

If the November election is stolen, occupy the streets

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 20, 2020



If the November election is stolen

OCCUPY THE STREETS

No work, No school, No shopping

A Call for People's General Strike

SIGN ON TO CALL HERE

This may be the first time that a U.S. president has said he won't accept the result of the vote, indicating that there will be no peaceful transition. This is not an idle threat. Trump has his own paramilitary police, Homeland Security, the support of the most virulent and reactionary police

departments, and a myriad of violent, racist, vigilante-type groups.

At the Sept. 29 debate, after the moderator suggested condemning the Proud Boys, a far-right, violently racist group, Trump declared: "Proud Boys: stand back and stand by," acknowledging he was their leader.

Later in the debate, Trump refused to say he would abide by the results of the election. He declined to tell his supporters to remain calm or avoid violence. "If I see tens of thousands of ballots, I can't go along with that," he said, urging his supporters to go to the polls and "watch very carefully."

What can we do if there is an attempted coup, an outright coup or an effort to sabotage the vote? The people must prepare.

We are the people: Low-wage workers who are at the frontlines, risking our lives, whether we are grocery workers, bus drivers or Amazon warehouse workers; those of us in the streets protesting for Black Lives Matter and community control of police; those of us in the community facing evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs; students and youth concerned with catastrophic climate change and unsafe school reopening; health care workers and teachers sacrificing for our patients and students; Black, Brown and Indigenous communities along with seniors disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Our lives are at stake.

We must act to protect people's rights! Every vote counts, and we will not accept a stolen election, no matter what form it takes, whether it's stolen through a Supreme Court decision, the undemocratic Electoral College or violence by the far right forces backing Trump.

If the election is stolen, from Nov. 3, 2020, through Jan. 20, 2021, it will be time for us to be in the streets in such large numbers that the system cannot

run. Call in sick! Occupy the streets! March and picket at Federal Buildings, banks and businesses, and other suitable targets in your city, state or county. Organize civil disobedience. Urge your union to prepare for sickouts and strikes.

Here are some important dates to plan around:

Monday, November 2: Support the call for Black Solidarity Day and [**International Election Observers**](#).

Tuesday, November 3 (Election Day): Physical voting at the polls. Join local groups like [People's Committees to Defend Democratic Rights](#) or other local efforts to stop any intimidation by right-wing armed groups. Help escort Black, Brown, Indigenous and LGBTQ2S people and seniors to the polls to guarantee their safety.

Wednesday, November 4: Support the call by the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression for a [**Post-Election Protest for a Peoples Mandate**](#) for national day-after demonstrations.

During this period, paper ballots will be counted. At any point the Supreme Court, consisting of just nine judges, may step in as it did in the 2000 election to undemocratically decide the direction of the elections.

December 8 marks the end of the “safe harbor” period for states to determine that election results will not be challenged in Congress. On December 14, Electoral College delegates cast their ballots on a state level. On January 6, 2021, Congress meets to count the Electoral College and declare a winner.

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 (Inauguration Day): Regardless of the outcome, we must continue to press for the demands that people need and want — Black Lives Matter, stopping police and ICE terror, health care for all, cancel rent and stop

evictions and foreclosures, workers' rights and safety on the job, jobs or income for all, no war or sanctions.

Please sign onto this call and begin to organize in your area.

SIGN ON TO CALL

Signed:

Peoples Power Assembly

Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice

ICE Out of Baltimore

Youth Against War & Racism

Rev. CD Witherspoon

Peoples Alliance

Rev. Annie Chambers, Douglas Homes RAB Delegate

Prisoners Solidarity Committee

United American Indians of New England

Mahtowin Munro, United American Indians of New England

Malaya Movement Baltimore

Frank Chapman, Executive Director, National Alliance Against Racism & Political Repression

CODEPINK

Courtney Jenkins, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Baltimore Chapter

Delores Lemon-Thomas, Million Worker March

Clarence Thomas, convenor Million Worker March, former Secretary-Treasurer ILWU Local 10

Chris Silvera, Secretary-Treasurer Teamsters Local 808

Reverend David Carl Olson, Lead Minister, First Unitarian Church of Baltimore * ID only

Baltimore Peace Action

Dr. Marvin “Doc” Cheatham, Matthew Henson Neighborhood Assoc., former President Baltimore NAACP

San Diego Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

Fernando Ramirez, Union Organizer U.E. (United Electrical Workers) LA Tenants Union/Union de Vecinos

Bob Brown, Pan African Roots

Anthony Franklin Parker, [Wordsmith & Artist, Rise With A Purpose](#)

Solidarity with Novorossiya and Antifascists in Ukraine

Rhode Island Peoples Assembly

Committee Against Police Brutality, San Diego

Atlanta Peoples Power Assembly

Bonnie “Raven” Lane, Housing Advocate

Bill Goodin, co-founder, Black Men Unifying Black Men

Franca Muller Paz, Baltimore City Council District 12 Candidate

Assistant Professor Robert Birt, Bowie State University * ID only

Leslie Salgado, Friends of Latin America

Struggle-La Lucha

Socialist Unity Party/ Partido de Socialismo Unido

Bmore 4 Border Justice

Anakbayan, Washington D.C.

Berna Ellorin, BAYAN USA

Pakistan-USA Freedom Forum

Women In Struggle/ Mujeres En Struggle

William Camacaro, Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle of New York

ILPS (International League for Peoples Struggle) USA

Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement

Carl Gentile, CPDC

Kyle Durkee, Local BLM Salem, OR

Charlie Cooper, Get Money Out, Inc., Maryland * ID only

Phil Wilayto, Editor [The Virginia Defender](#)

Amadi Ajamu, NY [NY Amsterdam News](#)

Will Smyth Jr., Culinary Union Local 226

Jeanie Dubnau, Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood

Roy Fleming, Delaware Activist

Eugene Weixel, Retired DC 37

George Gruenthal, Red Star publishers

Mike Gimbel, Retired Executive Board member, Local 375

Nico Robuccio, AFSCME, Local 503

Keith Brooks, Brooklyn for Peace, UFT, NWU

Bill Bateman, RI Unemployed Council, RI Rosa Parks Human Rights Committee

[Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice \(MECAWI\)](#)

Karen Taylor, MAD Monday

[Moratorium Now Coalition](#)

[Workers World Party](#)

San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

[Communist Workers League](#) - Bay Area

Tracy McLellaln, CAARPR

Joanne C. Simpson, Freelance writer

Bob McCubbin, author *The Social Evolution of Humanity: Marx and Engels Were Right* and *The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression*

Zola Fish, member of the Choctaw Nation and organizer with San Diego Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

Carl Muhammad, Committee Against Police Brutality San Diego and San Diego Peoples Power Assembly

Regina Russell, Chicago Alliance

Cheryl Labash, writer for [Struggle-La Lucha](#) publication

[All African Peoples Revolutionary Party – GC](#)

List in formation adding names and groups hourly



China commits to international solidarity in vaccines

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 20, 2020

On Oct. 9, China announced that it has joined about 160 other countries in a pact to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines and treatments will be distributed equitably around the world. The aim of the agreement is to provide two billion doses of vaccine to vulnerable populations and health care workers, especially in poor countries.

The U.S. is among the few countries that have rejected taking part. The richest country in the world has snubbed the idea of joining forces with other countries to help stop a deadly virus from ravaging poor populations throughout the world. This right-wing orientation of the Trump administration is a byproduct of the capitalist system itself; essentially anything that weakens other countries helps to make the world more exploitable for profit. It was exposed in March when the Trump administration tried to secure the rights to vaccinations in development in Germany for the use of the U.S. only, forcing the German government to outspend U.S. offers to German companies.

STAT news described this competition [in a Sept. 8 article](#): "The United States has ignited a vaccine nationalism wildfire, which is reaching conflagration status. Wealthy governments have locked down more than 4 billion doses of vaccines so far, with the United States topping the list with commitments for 800 million initial doses and options on another 1.6 billion doses; new bilateral purchase agreements are announced almost daily."

China vaccine available in Asia, Africa, Latin America

In total contrast, China's joining the international agreement is only one part of their commitment to extend solidarity through COVID-19 vaccinations. Speaking to the World Health Assembly in May, President Xi Jinping said that vaccines should be for "global public good." Since then, Xi and Premier Li Kequang have pledged repeatedly to make Chinese vaccines available to the Philippines, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos as well as Latin American and African countries. China is also currently in talks with the World Health Organization (WHO) for vaccines to be approved for emergency use authorizations. Obtaining that approval would cut red tape for member states' use of the vaccines.

When the early cases of COVID-19 were discovered in Wuhan in late December 2019, China launched a "People's War" against the virus that was nothing short of astonishing. The Chinese people, the People's Liberation Army and many thousands of medical workers, scientists and volunteers succeeded in limiting the number of deaths to less than 5,000 people. At this point, some individual states in the U.S. have surpassed the number of fatalities in all of China — most recently that happened in the state of Michigan as a new surge of the disease spread through the Midwest.

U.S. deaths 40 times that of China

The total number of deaths in the U.S., with 1/25th of the world population, is more than forty times that of China, where 1/5th of humanity lives.

Tens of thousands of people are participating in Phase 3 trials of China's vaccine candidates outside of China, and through emergency use authorizations in both the United Arab Emirates and in Bahrain, doses of the vaccine have been supplied to various categories of workers who are at high risk because of the nature of their jobs. In China itself, members of the People's Liberation Army and workers who travel frequently have also been vaccinated. In all cases, those who have been vaccinated are being closely monitored, like the monitoring regimen of the Phase 3

trial itself. So far, there are no major setbacks and no side effects, and in mid-September, Guizhen Wu, an official with China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, [said that a vaccine could be ready for general distribution in November.](#)

Given China's astounding success and given the very advanced state of development and trials of vaccines there, China's firm commitment to international solidarity in the form of vaccinations is a significant step forward in the global fight against the coronavirus. In recent decades, China's scientific community has emerged as one of the most developed in the world in many fields, including advanced medicine. Chinese scientists have experience with vaccines from previous viral outbreaks and that has positioned them to be in the forefront of efforts at developing vaccines and treatments. Of the dozen vaccines that are currently in Phase 3 trials, four were developed in China.

But the foundation of China's leading role in the fight against this pandemic is not just the medical or scientific experience that they have amassed. Socialized planning set the stage for those to occur. The orientation of the Chinese Communist Party toward humanity and solidarity, combined with socialized planning are the hope of humanity in the fight against COVID-19.



Pandemic

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 20, 2020

The population of planet Earth is at present experiencing the opening of the fifth, sixth or seventh month of the Coronavirus pandemic, as it came to be. It is generally regarded as a historic and continuing episode in the life of humanity. It seems to dwarf the Great Plague and the Black Death that afflicted European and Eurasian countries, as the Middle Ages began and ended.

The only feature of the present experience that seems to be of greater historical significance than the pandemic itself is the lack of readiness of the G7 countries with their celebrated state-of-the-art devices to deal with the pestilence. Almost intoxicated with their scientific achievements and economic vigor at the top layers of their societies, they seemed instinctively and uniformly, in the majority of cases, to legislate measures far too late to restrict the spread of the virus. In the popular phrase, they shut the stable after the horse had escaped.

Correspondingly, they are now in a seemingly accelerated mood, dismantling far too early the broad social preventive measures they had, in most cases, tardily imposed.

And they are lifting these measures — some have used the phrase “liberating communities” — far too early for the comfort of the vulnerable. It is necessary to repeat, for the benefit of later generations, that the vulnerable are in the first place the health care workers at all levels in the front rank of responders, exceeded in number by the global communities of the wretched of the earth. They are engaging in this mode of liberation, as some of them conceive it, in spite of some of the warnings of their health experts and the Institutes of Health, including the World Health Organization, that these measures, intended to rescue their economies, are likely to jeopardize the safety of their populations.

At the time of writing, the news channels and dispatches are full of warnings that human life will be endangered by any premature or opportunistic dismantling of the régime of restraints and advisories, aimed at limiting the spread of the COVID-19 disease. In spite of these warnings, the government of the USA, a high field of the pandemic, has failed to promote the guiding principles formulated by the National Institutes of Health. A world power which boasts of its superiority in the arts of war is carrying out, or pretending to carry out, a campaign against a pandemic caused by a virus, without a basic understanding of the location and deployment of the unwelcome destroyer.

Further, the executive intelligence shows no sensitivity to the often repeated fact that, within the boundaries of its empire, the mortality rate arising from the pandemic is highest among the less privileged demographics of its population. Moreover, there seems to be no appreciation of the fact that it will take years to replace the health care workers, who are in the firing line, as those standing personally between the pandemic and the population.

In the countries outside of the G7 and the G20, responses have varied with varying results. One prevailing weakness is that everywhere decisions are being made without the necessary basic information about the incidence and impact of the

disease, which information is necessary for any judgment to be made on the success of the measures adopted in each country.

Many experts have said that this absence of information is due to the prevailing absence, until quite recently, of testing equipment and material which made it impossible to determine in the first place how many citizens, at any selected time or date, were unidentified or unsuspected carriers of the disease. Some experts have said that this information fog of uncertainty may have generated various forms of mental disorders.

There is universal consensus that the weapon of social distancing with its practice appears to be the most effective single response to the spread of the pandemic. In Guyana, the chief medical officer in a public address made this finding available in this phrase: "The larger the gathering, the wider the spread." Many will reflect that the virus has brought humanity to a crossroads in which we as human beings, distinguished historically as gregarious or social by nature, must now isolate ourselves for self preservation.

It is beyond the scope of this comment to review the activity taking place in the specialized areas of chemistry, biology and medical arts. It will seek to examine mainly some of the effects of social distancing.

Although it was adopted very late after the appearance of the pandemic in many health jurisdictions, it has been proclaimed everywhere as leading to a decline in the spread of the infection. In spite of this welcome success and welcome news for survival among the vulnerable populations, it did not take long for a reactionary movement to develop against the maintenance and extending of social distancing. The cause of this reaction can be expressed in one word: Money.

The conflict in present-day society appears to be, in spite of what the contenders may proclaim, mainly though not entirely a conflict between the humanist desire to

preserve life as we have received it and the desire to preserve profits as its owners have achieved it.

Recent economic experience has been marked by record-breaking excess profits by what has been called the one percent owning ninety percent of the world. This influential minority has been declaring annual profits that reach magnitudes that baffled the capacity of ordinary humans to conceive. This expansion of corporate profits has been continuing for many years and more notably from the time of the pro-business tax measures of the present administration of the USA. Without claiming special expertise in the area of business finance, this commentary is of the opinion that business in general, and especially big business, has been highly enabled by the increasing speed and specialization offered by the restless improvements in information technology, a sector in which competition seems to be outreaching its own record.

For companies to remain competitive, they must expand investment in the relevant tools and services. If they do not, they lose their competitive edge. As a result of this condition, the leading companies and the suppliers of goods and services in general have had to become more and more sensitive to the demand side of the market. It is clear that in these conditions any factor, event or development that tends to send demand on a downward slide, however slight, is likely to introduce an atmosphere of alarm in the business directorates. The application of this reasoning to the conditions of the present-day macro-economy may explain the confusing signals directed by decision makers to the general population. There is no longer among business leaders a sense of their capacity to cope with all challenges in the global economy.

Effectiveness of the lockdown as an anti-pandemic measure

In commenting on highly specialized areas of life, such as an epidemic, it is wise to rely on the findings of experts involved in the experience. With very few exceptions,

these experts are actively engaged in diagnosis, treatment and prognosis all over the world in and out of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control, as well as leading hospitals that monitor the global activity, are more or less agreed on essentials: The disease is spread by contact between animals and persons, or between contaminated surfaces and persons touching them. In limiting the spread of the virus, they have identified “social distancing” as the single most important measure to reduce the rate of contamination and infection. This is a matter of personal and group behavior.

These experts also seem to agree that people above the age of about 60 years are the most vulnerable. They also have agreed finally that the wearing of masks in suspect environments is an essential aid in the breaking of the cycle of contagion. They agree that although younger individuals below the most vulnerable age may not have symptoms, these individuals may yet be carriers of the virus. It also seems to be agreed among them that quarantines and intensive care, along with the use, where necessary, of ventilators have proved effective. Finally, they have agreed that, in the long term, work towards development of a vaccine as a preventive tool will contribute dramatically to the successful management of the pandemic.

In general, the jurisdictions, whether within countries or across the globe, that most consistently implemented the beneficial measures have experienced the greatest measure of success against the pestilence. It may be noted in passing that in the Caribbean, one or two small societies have claimed a high level of success, and that in Guyana, up to the time of writing, the most vulnerable demographic has been reported to be males in the age group of 20 to 29 years. (This finding is not a constant, but is subject to change.)

The lockdown and business activity (business as usual)

A large number of responsive health jurisdictions across the globe reluctantly or

readily adopted the lockdown as a means of preserving life by stemming the tide of contagion. This tactic, although successful in its objective, soon began to run into tensions and conflicts with the fundamentals of what is called the economy in market-oriented countries, that is, in most countries of the world. The country most favorably placed to manage this tension was China, which combines a market-oriented economy with the retention of enormous powers of state intervention. The other economy in a rather favorable mode of production appears to be that of Cuba, with its emphasis on livelihood rather than profits, and a health sector dedicated to serving communities deprived of sophisticated health resources.

Readers may refer to a few European countries with some record of recovery and may wish to judge for themselves the factors responsible for advances and setbacks.

Brief history of stimulus regimes

Stimulus regimes and policies and similar techniques have been applied by governments in various countries and in one form or another for centuries. States and governments would not have been able to execute offensive or defensive wars, without using the technique of spending money which they did not have.

Within living memory, it is the recession in the years after 2008 that has made the term “stimulus” familiar to many of the present population of the globe. The same term was applied to the huge sums of money voted by fiscal authorities in various countries in restricting the spread of the viral disease, COVID-19.

Whereas in war time, as well as the recession in 2008, the big corporations, which see themselves as the economy, were very welcoming and compliant towards these measures. Their response was more complicated in regard to the stimulus measures applied to restrict the spread of the present pandemic. It is necessary, therefore, to examine in outline the differences between previous stimulus measures and those currently applied in the context of the pandemic.

Previous stimulus measures can be described as mainly of one direction. Under various objectives, they all funneled credit through the treasury and the big banks mainly to profit-making agencies, providing goods and services in such a way as to prevent stagnation or decline of economic sectors. In particular and in war time, this injection of liquidity into the system flowed mainly through contracts through the Department of Defense into companies devoted to production of war goods and whatever supplies were necessary to help the population maintain morale and singleness of purpose in the war effort. Briefly, they had the effect of overcoming sluggishness in the supply-and-demand sides of the economy. This is where they were different in quality from the present stimulus regime.

It has to be recalled that in the USA a new administration had dismantled the preventive machinery that had been prudently developed by its predecessor. The appearance of the novel coronavirus in China signaled to health specialists the need for resourcefulness and innovation. With the objective of reducing contact between carriers of the disease and members of the population still unaffected, the epidemiologists identified “social distancing” as the most effective single measure to be applied with all speed against a highly contagious viral disease.

Many jurisdictions in North America imposed lockdowns after initial resistance, only because they could do no better. Despite the fact that the health system was unequipped to deal adequately with the onset of the pandemic, the lockdowns were their only resort.

The lockdowns, in spite of the many bottlenecks in terms of protective wear and gear, chemicals and medical supplies of all kinds, in spite of inadequate treating spaces, like ICUs and sanitizing materials, and despite tragic experiences like those of New York and New Jersey, began to justify themselves. Too late in the course of events, but just in time, the absence of means of testing showed itself to be a critical gap in the whole recovery process. The federal administration, it will be recalled,

stoutly and shamelessly resisted the advice of expert policy makers to invoke defense emergency measures to compel the production of this new kind of war material, that is products necessary for defense against this pervasive enemy: the coronavirus.

Conflicts within the administration over health policy frequently leaked into the public area and gave rise to the exposure of dangerous tendencies in high places within the administration. These tendencies reflected a deep social conflict between policies narrowly focused on enrichment of a few big companies and policies devoted to public welfare, including the survival of the marginalized. Reflecting this conflict was the emergence of the new war cry from the most backward sectors of society for a return to business as usual, dismantling of social distancing measures and the call for cities to “liberate” themselves from the imposition of common sense. Readers will not recall the well-published moments of this tension without shuddering at the lack of sanity that made the reactionary campaign possible.

Conclusion

The populations of all countries, and in particular those of small countries, have looked and listened every day for the last seven months for “breaking news” that will break the scary and harmful boredom of the news that the pandemic is not going away with any speed. This is just as well, because the kind of made-up news and messages, coming from at least one major government, are nothing but a trap for the unwary that will have results with which, unfortunately, we have become familiar. It is clear that, in spite of wisecracks about masks and predictions from on high that the pestilence will soon go away, the danger is as real as it was at the outbreak.

The best informed authorities and agencies have consistently warned the world’s population that lockdowns, mask-wearing, washing or sanitizing the hands and social distancing are the best means yet available to break the chain of infection, to

reduce its range and progressively to limit it to smaller and smaller spaces. (Please see the medical advisory at the end of this article.) The WHO declared in early September 2020 that, in all likelihood, the pandemic would peter out in about two years from the time of that estimate.

There is general agreement that the pandemic has driven human activity, such as administrative, commercial, agricultural, cultural, educational, religious, sport, manufacture, travel, tourism and all other areas of the division of labor, into minimum activity and in some cases complete inactivity. Everywhere experts are talking of a “new normal,” that is, a rhythm of life far different from those to which the global population has become accustomed.

Those of us who feel the need to pose questions, that may indirectly lead experts close to the place where they can find likely solutions, have the duty of posing those questions now.

Since there has to be “a new normal,” how will traditional parliamentary government and administration fit into this “new normal”? This question is not intended to seek an alternative to the will of the people which, if anything, needs to be enlarged rather than restricted. The question seeks to ask whether cabinet government of the types now existing is sufficient. These governments are facing situations in which populations are exposed to random jeopardy when all the tools and processes at the disposal of the administrations are geared for management of routine problems falling under numerous ministries. The question is whether the experts care to redesign forms of administrations in which experts with the relevant knowledge and experience of pandemics, epidemics and public health are able to exercise decisive influence in matters of health, climate change and human survival. In other words, it is the opinion of this writer that government in the form of business as usual will not succeed in the tasks confronting us.

Many governments, especially in small countries like Guyana and other Caribbean

countries have taken steps in this direction. In Guyana, to which this writer belongs, both the outgoing and incoming governments set up a task force. The new one is much better equipped with instruments than the previous one, but both of them, despite their rhetoric, represent the choice of the party in power and no other choice.

The new government of Guyana began on the last days of September to pay out to each household in the country a check of G\$35,000 to cushion hardships caused by the pandemic. This is a step in the right direction. The recommendation that each household should receive a direct payment from the oil revenues of Guyana had come originally from Dr. C.Y. Thomas in 2019 and had been dismissed by the then-president and welcomed by the then-leader of the opposition.

It follows in some ways the stimulus payments made, and not yet repeated, in the USA. However, the problem is that just as the inactivity and lockdowns are necessary, it will be necessary also to find better and better ways of injecting purchasing power on a socially just basis to be made available to each citizen, without the risk of giving it to the best bully in each household. These gestures on the part of small societies are commendable, but they must respond to need and must seek at the planning stage the participation of all citizens through their constitutionally authorized representatives.

The monetary system

Once civilized governments have made the choice of human survival instead of surrender to the deadly virus, there will need to be new concepts of economic rights, the right to life, human rights, and to serve these requirements, there must be new, if temporary, concepts of money, collateral, credit, liquidity and debt. Obviously, this is highly controversial ground that needs not only ethical insights of an amateur, but the hard expertise of those skilled in theory and practice of monetary management.

World War II, aiming at mass destruction as a way to “victory” and peace, produced forms of financing, credit and money creation that would have been sheer heresy in other circumstances. Similarly, the present pandemic challenges human creative expertise to craft without delay systems and forms of monetary tokens, without which humanity at large will find it hard to survive to document its own disappearance. The case that comes to mind without research is the regimes of special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund in the spirit of the Bretton Woods dispensation. Is it relevant, or is it not, to conceive through the United Nations and its agencies something like “special pandemic drawing rights”?

Those who perceive a gap in these recommendations do not vary much from their author. Missing here, up to this point, are any recommendations about some of the nitty-gritty of survival. The need naturally intertwines with the needs for climate change, sea level rises, conservation, spreading fires and over-powered winds. The production of food and its storage will have become once again, as in times of war, a global concern with global planning in which planned surpluses are available to match accruing shortages. Market forces have often achieved, though not perfectly, this leveling out of supply and demand.

The young generation

Some of the most challenging problems of the lockdown and of social distancing face the world in the most difficult of all jobs, that is, the cultivation of the rising human generation. This is an undertaking of the widest and deepest complexity and cannot be approached without parents, educators, psychologists, sociologists, trade unions, health workers, public health designers and, in particular, the whole body of social work professionals. An important branch of this problem is the housing of people made destitute in places where eviction for nonpayment of rent remains a part of business as usual. Apart from the sheer inhumanity of modern homelessness, each unhoused person becomes a potential carrier or victim of the virus. The design for

processes for coping with the complex problems posed by the need for generational cultivation of the highest order will be successful to the extent that it takes into account the skill, the experience, the knowledge, the expertise and the wisdom of all who contribute to this human need. The needs are global as much as many of the particulars will turn out to be local and specific.

Eusi Kwayana is a poet, author, educator, political activist and unsung hero of Guyana.

A MEDICAL ADVISORY FROM THE W.H.O. AND ALLIED INSTITUTIONS

SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS

(Adapted from the World Health Organization, March 2020)

Respiratory infections can be transmitted through droplets of different sizes:

1. **If the droplet particles** are greater **than 5-10 μm (microns - a millionth of a metre) in diameter** they are called **respiratory droplets**.
2. When **smaller than $5\mu\text{m}$** (microns) in diameter, they are called **droplet nuclei**.
3. According to current evidence, **COVID-19** virus is primarily transmitted between people **through respiratory droplets and contact routes**.
4. Droplet transmission occurs when a person is in close contact (within 1 m) with someone who has respiratory symptoms (e.g. coughing or sneezing) and is at risk of having his/her mucosae (mouth and nose) or conjunctiva (eyes) exposed to potentially infective respiratory droplets.
5. Transmission may also occur by objects or materials which are likely to carry infections such as clothes, utensils (like stethoscopes or thermometers) and furniture in the immediate environment around the infected person.

6. As such, transmission of the COVID-19 virus can occur by direct contact with infected people and indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate environment or with objects used on the infected person (e.g. stethoscope or thermometer).

Airborne transmission is different from droplet transmission as it refers to the presence of microbes within **droplet nuclei**, which are generally considered to be particles **less than 5µm in diameter**. It can remain in the air for long periods of time and be transmitted to others over distances greater than 1 m.

In the context of COVID-19, **airborne transmission may be possible in specific circumstances** and settings in which procedures or support treatments that generate aerosols are performed; i.e., endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning, administration of nebulized treatment, manual ventilation before intubation, turning the patient to the prone position, disconnecting the patient from the ventilator, non-invasive positive-pressure ventilation, tracheostomy, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

There is some evidence that COVID-19 infection may lead to intestinal infection and be present in faeces. However, to date only one study has cultured the COVID-19 virus from a single stool specimen. There have been no reports of faecal–oral transmission of the COVID-19 virus to date.

Conclusions

WHO continues to recommend droplet and contact precautions for those people caring for COVID-19 patients.

WHO continues to recommend airborne precautions for circumstances and settings in which aerosol generating procedures and support treatment are performed, according to risk assessment.

These recommendations are consistent with other national and international guidelines, including those developed by the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and Society of Critical Care Medicine and those currently used in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

At the same time, other countries and organizations, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, recommend airborne precautions for any situation involving the care of COVID-19 patients, and consider the use of medical masks as an acceptable option in case of shortages of respirators (N95, FFP2 or FFP3).

Current WHO recommendations emphasize the importance of rational and appropriate use of all personal protective equipment (PPE), not only masks, which requires correct and rigorous behavior from health care workers, particularly in removal of clothes, etc., and hand hygiene practices.

WHO also recommends staff training on these recommendations, as well as the adequate procurement and availability of the necessary PPE and other supplies and facilities.

WHO continues to emphasize the utmost importance of frequent hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and environmental cleaning and disinfection, as well as the importance of maintaining physical distances and avoidance of close, unprotected contact with people with fever or respiratory symptoms.



100 years after his death, John Reed's example still shines

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 20, 2020

One hundred years ago, the communist journalist John Reed died in Moscow. (The date of his death is given variously between Oct. 17 and Oct. 20, 1920; the Russian comrades say Oct. 19, so I'll go with that.) He is one of a handful of U.S. revolutionaries interred in the Kremlin wall.

Amidst the devastation of the Russian Civil War, 1918 to 1920, Reed had contracted typhus on his return trip from the historic [Congress of the Peoples of the East](#) in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he gave a roaring speech warning the oppressed peoples of the world not to trust U.S. imperialism's honeyed words about "democracy" - a warning that is still 100 percent relevant today.

Reed is best remembered as the author of ["Ten Days That Shook the World,"](#) his on-the-scene account of the Great October Socialist Revolution, with an approving foreword by Lenin. This is still the best introduction to the events of the socialist

revolution of 1917.

But Reed was much more than one book. He was a founder of the U.S. communist movement, coming over from the radical wing of the Socialist Party. He was an outstanding journalist of working-class struggles in the U.S. — see, for example, his account of the 1913 [Paterson Silk Strike](#) — and of the struggles of the oppressed workers of the world, including his book [“Insurgent Mexico”](#) about the great Mexican Revolution.

“Ten Days” was the second piece of communist literature I ever read as a teenager, and Reed continues to be an inspiration for me after over 30 years as a revolutionary writer and journalist. Reed rejected the bogus ideology of “impartial journalism” taught by U.S. academics and media, which always winds up as a justification of the capitalist status quo. He knew that honest reporting and analysis goes hand-in-hand with a clear, open and unashamed working-class point of view.

Despite various biographical attempts to tame his image for the anti-communist purposes of U.S. intellectuals (such as the film “Reds”), John Reed was a communist revolutionary to the bone — an independent thinker who was not afraid to challenge the class enemy or his own comrades when he believed they were mistaken, who made mistakes of his own (such as his initial position, shared by many socialists, in support of the Entente in World War I) but corrected them, and who understood the importance of standing on the right side of the class barricades.

One hundred years later, John Reed’s revolutionary example still shines.



Kumeyaay warriors march to Tecate border crossing on Indigenous Peoples Day

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 20, 2020

On Indigenous Peoples Day, Oct. 12, a hundred warriors mostly from the Kumeyaay Nation marched to the Tecate border crossing in the San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan region. They were led by Bird Singers and carried signs saying "Make America Native Again" and "F*‐\$K Columbus" and chanting "Land back now!"

On the Baja side of the border, there were also another hundred Kumeyaay singing bird songs. We could hear each other, but we could not see each other due to the border entrance structure and the wall. Not very many people in San Diego realize that there are Kumeyaay villages in Baja, Mexico. They have an extremely hard time getting visas and permits to visit their family here in San Diego County. So, very literally, "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us."

Stan Rodriguez, a tribal leader from the Santa Ysabel Kumeyaay, said on Oct. 12, "They're trying to keep us away from our own family, our own friends. Our own relatives. These walls are put up, but they do not work. It's a waste of time, waste of money"

Brooke Baines, an organizer with the group SHIELD and a Manzanita Kumeyaay said, "On Indigenous Peoples Day, it's important to raise awareness of the people who were here before borders. The Kumeyaay people and the Native people of this land in general, we go unnoticed a lot." She added, "Especially on the other side of the border, they go unnoticed a lot."

We then marched to the California Border Patrol station where we were met by armed California Border Patrol/Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who were in full gear and militarized. We chanted at them for a while. The goal was to let CBP/ICE know that there are Kumeyaay on both sides of the border and once again another perfect example of how CBP/ICE enjoys separating families.

Trump, in his proclamation, called us radical and extremist because we don't and won't celebrate Columbus Day. There is nothing radical or extreme about telling the historical truth about a man who never set foot on U.S. soil and is responsible for genocide and the enslavement of Native Peoples, which includes forced Christianity and rape.

Columbus was a slaver of Natives. He was a founding father of the American slave trade. When Columbus returned home to Spain, not Italy, the king and queen gave Columbus 17 ships to take back to the Americas to fill with "riches." Columbus' men went from island to island capturing Natives, stealing gold, silver and turquoise. They filled the 17 ships with our culture, including sacred things, but most important, in 1495 he captured 1,500 Arawak men, women and children and sailed back with them in the holds of the ships to be sold as slaves.

The pope, believing he was in charge of the world, “gave” Spain the Americas. Pope Alexander VI issued a May 4, 1493, papal bull granting official ownership of the New World to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. In his order he wrote;

“We of our own motion, and not at your solicitation, do give, concede, and assign forever to you and your successors, all the islands, and main lands, discovered; and which may hereafter, be discovered, towards the west and south; whether they be situated towards India, or towards any other part whatsoever, and give you absolute power in them.”

The pope’s declaration ultimately had dire consequences for native inhabitants of the Americas. Beginning in 1514, Spanish conquerors adopted “the Requirement,” an ultimatum in which the Indigenous Peoples were forced to accept “the Church as the Ruler and Superior of the whole world” or face persecution. If Native peoples did not immediately comply, the Requirement warned them:

“We shall take you and your wives and your children, and shall make slaves of them, and as such shall sell and dispose of them as their Highnesses may command; and we shall take away your goods, and shall do all the harm and damage that we can.”

It goes without saying that the Requirement was read to the Indigenous Peoples without translation, or in some cases even from ships before crew members had landed to kill Natives and take slaves.

So the struggle continues at the border and to put characters like Columbus and Father Junípero Serra into their proper place in history. They were no heroes! We charge them with genocide!

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.



Webinar: Defending Black Lives & Activists Under Attack, Oct. 25

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 20, 2020

A promotional graphic for the webinar. The background is yellow. At the top, the text "DEFENDING #BLM ACTIVISTS UNDER ATTACK" is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, "NATIONAL WEBINAR - SUN. OCT 25" is in red capital letters. Underneath that, the text "4 p.m. Eastern / 3 p.m. Central / 2 p.m. Mountain / 1 p.m. Pacific" is in smaller black font. In the bottom right corner, there is a photograph of a Black woman with curly hair shouting into a red and white megaphone. She is wearing a black t-shirt with "BLACK LIVES MATTER" printed on it in white. To the left of the woman, there is text: "Struggle La Lucha for Socialism; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; Peoples Power Assembly" followed by "To register go to: Struggle-la-lucha.org or PeoplesPowerAssembly.org".

Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 4:00 PM EDT

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xT8fxhbDTk6CVrak5jUnUQ

Defend Black lives! Defend activists and organizers under attack!

Sunday, October 25

4:00 p.m. Eastern / 3:00 p.m. Central / 2:00 p.m. Mountain / 1:00 p.m. Pacific

Zoom info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xT8fxhbDTk6CVrak5jUnUQ

A special webinar featuring activists fighting state repression across the U.S., including:

Initial List

- Delegate Attica Scott, Kentucky's only Black woman state representative, arrested in Louisville during protests for Breonna Taylor
- John Parker, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice & Struggle La Lucha
- Regina Joseph of the Tally19 arrestees, Haitian-American activist, president of Tallahassee Community Action Committee and district organizer for Freedom Road Socialist Organization
- Frank Chapman, Executive Director, National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression
- Denzel Draughn, San Diego anti-racist activist and supporter of the African People's Socialist Party, facing 19 felony charges
- Suzanne Adely, National Lawyers Guild president and Palestinian-American activist
- Janine Africa, Janet Africa, and Michael Africa, Sr. MOVE organization
- Plus representatives from Aurora, Colo., Portland, Ore., and many others.

In the spirit of unity and solidarity, this special webinar will bring together

representatives of many local struggles and groups under attack for their involvement in the uprising against racist police shootings by federal agencies, local police and the violent white-supremacist movement. Hear some of the activists directly involved and learn how you can help.

Read more about the cases:

[*Defend activists and organizers under attack! Defend Black lives!*](#)

Read the 'Appeal to Revolutionaries':

"It is the responsibility of revolutionary parties and organizations, armed with revolutionary theory and decades of combined revolutionary practice, to ready the masses for this political period and those to come. In order to do this, the revolutionary forces, scattered geographically and politically, must begin to unite. The Socialist Unity Party proposes a first step towards this unity: We must commit to defend each other from state attack."

[*Appeal to revolutionaries: We must defend each other from state attack*](#)

Sponsored by: Struggle La Lucha for Socialism; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; Peoples Power Assembly



Brooklyn: Rally against Zimbabwe sanctions, Oct. 18

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 20, 2020

ZIMBABWE

Will Never Be A Colony Again!

SADC OCTOBER 25TH CAMPAIGN TO

Lift The Sanctions



December 12th Movement International Secretariat (718) 398-1766 / D12M.COM

Southern African Development Community (SADC) launches October 25, 2019 "Day of Actions" campaign to lift illegal sanctions against Zimbabwe

Join the December 12th Movement and Friends of Zimbabwe
Sunday, October 18, 2020 1 pm

Rally Against Zimbabwe Sanctions

Music, Information, Speakers

Leading up to International Day Against Zimbabwe Sanctions on Sunday, October 25th

Sistas' Place

456 Nostrand Avenue, (Fredrick Douglas Square)

718 398-1766/d12m@aol.com

October 25, 2020 Marks the 2nd International Day against Zimbabwe sanctions. The African Union, led by SADC, has demanded that the US lift the illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe which are strangling the economy. Join us Sunday, October 18th to organize our participation on the International Day Against Zimbabwe Sanctions.



MAS charges that a second coup is underway with complicity between the OAS, TSE, armed forces and police

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 20, 2020

The MAS spokesperson questioned whether there is an inter-institutional agreement that TSE President Salvador Romero signed with the armed forces and the police, keeping the details confidential.

La Paz, Oct. 12, 2020 — The spokesperson of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), Marianela Paco, charged before the international community and the country that a “second coup” against democracy is underway with several aspects that she detailed.

She said that her party fears a total absence of transparency in the quick count of the votes of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), the return of the same observers from the Organization of American States (OAS), the declaration of a “curfew” for six days and the custody of the voting records by the military and police who participated in last year’s “coup d'état”.

“To date (the TSE) has not shown the Bolivian people whether the rapid count

system is internationally certified, as was the case with last year's count system; it has not shown what changes have improved this count system from last year. If the results are shown by minutes and with photographs, if the results are shown by table or enclosure, they have not shown us how that system is going to work. Therefore, there is no transparency", denounced Paco on behalf of MAS.

The MAS spokesperson questioned whether there is an inter-institutional agreement signed by the president of the TSE, Salvador Romero, with the Bolivian Armed Forces and Police, the details of which are in reserve.

"Those who have ordered the burning of the minutes and the electoral tribunals again want to guard our votes; then the population is unprotected. For that reason, I denounce before the international community this lack of transparency and lack of guarantees to the claim," she said in a press conference.

She assured that with these solid arguments the international community is alerted to take a stand and prevent these people from returning to Bolivia because they were responsible for taking away democracy, peace and development from the country.

The elections will take place on Sunday, October 18. Six candidates are qualified; Jorge Quiroga, from the Free Alliance21, has just declined, and earlier Jeanine Áñez, from Juntos, had withdrawn.

Source: [Internationalist 360°](https://www.internationalist360.org/2020/10/page/4/)



Protest for a Peoples Mandate - Occupy the Streets if the Election is Stolen

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 20, 2020



Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM EST

Join us on November 4, to defend our rights; continue the struggle

National Alliance Against Racism and Repression Post Election Protest for a Peoples Mandate

<https://naarpr.org/updates/2020-post-election-protest-for-a-peoples-mandate/>

Peoples Power Assembly call to If the election is stolen “Occupy the Streets” SIGN ON <https://forms.gle/kNjkFqyDi5U1GrTz5>

We will be working out a major citywide plan to allow the largest number of people to participate through car caravans, March's, pickets, etc. Sign up to get

information.



Workers' Party of Korea celebrates 75 years of struggle

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 20, 2020

People in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea on Oct. 10, 1945. The WPK is the communist party that leads the building of socialism in the northern part of Korea.

Parades, dances, rallies and art shows were held in cities and towns throughout the north, as well as in factories, on collective farms, in hospitals and schools, and among soldiers of the Korean People's Army.

There were also fireworks displays, banquets, presentations of flowers at monuments to past WPK leaders and a torchlight parade of socialist youth.

In Pyongyang, the capital city, a mighty military parade was held to show the Trumps of the world that the DPRK is always prepared to defend its people and their socialist system from the aggression of capitalist powers.

Kim Jong Un, chairperson of the Workers' Party, [expressed his gratitude to the people](#) for their perseverance. "The secret of how our Party, which has followed the revolutionary road, most arduous and beset with trials, has adorned this bloody road with victory and glory is that our people have sincerely trusted and supported it and defended its cause."

After the anniversary celebration, rallies continued around the country to begin organizing for the upcoming Eighth Congress of the WPK, planned for January 2021.

The celebrations are especially significant because the DPRK has successfully kept the COVID-19 pandemic at bay through quick preventive action and the strength of its socialist health care system.

And in August, monsoons driven by climate change [caused terrible flooding](#) that killed more than 20 people, destroyed 16,680 homes and 630 public buildings.

In his anniversary speech, Kim Jong Un explained, "On this planet at present, our country is faced with huge challenges and difficulties, like dealing with the anti-epidemic emergency and recovering from the catastrophic natural disasters, when everything is in short supply owing to the harsh and prolonged sanctions."

The Korean People's Army has played an especially important role in supporting urgent health measures and rebuilding from the flood damage, all while continuing to protect the country's sovereignty and independence from U.S. imperialism.

"At this very moment, many of our service personnel are courageously striving on the anti-epidemic front and at the rehabilitation project sites far away from this glorious Kim Il Sung Square, in defense of the security of the state and safety of the

people,” Kim Jong Un said. “I feel pain in my heart as they are not all here at this glorious night with us.”

U.S. war and sanctions

The U.S. military continues to occupy South Korea, as it has done since 1945, and its “pivot to Asia” threatens the DPRK as well as China. Washington has imposed deadly sanctions in retaliation for the DPRK’s determined self-defense. The U.S. dominates South Korea’s capitalist economy and repressive political system, and uses the south as a base for all kinds of subversion.

In fact, Washington’s failed, bloody war to destroy Korean socialism, from 1950 to 1953 — known as the Korean War here, or the Fatherland Liberation War in the DPRK — never really ended. Every U.S. president from Democrat Harry Truman, who launched the war, to Republican Donald Trump has refused to sign a peace treaty with the north.

In the aftermath of the U.S. bombing, not a single building over one storey was left standing in the north. Thousands of civilians were massacred by the U.S. and its allies in both the north and south in unspeakable war crimes. But motivated by the desire for independence and to build a socialist world, the people of north Korea together with volunteers from China were able to beat back the U.S. military behemoth to the 38th parallel.

Under the leadership of the Workers’ Party, including DPRK founder Kim Il Sung and his successor Kim Jong Il, the north was able to rebuild and become a strong socialist country. Korean people in the north openly advocate and organize for the peaceful, independent reunification of the country. In the capitalist south, many do the same, but at great danger because of repressive anti-communist laws.

The DPRK was able to withstand the counterrevolutionary setbacks to socialism in

the USSR and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Like revolutionary Cuba, socialist Korea has survived by mobilizing the masses and ensuring their involvement in every step of the process of socialist construction.

"All of these hardships are undoubtedly a heavy burden and pain for every family and every citizen in our country," said Kim Jong Un. "However, our people are grateful patriots who place national affairs before their family ones, share every difficulty experienced by the state with it, and firmly support their country with their sincere sweat and efforts.

"That is why our Party braves all sorts of national hardships by believing in and relying on the people, who always turn out as one if it unburdens the difficulties of the country.

"Our people have always been grateful to our Party, but it is none other than the people themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude."

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper join with workers and oppressed peoples around the world in expressing our congratulations to the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people on this historic occasion. Korea is one!

