



STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



From Stonewall to Palestine, RESISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED!

The Socialist Unity Party/Partido por el Socialismo Unido stands in solidarity with the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans/Queer/Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S) community, not only as we celebrate Pride Month, but also as queer people continue to fight back against the systemic oppression imposed on us by capitalism.

We are encouraged by the growing number of Pride marches around the country that are now demanding that police not be allowed to participate due to continued arrests and harassment of the queer community.

The clarion call to reclaim Pride has been heard in all corners of the country. It reminds people that Stonewall was a rebellion sparked by the frustration of repeated humiliation and violence by the New York Police Department.

That three-day rebellion grew into a movement of resistance — not just against police terror, but one that opened up the fight for respect for the queer community. It demanded an end to discriminatory firings and being kicked out of apartments, as well as out of families. The movement worked hard to show the world that “Gay is Good.”

Over the past year, the queer community has come out in large numbers as part of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for justice for the many Black and Latinx people who have been murdered by police. There is a natural link between these communities, as both movements began as rebellions against police brutality and killings. It is well known that oppression breeds resistance.

This natural alliance defies the wishes of the capitalist class, which only seeks to break down the mutual support and solidarity which strengthens these two working-class movements.

Liberation for Palestine and LGBTQ2S

Today the fightback against repression is strongest in those communities that have come under tremendous attack. Just as the Stonewall Rebellion was a community united against years of beatings and disrespect, so too are our Palestinian siblings united as they continue their decades-long resistance to Israeli occupation and life under apartheid conditions.

We condemn the recent U.S.-armed-and-funded Israeli bombings in Gaza that killed at least 260 Palestinians and left thousands homeless. We condemn the actions of racist Israeli settlers evicting residents who have lived for decades in the East Jerusalem area of Sheik Jarrah. This ethnic cleansing is deplorable and a crime against humanity.

We call on the queer community to resist the attempts at “pinkwashing” by the state of Israel, which tries to paint itself as the perfect tourist destination. This only uses the queer community as a pawn as the U.S. and Israel try to justify the theft of Palestinian land.

We have nothing to gain in supporting Israeli atrocities committed against our Palestinian siblings.

We stand with the Reclaim Pride Coalition marchers and other queer activists who were brutally attacked by the NYPD during the past year. It’s said that a leopard never changes its spots. While it is good that police have



Black and Brown solidarity with Palestine

NYC metro area: Palestine solidarity spreads

been banned from the NYC Heritage of Pride march, that event continues to pander to corporate interests.

The Queer Liberation March, which is also held on the last Sunday of June, lifts up the original, radical politics of the movement that began that summer night in 1969 — for those who have forgotten or are so young they may not have been aware.

Unite to fight ongoing attacks

Although many gains have been won over the 52 years since Stonewall, the struggle is not over.

The right wing continues to use our rights as a galvanizing tool at election time. Same-sex marriage rights are constantly under attack. There is still not a federal law prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing

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Indigenous grief

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GLOBAL WORKER SOLIDARITY: Unions mobilize to fight Israeli apartheid

By Lallan Schoenstein

On May 18, in response to Israel’s attempted expulsion of Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem, the continued attacks on the Aqsa Mosque as well as Israel’s bombing of the Gaza Strip with more than 1,050 air raids, the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza Strip (PGFTU) urged the global trade union movement to support Palestinians and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.



PHOTO: AROC

The PGFTU appeal called for labor unions to:

- Boycott Israel’s racist occupation, including a refusal to unload its ships;

- Demonstrate and put the state of Israel on trial for war crimes;
- Affirm Palestinians’ right to freedom and independence, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of Palestinians to return to their homes and villages.

The appeal was answered forcefully in the Port of Oakland, Calif., site of the most successful labor action to date against the atrocities in Gaza.

The Israel-based ZIM ship Volans left the Port of Oakland on June 5

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#215Children

Indigenous peoples grieve after mass grave found at residential school

By M. Tiahui

On May 27, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation said that preliminary findings from a survey of the grounds at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia uncovered the remains of 215 children. This news has been met by a massive outpouring of grief in Indigenous communities.

Indigenous people have created memorials to the children, with 215 pairs of children's shoes, toys and flowers appearing on the steps of government buildings, churches and residential school buildings across Canada. Statues of prominent Canadian historical figures who bear responsibility for the residential school system, such as John A. Macdonald and Egerton Ryerson, are being covered with red paint and pulled down.

The confirmation of the remains of the 215 children at Kamloops is only a beginning; there are many more unmarked gravesites to be found and analyzed. While hundreds of graves had already been identified, residential school survivors have said for years that additional children are buried in many different areas, and asked Canada for years to fund searches at all residential school properties. Thousands of families seek to know who is buried there and what happened to their children.

Kamloops was one school from more than a century of government-sanctioned Indian residential schools in Canada. Abuse of every kind at these schools was the norm. At St. Anne's residential school in Ontario, survivors described whippings, beatings, widespread sexual abuse and punishment by shocks delivered in an on-site electric chair.

Medical experiments were permitted to be conducted on the children. Diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza swept through the schools, with the children's malnourished bodies often too weak to survive.

Some Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) children died from tuberculosis or malnutrition. Some died of a broken heart. Some died trying to run away and return home. Some died from beatings and some from suicide.

No one knows how many children died nationally in Canada, but estimates range from 6,000 to as high as 25,000.

The children had their hair cut, were beaten for speaking their mother tongue, were told that their families and spiritual beliefs were evil, were subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Imagine living in a community where outside authorities such as priests and Mounties swoop in to grab your children and carry them off to a residential school. Imagine that you are told you cannot even see your children unless you behave, or that you will not receive your meager rations if your child does not go to the school. Imagine how quiet



Left: Indigenous children in residential school classroom. Above: Tiny handcuffs used on children.



Memorials to the 215 children buried at Kamloops Residential School have been put up all over Canada.

your community is after the children have been snatched away.

Your child may return home broken, or may never return at all.

Not ancient history

Catholic missionary residential schools began in "New France" (French colonies in North America). Residential schools became part of Canadian government and church policy from the 1830s on with the creation of Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist schools in Ontario.

These colonial experiments set the pattern for post-Confederation policies from 1867 on. Approximately 150,000 Indigenous children in Canada experienced that era of residential schools.

The last residential school in Canada closed in 1996, so this is not ancient history.

Some children also were forced to attend government-run day schools, where abuse and cultural genocide were also common. There are still many school survivors and even more families descended from those who suffered at the schools.

Indigenous people certainly never forgot about the residential schools. What occurred in these schools has also caused intergenerational trauma, impacting families for generations.

Chief Clarence Louie of the Syilx Okanagan Nation in British Columbia said that Indigenous people still feel the impact of the schools today. "The level of inhumane and criminal treatment of First Nations children at the hands of colonial governments and organized religion is deeply disturbing," he said in a statement.

"We are calling on the Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada to directly address these atrocities."

Settlers in Canada are now paying more attention to the issue, yet some of them dare to deny that the residential schools were so horrific. This modern amnesia and denial by the oppressor nation ignores thousands of Indigenous people who partici-

pated in the painful six-year process of the national Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which issued reports in 2015 detailing many of the abuses at the residential schools with 94 Calls to Action.

The government has failed to respond to many of the calls, including refusing to fund the requests to identify missing children and their marked and unmarked burial sites. Often the schools and authorities failed to tell families what happened to the children at the schools and refused to return the bodies home because they did not want to pay for transportation or have the families know how abused the child had been.

This information was widely available and publicized, and multiple calls to action were included in the TRC report. Yet all too many settlers continued to profess ignorance or disbelief about residential schools even though information has long been available.

Canada's white ruling class has benefited immensely from the destruction of Native families and communities. As Indigenous people were violently forced onto reserves and often denied the ability to hunt, farm and fish to support themselves, vast tracts of land were renamed, divided, and handed out by the Canadian government to railroads, settlers, logging and other interests.

Attacks not limited to Canada

In the U.S., an estimated 500 government-funded Indian boarding and day schools operated in the 19th and 20th centuries. NABS (National Native American Board School Healing Coalition) has identified 357 boarding schools alone.

The first federally-run Indian boarding school was the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, in operation from 1879 to 1918, which used harsh military discipline to force Native children from all over the U.S. to assimilate.

At many of the schools, unmarked graves exist and remains of children are still undergoing a process of re-

patriation to the children's tribes. Researchers say that most of the more than 350 U.S. Indian boarding schools have cemeteries associated with them.

The U.S. has never had an accurate accounting of the Indian boarding schools, the number of children who attended or those who died at the schools. By 1900, there were about 20,000 children in boarding schools; by 1925, that number had more than tripled.

Even with the closure of residential schools, the mistreatment and removal of Indigenous children continued. In all too many countries, foster care became the "new residential school" – meaning that many Indigenous children are put into care rather than their families receiving the support needed to be able to keep their children. In Canada, Indigenous children comprise 7.7% of all children under age 14, but 55.2% of children in foster care.

Land-back beats reconciliation

The Canadian Parliament has now acted to designate Sept. 30 as a national day of truth and reconciliation to learn about and honor Indigenous people who attended residential schools, those who survived and those who never came home.

It is always important for the survivors and their families to be able to speak the truth about the harm they experienced that continues to reverberate through Indigenous communities. They have worked so hard to improve conditions for these communities. It's important for settlers to commit to knowing the truth about residential schools.

But there can be no reconciliation without reparations, justice and the return of land to Indigenous nations. Apologies and holidays are useless if people from the oppressor nation are not taking immediate and decisive steps to undo the toxic settler-colonial systems and anti-Indigenous racism that continue to exist.

Read full article at tinyurl.com/y9pc3mz5.



Juneteenth, reparations and the legacy of Tulsa

By John Parker

On June 19, 1865, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to end slavery there. It has become the symbolic date for the ending of slavery in the United States.

After the Emancipation Proclamation officially abolished legal slavery on Jan. 1, 1863, some African people were still forced to work as slaves until freedom was enforced by the U.S. government in those locations — two-and-a-half years, and in some cases up to six years, later.

Like all historical achievements regarding African people in this country, Juneteenth has two sides — one for celebration, and one that painfully shows how systemic racism endures in this capitalist and imperialist country. For those who want to change the world, it is always important to appreciate both sides of that coin, in order to remain realistic and optimistic in preparing other possible victories.

The other aspect of our historical achievements is that, when they become too visible to ignore, the ruling class sends in its political lackeys to defang its most potent effects. President Joe Biden, who just sent a solid endorsement of white supremacy and genocide with his \$735-million gift to the racist Israeli government, continues to echo his inaction and enabling of systemic racism here in this country, especially in regards to police terror and mass incarceration of Black people.

Biden has a history of passing legislation encouraging racist incarceration and the prison-industrial complex, and his public statements refusing to hold police accountable or even approach the subject with any seriousness make that clear.

Biden also recently addressed a 100-year commemoration of what is now officially called the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, when a terrorist, racist white mob destroyed the entire Greenwood neighborhood in a day and took the lives of hundreds of Black people, with cooperation from the police and Oklahoma National Guard.

However, Biden refused to mention the demand that survivors, their descendants and people around the world have endorsed, and that members of the Congressional Black Caucus put before Congress year after year — reparations for the victims and community institutions to help rectify and reverse some of the damage that was done.

Biden spurns Tulsa survivors

The massacre saw the first ever use of aerial bombings in the U.S. and the burning of homes and buildings while Black people were burned alive. Like the many white mob riots that occurred before and after Tulsa, including in Rosewood, Fla., that damage destroyed lives and wealth for future generations.

Millions of dollars of property were destroyed and hundreds of millions of dollars of potential wealth were

looted by the white terrorists and the corporate and government institutions that facilitated the riot.

In the audience for the Tulsa commemoration, there were three people listening to Biden who made a special effort to attend, who had given congressional testimony for the case for reparations, and whose time was running out.

Those three were surviving victims of the Tulsa massacre. All were over 100 years old and desperately hoped to see some type of remedy for the victims' descendants and the Black community of Tulsa, still affected by the massacre and stripping of their relatives' wealth.

And they all witnessed how U.S. educational and financial institutions continue to deny the pursuit of life and liberty for their community — something the reparations proposal they and many others advocate would address. Imagine their disappointment when Biden methodically avoided using the word.

Another victim from Tulsa, Olivia Hooker, who died in 2018 at the age of 103, was 99 when she shared her story with Al Jazeera.

Olivia witnessed the Tulsa massacre when she was just 6 years old. Her parents hid her while white thugs rampaged through her home and poured gas inside. She recalled seeing those same men set fire to dolls made for her by her mother as a testament to their hatred for Black children.

During her rich and successful life, Hooker spent much of her time fighting for reparations and hoped to see that happen before she died.

She rightly called the massacre a “catastrophe” — reminding us of another “race” massacre, when white Western colonialists drove Arab people out of their homes to create the state of Israel. The Palestinian word for it is al-Nakba, and it continues today.

Like in Tulsa, aerial bombings are used, with thugs and murderers all blessed in their evil by the Israeli government — which, in addition to the recent \$735-million gift from Biden, gets \$3.8 billion and weapons every year from the U.S. to target Palestinian children en masse.

It's a catastrophe of stolen homes and property and land, just like Tulsa. And like what's going on in Palestine, the theft continues here too.

In Tulsa, the property that was destroyed or seized along with the land was never given back to its owners, who still hold the deeds to the property. They were robbed and left with nothing to pass on to their descendants.

Tulsa Tribune's racist role

That is a very different reality from that of the Jones family, the white owners of a conservative newspaper, the Tulsa Tribune, whose claim to fame today is its responsibility for setting off the 1921 riot by white terrorists.

The Tulsa Tribune headline and article that sparked the riot incorrectly stated that a 19-year-old Black

youth had attacked and possibly raped a white woman. An editorial promoted a group that was actively planning to take the youth from police custody and lynch him.

The white woman who was the alleged victim said it didn't happen and was adamant in her denial of any wrongdoing by the youth. She refused to press any charges against him. But the paper's owner, Richard Lloyd Jones, wasn't interested in the truth. That lie helped continue the profitability of the paper and would be passed on down the line.

Richard Lloyd Jones passed on control of the newspaper to his sons, Richard Lloyd Jones Jr. and Jenkin Lloyd Jones Sr. In 1984, the Tribune's corporate owner merged with Swab-Fox Companies Inc., a diversified energy and real estate firm, and the paper finally ceased publication in 1992. The initial wealth, compounded by its sale and diversification into real estate and energy, undoubtedly lined the family's pockets for generations.

Not so for Olivia Hooker. Her father's department store was destroyed, and her family never received a penny.

In fact, none of the victims, as of this writing, have ever received repayment of the wealth that was stripped from them and transferred to those responsible for the terrorism they survived. And, although they had insurance, the state of Oklahoma helped insurance companies avoid paying out for the damage and loss of homes and businesses to the property owners.

Not one person was held accountable for this racist murder and terrorism. As Donald Glover's *Childish Gambino* character says: “This is America.”

The case for reparations

Tulsa shines a light on the experience of African people and the arguments for reparations in general. After all, it was African slaves who created the foundation of wealth that U.S. capitalism rests upon.

As we commemorate Juneteenth, we should also understand that Tulsa provides an excellent example of

the reality of imperialism and capitalism, its racist and violent nature, just as it exposes those who perpetuate that system.

Let's commemorate Juneteenth by drawing the conclusion, if you haven't already, that these good-for-nothing politicians from Biden on down, either Democrat or Republican, who enable systemic racism, legitimize inaction and actively block any real attempts at attacking the systemic causes, are an integral part of this anti-human system.

They can't be trusted to make any real change — that's not what they were given millions of dollars in campaign funds by the corporations and monopolies that run this country to do.

But there is something very powerful that we can do and have done. Black people have forced great achievements in the struggle for liberation and social justice in general — and that's a testament to our strength and determination.

Those strides allowed us a greater ability to effect change. We must continue to do what works — build the power of the movements for liberation and self-determination that empower our working class, both here and abroad.

Defend the right of Black and Brown people and all oppressed peoples to live free from the terror of the police and ICE! Continue to call for those police and ICE entities to be abolished and replaced by the community.

We must defend the right of every person to a job or income. We must join the local tenant rights organizations fighting homelessness, and join the struggle for health care for all, especially for Black and Brown people still dying from COVID-19.

Let's build on our unity and solidarity, so that the next time a white supremacist mob comes to a Black or Brown neighborhood, they will be met with a righteous wrath that spares not a one. Those capitalists and politicians who enable them and the system they protect must be dismantled through the building of a movement that cannot be ignored.

Let's get to it.. 



A truck filled with Black prisoners during the 1921 Tulsa massacre. An armed white man rides on the running board guarding the prisoners.

An open letter to President Joe Biden, as his broken promises pile up

By Greg Butterfield

Dear President Biden,

Your broken promises are piling up. I took note of these headlines in just the last couple of weeks: “Joe Biden Surrenders On Federal Unemployment Benefits,” “Biden Drops Student Loan Forgiveness From Latest Budget,” “Biden offers to keep 2017 Trump tax cuts intact in infrastructure counteroffer to GOP,” “U.S. Says It Will Not Rejoin Open Skies Treaty With Russia.”

Whew! Your haste to screw over the people who voted for you is breathtaking, I’ll give you that.

It seems like your Democratic White House hasn’t met a Trump policy it didn’t like.

And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. You’ve continued deporting migrants and refugees and refused to defund ICE; you’ve upped the Pentagon’s war budget yet again; you’re planning to give more money to Israel after it carried out its brutal May assault on the Palestinian people; and you decided to keep the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, where Trump moved it despite an international outcry — an added slap in the face to the Palestinians.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which you said you wanted to revive, has gone nowhere, since you refuse to drop the illegal sanctions on Iran. Nothing has been done to relieve Trump’s tightened blockade on Cuba. You’ve even picked up Trump’s bogus “Wuhan lab leak” story, blaming China for COVID-19, to further the new Cold War. No points for originality there.

You’ve continued to let Louis DeJoy wreak havoc on the Postal Service and threaten the very existence of one of the few major unionized employers of Black and Brown workers.



PHOTO: MOVIMIENTO COSECHA

On May Day, immigrants and supporters protested in Washington, D.C., against new “Deporter-In-Chief” Joe Biden.

You twiddle your thumbs and release nicely-crafted statements while the right-wing continues its attacks on Black voting rights, trans youth’s health care and education, and women’s reproductive rights.

George Floyd’s family came to the White House on the anniversary of his murder by the Minneapolis police. All they got was another load of vague, empty platitudes with nothing to back it up. (Shoot ‘em “in the leg instead of the heart” was your campaign’s solution to racist police terror, right?)

You won election as the anti-Trump. You said you were going to reverse his bad policies.

Despite grave doubts among the masses, the Democratic Party leadership pushed you forward as the “more electable” alternative to Bernie Sanders. Remember?

And the publicity hacks at the New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, CNN et. al. have been trying to paint your administration as the second coming of the New Deal.

So what happened? One might say, based on your record thus far, that you’re just trying to put a human face on Trump’s inhumane program.

It seems like the only promise you’ve kept is the one you made to

super-rich campaign donors in 2019, when you said that if elected, “Nothing would fundamentally change.”

Now I think we’re on to something.

The ugly truth

Elections under the U.S. two-party monopoly are all about money first, and personality second. First get the money from Wall Street and Big Business — your real employers — to fund your campaign. Then sell a personality and some promises to get people to vote for you, usually against their own interests.

You’ve been part of that system for a long, long time, President Biden.

Here’s the part you and your colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, White House and Congress, don’t want people to know:

Your loyalty is to the profit system and its super-wealthy owners. It’s not to any principles, much less to the voters.

This explains your actions in office.

A substantial part of the capitalist ruling class — the owners of the banks, online stores, shopping centers, factories, real estate, Big Oil, the military-industrial complex — got tired of the racist bluster and open thievery of Trump and his entourage. They felt it was a danger to their rule, especially after the massive uprising for Black Lives in the summer of 2020.

But here’s the thing — they liked his policies.

They liked his war on immigrants and poor communities. They liked his war-mongering abroad and repression at home. They liked his privatization of public resources, and especially his tax cuts for the rich.

All of those policies were picked up and extended by Trump from earlier presidential administrations — Obama, Bush, Clinton, etc. — Re-

publicans and Democrats alike.

And the job you were hired for by the super-rich, as their political CEO, is to continue those anti-people policies — only with a little more tact and skillful deception.

But there’s a problem with this well-worn scheme. U.S. imperialism is no longer a rising system, and world capitalism is in an ever-deepening crisis. Your bosses are no longer willing to trim their profit margins to buy a little class peace.

You can only sell empty promises for so long.

You’re joining the Republican campaign to cut off pandemic unemployment benefits. That’s meant to force more unemployed workers to compete for the relatively few jobs available, driving down wages and benefits for everyone.

The pandemic ban on evictions will end soon, with no plan in place to wipe out the billions of dollars of owed back rent. Food prices are rapidly rising as money gets harder to come by.

I do want to thank you for one thing. Your shallow veneer of being something other than a Trump clone is quickly melting away.

Last Election Day, millions of working-class people were already aware that they were being sold a bill of goods when they voted for you. But they felt they had no choice but to get Trump out. Those numbers are only going to grow as your broken promises — and the system’s inability to provide even the most basic needs of the masses — pile up.

The working class will have no choice but to learn to organize independently to abolish this awful, racist, anti-people system that breeds monsters like Trump — and you. And there’s nothing you can do to stop it. 📌

Unemployed Workers Union condemns halt of federal benefits

By Unemployed Workers Union

June 2 — We condemn Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s abrupt decision to curtail federal pandemic unemployment benefits early, giving the unemployed just one month’s notice. Just weeks earlier, the State Labor Department said that Maryland would not be joining states that returned federal benefits.

Looking beyond the false rhetoric that “benefits are keeping people from taking jobs” are the facts. The April jobs figures were deeply disappointing. Dow Jones estimated one million new jobs; instead, new jobs totaled only 266,000.

The national unemployment rate inched up to 6.1%; Maryland’s is slightly higher at 6.2%. Baltimore City is 7.6% and Prince George’s County is 8%.

We assert that the motive for removing the meager federal safety net (which costs the state nothing) is to create an ever-larger and desperate group of unemployed workers

that will push wages and benefits down for all workers.

It is the responsibility of the government to protect and defend all of its people. It is reprehensible for the state government to leave workers at the mercy of the so-called “market” rather than planning for decent-paying jobs, dignity and economic stability for everyone.

Where is the “Public Works Program”? Is the Labor Department opening up its doors and providing training and job placement?

Insult to injury: People have not received benefits

The Peoples Power Assembly has filed two separate “Freedom of Information Requests” with the state. The first is to provide our organization with the number of people who have yet to receive unemployment benefits through the Beacon system, whether state or federal, and the second is to give the number of people who received the one-time grant while their benefits were delayed.

Unemployed Workers Union weekly clinic in Baltimore, May 27.

To date, we have heard from no one who has received the state benefit. Instead, we have heard horror stories from people who have not received a dime of their benefits, despite applying a year ago.

The Peoples Power Assembly has launched the Maryland Unemployed Workers Union to help fight for our rights and obtain our state and CARES Act benefits. Together and united, we can win! We want jobs or income now! Halt evictions, foreclosures and repossessions for all unemployed workers.

Every Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., we hold a clinic for unemployed workers to file formal grievances and appeals. A pro bono attorney and assistants are present to fill out grievances and execute letters to the labor secretary and governor.

Join us in front of our office at



SLL PHOTO

2011 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. We assemble outdoors, in front of the office, and masked for everyone’s comfort and safety. The clinic takes place rain or shine. If our tents are not adequate, we will meet inside and maintain social distance.

We realize that people who live outside the Baltimore metropolitan area cannot make it in person. Please let us know, and we will arrange a zoom call. Text (410) 218-4835 with your email, telephone number and information. 📌

Bosses lie about ‘labor shortage’ to keep wages low

By Gary Wilson

The May unemployment report wasn't much better than the April disaster.

Business news site CNBC summed it up: “Job creation disappointed again in May, with nonfarm payrolls up what normally would be considered a solid 559,000 but still short of lofty expectations, the Labor Department reported Friday. ... May's letdown came after April sharply undershot expectations.”

The “jobs gap” remains more than 9 million down from pre-pandemic levels. “We are now short between 9.1 million and 11.0 million jobs since February 2020,” said Elise Gould of the Economic Policy Institute. At the rate of about 550,000 new jobs a month, the number of jobs won't reach the level of February 2020 until the end of the year in 2022. That's not a booming economy.

Unemployment plagues capitalism and has been a constant since the beginning of wage labor. Prior to the capitalist era, structural unemployment on a mass scale never existed, other than that caused by natural disasters.

While the current high level of unemployment — 23.1% according to the Ludwig Institute's True Rate of Unemployment — is in part the result of the pandemic response, the underlying reason remains the same: to protect profits.

The reserve army of labor

As Karl Marx detailed in “Capital,” capitalism constantly produces a pool of unemployed workers. Capitalists refer to this as “surplus population” or “the unemployables.” Marx called this a “reserve army of labor.”

Marx said that in the drive to increase profits, capitalists try to reduce their costs by increasing productivity through the replacement of labor with machinery and new technology. This, in turn, creates an artificial surplus population of the unemployed.

This “reserve army of labor” influences wage rates. The larger the unemployed workforce grows, the more this forces down wages. On the other hand, if there is low unemployment and plenty of jobs available, this tends to raise the average level of wages, as workers are able to change jobs easily to get better pay.

In recent years, part of the reserve army of labor in the U.S. has been identified as “the precariat.” That is the growing number of temporary, contract and part-time workers (part of the proletariat) with precarious status.

Precarious workers are part-time or full-time in temporary jobs, but don't earn enough to live on. The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not count them as unemployed, but they do not receive a living wage.

Labor shortage?

In the media there have been claims that the depressing monthly employment reports are caused by a so-called “labor shortage.” This is political propaganda attacking un-

employed workers, blaming the unemployed for the lack of available jobs. It's being used to cut the meager federal supplemental unemployment benefits of \$300 per week for those who lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

Twenty-five states are ending the \$300 federal supplement and also the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for the self-employed and gig workers.

The PUA is a program that should never be cut, but rather should become a permanent program. A growing number of businesses like Uber and Lyft now call their workforce “independent contractors.” These workers are not covered by traditional unemployment insurance. They are covered by the PUA, which is actually paying benefits to more jobless workers than the regular state unemployment programs.

As for so-called labor shortages, there is only one measure of a labor shortage — wages. In a real labor shortage, wages start rising. Capitalists who face a shortage of qualified workers respond by offering higher wages and/or benefits, while capitalists who risk losing workers will raise wages to retain workers.

But wages are not rising and, for some, are now lower than they were before the pandemic. If wages aren't rising, it is certain that there is no labor shortage.

This was even admitted by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, who dismissed claims of labor shortages, saying, “We don't see wages moving up yet. And presumably we would see that in a really tight labor market.”

For the mass of unemployed — and a quarter of the workforce is without a full-time, living-wage job, according to the Ludwig Institute — the jobs are gone; there is no returning to the old job. New jobs won't be the same. Most may require new skills along with new transportation needs, housing locations, childcare requirements, etc.

Even with restaurant jobs, where “tipped” workers often get sub-minimum-wage pay, the jobs are changed. While pay hasn't gone up, these jobs are now more stressful and potentially dangerous as workers have to deal with anti-maskers and ongoing health concerns. The wages for a harder, riskier job should be higher.

In the “leisure and hospitality” sector, average weekly earnings have not gone up, remaining at a level of about \$19,651 per year for full-time employment.

Far more unemployed than jobs available

There are far more unemployed people than available jobs.

In the latest data on job openings, there were nearly 40% more unemployed workers than job openings overall, and more than 80% more unemployed workers than job openings in “leisure and hospitality.”

For low-income workers with a



Everyone needs a job at a living wage to survive. It's a basic human right.

job, pay has not been rising over the past year, but the consumer inflation rate has been steadily rising. In April, the consumer inflation rate reached 4.2%.

That's a backhanded cut in wages, so that workers are really getting paid less than they were a year ago.

Food, housing, jobs

Most significant has been the continuous inflationary rise of food prices, actually double the overall rate of inflation in 2020. For the unemployed and low-wage workers, more than a third of their income is being spent on food, leaving most of them short of funds for housing or transportation.

This is the crisis for jobless workers. What is going to happen when the federal eviction moratorium ends on June 30? More than 10 mil-

lion tenants are behind on their rent and face eviction once this moratorium is dropped.

A job is required in order to have housing, food and transportation. Everyone needs a job at a living wage to survive. It's a basic human right.

The right to a job is even backed up by federal law. The 1946 Employment Act and the 1978 Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act legally obligate the president and Congress to use all available means to achieve full employment.

Also adopted in 1946, the United Nations Charter on Human Rights declares, “Everyone has the right to work ... and to protection against unemployment,” as well as the right to housing, education and health care.

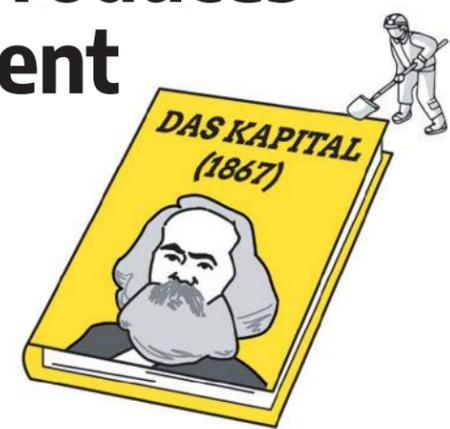
Now more than ever, the government should be made to enforce these laws.. [square icon]

MARX: Capitalism produces unemployment

In “Capital,” Karl Marx wrote about the laws of capitalism and the ruthless capitalist competition for greater profits. In the drive to increase profits, capitalists try to reduce their costs by increasing productivity through the replacement of labor with machinery, new technology, robotics. This, in turn, creates an “artificial surplus population” of the unemployed:

“The fall in prices and the competitive struggle would have driven every capitalist to lower the individual value of his total product below its general value by means of new machines, new and improved working methods, new combinations, i.e., to increase the productivity of a given quantity of labor, to lower the proportion of variable to constant capital, and thereby to release some laborers; in short, to create an artificial overpopulation. ...

“The circumstances which increased the productiveness of labor, augmented the mass of produced commodities, expanded markets, accelerated accumulation of capital both in terms of its mass and its value, and lowered the rate of profit — these same circumstances have also



created, and continuously create, a relative overpopulation, an overpopulation of laborers not employed by the surplus-capital owing to the low degree of exploitation at which alone they could be employed, or at least owing to the low rate of profit which they would yield at the given degree of exploitation.” (“Capital,” Volume III, Chapter 15)

The technology itself does not lead to unemployment. Instead, as Marx indicates, it is the use of technology under capitalism, implemented in an anarchic and unplanned way for the sole purpose of increasing profit, that leads to mass unemployment and places pressure on those still working to accept lower wages, as competition for the remaining jobs increases.

— Gary Wilson

Los Angeles rally declares: Black and Brown

By John Parker

Los Angeles — On May 22, Black and Brown organizations joined forces with the Palestinian movement across the world, demanding that Israel end the siege of Gaza and Sheikh Jarrah, an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and to all U.S. funding and arming of Israel.

Palestinian organizations, including Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), which led massive demonstrations in the city a week prior, were invited to speak at the action.

Initiators of the rally, march and car caravan included the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Unión del Barrio, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Black August Los Angeles, American Indian Movement Southern California, Central American Resource Center, All-African People's Revolutionary Party, Puerto Rican Alliance, National Young Lords Organization and members of the Socialist Unity Party Black Caucus.

These organizations, responding to Israel's catastrophic war crimes,



PHOTO: INSOOK LEE

felt the need to highlight and activate the power coming from the fundamental role historically played by Black and Brown organizations in the U.S. in fighting injustice, racism and white supremacy, with an understanding of the potential power those battles can have in building solidarity with other victims of U.S. imperialism abroad.

Many in the Palestine movement note that the current shift towards solidarity with the Palestinian people is partly a result of the recent struggles for Black lives here in the U.S., helping to build the consciousness necessary to emphasize that Pales-

tinian lives and the lives of all oppressed peoples subject to racism and genocide matter.

Uplifting show of unity

At MacArthur Park in downtown LA — in a community predominantly made up of oppressed people of color — a large rally drew at least six television crews covering the event.

It began with many speakers addressing the need to highlight the historic bond between Black organizations and the Palestinian right to self-determination, and their dedication to continue to call out and fight against racism and imperialism there and here.

Many rally participants were uplifted by the show of unity between the many Black and Brown organizations that came together and spoke in one united voice of support.

Regarding the horror of the most recent Israeli war crimes, Harold Welton, former Black Panther and member of Black August Los Angeles, said: "Over 60 Palestinian children have been killed and the corporate news seems to dance around that fact. Our tax dollars are being

used to send precision-guided missiles and high-tech bombers targeting civilians."

Ron Gochez of Unión del Barrio, addressing the rally participants and the Palestinian people, declared: "The leftist movements of Latin America, of Nuestra America, the movements in Africa, the movements all over Asia and all over the world, are with you. The only people that side with Israel are those aligned with the colonial imperialist U.S. government."

Speakers from Al-Awda and the PYM conveyed the reality of the continued siege in Gaza and Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and pledged their support to fight racism here against Black and Brown peoples.

This action also had a very natural feel with speakers whose experiences paralleled the situation of Palestinian people. Xochilt Sanchez, organizer with the Central American Resource Center, said: "As a Salvadoran American, I empathize with the pain and loss of the Palestinian people. I see my own family's pain reflected in their struggle against land occupation, state violence and forced displacement."

"I stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people because, as a Central American, my people have also been

GLOBAL WORKER SOLIDARITY: Unions mobilize to fight Israeli apartheid

Continued from page 1

unworked after reportedly "meandering in circles, outside of the port," reports an Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) press statement. The ZIM ship was unable to navigate through the united protest of community and labor.

ZIM is the world's 10th largest shipping company. ZIM is a major transporter of weapons to and from Israel.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 and the ship's clerks in ILWU Local 34, as well as the Port Truckers, honored picket lines coordinated by the Block the Boat Coalition, at times numbering over a thousand protesters. ZIM ships left the port unloaded after 16 days of picket lines.

"We are sending a strong message that profiteering from Israel's apartheid and ongoing violence against the Palestinian people will not be welcome in the Bay Area," said Lara Kiswani, executive director of AROC.

#BlockTheBoat actions protesting various Israeli ZIM ships have been planned in numerous other cities, including Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, New York, Detroit and Philadelphia.

One labor statement at the end of May read, "The ILWU Northern California District Council stands in solidarity with Palestine and Palestinian communities across the world who are fighting for justice."

On June 6, in Elizabeth, N.J., hundreds defied heavy police pressure and joined a community picket and blocked the gate leading to the terminal where the ZIM ship Tarra-gona docked.

International solidarity

Workers' organizations responded to the appeal of the Palestinian union federation as news of the horrendous Israeli massacre and courageous Palestinian defense circled the globe.

Protests took place in Italy, Greece, Ireland, Canada and South Africa. Over 100 labor and community organizations nationally and internationally endorsed #BlockTheBoat actions!

The International Dockworkers Council issued a statement strongly condemning the massacre of civilians and children in Palestine.

Recognizing apartheid in Israel, South African dockworkers heeded the PGFTU call and refused to offload ZIM cargo.

Italian dockworkers in Livorno refused to load an arms shipment onto a ZIM ship.

The Doro-Chiba rail workers union of Japan wrote, "We full-heartedly salute Local 10 for refusing to handle the freight from the ZIM ship Volans."

Local 10 and Black union leadership

Speaking on the Local 10 action, retired ILWU leader Clarence Thomas said, "We affect the global economy."

He said, "It was the longest action taken against an Israeli vessel using community blockades at the Port of Oakland."

"The first Local 10 action was in response to the killing of unarmed people in international waters on board the ship Mavi Marmara, which was attempting to bring humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in 2010."

In August 2016, an action to stop ZIM ships from unloading at the Port of Oakland was organized by Block the Boat for Gaza, a coalition of about 70 organizations led by AROC.

The action became a movement.

A gigantic ZIM ship left the Bay Area of California unworked at that time. Rank-and-file members of Local 10 honored community picket lines for four days. Other ports from Los Angeles to Tacoma joined the "Block the Boat Movement."

At the June 4 mass picket in Oakland, Local 10 President Trent Willis discussed the history of the ILWU in terms of fighting racism against the Palestinians as well as against African Americans.

Call for the MWM

When it initiated the Million Worker March in 2004, ILWU Local 10 called on rank-and-file union members to "Mobilize in Our Own Name," the title of Clarence Thomas' new anthology.

African American union leaders from Local 10, joined by others in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, organized the MWM with demands to fight racism, sexism, economic injustice and war.

They said that the only way workers can successfully struggle for their democratic rights is to organize independently from political organizations controlled by the bosses.

In 2004, the AFL-CIO leadership, in collusion with the Democratic Party, took national measures to sabotage the MWM by dishonestly claiming that it would interfere with union support for John Kerry's presidential election campaign.

In July 2020, the country erupted with protests, labor strikes and shutdowns against the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and numerous others.

The AFL-CIO "Racial Justice Task Force" announced a plan for "taking concrete action to address the long

"It warms our hearts in the besieged occupied Gaza Strip and the rest of occupied Palestine that our comrades led by AROC, and with the solidarity of our fellow workers in ILWU Local 10, achieved this great #BlockTheBoat victory against ZIM in Oakland."

We call upon all dockworkers worldwide to intensify the boycott campaign against ZIM ships and all business profiting from apartheid Israel, in solidarity with our people's struggle for freedom and justice in Palestine."



-Elias Al-Jelda, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) in Gaza, June 6, 2021

#BDS
#BlockTheBoat
bit.ly/BTBSolidarity



history of racism and police violence against Black people."

Last week the AFL-CIO quietly released its report, calling for police unions themselves to be the primary mechanism for reforming police practices. As spokespeople for the police unions often voice the loudest support for racist killer cops, the AFL-CIO report amounts to a hostile rejection of calls from progressive members for the federation to kick out police unions.

The progressive demand to exclude police organizations from the AFL-CIO rightfully asserts that workers' unions must be organized independently from the bosses and the repressive forces of the state that represent them. After all, who are the ones to bust workers' heads when they protest for a living wage?

The call to "Mobilize in Our Own Name" is the only way that workers can unite internationally against capitalist exploitation and U.S. imperialist aggression in support of Israeli apartheid.

Block the Boat actions hit U.S./Israeli interests at the "point of production" and prove that workers are in the most powerful position to enact change. 📌

In solidarity with Palestine!

massacred and driven off their lands. Historically and throughout modern history, Central Americans have suffered bombardments and mass killings by the hand of the police and military, backed and funded by the United States.”

Palestine and Black liberation

That sentiment was reinforced by Rebecka Jackson of the Socialist Unity Party Black Caucus, who had visited occupied Palestine: “The struggle of Palestine is the struggle for Black liberation. Occupied Palestine is a place where Afro-Palestinians are treated as second-class citizens or subjected to apartheid. Our struggles are inextricably linked. We are being systematically exterminated by the same poison of white supremacy and capitalism.

“As Palestine has always supported our liberation struggles, as they sent us solidarity to Ferguson and Minneapolis and Louisville, let us send the same support back,” said Jackson.

“As people around the globe have lifted up the names of Michael Brown, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, let us today lift up the names of Haftom Zarhum and Babikir Ali Adham-Abdo, who were beaten to death by racist Zionists. And Solomon Tekla and Yehuda Biadga, who were murdered by Israeli police.

“Why do we love Palestine, why do we fight for Palestine? When we are united in struggle we beat with the same heart and fight with the same fist. If we can free Palestine, we can free us all.

“From Mandela to the Black Panther Party to Che Guevara — we are all revolutionary socialists dedicated to smashing imperialism and capitalism and liberating the world. None of us are free until we all are free,” she concluded. ☐



PHOTO: MELIS BUG

FROM STONEWALL TO PALESTINE

RESISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED!

Continued from page 1

and public accommodations.

Trump is gone, but his followers in legislatures around the country have introduced one bill after another trying to undo the gains we have made. The right-wing packed U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear cases that may grant the right to discriminate based on religious beliefs, as well as denying same-sex couples the right to be foster parents or to adopt.

But using religion as a tool of oppression is nothing new. Religion has

been used by capitalism and imperialism to justify the genocide of Indigenous people. Religion has been used to justify murder, rape, pillaging, robbing our communities of resources, sexism, and now homophobia and transphobia.

The most vulnerable segment of the queer community — transgender individuals — live with day-to-day fear of physical as well as political attacks. The number of transwomen murdered so far this year has already surpassed last year’s number. The right wing is strongly pressing

for laws that deny gender-affirming healthcare to youth and allow legal molestation of transgirls in school sports by checking to see which genitals they have.

We reject these attempts to misgender and repress our transgender sisters. We assert that transwomen are women.

Capitalism has only misery to offer the queer community. It will take the socialist reorganization of society to ensure that LGBTQ2S people are able to live in dignity.

Stonewall still means fightback — for our liberation, and for the entire working class! ☐

Palestine solidarity spreads across New York metro area

By Struggle-La Lucha
New York bureau

The long war between the native people of Palestine and the brutal Western colonial-settler project called Israel is more than a local battle. Like the Black Lives Matter uprising that swept the U.S. and the world after the murder of George Floyd, it is part of the global struggle between oppressor and oppressed, exploiter and exploited, colonizer and colonized.

Pentagon brass routinely refer to the Israeli occupation regime as “our unsinkable aircraft carrier,” a term Israeli leaders embrace. To Wall Street bankers and their military and political servants, the Zionist state is a vital weapon in their long war to monopolize the world’s energy reserves and keep the world’s petrodollars flowing into their coffers. Control of the region they call the Middle East is key to their wealth and power.

While the corporate agents in Washington pour arms and money into the Israeli war machine, oppressed people around the world stand with the people of Palestine. That solidarity has been loud and clear in cities across the United States in the weeks since Israel’s latest assault on the imprisoned people of Gaza.

In the New York metropolitan area, tens of thousands have taken to the streets of every borough and such neighboring cities as Paterson and Teaneck, N.J., and Yonkers and White Plains, N.Y., to support Palestinian resistance and demand an end to U.S. aid to the occupation regime.



Brooklyn, May 15.

Those who marched were overwhelmingly young. Many were Palestinian or from other Arab communities. But the crowds reflected the diversity of New York City’s working class and oppressed communities.

The December 12 Movement and other Black liberation organizations mobilized in solidarity. Flags of Bangladesh, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Yemen and the Black liberation flag were among those that flew alongside the red, black, green and white colors of Palestine.

On May 4 and May 11, protesters took over the streets of midtown Manhattan. On May 15, Nakba Day, 50,000 people packed the streets of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, home to New York’s largest Arab community. On May 20, young people confronted a Zionist hate rally in Times Square. Police attacked and arrested several people when they defended themselves against anti-Arab bigots.

The following Saturday, May 22, 20,000 people shut down Queens Boulevard and marched for hours through the streets of the city’s sec-



Bronx, May 31.

ond-largest borough, from Sunnyside through Astoria to Jackson Heights.

On May 29, thousands traveled to Washington, D.C., for a rally and march called by American Muslims for Palestine.

On Memorial Day, May 31, thousands marched through the streets of the Bronx. While cops in riot gear tried to intimidate the marchers, the people of the borough greeted the marchers with cheers and horns honked in solidarity. Black Liberation Army veteran and 33-year political prisoner Sekou Odinga was among those who addressed the crowd.

Police arrested three young people for the “crime” of raising the Palestinian flag atop a railroad bridge. Cops later attacked a crowd that had gathered outside the 41st precinct to await their release and arrested and brutalized three more people.

Most of the protests were organized by NY4Palestine, a coalition comprising Al-Awda NY: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine, American Muslims for Palestine, Existence is Resistance, Jews for the Palestinian Right to Return, Labor for Palestine



May 29 National March for Palestine in Washington, D.C.



Elizabeth, N.J., June 6.

and Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network. Within Our Lifetime has taken the lead in organizing protests in every borough.

Early on Sunday, June 6, several hundred people blocked the gate of Maher Terminal in Elizabeth, N.J., where an Israeli ship, ZIM Tarragona, was being unloaded. Two days earlier, Port Authority police detained two activists for giving flyers to workers at the port.

It was the first action of the newly formed NY-NJ Block the Boat Coalition as part of the International Week of Action to Block the Boat called by the Arab Resource and Organizing Center in the Bay Area.

Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union refused to cross AROC-led picket lines in Oakland, Calif., forcing the Israeli ship ZIM Voltan to leave without unloading.

Later that day hundreds of community members confronted a “salute to Israel” anti-Palestinian hate parade in Teaneck, N.J.

On June 9, a WOL-led car caravan started at the ZIM shipping offices and drove across Staten Island. ☐

AT LAST!**The Million Worker March Movement in print****Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March**

An anthology by Clarence Thomas
DeClare Publishing

MillionWorkerMarch.com
Available at most booksellers

By Cheryl LaBash

Although I began to write a review of this remarkable anthology as a literary and historical assessment, it is much more than that to me. It is personal.

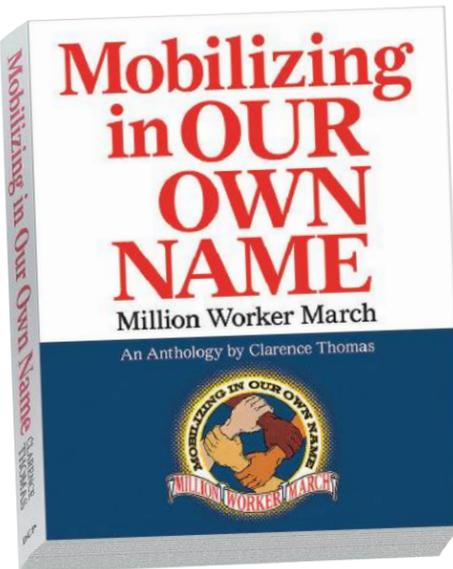
Clarence Thomas — the “real” Clarence Thomas, labor leader and author — tells an amusing story of his conflicted reaction when he heard some Detroiters appropriated the Million Worker March (MWM) T-shirt design and made T-shirts!

That was me. Just weeks away from the Million Worker March on Oct. 17, 2004, the Detroit Labor Day Parade and Labor Fest gathered hundreds of workers — our audience — in one place. But the official T-shirts couldn’t get here in time to deck out the distribution team. In the spirit of MWM, we forged ahead. No T-shirts, no problem — we made a few to wear for the day.

What drew me so intensely to the MWM? Only when I was present at the Lincoln Memorial on that day did I understand. It was the only time since my first national march in Washington, D.C. — against the Vietnam War in 1967 — that the hardhat, overalls and work boots I wore meant something more than a way to earn a paycheck, to pay the bills so I could do political organizing.

Being a worker counted; our independent voice, unfiltered through capitalist party politicians, counted in the Million Worker March Movement.

Looking back now, through these pages, pictures and documents, the MWM was our movement’s equiva-



lent of a Midwestern spring crocus pushing through the snow of the remnants of the Cold War, McCarthy red-scare and post-9/11 Patriot Act.

A harbinger of upsurge

I think we can say MWM’s independent voice was a harbinger of the upsurge reflected in the electoral arena through the wide, unexpected enthusiasm for Bernie Sanders’ unapologetically socialist campaign in 2016. When the facade of U.S.

democracy overrode the desire for progressive change, the imperialist business-as-usual Democratic Party pro-war corporate candidates were rejected, saddling the world with wannabe-fascistic emperor Trump.

The striving for progressive change thwarted in 2016 was renewed in the unprecedented mass movement throughout pandemic summer 2020. Justice was demanded for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more, but also deeper systemic justice. It burst through in over 2,000 cities and towns in all 50 states with as many as 26 million U.S. participants.

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10



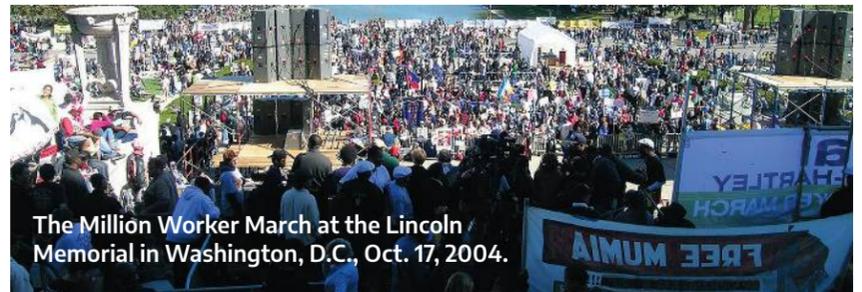
Clarence Thomas



Movement support for ILWU.



1934 General Strike



The Million Worker March at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Oct. 17, 2004.

and MWM organizing and leadership in action against police brutality and murders foreshadowed this development, too.

In 2010, ILWU Local 10 shut down Bay Area ports for justice for Oscar Grant, and on May Day 2015 with the union action to stop police killings of Black and Brown people.

For me, the example of ILWU founder and leader Harry Bridges uniting with the San Francisco Black community to take control of the waterfront jobs echoes October 10, 1868, in Cuba, when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes freed enslaved Black workers, asking them to join in the fight for Cuban independence. More than a winning strategy, it is fundamental.

This was the key to winning the 1934 San Francisco General Strike, forging the ILWU with Black workers at its militant core, and Local 10 where the Million Worker March was born.

Centrality of Black workers

The settler-colonial crimes underpinning the United States of America can no longer be denied. The false concept of white supremacy is condemned publicly even from

the presidential lectern.

The centrality of Black workers is one of two historical components of the ILWU that made the MWM possible. The other is the rank-and-file character of the ILWU. The ILWU survived the McCarthy era, refused anti-communism and the Taft-Hartley “loyalty” oaths to capitalism.

Today Black workers, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and women lead the pivotal working-class social justice movements of our time. The Bessemer, Ala., organizing drive at Amazon; fast food workers fighting for \$15 and a union; nurses and health-care workers demanding COVID-19 personal protective equipment and safe staffing, challenging the corporate sickness-for-profit health industry.

Workers and social movements are pressing against systemic boundaries as the MWM showed us in 2004.

Million Worker March’s influence

Although this book is about one initiative, one time in history, it

Continued on page 9

Germany must pay reparations to Africa

By Stephen Millies

May 31 — Members of the December 12th Movement held a news conference today in front of the German mission to the United Nations in New York City to demand reparations for Namibia.

“From 1904 to 1908, the German colonial army murdered 75,000 of the Herero and Nama inhabitants of what is present-day Namibia in South West Africa,” declared Roger Wareham, a member of the D12 International Secretariat.

“Last week, after over a century of denial, Germany formally admitted its genocide,” said Wareham. “We are here today, as Malcolm X often said, to ‘make it plain.’ Germany must pay reparations.”

The people of Namibia fought for decades to win independence from the apartheid regime then existing in South Africa. The South West African People’s Organization — now known as the SWAPO Party — led this heroic armed struggle.

The late Pan-African teacher and organizer Elombe Brath, a co-found-



PHOTO: OMOWALE CLAY / DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT

er of the December 12th Movement, worked closely with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma.

While South Africa took over Namibia following World War I, the German colonists remained. Some white shopkeepers in Namibia’s capital of Windhoek would close their stores on April 20, Hitler’s birthday.

One of the German colonial governors of Namibia was Heinrich Göring, whose son Hermann Göring was the No. 2 Nazi and the No. 1 war criminal at the Nuremberg trials.

Roger Wareham, who as a lawyer has initiated several suits for reparations, pointed out the connection:

“We also must note that the genocide which the Germans had perfected by the Holocaust had its beginnings in South West Africa, where they hanged and shot thousands of Africans, forced thousands more into the desert without supplies while poisoning the existing waterholes, and made thousands die in concentration camps.

“The Germans admit that they drew on the United States’ historically criminal mistreatment of its Indigenous peoples and its enslaved Africans in developing their genocide campaigns. Africans on both sides of the Atlantic have faced the

devastation of white-supremacist genocidal government action.

“Ironically, today, May 31, marks the 100th anniversary of the extermination of the Black community in Tulsa, Okla., which was popularly known as ‘Black Wall Street,’” noted Wareham.

Also speaking was Bill Dores, from Struggle for Socialism—La Lucha por el Socialismo newspaper. He said that he was honored to be there and demanded that Germany and all the other colonial powers must pay reparations.

Dores pointed out that Germany’s Deutsche Bank that plundered Namibia also helped finance Donald Trump. “If debts are supposed to be sacred,” said Dores, “then reparations have to be paid for Namibia, Tulsa and all the other crimes. There’s no justice without debts being paid.”

The rally ended with the chant, “Germany must pay! Reparations now!”

As the December 12th Movement says, “They stole us, they sold us, they owe us!” 📌

Free Alex Saab!

By Stephen Millies

For thousands of years human societies have protected diplomats from harm, even during wartime. That hasn't stopped the U.S. capitalist government from trying to seize the Venezuelan envoy Alex Saab.

Million Worker March

Continued from page 8

has influenced or been part of all the major struggles in the nearly 20 years since MWM organizing began: from advances in understanding gender, to migrant and immigrant struggles, to solidarity with Palestine, international solidarity against war from Venezuela to Iraq, to the pandemic.

"Mobilizing in Our Own Name" is the story of the Million Worker March, but it is also very much the reflection of the life of a third-generation longshoreman and his family that is intertwined with the struggles, social fabric and political history of Oakland, Calif., and the Black freedom movement.

We thank the REAL Clarence Thomas for sharing with new and old generations this remarkable history and labor of love. 📺

Saab was Venezuela's ambassador to the African Union when he was arrested in Cabo Verde on June 12, 2020. The African country seized Saab on the demand of the United States and has kept him in jail since then. The diplomat was traveling to Iran to help arrange food shipments for Venezuela when he was taken from his aircraft during a fuel stop.

So what does that have to do with the United States? For 20 years the U.S. ruling class has been trying to overthrow the elected government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Wall Street wants to return Venezuela to the days when then-New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller had a 100,000 acre ranch there. The Rockefellers considered the oil-rich country to be their private property.

Venezuela's poor people meant as much to Rockefeller as the 33 Attica prisoners that he had his state troopers murder in 1971.

That changed in 1999 when the late Hugo Chávez was elected Venezuela's president and the Bolivarian Revolution began. Poor and working people took back their country from Big Oil.

Over 3 million homes have been built. While over 20,000 children in New York City are homeless and 100,000 lack permanent housing, not a single child in Venezuela is homeless.



Protesters in Caracas demand release of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab, February 2021.

Six million families were provided with food by Local Supply and Production Committees, which Alex Saab was trying to help.

The response of both Republican and Democratic presidents has been to issue cruel sanctions on Venezuela, which strangled the country's economy. These sanctions have cut Venezuela off from most of the world economy.

The White House even had the Bank of England seize a billion dollars of gold belonging to Venezuela. The British capitalist government refused Venezuela's plea to use some of the gold to pay for needed medical supplies during the coronavirus pandemic.

The U.S. claims its sanctions —

which it also imposes on the rest of the world — were violated by Ambassador Saab, even though he never visited the United States.

Cabo Verde is a country of islands off the west coast of Africa. It waged a liberation struggle along with other Portuguese colonies.

The U.S. supplied the Portuguese government, then a fascist regime, with napalm to burn Africans alive. Amílcar Cabral, who led the freedom struggle in both Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau, was assassinated with the CIA's approval.

Now the CIA wants Ambassador Alex Saab to be turned over to the U.S. Alex Saab deserves freedom and Cabo Verde, and all Africans, deserve reparations. 📺

World mobilizes to send syringes to Cuba

By Alejandra Garcia

In March, social organizations, political leaders and solidarity movements launched a fundraising campaign to send syringes to Cuba. The world wants to support the vaccination process of this small nation, which has done so much to fight COVID-19 beyond its own borders.

The campaign has gained momentum and size as the days have gone by. The initiative began in Europe, thanks to the Cuba Linda and France-Cuba Associations, and today it is spreading throughout the Americas. "Blockade Kills, Solidarity Saves Lives" is the slogan of the cause that is taking everyone's attention in Honduras, Nicaragua, Argentina, Canada, the U.S. and other countries in the region.

"In France, we have raised 30,000 euros to date, equivalent to 374,000 needles and syringes," Cuba Linda reported. The group explained that it is looking forward to collecting 10 million syringes, which will allow the Cuban authorities to immunize their entire population in record time, as planned. The UK Cuba Solidarity Campaign has also launched a campaign to raise funds for syringes, vials and other medical supplies.

The world knows about Cuba's efforts to face the pandemic. Amid the most difficult economic situation, the country set out to leave no one unprotected, and it has done so in the most challenging way possible,



PHOTO: MIGUEL RUBIERA JUSTIZ /ACN

being a blockaded country with no resources that nevertheless has created its own vaccines.

"In light of Cuba's extraordinary commitment and response to the fight against COVID-19, not only at home but in 52 nations around the world, it is the least we can do. We see it as a solidarity project," said Bob Schwartz, CEO of U.S. Global Health Partners, an organization that recently joined the campaign.

In the U.S., several Cuban solidarity groups have set out to raise funds to buy even more of the syringes proposed by Cuba Linda and France-Cuba. According to Schwartz, "Global Health Partners, Code Pink, MEDICC, and the Center for Cuban Studies plan to send five shipping containers with over 10 million syringes to Havana."

Honduran doctors who graduated from the Latin American School

of Medicine (ELAM) and other universities in Cuba also joined the call, and are asking the Cuban community living in Honduras to collaborate in the fundraising effort.

"People have responded, even though the economic situation in Honduras is adverse because unemployment has increased and salary payments have been delayed due to the pandemic," explained Elena Flores, president of the Honduras-Cuba Association (AHC).

Given the lack of air connection from the Central American country to Havana, a situation that prevents the syringes from being sent to the island, the Honduran doctors opted to send the funds raised to Panama. There, several solidarity groups will buy and transfer the supplies to the Caribbean country through Cubana Airlines.

Cubans living in Nicaragua are doing the same operation. According to Prensa Latina, up to 130,000 syringes have been collected in Managua. "We have already made two bank transfers to Panama for the amount of US\$4,479," Rafael Ruiz of the Augusto C. Sandino Anti-imperialist Solidarity Network confirmed.

The solidarity campaign comes at a critical moment of the vaccine

rollout, when Cuba needs it most. Health authorities have already begun immunizing residents in Havana, the Cuban city most impacted by the pandemic.

The government expects to vaccinate the country's entire population as early as August. The donation of syringes will be essential for this purpose. Why? Because the over 200 restrictions imposed during the Trump era are threatening to squeeze the Cuban economy even harder.

Besides the global shortage of syringes and rising prices, Cuba faces another equally complex challenge. The island can purchase health — and any other — supplies from a very short list of countries.

Due to the blockade, few nations are willing to sell products directly to Cuba because of the million-dollar fines the U.S. imposes on anyone who dares to do so. The island is forced to buy everything through third countries, which makes each product more expensive, causes delays in shipments and generates shortages.

Although Cuba has the best record in Latin America in controlling COVID-19, the disease is reaching its peak and vaccination is key to stopping it. As U.S. President Joe Biden looks on motionless at Cuba's efforts to pull its economy forward and protect its people from the deadly virus, the rest of the world is rallying around this tiny island.

Cuba is not alone, it never was, it will never be.

Source: Resumen

Were new attacks on China created in a Trump lab?

By Scott Scheffer

By late May the level of attacks on China regarding its success against COVID-19 reached a fever pitch. The Biden administration has all the major U.S. media in tow.

A pack of Cold War-style lies targeting a laboratory in Wuhan, China, has been picked up and made “credible” by the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, National Public Radio and others. Headlines across the internet refer to a previously discredited theory conjured up by the Trump administration as having “gone mainstream.”

When viewed in the context of the growing U.S. military presence near China’s territorial waters, the ratcheting up of propaganda is ominous.

Until recently, the anti-China slanders about the Wuhan lab and other lies and attacks have been kept alive by an exclusively right-wing cast of characters led by Trump’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and including the likes of Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas — who had also called for sending in troops to put down and “quarter” [kill] BlackLives Matter protesters — and others.

China, with four times the population of the U.S., held its death toll from the coronavirus to less than 5,000 through a “people’s war” against the virus that showcased the superiority of socialist planning over the anarchy of capitalism. Trump and his team used attacks on

China to try to distract from the fact that his administration allowed the pandemic to take hundreds of thousands of lives in the U.S.

The conspiratorial “lab leak” theory that became a central part of Trump’s narrative has now been revived with the support of Joe Biden’s White House. The theory goes that the origin of the virus that causes COVID-19 was not natural but created by researchers in the Wuhan Institute for Virology (WIV) laboratory and then leaked in an accident. In some versions it was unleashed in a purposeful germ warfare attack.

No one in Wuhan lab had COVID

All of the recent hype is anchored on a “fact sheet” penned by Trump’s vile neo-Cold Warrior, former Secretary of State Pompeo. Pompeo referenced U.S. intelligence “information” that claimed WIV staff were sickened and hospitalized in November 2019, a month before the earliest known case of COVID-19.

The story isn’t substantiated in any way. All of the staff at the Wuhan Institute were tested and there was no presence of COVID antibodies in anyone. This simple fact shows the lab leak hypothesis to be a sham.

There have been two delegations sent to Wuhan by the World Health Organization (WHO) to research the origin of the virus. The first was early in the pandemic and the second was in March of this year. Both concluded that the virus likely jumped



The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been a global leader in research on coronaviruses.

from bats to an intermediary animal and then to humans, and that the lab leak theory was “highly unlikely.”

During the Trump administration, major media had to some extent been dismissive of the slanderous attacks and had treated its propagators as peddlers of a precarious conspiracy theory. But the tone began to change as Biden’s new Secretary of State Antony Blinken signaled that the diplomatic assaults on China would continue unchanged from the previous Trump administration.

This week the floodgates opened, and it was an all-out media assault on China. On May 27, Biden ordered further “investigation” into the origin of the virus — not by scientists but by the same spy agencies that fabricated the infamous “weapons of mass destruction” story used to justify the horrible U.S. war against Iraq in the George W. Bush era.

Wuhan lab leading virus research globally

The WIV lab has been a global leader in research on coronaviruses. Since the first SARS coronavirus

outbreak in 2003, it has collected hundreds of viral samples from bats to further the study of how viruses mutate and what mutations may create a higher possibility of transfer to humans. The hope is that

the research could help in the development of vaccines and allow scientists to gain an edge in fighting future pandemics.

The lead scientist at the WIV is Zhengli Shi, famously known as the Bat Woman for her devotion to this field of study.

The New York Times’ contribution to the slander includes an exceptionally long article written by its disgraced former science reporter Nicholas Wade. Wade was the subject of an anti-racist outcry over his 2014 book that drew on the white-supremacist Bell Curve theory. That hasn’t stopped the Times from trotting him out from time to time, and they tapped him to help push the current attacks on China.

Wade accuses National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Anthony Fauci of helping China in a supposed coverup of a lab leak. He hangs his hat on the fact that the intermediary animal that is crucial to the natural origin hypothesis hasn’t been

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Colombia’s blood on U.S. hands: National strike marches on

By Greg Butterfield

Jhon Erik Larrahondo, 21, of Cali. Alison Meléndez, 17, of Popayán. Camilo Arango, 19, of Tuluá.

These are but a few of more than 60 victims confirmed dead of government terrorism against protesters by the U.S.-armed and funded Colombian Armed Forces, police and death squads since the national uprising against the regime of President Ivan Duque began on April 28.

Thousands have been arrested. Hundreds more have “disappeared” — and bodies have begun to turn up, washed up on the banks of rivers and buried in hastily-dug mass graves.

Colombia is called the Israel of Latin America, and like its counterpart in West Asia, the country’s brutal capitalist rulers loyally serve their masters in Washington, D.C. Colombia is a member of the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance — the only one in Latin America.

The elite Mobile Anti-Riot Squad (ESMAD) of the Colombian National Police — established on the initiative of U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1999 to repress leftist movements — is carrying out murders, police brutality, sexual assaults, and, in the style of its Israeli Defense Force trainers, has blinded numerous protesters with shots to the eyes.

In Cali, the epicenter of state violence, a warehouse owned by the Éxito Supermarket chain stands revealed as a bloody torture center.

“When human rights organizations were finally able to enter to do oversight, they found pools of blood in the underground parking lots, blood even on electrical appliances in the warehouse, a nauseating smell. And they were totally prevented from visiting one of the floors of the parking lot,” according to reports compiled by Resumen Latinamericano.

“For two days, live protesters were brought to this shopping center, families and the community denounced in anguish, shouts were heard, repressive forces and garbage trucks circulated incessantly.” As of May 23, more than 200 people have disappeared in Cali alone.

In a statement demanding an end to the disappearances, the Legal and Humanitarian Team of the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission reported: “Since May 14, the first reports of the existence of mass graves were known in the rural area of the municipalities of Buga and Yumbo, where [the police] would take the bodies of many young people from Cali.”

“Since the start of the strike, the Colombian State has kidnapped and

disappeared more than 600 people,” Resumen reported. “Some of them have appeared floating in the Cauca River, others buried. In recent days the police have been increasing the practice of enforced disappearance, taking away protesters who then do not reappear.”

And yet, amidst the terror, the people fight on.

Victories won in the streets

What began April 28 as a protest against the president’s proposed tax hike on the populace, despite widespread unemployment caused by the pandemic and the global capitalist crisis, has mushroomed in the past six weeks into a national uprising that has left no city, town or village in this diverse country untouched.

The movement first forced the government to withdraw its “tax reform.” Then, on May 19, it forced Congress to vote down a plan to further privatize the health care system. Now the national strike movement demands the firing of Defense Minister Diego Molano, who commands the National Police.

Officials in Washington and Bogotá are betting on exhausting the people with merciless repression.



PHOTO: MISIÓN VERDAD

‘Colombia cries but does not surrender.’

But so far the protesters show no signs of slowing down, only drawing more and more layers of the populace into the streets.

Whatever happens next, it’s clear that a new generation of activists has taken the stage in Colombia. Many of them are not content with piecemeal reforms, but want to see Duque’s government — and those pulling the strings — toppled for good.

They have seen their rulers’ betrayal of the 2016 Havana Peace Accords and subsequent slayings of hundreds of former guerrillas, activists and community leaders by right-wing death squads. They see clearly the bloody hand of U.S. imperialism directing, arming and financing their oppressors.

They are learning invaluable lessons, and many of those who survive will bring fresh energy and hard-won experience to Colombia’s revolutionary struggle for national liberation and socialism.

Read full article at tinyurl.com/8kbwkwgw.

Attack on China Climate change and capitalism

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found, citing the quick success in doing so only in the SARS and MERS outbreaks, even though it took much longer to trace that pathway and identify the intermediary animal in many other viral outbreaks. In his claim that WIV researchers created the virus, he attributes scientific abilities to the researchers that just don't exist.

The journal Science published a letter by a group of 18 scientists also trying to give credibility to the lab leak theory. All of the scientists are from imperialist countries or other countries that have already been taking part in the U.S.-led hostility toward China.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington posted a response to Biden's call for investigation that said: "Some political forces have been fixated on political manipulation and the blame game."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian has demanded an investigation into the work conducted at the U.S. biolab in Ft. Detrick, Md., which is surrounded by secrecy. Zhao said that Biden's order showed that the U.S. "does not care about facts and truth, nor is it interested in serious scientific origin tracing." 📄

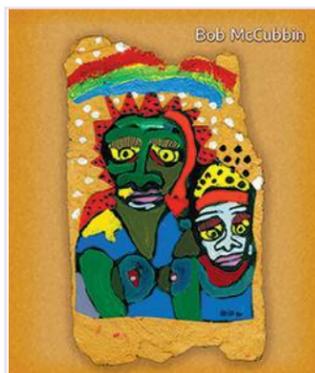
Puerto Rico unions close ranks

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fective response from the working people. We are not sitting by, nor are we going to do so.

"You, arbitrarily, have closed the doors to dialogue, you have closed the doors to the search for equitable solutions in the courts of justice, you have legislated to undermine our rights, you have done everything you can to guarantee their domination. Now, face the consequences. You drew the line. We know how to cross it," said Lizbeth Mercado, president of the Unión de Empleados de la Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado (Union of the State Insurance Fund Corporation).

Signing organizations: Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), UNETE, Central Puertorriqueña de Trabajadores, Movimiento Solidario Sindical, Federación Central de Trabajadores Local 481/UFCW, Prosol-UTIER, Asociación Puertorriqueña de Profesores Universitarios, Sindicato Puertorriqueño de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras, EDUCAMOS, Frente Amplio de Empleados, Hermandad de Empleados Exentos no Docentes (Heend), Federación Puertorriqueña de Trabajadores, UIASAL, UITA, Unión de Empleados de la Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado, UASAL, UAASL, USW and HEOAMA. 📄



By Scott Scheffer

As ice weighing more than 20 million Empire State Buildings melted from Greenland during the 20th century — and even faster in the last 25 years — the redistribution of mass has caused the earth to drift off its axis.

The near future holds rising sea levels that threaten coastal cities and island nations. Droughts, massive fires and super-storms are featured in the media so often they now seem almost commonplace.

Activists around the world are calling for serious action. Measures that the Biden administration is aiming for are designed to placate the growing anger, but everything proposed by the White House so far falls short of the dramatic changes needed even to limit the worst consequences of global warming.

In big capitalist countries, particularly the U.S., powerful corporations dominate policies no matter who gets elected. Imperialism — an inherent feature of late-stage capitalism — is far and away the biggest cause of climate change and the greatest obstacle to solving it.

U.S. military forces have killed millions of people in direct warfare. The Pentagon is also the biggest polluter on the planet, and brutally enforces underdevelopment the world over, which exacerbates CO2 emissions.

As the U.S. reenters the Paris Climate Agreement and world leaders are setting goals to try to collectively limit the rise in global temperatures, that issue is not even part of the conversation.

Reversing Trump not enough

After an April international summit called for by the White House and a series of executive orders to try to undo the multitude of attacks on environmental policies from the Trump era, the U.S. media are heaping praise on President Joe Biden.

In the days leading up to the summit, Biden called for a series of actions that are by and large defensive measures against the attacks on environmental laws set in motion by Trump, but nothing that resembles the changes that are urgently needed to deal with the crisis.

Climate activists and scientists know that what Biden is calling for so far just isn't enough. Even Biden's U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry is sounding the alarm over inaction.

There is another huge step that should be done first and foremost — abolish the Pentagon.

The U.S. military is spewing more CO2 and other contaminants into the air than all of the cars and trucks in the United States. In fact, 45 countries pollute less than the U.S. Armed Forces.

As a single entity, measuring the



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Global climate strike in New York City, Sept. 20, 2019.

CO2 emissions of U.S. military equipment and the more than 800 bases it operates globally, the Pentagon is the worst polluter in the world. That doesn't even count the emissions of military-industrial corporations that make billions of dollars building this death-dealing equipment.

Emissions by military forces were excluded from participating countries' reports during the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming. A study called "U.S. Military Pollution," published on TheEcologist.org, used multiple Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests to uncover the role of the Department of Defense in bringing that about: "It's no coincidence that U.S. military emissions tend to be overlooked in climate change studies... In fact, the United States insisted on an exemption for reporting military emissions in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol."

The exemption that allows the U.S. to exclude military emissions was supposed to be done away with in the Paris Climate Agreement, but the decision to either include or withhold that information is voluntary.

Abolish the Pentagon!

A June 2019 Brown University study calculates that between 2001 and 2017, all branches of the U.S. military emitted 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases — more than Denmark and Sweden. That amount included 400 million metric tons from the U.S. wars against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria, as well as attacks in Pakistan.

In an article on Pentagon pollution posted on ClimateAndCapitalism.com, H. Patricia Hynes describes consumption of fuel by the air force alone: "The U.S. Air Force (USAF) is the single largest consumer of jet fuel in the world.

"Fathom, if you can, the astro-

nomical fuel usage of USAF fighter planes: the F-4 Phantom Fighter burns more than 1,600 gallons of jet fuel per hour and peaks at 14,400 gallons per hour at supersonic speeds. The B-52 Stratocruiser, with eight jet engines, guzzles 500 gallons per minute; ten minutes of flight uses as much fuel as the average driver does in one year of driving!

"A quarter of the world's jet fuel feeds the USAF fleet of flying killing machines; in 2006, they consumed as much fuel as U.S. planes did during the Second World War (1941-1945) — an astounding 2.6 billion gallons," Hynes reported.

Since the first U.S. invasion of Iraq in 1990, the majority of U.S. military activity has been to maintain control over oil markets. According to PressTV, U.S. troops are stationed in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

There is a huge U.S. base in Qatar, the Fifth Fleet is stationed in Bahrain, and there is a U.S. military airport in Oman. We can now add Al-Tanf in Syria, illegally occupied by the U.S. There may also be secret and illegal bases in occupied Palestine.

In the western Pacific, three of the eleven U.S. aircraft carrier groups patrol oil supply routes used by China.

The U.S. military has killed over 500,000 people since the downfall of the USSR, destroyed access to clean water, bombed hospitals and infrastructure, and left behind huge areas so contaminated with depleted uranium as to be uninhabitable. This has all been done to maintain control of oil profits, by the single largest consumer of oil.

The fight to end capitalist exploitation, stop climate change and stop endless imperialist wars are all the same struggle, and it is a race against time. Abolish the Pentagon and save the planet! 📄

Paperback or Kindle

At: tinyurl.com/vwarcv7

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, 'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'

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

Sindicatos de Puerto Rico cierran filas contra LUMA Energy

Por Wilmarilis Sánchez-Romeu y Edwin Ocasio Feliciano

Organizaciones sindicales advirtieron hoy al gobernador Pedro Pierluisi y a la Junta de Control Fiscal que paralizarán el país si no se cancela el contrato de LUMA Energy que aumenta las tarifas, permite al consorcio irse de Puerto Rico si azota un huracán y que desplaza a miles de trabajadores.

“Le estamos advirtiendo al abogado de la Junta de Control Fiscal, Pedro Pierluisi, que no habrá paz en Puerto Rico si no se deroga el contrato y se escucha a un pueblo que exige, no solo una AEE pública y más eficaz sino, también libre de combustibles fósiles. En estos momentos existe el ambiente para paralizar el país y si el gobernador sigue sin escuchar al pueblo, eso haremos. Ya hemos sostenido varias reuniones para coordinar logística y fechas y esta semana nos volveremos a reunir para ultimar detalles, tengan por sentado que este verano será uno muy parecido al del 2019”, Carlos Rodríguez, coordinador del Frente Amplio de Camioneros.

“Hoy, le decimos a LUMA que ni se preocupen por acomodarse en nuestro país porque no les vamos a dejar tranquilos hasta que se larguen de Puerto Rico. Y a los trabajadores que pretendan traer de afuera que sepan que si cruzan la línea de piquete se encontrarán con un pueblo dispuesto a defender su soberanía energética y su acceso al agua. ¡Sin agua y luz no hay vida! En los próximos días no solo estaremos en los portones junto con nuestros compañeras y compañeros de lucha para evitar la en-

trada de los parásitos de LUMA, sino que seguiremos convocando actividades que desembocarán en un Paro Nacional si el intransigente de Pierluisi no detiene el contrato. La bola está en su cancha”, subrayó, María del Mar Rosa, coordinadora organizacional APPU.

Los portavoces de insistieron en que el Gobernador quiere despojar al pueblo de Puerto Rico de su principal recurso de desarrollo económico, la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica (AEE), para entregarla gratuitamente y sin garantía alguna para el país a LUMA Energy y que no lo permitirán.

“No vamos a permitir que nos arrebaten nuestra primera industria y más sabiendo que el pueblo será quien pague las consecuencias. A esto hay que añadirle también la forma humillante y abusiva como han tratado a los trabajadores y trabajadoras de esa corporación, despojándolos de sus plazas y derechos y hasta de la posibilidad de atender las necesidades de servicio de los ciudadanos. De igual manera expresamos nuestro total e incondicional solidaridad a la Alianza de Empleados Activos y Jubilados de la que han sido atropellados, abusados, humillados y burlados por el Gobierno de Pedro Pierluisi y la dictadura que gobierna el País”, añadió.

El grupo reiteró su apoyo y solidaridad a los empleados de la AEE que han sido trasladados a quienes pidieron calma.

“Esto será algo temporero, hemos vivido tiempos muy difíciles, pero también hemos demostrado que la lucha del pueblo de Puerto Rico es nuestra herramienta más efectiva, si como el pueblo sacó a un gobernador,



FOTO: FEDERACIÓN DE MAESTROS DE PUERTO RICO

Conferencia de prensa movimiento obrero, 1 de junio.

puede tener la voluntad de sacar a todos los buitres que invaden nuestro país. Desde aquí les reiteramos nuestro apoyo, solidaridad y compromiso de que LUMA tiene los días contados”, puntualizó Antonio Cabán, presidente de la Federación Central de Trabajadores, Local 481/UFCW.

Los líderes sindicales insistieron en que lucharán junto a la Alianza de Empleados Activos y el pueblo para sacar a LUMA Energy del país.

“No tengan la menor duda los llamados gobernantes de que tendrán una efectiva respuesta del pueblo trabajador. No estamos, ni vamos a quedarnos cruzados de brazos. Ustedes, arbitrariamente, le han cerrado las puertas al diálogo, ustedes le han cerrado las puertas a la búsqueda de soluciones equitativas en los tribunales de justicia, ustedes han legislado para menoscabar nuestros derechos, ustedes han hecho todo lo que han podido para garantizar su

dominio. Ahora aténganse a las consecuencias. Ustedes tiraron la raya en el piso. Nosotros sabemos cómo cruzarla”, sentenció Lizbeth Mercado, presidenta la Unión de la Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado.

Las organizaciones que suscriben son las siguientes Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), UNETE, Central Puertorriqueña de Trabajadores, Movimiento Solidario Sindical, Federación Central de Trabajadores Local 481/UFCW, Prosol-UTIER, Asociación Puertorriqueña de Profesores Universitarios, Sindicato Puertorriqueño de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras, EDUCAMOS, Frente Amplio de Camioneros, Hermandad de Empleados Exentos no Docentes (Heend), Federación Puertorriqueña de Trabajadores, UIASAL, UITA, Unión de Empleados de la Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado, UASAL, UAASL, USW y HEOAMA. [X]

Puerto Rico unions close ranks against LUMA Energy

By Wilmarilis Sánchez-Romeu and Edwin Ocasio Feliciano

June 1 — Union organizations today warned Gov. Pedro Pierluisi and the Financial Oversight and Management Board that they will paralyze the country if the LUMA Energy contract that increases rates, allows the consortium to leave Puerto Rico if a hurricane strikes, and displaces thousands of workers, is not canceled.

“We are warning the advocate for the Financial Oversight and Management Board, Pedro Pierluisi, that there will be no peace in Puerto Rico if the contract is not repealed and they listen to the people who demand, not only a public and more efficient Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), but also one free of fossil fuels.

“Right now there is a favorable atmosphere for paralyzing the country and if the governor continues to ignore the people, we will do so. We have already held several meetings to coordinate logistics and dates, and this week we will meet again to finalize details. Make no mistake,

this summer will be one very similar to that of 2019,” said Carlos Rodríguez, coordinator of the Frente Amplio de Camioneros (Broad Front of Truckers).

“Today, we tell LUMA not to bother settling in our country since we will not leave them alone until they leave Puerto Rico. And the workers who they intend to bring in from abroad should know that if they cross the picket line, they will face a people willing to defend their energy sovereignty and their access to water. There is no life without water and electricity!

“In the next few days we will not only be in front of the gates together with our comrades in struggle to prevent the entry of the LUMA parasites, but we will continue calling for activities that will lead to a National Strike if the intransigent Pierluisi does not stop the contract. The ball is in their court,” stressed María del Mar Rosa, organizational coordinator of the Asociación Puertorriqueña de Profesores Universitarios (Puerto Rican University Professors Association).

The spokespersons insisted that

the governor wants to deprive the people of Puerto Rico of their main resource for economic development, the Electric Power Authority, to give it up to LUMA Energy for nothing and without any guarantee for the country, and they will not allow it.

“We are not going to allow our main industry to be taken from us and even more so, knowing that the people will be the ones who will pay the consequences. To this must also be added the humiliating and abusive way in which they have treated the workers of the corporation, stripping them of their positions and rights and even the possibility of attending to the service needs of citizens.

“In the same way, we express our total and unconditional solidarity to the Alliance of Active Employees and Retirees, who have been bulldozed, abused, humiliated, and belittled by the government of Pedro Pierluisi and the dictatorship that governs the country,” she added.

The group reiterated its support and solidarity with the PREPA employees who have been transferred, to whom they advised to keep their calm.

“This will be something temporary. We have lived through very difficult times, but we have also shown that the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico is our most effective tool; if the people removed a governor, they may have the will to remove all the vultures that invade our country.

“We reiterate our support, solidarity and the commitment to make sure that LUMA’s days are numbered,” stated Antonio Cabán, president of the Federación Central de Trabajadores (Central Federation of Workers), Local 481/UFCW.

Union leaders maintained that they will fight alongside the Active Employees Alliance and the people to oust LUMA Energy from the country.

“The so-called rulers should have no doubt that they will have an ef-

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Photo above, Labor movement press conference, June 1.

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