Times endorsed Giuliani when he ran for reelection in 1997.

Giuliani bragged that he drove 640,000 poor people off welfare programs in New York City.

Giuliani said it would be "a good thing" if poor people "left the city." According to him, pushing poor people out of town was "not an unspoken part of our strategy; it is our strategy."

Giuliani gave a green light to police terror. Two of his volunteer bodyguards in his 1993 mayoral cam-

paign — police detectives Patrick Bosnan and James Crowe — killed Anthony Rosario and Hilton Vega on Jan. 12, 1995. The two cousins were shot 28 times. Most of the bullets were in their backs.

Amadou Diallo was killed on Feb. 4, 1999, by New York cops firing 41 shots at the unarmed African immigrant. Patrick Dorismond was also unarmed when he was killed on March 16, 2000, for saying no to drugs. The Haitian father of two children spurned an undercover cop who profiled him and tried to sell him drugs.

Giuliani's cops attacked Dorismond's funeral. Among the 27 people arrested in Brooklyn's Haitian Community was an 80-year-old man.

Both Trump and Giuliani have a special hatred for Haitian people. So does the world capitalist class, which never forgave the Haitian people for overthrowing their slave masters.

When Giuliani was the No.3 man in Reagan's Justice Department, he had



After the death of Amadou Diallo, in February 1999, protesters gathered on Wall Street.

Haitian immigrants jailed at the Krome concentration camp near Miami.

As a U.S. district attorney, Giuliani organized the 1984 attempted frame-up of the New York 8+. Five hundred cops and federal agents staged terror raids in New York City's Black communities to round up the defendants.

## The New York 8+ defeated Giuliani

Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plummer, Ruth Carter, Omowale Clay,

Yvette Kelley, Jose Rios, Robert Taylor and Roger Wareham faced fantastic charges of conspiring to rob banks and Brinks' trucks, and to stage jailbreaks. Even their political activity was claimed by the government to be a violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

This frame-up was part of the Reagan administration's drive to crush all liberation movements. Eight grand juries were held in an attempt to get around rules that spouses can't be forced to testify against each other. Giuliani hoped to force spouses to give lying testimony on the other defendants instead.

But this tactic blew up in Giuliani's face. People went to jail instead of becoming lying snitches. It's to recognize these courageous grand jury resisters that this case is called the New York 8 "plus."

The power of the people will defeat Giuliani and Trump! 🇵🇸

# Three typhoons rock the Philippines, militant students strike

By Bayani

As if extrajudicial killings, the worst COVID-19 infection rate in Southeast Asia and a renewed government effort of red-tagging weren't enough, the Filipino people were struck by three typhoons within the space of three weeks.

**October 25: Typhoon Molave** (called Quinto in the Philippines) made landfall at San Miguel Island and tore across Luzon for two days.

**October 31: Super Typhoon Goni** (or Rolly) struck the Bicol region, very close to where Molave made landfall.

**November 11: Super Typhoon Vamco** (or Ulysses) hit the Quezon region on Nov. 11, just north of where the first two typhoons made landfall.

Following the destruction of these three storms, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports:

- 73 deaths
- 24 injured
- 19 people still missing
- 283,656 people are in evacuation centers
- 82,900 people remain displaced
- 50 villages remain isolated
- Over \$165 million in infrastructure damage across 8 regions
- Only 60 out of 316 municipalities have had power restored

Many of the working and oppressed masses of the Philippines have accepted that help is not coming. Despite the millions of U.S. dollars poured into military and police aid, none of it will be utilized for disaster relief or rescue.

Some of the most calamitous consequences of the storms were those that were avoidable and unnecessary — those that can be traced back to the actions, or lack thereof, of the Philippines government.

President Rodrigo Duterte's persecution and subsequent shutdown of the ABS-CBN news service meant that entire regions, where ABS-CBN was the only news service available, went without any prior warning of the incoming typhoons.

The budget for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has been dramatically slashed over time, specifically by 4 billion Philippine pesos (or more than 82 million USD) in 2020. Writer JC Punongbayan also comments on the funds allocated for the government's war on activists:

"But, at the same time, he said they won't likely touch the P19.1 billion that will be allocated for the National Task Force to End Communist Local Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) — an anti-insurgency committee engaged in red-tagging and propaganda. That P19 billion is no joke, and the whole amount will be much better repurposed to augment disaster relief efforts, as well as the COVID-19 response."



Student protest in front of Ateneo de Manila University, Nov. 17.

## Students strike back

Youth and student groups called for a national academic strike against the criminal negligence of the Duterte administration. Students at University of the Philippines campuses, the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Santo Tomas and many more submitted pledges to withhold all submissions of enrollment requirements until their demands are met.

The demands:

- National academic break and semester end
- Urgent calamity aid and pandemic response
- Ouster of the Duterte administration
- Fair wages for university staff and faculty

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque threatened: "Babagsak po kayo," or, "you will fail." Duterte

threatened to cut off funding to the University of the Philippines, red-tagging the university in the process: "Sure. UP? Fine. Stop studying. I will stop the funding. You don't do anything except recruit communists. You study, and then you criticize the government. You are so lucky. Don't threaten me, because I will oblige you."

Alongside the student protests, at least 134 faculty members of the University of Philippines-Diliman issued a statement calling for the end of the semester.

The situation is very fluid. One way to follow developments is to tune into the hashtag #YouthStrikePH on all social media platforms. Whatever happens, this action led by youth and students, bringing together the workers and faculty of the universities and surrounding communities, is a remarkable example of mass action. 🇵🇭

# Revolutionary feminism

Continued from page 10

demanding the abolition of police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, because it is precisely our Black, Brown and Indigenous children that are being murdered by these racist systems. It is our children who are being held in cages by ICE and separated from their mothers even as their mothers breast feed them. It is our Indigenous children everywhere in the world that are being murdered for defending their land.

Fighting for the rights of LGBTQ2S people is women's work. Homophobia and transphobia are the tools of the capitalist system to keep us in our place. By forcing us to accept labels and rules that say, "This is the only normal way to be a woman" or "This is the only normal way to be a man." This also works to keep us divided and fighting each other, while the bankers and the bosses line their pockets with the profits from our blood and sweat.

And, of course, the fight against the oppression of women is not only women's work but it is the work of all revolutionaries no matter the gender.

Revolutionary feminism is the struggle against sexual and domestic gender violence. It is the fight against forced sterilization and forced birth control or abortion for poor women of color. It is a continuous struggle for women and trans women to have dominion over our bodies and our lives.

We all have been raised with many backward ideas about race, gender and sexual identity. We all have to continue to check ourselves and each other when any of these evils rears its ugly head.

I think one of the biggest gains in the fight for the liberation of women today is the unity in the movement. Women, men, young, old, gay, straight, trans, Black, Brown, Indigenous and white, all standing with each other, protecting and defending each other, fighting for the liberation of the proletariat. If we are to achieve this goal we must continue to stay united. Keeping our eye on the true enemy: capitalism and imperialism.

## COVID-19 and gender disparities

Comrades: I want to now focus on how COVID-19 has worsened long-standing gender inequalities. Women are more likely than men to work in service occupations, including domestic work, restaurant service, retail, tourism, and hospitality, that require face-to-face interactions and have been hard-hit by layoffs. For these jobs, teleworking is not an option. Women workers are largely represented in frontline jobs, which are the ones most often deemed "essential" and require people to work in-person.

In addition women have been harder hit by pandemic-related job losses than men.

The pandemic recession has hit



Lizz Toledo at rally against police brutality and racist murders in Atlanta on May 29.

women especially hard for three reasons:

Massive job losses in service industries and other occupations where we are disproportionately represented;

Sex discrimination that makes us more likely to be laid off; and

We tend to bear more responsibility for pandemic-related challenges to family health, school closures, and other disruptions.

These pressures have resulted in many women leaving the workforce altogether. The drop was particularly steep for Latina women, whose participation rate fell by 5.1%, and Black women, whose rate dropped by 4.0%.

Transgender women are always in a precarious position, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made them particularly vulnerable. According to research from University of California-Los Angeles, transgender women are at a higher risk for COVID-19

for several reasons. They are more likely to be low-income, with 47.7% of transgender women living below 200% of the official U.S. poverty line. They are also significantly more likely to suffer from asthma and HIV, conditions that put people at higher risk of mortality if they contract COVID-19. And they experience high barriers to receiving health care.

The pandemic has also hit transgender women especially hard economically. A poll from the Human Rights Campaign shows that as of June 2020, some 54% of transgender women had experienced reduced work hours — more than double the 23% of the total U.S. workforce. Twenty-seven percent of transgender women had experienced pay cuts, compared to just 7% of the U.S. workforce. And 19% had become unemployed due to the pandemic, a significantly larger share than the general population.

## The gender poverty line

The gender poverty gap has widened over the past 50 years. But COVID has made poverty a particularly acute problem for women of color, affecting 21.4% of Black women, 18.7% of Latinas, and 22.8% of Native American women, compared to the national poverty rate for white women of 7.0%.

Continued on page 9

# Fallacy of statehood win in Puerto Rico elections

By Professor Ana M. López

Nov. 17 — It is a fallacy that this consultation constituted a majority vote and that the people of Puerto Rico “staked their claim to admission as the 51st State of the Union.” (New York Times: Make Puerto Rico a State Now. With a historic vote, its people staked their claim to statehood. Nov. 4, 2020)

First, elections in a colonial regime cannot be a binding expression of a people since the people of Puerto Rico are not free to engage in a democratic process because of 122 years of U.S. military occupation and colonial rule. What takes place in Puerto Rico every four years is of little utility to the people of Puerto Rico. Whomever wins colonial elections merely becomes an administrator of the colony for the interests of the U.S. and Wall Street. Additionally, colonial elections have no real authority, and the elected officials have no real power since all local economic decisions are made by the Financial Supervisory and Management Board created by federal legislation (PROMESA, 2016). This fiscal board was not an elected body by and of the people of Puerto Rico, but is instead authorized and executed by the U.S. Congress, where there is no Puerto Rican voting representation. Furthermore, Congress specifically addressed this so-called plebiscite and stated that it will not be binding.

What is the fuss about this statehood win?

The “yes” or “no” vote for statehood in Puerto Rico on Nov. 3, 2020, is neither a “plebiscite” nor a “referendum.” It constitutes a mere con-

sultation, poll or survey of approximately 50 percent of the registered voters’ opinions. Fewer voters turned out for this election than ever before. A real plebiscite would be supervised by the United Nations and would outline the consequences of the peoples’ decision. Puerto Rico, as a colony of the U.S., is reviewed every year by the United Nations Decolonization Committee and their resolutions have consistently called upon the United States to immediately transfer power to the people of Puerto Rico to enable the free exercise of their self-determination and inalienable right to independence in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV). Since “plebiscites” have often been used to annex a territory or country, another viable alternative is to utilize a people’s constituent assembly for creating a new government and constitution for an independent nation. It would be consistent with how the original 13 U.S. colonies went about their independence against Britain. The indignant question posed to the Puerto Rican people on Nov. 3, 2020, was also not a referendum. So, what is the distinction between a plebiscite and a referendum?

A plebiscite is a direct vote of the qualified voters of a state in regard to some important public question or the vote by which the people of a political unit determine independence or annexation with another country. Originally plebiscites were



PHOTO: JOHN MELENDEZ RIVERA

Graphic featuring the image of Lolita Lebron projected on the side of the Museum of the American Indian with the Capitol Building in the background.

used by the Roman Empire to incorporate occupied territories and later used by Napoleon Bonaparte to do the same in Europe for France.

In Europe, plebiscites are elections held to decide two paramount types of political issues: government legitimacy and the nationality of territories contested between governments. Following the French Revolution in 1789, the plebiscite was widely popular in France, rooted as it was in the ideas of nationalism and popular sovereignty. In the 20th century, totalitarian regimes have employed plebiscites to legitimize their rule. Plebiscites also have been used as a device for deciding the nationality of territories. For example, after World War I, the League of Nations proposed 11 such plebiscites, the most notable of which was held in 1935 in the Saar, where its inhabitants chose overwhelmingly to return to Germany rather than become a part of France.

In contrast, a referendum is the right reserved to the people to approve or reject an act of the legislature, or the right of the people to approve or reject legislation that has been referred to them by the legislature. The referendum power is created by state constitutions and is conferred on the citizens of a state or a local subdivision of the state. Referendums provide the people with a means of expressing their opinion on proposed legislation before it becomes operative as a law. A referendum does not permit the people to invalidate a law that is already operative but rather suspends or annuls a law that has not yet gone into effect. In this sense, a referendum is similar to a governor’s veto power. Also, by referendum, the people may reinstate an act that the legislature has expressly repealed.

It is a fallacy that the statehood option promoted by the Partido Nuevo Progresista (PNP) which received a 52 percent “yes” vote in the polls represented a “majority” of the Puerto Rican people. It was not a majority when only half of the registered voters participated. Almost half of the participating voters cast a “No” vote to statehood. Therefore, only approximately 26 percent of voters casted a “Yes” vote. That is clearly not a majority. What is significant is that 50 percent of eligible voters essentially boycotted these colonial elections and did not participate in this farce. Historically, Puerto Rico has had a high voter turnout culture. In the 1990s, 93 percent of registered

voters participated. Over the last 20 years with the rise of governmental corruption and abuse, the electorate has shown their discontent with corrupt governance and the dysfunction of the colonial two-party system by not voting. Recall the summer of 2019 and the people’s uprising that ousted the pro-statehood governor, Ricardo Roselló, due to corruption, immorality, an economic crisis, poor handling of Hurricane María, allegedly stealing hurricane relief funds, lying about the 4,645 deaths, etc. When looking at the governor’s election

results and the “statehood” status consultation, it is evident that the statehood party has received fewer votes than in previous elections. This year the statehood advocates PNP received 35 percent of the votes in the governor’s race due to the insertion of other political parties. The Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP) and Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana (MVC) combined obtained almost 30 percent of the votes and Partido Popular Democrático (PPD) the other 33 percent.

The 6 million Puerto Ricans dispersed throughout the U.S. live “statehood” every day and it “isn’t pretty.” The imposed U.S. citizenship of 1917 does not grant Puerto Ricans the same “privileges and immunities” of the U.S. Constitution. We are treated as “second-class citizens” and suffer the same social, economic and racial inequalities that other racial groups are subjected to, like the Black, Mexican and Native American communities. Puerto Ricans go from being an “external colony” to an “internal colony” community in the U.S. A vote for statehood is not progressive; it is the culmination of the immoral colonial objective — the extinction of the Puerto Rican nation and the annihilation of the Puerto Rican nationality.

Finally, the illegality and immorality of making Puerto Rico a state lies exclusively in the hands of the U.S. Congress and not in Puerto Rico. The Senate and the House of Representatives will have to vote to approve on whether it incorporates Puerto Rico into the federal union. That a nation could be incorporated into another nation without negative consequences for the country being absorbed is farfetched. Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking country and a part of Latin America historically and culturally. Twenty-six percent of Puerto Rican voters may think they want to become a state, but the U.S. Congress has never expressed that interest after 122 years. If asked appropriately, most Puerto Ricans would want to maintain their nation, national identity, island territory and culture. The U.S. prefers to maintain the status quo and keep Puerto Rico a colony.

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Source: Frente Independentista Boricua

## Revolutionary feminism

Continued from page 8

### Transgender economic gaps

Transgender people experience poverty at double the rate of the general population, and transgender people of color experience even higher rates. The unemployment rate triples among transgender people in comparison to that of the general population. The unemployment rate is even higher for Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Middle Eastern and multi-racial transgender people.

Black, Latinx and Indigenous people infected with COVID-19 are about four times more likely to be hospitalized than others, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

People of color have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The number of COVID-19 cases among Black and Latinx children and across all ages is higher than other groups. Black and Latinx people infected with the virus also died at disproportionately higher rates over the summer. In addition, due to poverty and healthcare disparities, communities of color, including Latinx, African Americans and Indigenous peoples, are often uninsured and have higher rates of conditions like hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, which can lead to more severe reactions to COVID-19.

### The fight continues

While workers and specifically

women and trans workers made some gains prior to the pandemic, gender based economic oppression and sexual and domestic gender violence has worsened. COVID-19 has set us back years. But we must continue to push forward, demanding an end to a system that puts profits before people. A system that has allowed a pandemic to kill over 250,000 people in the U.S. alone. Revolutionary feminism is the fight for poor women and poor trans people of color to have a livable wage or an income. It is defending our right to make decisions about our lives and our bodies, whether this means keeping our babies and having the resources to raise healthy children or having full access to health care, including medications and surgery to transition if that’s what we choose. We choose when and if we have babies, we choose in what body we want to live our lives, we choose a life free of sexual and domestic violence, we choose who we love, we choose liberation for all. This is what true choice is about and this is true revolutionary feminism.

Women and trans people living in the belly of the capitalist-imperialist beast will be in the frontlines, led, of course, by women and trans people of color. United we will give the final blow to this decaying system and build a world where every life is valued and protected. Where people are more important than profits. 

# Feminismo revolucionario

Por Lizz Toledo

**Queridas Compañeras: saludos revolucionarios de Mujeres en Lucha y Partido de Socialismo Unido de los EUA.**

Es difícil separar la lucha de las mujeres de otras luchas ya que todas las luchas están intrínsecamente conectadas porque nuestra opresión, ya sea racismo, homofobia, transfobia o sexismo, proviene de la lucha de clases o de la lucha para acabar con el capitalismo y el imperialismo.

El trabajo antirracista es trabajo de mujeres. Las líderes del movimiento Black Lives Matter son mujeres. Las mujeres han estado en primera línea luchando por el fin de la brutalidad policial exigiendo la abolición de la policía y del ICE [la Migra], porque son precisamente nuestras niñas y niños negros, morenos e indígenas quienes están siendo asesinados por estos sistemas racistas. Son nuestras/os niñas quienes están siendo retenidas/os en jaulas por ICE y separadas/os de sus madres incluso mientras les amamantan. Son nuestras/os hijos indígenas en todo el mundo quienes están siendo asesinados por defender su patria.

Luchar por los derechos de las personas LGBTQ2S es trabajo de mujeres. La homofobia y la transfobia son las herramientas del sistema capitalista para mantenernos en inmóviles. Obligándonos a aceptar etiquetas y reglas que dicen “esta es la única forma normal de ser mujer” o “esta es la única forma normal de ser un hombre”. Esto también sirve para mantenernos divididas/os y peleando entre nosotras/os, mientras los banqueros y los patronos se llenan los bolsillos con las ganancias de nuestra sangre y sudor.

Y por supuesto, la lucha contra la opresión de las mujeres no solo es el trabajo de las mujeres sino que es el trabajo de toda persona revolucionaria no importa el género.

El Feminismo Revolucionario es la lucha contra la violencia de género sexual y doméstica. Es la lucha contra la esterilización forzada, el control de la natalidad o el aborto para mujeres pobres de color. Es la lucha continua para que las mujeres y las mujeres trans tengamos control sobre nuestras vidas y nuestros cuerpos.

Todas hemos sido creadas con muchas ideas atrasadas sobre raza, género e identidad sexual. Tenemos que continuar examinándonos a nosotras mismas y a los demás cuando alguna de estas ideas asoma su fea cabeza. Uno de los mayores logros en la lucha por la liberación de la mujer hoy es la unidad en el movimiento. Mujeres, hombres, jóvenes, viejos, gays, heterosexuales, trans, negros, morenos, indígenas y blancos, todas y todos juntos, protegiéndose y defendiéndose, luchando por la liberación del proletariado. Si queremos lograr este objetivo, debemos seguir unidas/os. Manteniendo fija nuestra vista en el verdadero enemigo, el capitalismo y el imperialismo.

## Covid-19 y las disparidades de género

Compañeras: Quiero centrarme ahora en cómo el Covid-19 ha empeorado las continuas desigualdades de género. Las mujeres tienen más probabilidades que los hombres de trabajar en ocupaciones de servicios, incluyendo el trabajo doméstico, el servicio de restaurante, el comercio minorista, el turismo y la hostelería, que requieren interacciones cara a cara y se han visto muy afectadas por los despidos. Para estos trabajos, el

teletrabajo no es una opción. Las trabajadoras están representadas en gran medida en los trabajos de primera línea, que son los que con mayor frecuencia se consideran “esenciales” y requieren que las personas trabajen en persona.

Las mujeres también han sufrido más pérdidas de trabajo relacionada con la pandemia que los hombres.

La recesión pandémica ha afectado especialmente a las mujeres por tres razones: 1) pérdida de trabajo masivo en las industrias de servicio y otros oficios donde estamos desproporcionadamente representadas 2) discriminación por género que hace que seamos las que tenemos más probabilidades de ser despedidas y 3) somos las que cargamos la mayor responsabilidad por los desafíos relacionados con la pandemia a la salud familiar, a los cierres de escuela y otras interrupciones. Estas presiones han resultado en que muchas mujeres dejen la fuerza laboral por completo. La caída fue particularmente pronunciada para las mujeres latinas, cuya tasa de participación cayó un 5.1 por ciento, y las mujeres negras, cuya tasa cayó un 4,0 por ciento.

Las mujeres transgénero siempre están en una posición precaria, pero la pandemia del Covid-19 las ha vuelto particularmente vulnerables. Según una investigación de la UCLA [Universidad de California, recinto de Los Ángeles], las mujeres transgénero tienen un mayor riesgo de contraer Covid-19 por varias razones. Es más probable que tengan bajos ingresos, ya que el 47,7 por ciento de las personas transgénero viven por debajo del 200 por ciento de la línea de pobreza oficial de EUA. También son significativamente más propensas a sufrir asma y VIH, condiciones que ponen a las personas en mayor riesgo de mortalidad si contraen Covid-19. Y experimentan grandes obstáculos para recibir atención médica.

La pandemia también ha afectado especialmente a las personas transgénero desde el punto de vista económico. Una encuesta del Human Rights Campaign muestra que, en junio de 2020, el 54 por ciento de las personas transgénero habían experimentado una reducción de las horas de trabajo, más del doble del 23 por ciento de la fuerza laboral total de los EUA. El veintisiete por ciento de las personas transgénero habían experimentado recortes salariales, en comparación con solo el 7 por ciento de la fuerza laboral de EUA. Y el 19 por ciento se había quedado desempleada debido a la pandemia, una proporción significativamente mayor que la de la población en general.

## La línea de pobreza de género

La brecha de pobreza de género se ha ampliado en los últimos 50 años. Pero el Covid ha hecho de la pobreza un problema particularmente agudo para las mujeres de color, que afecta al 21,4 por ciento de las mujeres negras, el 18,7 por ciento de las latinas y el 22,8 por ciento de las mujeres nativas americanas, en comparación con la tasa nacional de pobreza de las mujeres blancas del 7,0 por ciento.

## Brechas económicas transgénero

Las personas transgénero experimentan la pobreza al doble de la población en general, y las personas transgénero de color experimen-



Lizz Toledo al comité directivo mundial I de la FDIM/WIDF (Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres / Women's International Democratic Federation), August 2019. Lizz Toledo, with fist raised, at the WIDF/FDIM in Windhoek, Namibia.

tan tasas aún más altas. La tasa de desempleo se triplica entre las personas transgénero en comparación con la de la población en general. La tasa de desempleo es aún más alta para las personas transgénero indígenas, negras, latinas, del Medio Oriente y multirraciales.

## Infección y muerte

Las personas negras, latinas e indígenas infectadas con Covid-19 tienen cuatro veces más probabilidades de ser hospitalizadas que otras, según datos de los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC, por sus siglas en inglés)

Las personas de color se han visto muy afectadas por la pandemia de coronavirus. El número de casos de Covid-19 entre las/os niñas negras y latinas y en todas las edades es mayor que en otros grupos. Las personas negras y latinas infectadas con el virus también murieron en tasas desproporcionadamente más altas durante el verano. Además, debido a la pobreza y las disparidades en la atención médica, las comunidades de color, incluidos las latinas, afroamericanas e indígenas, a menudo no tienen seguro y tienen tasas más altas de afecciones como hipertensión, enfermedades cardíacas, diabetes y obesidad, que pueden provocar reacciones más graves al Covid-19.

## La Lucha Continúa

Si bien los trabajadores y específicamente las mujeres y las mujeres trans lograron algunos avances antes de la pandemia, la opresión económica basada en el género y la violencia de género sexual y doméstica ha empeorado. Covid 19 nos ha hecho retroceder años. Pero debemos seguir avanzando, exigiendo el fin de un sistema que antepone las ganancias a las personas. Un sistema que ha permitido que la pandemia mate más de 250,000 personas solo en los Estados Unidos.

El feminismo revolucionario es la lucha para que las mujeres pobres, las mujeres trans pobres y las personas de color tengan un salario o un ingreso digno. Es defender nuestro derecho a tomar decisiones sobre nuestras vidas y nuestros cuerpos, ya sea que esto signifique mantener a nuestros bebés y tener los recursos para criar niñas/os sanos, o tener acceso completo a la atención médica, incluidos los medicamentos y la cirugía para la transición, si eso es lo que elegimos. Somos nosotras quienes elegimos cuándo y si tenemos bebés, elegimos con qué cuerpo queremos vivir nuestras vidas, elegimos una vida libre de violencia sexual y doméstica, elegimos a quienes amamos, elegimos la liberación para todas y todos. De esto se trata la verdadera elección y esto es el verdadero feminismo revolucionario.

Las mujeres y las mujeres trans que viven en el vientre de la bestia capitalista imperialista estarán en la primera línea, lideradas por supuesto por mujeres y personas trans de color. Unidas daremos el golpe final a este sistema en descomposición y construiremos un mundo donde cada vida sea valorada y protegida. Donde las personas son más importante que las ganancias. 📌

# Revolutionary feminism

Following is a talk prepared for the Women's Assembly at the European Forum, Nov. 24, 2020, by Lizz Toledo of Mujeres en Lucha/Women in Struggle and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido.

Dear Comrades: Revolutionary greetings from Mujeres en Lucha/Women in Struggle and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido in the USA.

It is difficult to separate the women's struggle from any other struggle since all the struggles

are intricately connected because our oppression, whether it is racism, homophobia, transphobia or sexism, stems from the class struggle, or the fight to end capitalism and imperialism.

Anti-racist work is women's work, The leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement are women. Women have been in the frontlines fighting for an end to police brutality by

Continued on page 8

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