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Coast-to-coast solidarity actions Amazon warehouse workers fighting for a union

**ALERT: Demand
COVID care for
Mumia Abu-Jamal**

By Anthony Dawahare

Union activists and community organizations mobilized nationally in late February in solidarity with the 5,800 Amazon warehouse workers fighting to unionize in Bessemer, Ala. Their campaign fighting for fair wages and benefits, against intrusive surveillance and unsafe working conditions during COVID, continues rising. The workers in Bessemer have until March 29 to vote for Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) representation.

"My father tested positive while working at an Amazon warehouse in Atlanta from lack of PPE and neglected sanitation across the facility. It ended up infecting our entire family, taking them out of work for days," said Rebecca Jackson of the Socialist Unity Party.

Jackson spoke at a Feb. 19 rally outside the Los Angeles office of Amazon's union-busting law firm, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

If the union vote is won, Amazon, Jeff Bezos and Morgan Lewis will see a historic loss that could have a ripple effect throughout the corporation to demand fundamental workers' rights and benefits for its employees.

Morgan Lewis, a notorious global law firm, has been attacking the union movement for decades. It has backed Amazon on federal tax disputes, hazardous COVID conditions, and discrimination against pro-Black Lives Matters employees.

Though the Republican-backed law firm has built its foundation on oppressing the working class and supporting corporate interest, today all eyes are on the 85%-Black workforce in Bessemer

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By Stephen Millies

Winter rain didn't stop people from coming out on Feb. 28 in Harlem to show their support for the Amazon workers in Bessemer, Ala. More than a hundred people demonstrated in front of the Amazon-owned Whole Foods store at 125th Street and Malcolm X Blvd.

Charles Jenkins, president of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, pointed out that 6,000 workers at the Amazon warehouse in Bessemer are already voting by mail in order to get union rights, wages and benefits.

Jenkins, who's an officer of Transport Workers Union Local 100 which represents New York City transit workers, said a victory in Bessemer will inspire hundreds of thousands of other Amazon workers to fight for a union, too.

Chris Silvera, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 808, spoke of the millions of workers in stores and other workplaces who need union dignity and protection.

Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement welcomed members of a caravan calling for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba. The members of the New York-New Jersey Cuba Si Coalition had stopped to show their support for the Amazon workers.

► Hazard pay
► Forging SEIU
► COVID profits
► Vaccine apartheid

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fred Hampton
Free political prisoners
► Haiti uprising
► Cuba science
► Bombing Syria

ALL PHOTO: STEVE WALLIS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FOUNDER Clara Zetkin on fascism: A lesson for today

By Sharon Black

On many holidays recognizing people's struggles and their leaders — for example, the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — the present-day celebrations are both sweet and sour.

The only reason for formal recognition is that protests and struggle made it so — and this is a victory. But the other, "give it the side-eye" part is that the actual history of how they originated is covered up in pink ribbons.

The blood, sweat and tears that were shed have been washed away.

International Women's Day is like that. So much has been done to sterilize it, package it, market it, capitalism-it (my made up word) — foremost in the capitalist West, of which the U.S. is the capital.

But the beating heart behind all of the fancy images and representations is still strong, red and has the potential to change the world. Its red tail pokes out from under all of the corporate debris.

The courage of the Black women workers at Amazon's Bessemer, Ala., warehouse standing up to Jeff Bezos, one of the richest men in the world



— Indigenous women resisting gender violence, murder and plunderous oil pipelines — immigrant/migrant women fighting for their survival — teachers and nurses resisting COVID-19 — are the continuing heartbeat of International Women's Day.

So too are the women in Haiti taking to the streets despite rightwing violence; the women in India resisting Modi and fighting for the rights of poor farmers; and the women of Brazil, Argentina, Ireland and Poland fighting for control of their bodies — they are its heartbeat.

And no amount of praise can be spared for the women of Cuba, China, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea, Yemen and so many countries' women who are resisting sanctions and U.S. imperialism.

After all, International Women's Day was founded on the idea of international solidarity of working and poor women around the globe, and recognized first by the world socialist movement on March 19, 1911.

International Women's Day is 110 years old

Clara Zetkin was its original heartbeat, and she definitely had a red heart.

While advances in human history are never the product of one person or leader, but rather the result of social and material conditions that compel the intervention of masses of people, leaders and their organizations are an indispensable product of that process.

They can't be separated from these earthquakes, placed above or below it, but rather play an indispensable role in guaranteeing its success.

Intense struggle, in the form of huge strikes, pro-

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