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END POLICE TERROR! DEFEND BLACK LIVES!

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Struggle-La-Lucha.org

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Coronavirus surges in U.S.: Capitalism is the crisis

By Greg Butterfield

July 1 — As a consequence of bosses' rush to "reopen the economy" for profit amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic — and the unwillingness or inability of bought-and-paid-for political "leaders" to stand up to their demands — infections and hospitalizations are surging throughout much of the United States. During late June, the rate of confirmed infections reached new highs every single day. The U.S. death toll now tops 127,000.

The surge of infections has especially engulfed states in the South and West, like Texas and Florida, whose leaders, following the lead of President Donald Trump, largely ignored measures to slow the virus's spread and then quickly dropped any pretense of protecting public health as pressure to "reopen" grew from Wall Street right on down to the small capitalist on the corner.

California is another epicenter of the virus surge. That state had earlier taken relatively strong measures, but like other Democratic-governed states, caved in to capitalist pressure and began dropping public health measures at the end of May. Now, other states like New York, which had slowed the spread but is now barreling ahead with reopening amid the surge in the rest of the country, could soon face a new spike.

Appearing before Congress on June 30, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director, Dr. Anthony Fauci, stated that he would not be surprised if the surging rate of infections in the U.S. reached 100,000 per day. Currently, it is around 40,000. Experts say that the rise is not primarily a result of increased testing — which is



still wholly inadequate in much of the country. In fact, Trump bragged at his poorly attended campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla., on June 20, that he had ordered that testing be slowed down.

Demand for testing is growing in the most affected states and far outstrips supply, even months into the pandemic. On July 1, the Washington Post reported "unprecedented demand for testing with lines stretching miles in the summer heat, supplies running out and medical workers left exhausted" in cities like Phoenix, Ariz., and Austin, Texas.

The rest of the world is watching, dumbfounded, at the utter criminality and ineptitude of the U.S. ruling class and its officials. On June 30, as the European Union prepared to lift travel restrictions, it announced that people from the U.S. would not be permitted to visit because of the lack of control over the coronavirus here.

From panic to profit-driven 'reopening'

There has not been a clear or consistent policy to combat the spread of the virus at the federal, state or local levels — just a hodgepodge of half-measures and no measures.

When it was finally acknowledged in March that the virus was quickly spreading, projec-

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Outrage in Compton

JUSTICE for Andrés Guardado!

By John Parker

Los Angeles, June 21 — Today, outrage can be heard on the streets regarding the decision by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to place any findings by the coroner regarding the shooting death by sheriffs of 18-year-old Andrés Guardado on a "security hold." That means the information could be withheld from the public for years. This, while the city of Compton and politicians including Reps. Maxine Waters and Nanette Diaz Barragan demanded that the state attorney general conduct a full investigation into the killing.

On Thursday, June 18, Andrés Guardado, working as a security guard at an auto body shop in Compton, was approached by police who drew their weapons, frightening the youth, who reportedly ran and ended up getting shot with 6 rounds of bullets from sheriff's deputies. Some witnesses reported that Andrés was on his knees with his hands behind his head when he was shot.

The cops, of course, have another story and rely on their being in possession of the security cameras and the DVR that recorded the incident, and the fact that none of the sheriffs had body cameras recording the brutal assault, so they can spin whatever version of reality they like. However, the family of Guardado are demanding the footage.

The day after the shooting, Friday, June 19, there was a vigil held in front of the auto body shop with the family, including Guardado's mother, father and cousins. The vigil was initiated by Unión del Barrio.

On Sunday, June 21, Unión del Barrio and the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice held a 4-mile march from the shop where Guardado worked to the sheriff's headquarters, demanding justice and the immediate jailing of the cops responsible. About a thousand people attended the spirited march, led by a Black motorcycle grouping in Compton who had participated in a car caravan two weeks prior in protest of the

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SOCIALISM & DIGNITY

A job is a right!

By Stephen Millies

Over 20 million workers are unemployed in the United States. That's a catastrophe. Joblessness hasn't been this high since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Extended unemployment benefits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act are set to expire July 31. The various state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are also scheduled to end soon.

What are people supposed to do then? COVID-19 infections are spiking in Arizona, California, North and South Carolina, Florida, and Texas. Even when this pandemic ends, or at least slows down, many of the lost jobs are not coming back.

That doesn't bother Larry Kudlow, President Trump's \$185,000 per year director of the National Economic Council. He thinks "recessions are therapeutic."

This millionaire collects \$3,557 a week from the feds but doesn't want to extend the \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit. Kudlow claims it's a "disincentive" that will discourage people from going back to their jobs.

So people are staying home because they're lazy? The continuing pandemic and massive job destruction have nothing to do with it?

Larry Kudlow is what white privilege looks like. He was fired from Wall Street's now shuttered Bear Stearns bank in 1994 because of his cocaine addiction. But Kudlow never had to worry about being arrested for drug possession.

Lee Otis Johnson, the Black leader of Houston's Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) chapter, wasn't so lucky. He was framed in 1968 for allegedly having one marijuana joint and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

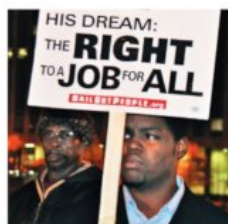
It was fear of what tens of millions of suddenly jobless workers might do that forced Trump and Congress to cough up \$600 per week and a stimulus check, too.

The millions of people who are marching in the streets, chanting "Black lives matter!" are why unemployment benefits may be extended and another stimulus check mailed out.

Why can't everyone have a job?

Before it was destroyed, in the socialist Soviet

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