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March 13, 2022

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U.S. imperialism unleashes global war on workers Time to declare war on capitalism

By Sharon Black

March 10 – One only has to look at who immediately benefits from the war.

As we write, oil and gas billionaires in Texas are clinking their champagne glasses. They are giddy over the price-gouging on gas and oil and the resulting avalanche of profits lining their pockets.

Ditto for the U.S. arms dealers, who drool over the destruction of weapons stockpiles and the rise in their stock prices.

The same is true on the political side.

Biden's State of the Union address before Congress turned into a frenzied war party, including the shameful chanting of "Fund, fund, fund the police" – their bipartisan answer to the Black Lives Matter movement's call for defunding murderous police departments across the country.

And while they weep in their media about the tragic deaths of workers and misery of refugees in Ukraine, not a word was said about the 14,000 people murdered by Ukraine in the Donbass region since the 2014 U.S.-sponsored coup, let alone the rest of the world.

But be assured that through their manufactured tears, they are finding time to celebrate, regardless of how many lives are lost.

Of course, this global war is not a brand new development. Ask the people of Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Western Sahara, the Philippines and others who have suffered bombings, sanctions, destruction and death at the hands of the U.S. and the Pentagon – either directly or through proxies.

Sanctions have choked and strangled workers and children in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Iran, North Korea and dozens of other countries.

But the capitalist celebration may turn out to be short-lived.

This is not the same U.S. imperialism that emerged triumphant from the Second World War, but rather an imperialism with a contracting capitalist economy that faces a new world situation. The potential for this war to become broader should not be lost on anyone. And the onus must be placed at the feet of the U.S. rulers.

What is celebrated today, in an economy marked by runaway inflation, may usher in a more significant global capitalist recession. There is a tipping point where sanctions will become deleterious to Western capitalism, especially if they strengthen the relations between those struggling against the stranglehold of the U.S. dollar on the world market.

Today may become a turning point for imperialism and the world's working class.

Lessons of Iraq War forgotten

As for the mainstream anti-war movement, it has forgotten the lessons of the Iraq War.

When the first Gulf War started in 1990-1991, with its attendant lies and demonizations, the anti-war movement was split. Significant sections called for "sanctions, not bombs," wanting to distance themselves from the embattled Iraqi government.

It turned out that as murderous as U.S. missile strikes were, more people died from the decade of sanctions that followed, designed to bring the Iraqi people to their knees. It would take a more expansive and continuing war, fueled by the lies of "weapons of mass destruction," to ultimately accomplish that.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was labeled a devil, as one lie after the other mounted to justify



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murderous U.S. bombings and the use of depleted uranium weapons.

This writer clearly remembers speaking at a debate against the Gulf War organized by Congressperson Kweisi Mfume, who at that time was a TV host. Mfume supported the war.

In the adjoining room sat a member of the royal family of Kuwait, who was being prepared to go on in a separate broadcast to build up the false narrative of herself as a nurse who witnessed Iraqi troops turning over baby incubators and throwing babies on the floor.

There are similarities but also important differences between that war and the current one.

The imperialists' goal is to plunder Russia's vast resources, just like in Iraq. They were happy,

even if briefly, when Boris Yeltsin was doing their bidding in the 1990s, selling off Soviet assets and restoring capitalism. But it soon became apparent that the capitalist West had no intention to allow another competitor into its ranks; rather they viewed Russia's oil, gas and mineral resources as loot and Russia as a vassal state.

President Vladimir Putin, who followed Yeltsin, represented a block to these plans in the same way that Saddam Hussein did in Iraq, regardless of the capitalist character of Russia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established as a military alliance to contain and threaten the Soviet Union. So why wasn't it

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Victory to anti-fascist forces of Donbass & allies! U.S./NATO hands off Russia!

Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido statement on the military conflict in Ukraine

On Feb. 24, the anti-fascist Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, together with the Russian Federation, launched a military action with the goal of "demilitarization and denazification" of the U.S.-NATO coup regime in Ukraine. It is in the interest of poor and working people, anti-war and anti-imperialist forces, especially in the U.S. and other NATO countries, to take a clear and unambiguous position in solidarity with the anti-fascist forces. The real war danger comes from U.S. and NATO forces surrounding Russia. The government in Kiev is a proxy of these forces of war, with no regard for the people of Ukraine.

For eight years, the people of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region have maintained their independence in the face of constant bombing, shooting and terrorist attacks by the Ukrainian government – a regime installed by a fascist coup orchestrated with bipartisan U.S. support. More than 14,000 people have died in Ukraine's war on Donbass, according to the United Nations.

Since November 2021, the U.S. has pushed Kiev to launch a new murderous invasion of the Donbass, while claiming that the real threat was from Russia against Ukraine. Meanwhile, the U.S. and its NATO military allies poured weapons and "trainers" into Ukraine, and built up their own imperialist armies on Russia's Western borders and throughout Eastern Europe. The U.S. rejected Moscow's just demands to guarantee Ukraine's neutrality and pull back NATO's armies.

Russia officially recognized the independence of Lugansk and Donetsk on Feb. 21 – nearly eight years after the people of Donbass overwhelmingly chose independence in a democratic referendum, rejecting the rule of the pro-Western/neo-fascist coup government in Ukraine.

The response of the U.S. and its allies was to impose new sanctions on Russia – an act of war – and to send still more troops and weapons to threaten the independent countries of the re-

gion. This included blocking the Nord Stream II gas pipeline project between Russia and the European Union, a major goal of Big Oil and Wall Street banks.

Washington and NATO deliberately and methodically pushed the Donbass republics and Russia into a corner, from which there were only two options: submit or fight back.

On the night of Feb. 23-24, the People's Militias of Donetsk and Lugansk and their Russian allies launched a military action with the goals of reclaiming Ukrainian-occupied areas of Donbass and demilitarizing and denazifying the Ukrainian-NATO regime.

The People's Militias are fighting to drive back the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including neo-Nazi battalions armed and trained by the U.S., Canada and NATO, that constantly threaten the lives of their residents. U.S. white supremacists have trained with the Ukrainian fascist gangs, something even admitted by the FBI, and gained military experience fighting against Donbass which they bring back to attack oppressed communities here. They were key players in the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va., and the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer.

The Russian armed forces have carried out attacks on at least 74 military bases throughout Ukraine, many of them constructed and upgraded by NATO specifically to facilitate war against Russia. Russian, Donbass and the Ukrainian anti-fascist underground are also working to locate, capture or eliminate neo-Nazi forces, including the ringleaders of the 2014 Odessa massacre, when at least 46 people were killed at the House of Trade Unions.

The anti-fascist military action, forced on Donbass and Russia by the Western imperialist powers, principally President Joe Biden and the U.S. government, has exposed confusion and equivocation in the U.S. anti-war movement, even among socialists and communists.

Let's be clear: Modern capitalist Russia is not an imperialist country. It had no means to become one after the counterrevolution in the USSR. It is a regional power akin to India or Brazil, primarily an exporter of commodities, not capital. In order to maintain its independence, Russia had to ally itself with other countries in opposition to imperialism.

Ukraine's coup regime, by contrast, is a pawn of U.S. imperialism that has been waging a brutal war on its neighbors in Donbass for eight years and offered itself as a base for NATO aggression against Russia.

We want to remind the movement of the principles laid down at the dawn of imperialism by V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution. Differentiating the communist position from the pacifists, who condemn all wars equally, Lenin said, "We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created."

If Iran attacked Saudi Arabia to stop the genocidal U.S. war on Yemen (carried out by Saudi Arabia at Washington's behest), which also threatens Iran and its regional allies, we hope that anti-imperialists would recognize that this was a just war, despite some of our ideological differences with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Yet this is exactly what is happening in Ukraine today.

Our responsibility is to stop U.S. imperialism and its wars in all forms, and to stand in solidarity with those who fight against U.S. domination.

Victory to the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and their allies!

Solidarity with the anti-fascist underground and exiles of Ukraine!

U.S./NATO: Hands off Russia! Get out of Ukraine and Eastern Europe!

Dismantle the imperialist NATO war machine – bring all the troops home now!

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Why Russia recognized the Donbass republics

By Greg Buttefield

Feb. 23 – In order to have a clear anti-war, anti-imperialist position today, class-conscious workers need



to understand the significance of the Russian Federation's Feb. 21 decision to recognize the Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk as independent, sovereign countries, nearly eight years after they first declared independence from Ukraine.

Following an unprecedented live telecast of the meeting of Russia's National Security Council, President Vladimir Putin announced, "I deem it necessary to make a decision that should have been made a long time ago – to immediately recognise the independence and sovereignty of the

Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR)."

Putin signed presidential decrees recognizing the republics; establishing treaties of friendship and mutual cooperation with them; and authorizing Russian peacekeepers to be deployed to the Donbass if requested. Reciprocal decrees were signed by the leaders of the DPR and LPR, Denis Pushilin and Leonid Pasechnik.

The U.S. and its global allies denounced the decision.

Russia's decision came after several days of heightened Ukrainian



military attacks on the two small republics. Two-thirds of Ukraine's NATO-armed and -trained mili-

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From U.S. to Honduras: Socialism and Black Liberation

By John Parker

On Jan. 27, I was fortunate to be one of a handful of delegates from the U.S. to attend the historic inauguration of President Xi-omara Castro in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Representing the Socialist Unity Party, I was part of an international delegation invited by President Castro and her Libre Party, founded by the National Popular Resistance Front (FNRP).

For the first time in 12 years, the people – service workers, factory workers, agricultural workers, unemployed workers, communities of African ethnicity and Indigenous communities – were also invited to participate.

That's a reflection of the policies and actions already taking place under the new administration, employing a path in line with socialist economic goals. In fact, in the first five days of Castro's presidency, she wiped out the electric bills of a million working and poor people in Honduras, in addition to ending much of the school tuition that also helped keep the poorest of the population destitute.

In addition, Castro's priority of ending the privatizations that have wreaked havoc on the environment – especially for Indigenous communities struggling to maintain clean water – is already being implemented.

Early on the morning of the inauguration, lining up to get into the stadium in Tegucigalpa, our 20-person international delegation witnessed the excitement and joy of the sea of people, some of whom had traveled far, and some of whom had slept there overnight to get good seats.

The gravity of this event was reflected in its open rejection of capitalist and imperialist policies, and, with the multi-ethnic diversity we saw in attendance, a rejection of racism.

Since I'm writing this during Black History Month, as a Black person I want to pose the question: Would the victory of a genuine socialist brought about by a grassroots struggle have the same beneficial effects on the Black, Brown and Indigenous populations here in the U.S.?

And, if so, does the inauguration of Castro show the importance of the struggle for socialism for Black/African liberation in the U.S. and abroad?

Militant mobilization in the streets

Socialists and communists have long been a part of the Black struggle for liberation in the U.S., although hidden behind a wall of racist erasures in history books, state repression and anti-communist propaganda.

Today, the mantra from the ruling class, echoed by liberal politicians, nonprofits and educational institutions, is that the struggle cannot be in the streets, only electoral. It especially cannot challenge the ownership of a very small minority of billionaires and their institutions who hold the major industries of manufacturing, war, finance, education and health care in their possession.

In Honduras, however, although this was an electoral victory, it was made possible only by militant activism in the streets and growing organization of working-class and nationally oppressed sectors to challenge the

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ILL PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASINO



John Parker for U.S. Senate

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TELL BIDEN: No war! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 24 – U.S. imperialism is playing with fire in Eastern Europe. U.S. officials are toying with the lives of millions of people in Europe, Asia and potentially the entire world with their unprecedented campaign of threats, provocations and war propaganda aimed at the Russian Federation.

The Biden regime and corporate media are lying when they warn of an "imminent" Russian invasion of Ukraine. The real danger of invasion comes from the U.S.-supported, NATO-armed Ukrainian government against the peoples of the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk on Russia's Western border. Wall Street, its bought-and-paid-for politicians and the Pentagon have long sought to dominate all of the former Soviet Union, including Russia. Big Oil is especially rabid to stop Russian oil and gas from reaching the European Union, so that erstwhile U.S. allies are forced to rely on their products instead.

Today the U.S. announced it was pulling diplomats' families and other "nonessential personnel" out of Ukraine. It's not because they are in danger from Russia. Rather, it's another in a long line of war provocations by Washington and the NATO military alliance it dominates.

U.S. politicians are working to create a wartime atmosphere so that any defensive action by Russia or the Donbass republics, or a wholly manufactured incident, can be used to justify Ukrainian aggression and NATO intervention.

After a week of talks where Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued stonewalling Russia on its just demands for security guarantees against NATO expansion, and when Biden said at a news conference that his "guess" was that a Russian invasion of Ukraine was inevitable, it seemed on Jan. 21 there might be a glimmer of hope that the U.S. warmongers would take a step back.

Blinken finally agreed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's request to give a written U.S. response to Russia's draft statement on security guarantees, more than a month after it was pre-



Protest against NATO Summit in Chicago, May 2012.

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sented by Russian diplomats. At least, this would force Washington to declare its intentions in writing before the world rather than being shrouded in backroom negotiations and rumors circulated by unnamed sources in the Western media.

Instead of using this opportunity to step back from the brink of war, it now seems the U.S. and its allies are instead rushing recklessly ahead.

Along with the move to pull embassy personnel out of Ukraine, the weekend of Jan. 22-23 saw a new propaganda barrage from Washington's junior partner Britain, alleging that Russian President Vladimir Putin was planning a coup to replace the current U.S.-backed Ukrainian government of President Volodymyr Zelensky with one friendly to Russia.

Moscow immediately refuted the claim. But it was taken as gospel by all the big-business media, despite the fact that, as even the New York Times admitted, "The British communique provided no evidence to back up its assertion."

Meanwhile, another provocation was carried out by Kiev on Jan. 22, as a Ukrainian military sabotage team illegally crossed the ceasefire "line of contact" into the Lugansk People's Republic and kidnapped a soldier of the People's Militia. It was the third such kidnapping since October.

After a weekend at Camp David with his military and diplomatic advisers – when they were

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HONDURAS inaugurates Xiomara Castro

By John Parker

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 26 — A delegation of activists representing organizations from various countries arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday, at the invitation of the Libre Party, to celebrate with them the inauguration of President-elect Xiomara Castro, who is also a member of the Libre Party.

President Castro's overwhelming victory follows the rapid deterioration of life for the people of Honduras after the 2009 coup that kidnapped and overthrew the elected government of self-described pro-socialist President Manuel Zelaya. That coup — with technical, logistical and monetary support from the U.S. — was led by two Honduran military officers who had trained at the Pentagon's notorious "School of the Americas." The school made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

After the coup, fraudulent elections were imposed on the country, seeking to give legitimacy to the coup regime. But the economy and social well-being of Honduras was destroyed by rapid privatizations, environmental destruction and brutal repression and torture targeting any supporters of Zelaya, especially those in the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP) which formed after the coup to bring back the legitimate presidency of Zelaya. Women and LGBTQ2S members were also severely targeted and tortured.

In spite of the repression, the courageous people of Honduras continued to grow their re-

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As omicron surges: Teachers, students resist unsafe schools

By Greg Butterfield

Members of the Chicago Teachers Union voted to take classes remote for several days in defiance of the city administration. Thousands of New York City students walked out of classes to protest unsafe conditions. Furious staff, youth and families from Oakland, California, to Columbia, Missouri, and Boston are demanding the return of remote learning options, increased testing and safety measures in schools.

We all remember Donald Trump's racist, anti-immigrant slogan, "Build that wall." Now the Biden administration and its allies in the corporate media have "built a wall" of dangerous denial around the spread of COVID-19's omicron variant in public schools across the U.S. And teachers, school staff, students and families are fighting back.

Along with healthcare and retail workers, school workers and students have been on the frontlines of the pandemic since early 2020 – never more so than today. Crammed into overcrowded classrooms without adequate ventilation, testing or PPE, schools are omicron superspreaders – ones that federal, state and local officials insist remain open despite all evidence to the contrary. Why?

Advocates for keeping schools open and denying a remote option cite "learning loss" as their primary reason. But in cities like New York, home of the country's largest public school system, so many thousands of students and teachers are sick that little learning is going on in most classrooms. In many schools, students who come in are packed into even more dangerous conditions – like auditoriums and lunchrooms – because so many peers and staff members are out sick.

As enraged teachers and students have been saying for weeks, most want to teach and learn in a classroom environment. But that can only happen when it is safe to do so. Withholding remote options and safety measures during a pandemic surge is the greatest source of "learning loss" as parents keep their children home and many students and teachers fall ill.

Childhood infections and hospitalizations have skyrocketed since mid-December. Omicron is a variant of COVID-19 that is highly transmissible and often results in "breakthrough cases" among those who are already vaccinated. But offi-

Brooklyn, N.Y., teachers demand 'safety not swagger'

cialists have only gotten more dug in about keeping schools open, without any remote option.

It's not just pro-Trump anti-maskers who are responsible. Some of the worst offenders are Democratic allies of the Biden administration, including incoming New York Mayor Eric Adams and his predecessor, Bill de Blasio, and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who locked teachers out of their remote classrooms.

The real reason – which is becoming clearer to more and more workers – is that the capitalist economy demands it. Profit-hungry capitalists find their businesses short staffed. Keeping schools open is a way to force parents to come to work, often in unsafe conditions. The health of the community – including elders, people with chronic illnesses, and younger children who have not yet been approved for vaccination – is not a priority for the capitalists and their bought-and-paid-for politicians.

Baltimore: a case study

Baltimore, a predominantly Black city, is a case study in what is happening around the country, including larger cities like Chicago and New York.

The school superintendent and Democratic city administration refused to heed the Baltimore Teachers Union, which asked them to act preemptively to protect teachers, students and the community before the scheduled return to class-

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Students at Lower East Side Prep High School joined a citywide walkout for COVID safety in New York, Jan. 11.



PHOTO: SHAWN LARICA



SEL PHOTO MARQUE VACCARONE/REUTERS

MLK Day organizers say 'NO COPS in commemoration'

By John Parker

Los Angeles – The Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Martin Luther King Coalition, Unión del Barrio, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement, Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, South Central Tenants Union, Puerto Rican Alliance, BAYAN USA, Harvard Boulevard Block Club and Socialist Unity Party are just a few of the organizations supporting this year's MLK March for Social Justice. Because of the recent COVID surge, this year's event will take the form of a car caravan.

Many of these groups were part of the news conference Dec. 30 announcing the caravan on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Monday, Jan. 17. The enthusiasm felt from the organizations at the media event comes from this being the first time in over three decades that the MLK events will exclude the police and not disrespect the legacy of Dr. King.

In addition, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. military organizations are not invited to have contingents or any representatives.

Many in South Central, where the MLK Parade occurs, see the recent killing of 14-year-old Valentina Orellana-Peralta, a recent immigrant from Chile, as yet another horrible reminder of the terror created by the police forces against the predominantly Black and Brown community. Her

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DRAMMETH FAMILY FUND/ADRIAN RICHMOND

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Indict Amazon for murder!

By Stephen Millies

The death of six workers at an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville, Illinois, during a Dec. 10 tornado didn't have to happen. Workers died because Jeff Bezos is too cheap to build safe buildings.

The Amazon founder has a \$202 billion fortune. A day after the Edwardsville tragedy Bezos had one of his Blue Origin rockets lift off the launch pad.

Bezos is spending a billion dollars a year on his space toys. Workers' safety is another matter.

The Edwardsville facility, located 25 miles northeast of St. Louis, was built in a tornado alley. Between 1991 and 2011 four storms roared through the area with speeds of at least 136 mph. The Dec. 10 tornado was just as severe.

Like many warehouses — as well as Walmart, Home Depot and Target stores — the big box buildings are fabricated using "tilt-up wall construction" to save money. Concrete panels weighing dozens of tons are held together by the roof.

But if the roof is blown away the panels will fall and crush anyone underneath. That's what happened in 2014, to a Home Depot in Joplin, Missouri, where eight people were killed. The same thing occurred in Edwardsville.

The only emergency shelter available to workers in the Amazon warehouse were the bathrooms. Concrete blocks fell in one of them and crushed a worker to death. The warehouse employees received virtually no emergency training.



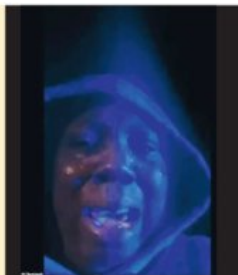
Kyanna Lou, one of the workers trapped at a candle factory in Mayfield, Kentucky.

Larry Virden, one of the workers who died, texted his partner that "Amazon won't let us leave." He left behind four children.

Lack of concern for workers' health and safety is a company tradition. Fifteen workers collapsed during a 2011 heat wave at an Amazon warehouse in Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, 11 miles from Allentown.

The company knew of the health dangers but refused to reduce the line speed. Amazon instead parked ambulances outside the door.

The Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama — where Bezos spent millions to stop a union organizing drive — is another potential deathtrap. It too sits in a tornado alley.



Kyanna Lou begging for help, saying 'the wall is stuck on me' and that nobody can get to the factory to assist them.

Candle factory deathtrap

On the same day that six workers died in Edwardsville, another tornado killed eight workers in Mayfield, Kentucky. They made candles at the Mayfield Consumer Products factory.

Some of the workers who were rescued were found buried alive. Survivors are furious that the company didn't cancel the evening shift despite warnings that tornadoes were likely to strike the area.

Starting wage at this sweatshop located in Western Kentucky is \$8 per

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On the destruction of the Soviet Union 8

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What right does the Supreme Court have to rule?

By Lallan Schoenstien

On Dec. 1, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the arguments from U.S. state attorneys supporting Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.

A state law was passed in Mississippi in 2018 that would make most abortions illegal after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy — including those caused by rape. The Mississippi law hasn't yet been enforced due to a legal challenge by Mississippi's only abortion provider, the Jackson Women's Health Organization.

The Supreme Court is now considering the case.

The most conservative judges — including Donald Trump-appointed anti-woman bigot and serial abuser Brett Kavanaugh — pressed forward to raise the stakes to possibly overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that established a constitutional right to abortion.

Another Trump appointee, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, stated her position during the hearing: Why was abortion necessary, when women who do not

want to be mothers can simply give their babies up for adoption? Thereby, Barrett was arguing for cruel legislation that bans abortion for those who have been raped, whose health or the baby's health is at risk or a myriad of other legitimate issues, the most primary being control over one's own body.

As a member of the Indiana religious organization People of Praise, Barrett has served as a lay pastoral women's leader known as a "handmaid." Barrett is a millionaire—among the richest of rich justices, with a lush income from the Catholic Church's Notre Dame Law School—and this removes her from the concerns plaguing most peoples' lives.

One of three judges in the minority supporting women's constitutional rights, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, asked whether the court would survive the stench of being considered a political institution, a point echoed by Justice Elena Kagan. Their attempt to defend a critical right to healthcare also implied support for the legitimacy of the Supreme Court.



What right does the Supreme Court have?

The U.S. Supreme Court was established 232 years ago by the U.S. Constitution with the passage of the Judiciary Act of 1789. At that time the U.S. Constitution did not extend equal rights to people kidnapped from Africa, the Indigenous population, oppressed

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Women's March in Washington, D.C., Oct. 2.



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- John Deere strike victory is a win for all workers
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- Corrupción, privatización y colonialismo
- Corruption, privatization & colonialism



Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - December 6, 2021

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 13, 2022
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Who killed Malcolm X and why?

By Stephen Millies

"And we will know him then for what he was and is — a prince — our own Black shining prince! — who didn't hesitate to die, because he loved us so." That was how the legendary actor Ossie Davis ended his eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral.

Over a half-century later, two of the convicted assassins of Malcolm X, Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam, were executed on Nov. 18. They were framed in a 1966 show trial.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Muhammad Aziz, now 83 years old, spent 20 years in prison, while Khalil Islam served 22 years.

Both Black men survived years in solitary confinement. Khalil Islam, who died in 2009, never got to see his name cleared.

Muhammad Aziz, then known as Norman 3X Butler, and Khalil Islam, then known as Thomas 15X Johnson, were convicted with Mujahid Abdul Halim. Then known as Talmadge Hayer or Thomas Hagan, Halim confessed during the trial to killing Malcolm X but said his two co-defendants were innocent.

That didn't matter to the police and the courts. All three defendants were convicted and given life sentences by Judge Charles Marks.

The police were so disinterested in finding out who killed Malcolm X that they even didn't close off the crime scene. A dance was allowed to be held the evening of the assassination at the Audubon Ballroom with Malcolm's blood still on the stage.

All of the physical evidence, including a sawed-off shotgun that was one of the weapons used to murder Malcolm X, has disappeared.

Judge Marks turned down a defense motion to reveal the police interviews with a hundred eyewitnesses. Why?

When Halim gave the names of four people who were his fellow assassins in two affidavits in 1977 and 1978, Judge Harold Rothwax refused to reopen the case. New York police and the FBI didn't investigate.

Both Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam had strong alibis. Aziz was at home suffering from thrombophlebitis in his right leg. Islam was also at his home when Malcolm X was killed, as confirmed by a neighbor who visited him.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. apologized for the convictions of the two men. So why doesn't Vance announce an investigation into who assisted Mujahid Abdul Halim in murdering Malcolm X?

Vance refused to prosecute Dominique Strauss-Kahn, then head of the International Monetary Fund, for raping the Black hotel worker Nafissatou Diallo. The DA is the son of former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who was a top Pentagon official during the dirty war against Vietnam and Laos.

FBI war against Black people

Black leaders have been targeted by the U.S. Government for over a century. The army considered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be a threat. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wanted him dead.



Malcolm X speaking in Harlem in New York City on June 29, 1963. J. Edgar Hoover sent a telegram to the New York FBI office on June 6, 1964, demanding that they "do something about Malcolm X."

J. Edgar Hoover wanted him dead.

Dr. King denounced the war against Vietnam. He declared at New York's Riverside Church that "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today (is) my own government."

Exactly one year later, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968. The same day, eight Green Berets were in Memphis.

During World War I, the Military Intelligence Division investigated one of Dr. King's grandfathers for "subversive activity" because he gave a sermon against lynching.

The FBI had the Nation of Islam under surveillance since the early 1940s. During World War II, NOI leader Elijah Muhammad was sent to prison for four years on charges of urging his followers not to register for the draft.

The U.S. armed forces were then completely segregated. So was its blood supply, a Nazi-like practice.

In response, the Pittsburgh Courier started a "Double V" campaign, calling for victory over the Hitler at home and abroad. Other Black newspapers joined the campaign and exposed racism inside and outside the military. With the support of President Franklin Roosevelt, J. Edgar Hoover wanted the Black newspaper publishers tried for treason.

During the anti-communist witch hunt after the war, the FBI tried to destroy every progressive organization in the country. Hoover launched COINTELPRO, short for counterintelligence program. It sought to provoke dissension within groups and between organizations.

Along with the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party, COINTELPRO targeted Black activist groups. These included the Southern Christian Leadership Conference led by Dr. King, the Nation of Islam and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, known as SNCC.

COINTELPRO later waged a war of extermination against the Black Panther Party. As shown in the film "Judas and the Black Messiah," the FBI planted its informant William O'Neal within the Illinois Black Panther Party. O'Neal

was crucial to Chicago police murdering Illinois chapter chairman Fred Hampton and fellow Panther member Mark Clark on Dec. 4, 1969.

J. Edgar Hoover sent a telegram to the New York City FBI office on June 6, 1964, demanding that they "do something about Malcolm X." Eight-and-a-half months later the Black shining prince was murdered in front of his family and an audience of 400.

Letting Malcolm X be murdered

Malcolm X was assassinated in the Audubon Ballroom on Feb. 21, 1965. Now called the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, it's located in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

A week before, on Feb. 14, the home of Malcolm X and his family — at 23-11 97th St. in the East Elmhurst section of Queens — was firebombed. The police refused to investigate. They planted a bottle filled with gasoline in the house, implying Malcolm set the fire himself.

There were always at least a half-dozen cops in front of any place where Malcolm X spoke in order to try to intimidate people. Yet a week after Malcolm and his family were nearly killed, there was just one cop stationed at the Audubon Ballroom's entrance. Other police were kept hidden nearby.

The well-known journalist Jimmy Breslin got a tip from the police that he should go to the meeting at the Audubon Ballroom. Did the NYPD know what was going to happen?

Cyrus Vance said, "that on orders from director J. Edgar Hoover himself, the FBI ordered multiple witnesses not to tell police or prosecutors that they were in fact FBI informants." In addition there were undercover cops in the audience belonging to the Bureau of Special Services (BOSS), the NYPD's Red Squad.

Several people shot at Malcolm. None of the dozen or so FBI agents and police inside the ballroom did anything to try to prevent the assassination. Nor were they responsible for arresting Talmadge

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- D.C. anti-imperialists stand in solidarity with Cuban Revolution



Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - November 22, 2021

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 13, 2022
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A pesar del bloqueo de EE. UU., Cuba ha vacunado al 90% y se abre a visitantes del mundo

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Vol. 4, No. 22 - Nov. 22, 2021

Suggested donation: \$1

Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

Twitter: @StruggleLaLucha

Facebook.com/strugglelalucha

email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Cuba reopens to visitors Despite U.S. blockade, 90% vaccinated

Report from Havana. Lars Bertling, Russell McClain and Sharon Black, three reporters for Struggle-La Lucha, members of the Socialist Unity Party, and representatives of the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly are participating in the 31st U.S.-Cuba IFCO-Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan.

Havana, Nov. 16 — It was an all day ordeal on Monday, Nov. 15, on the U.S. side. We waited in grueling airport security lines and spent hours checking in. Two of our representatives barely got their passports. We had to get up at 5 a.m. and drive to the passport office in Miami and keep our fingers crossed.

But when we got to Cuba it was all worth it. On landing our spirits soared and our energy returned. Cuban people and their leaders were waiting at the airport, along with a bevy of news media. Our group was literally the first delegation to travel to the newly opened Cuba, which had been closed to international visitors because of the pandemic. Nov. 15 was the opening of schools and services in Cuba and is also a day celebrating the anniversary of Havana.

When we got to the Cuban Martin Luther King Center (yes, there is such a thing) young Cuban singers and musicians greeted us along with local Marianao community and political leaders and representatives of the MLK Center.

Today, Tuesday, was our first whole day of learning and visiting. Our entire group was large, over 70 people, so we split up.

Memorial de la Denuncia

Most people living in the U.S. only equate terrorism with the 9/11 attacks. It's a sad hypocrisy. Far more Cuban people, many who are young children, have died in terrorist attacks. Only these attacks were perpetrated by the Pentagon, CIA, the right wing, and U.S. imperialism.

This state-of-the-art, modern museum documents those countless attacks.

The entrance has a revolving, updated count of the number of people who have lost their lives to terrorism. This does not cover those impacted by the blockade but strictly through bombings and violent acts of terrorism. Today the count is 3,476.

There were 637 (known) attempts to assassinate Fidel; 21 CIA air raids; 11 CIA bombings; and 581 terrorist attacks aimed at Cuban missions overseas.



Struggle-La Lucha reporters Sharon Black, Russell McClain and Lars Bertling in Havana.

A special film documents the March 4, 1960, bombing of the French freighter La Coubre in the Havana port and the loss of 110 lives. Fidel and Che lead the massive street marches to honor those who lost their lives and to defy U.S. imperialism. The families of the victims still mourn their loss.

Terrorist and CIA agent Luis Posada and his accomplices, who were all sheltered in the U.S., bragged of the cowardly bombing of Cubana Flight 455 on Oct. 6, 1976, killing all 73 passengers, many Cuban children and all 24 members of a youth sports team that had just won every gold medal in the Central American and Caribbean Championships.

There seemed to be no end to the U.S. war on Cuba: from Operation Peter Pan that kidnapped 14,000 Cuban children over a two-year span from 1960 to 1963 and later in 2000, the kidnapping of Elián González. The U.S. also carried out biological warfare against Cuba, including the destruction of the pig industry and the sabotage of agricultural crops.

These are just a few examples.

The Memorial will grip your heart and change your view on who the real terrorists are.

Finlay Vaccine Institute

Our next stop was the Vaccine Institute which helped produce three Cuban COVID-19 vaccines: Soberana, Soberana 2 and Soberana Plus.

So many things stood out in the discussion and presentation by the representatives of the institute.

Under the most difficult conditions due to the blockade, Cuba was able to produce these three highly effective vaccines, rivaling the effective-

Continued on page 6

RITTENHOUSE IS GUILTY! No justice, no peace! Smash white supremacy!

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY STATEMENT

Nov. 19 — Another empowerment of white supremacy occurred today, and it was endorsed by President Joe Biden, who blessed the jury decision exonerating a racist killer.

We demand federal charges be brought against Kyle Rittenhouse in a real trial with a jury representing the community of Kenosha, Wis.

We demand the prosecution of white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys, with which Rittenhouse made a public appearance, and others that have proven to be violent racist, terrorist organizations. Fascist, racist, terrorist organizations have no right to exist.

We demand justice for Ahmaud Arbery, whose killers are now on trial in a Georgia court like the white supremacist-friendly court in Wisconsin.

Biden's first public comment about the exoneration of Rittenhouse was: "The jury system works and we have to abide by it."

That's right: In Biden's eyes, the jury system that usually exonerates cops and white supremacists terrorizing Black or Brown lives — even when the juries are 99% white — is working and above question.

The movement for social justice should take note of how comfortable Biden's administration feels in dismissing the rage that is being felt by Black people and all progressive people at this moment.

What this verdict and the Biden administration are doing is actively empowering white supremacist, fascist forces: those who feel comfortable as Rep. Paul Gosar threatens to murder Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and gets away with no criminal charges. Or with killing Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man in Georgia who was simply jogging.

Or storming the Capitol, especially targeting Black and Brown Congress members for death with a hangman's noose erected nearby, getting at most a slap on the wrist. Or basically deputizing fascists in Texas, who could get a \$10,000 bounty for their part in abusing women and denying their right to an abortion.

Continued on page 2



By John Parker



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Nov. 25, 2021 12:00 Noon Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Dedicated to Moonanum James, Bert Waters, and others who have returned to the ancestors.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!

We welcome all our relations crossed by the U.S. border & ICE.

In 2021, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.

E-mail: info@uaine.org Website: Uaine.org

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE) for updates.



GAIGE, JOE AND ANTHONY

We demand the federal DOJ take action immediately!

- RITTENHOUSE IS GUILTY!
- Cuba reopens to visitors
- National Day of Mourning
- Moderna's 'Grand Theft Vaccine'
- U.S. charges against Russia about space are height of hypocrisy
- NATO abuses refugees, threatens to ignite war on Poland/Belarus border
- Solidarity with refugees at Poland/Belarus border!
- A pesar del bloqueo de EE. UU., Cuba ha vacunado al 90% y se abre a visitantes del mundo



Struggle ☐ La Lucha PDF - November 8, 2021

written by Struggle - La Lucha
March 13, 2022
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Capitalism is the crisis

Democrats fiddle as climate emergency grows

By Scott Scheffer

The consequences of a century's worth of industrial capitalist destruction of the atmosphere continued lashing out at the earth in late October. A "bomb cyclone" attacked the U.S. West Coast, while a nor'easter slammed the Northeast.

The damaging weather from the west then sped clear across the country after causing floods and mudslides. Tornadoes and thunderstorms rocked the region known as Tornado Alley, from South Dakota all the way south to Texas.

On the East Coast, from as far south as North Carolina and all the way north, thunderstorms with winds clocked in between 60 and 100 miles per hour. In New England, a storm surge of three to four feet knocked out power to well over 500,000 people.

The extreme weather of 2021 has surpassed so many previous records. It has been severe and frequent.

The most important international conference on climate change since the Paris Climate Accords were reached in 2015 began in Glasgow, Scotland, on Oct. 31. The White House was counting on getting an assortment of climate change proposals included in a broader spending bill through Congress before Glasgow — to avoid international embarrassment.

The U.S. is the worst per capita emitter of greenhouse gases in the world and hasn't moved forward in its commitments. Biden has to present a puffed-up picture of progress. Negotiations with a handful of right-wing members of his own party sent Biden and other U.S. representatives to Glasgow empty-handed.

The Build Back Better spending bill was initially proposed with a price tag of \$3.5 trillion. Along with a handful of



Protesters dressed as President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a climate demonstration in Glasgow, Nov. 1.

other Democrats, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia has beaten that down to \$1.75 trillion, and is still pushing for more cuts.

Manchin himself was already a coal baron before he became a U.S. senator. He's raked in more than \$5 million since then. In April he was made chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in a bipartisan vote. That should be seen as a major conflict of interest, but it doesn't raise any eyebrows in Washington. There's plenty of that in capitalist government.

Alongside programs that would be key to mitigating climate change, the bill would have boosted crucial social services like paid family leave, student debt relief, child nutrition, an expansion of Medicare and Medicaid, and more. The spat within the Democratic Party has put all of that on the chopping block.

Manchin, the senator from Big Coal, says he wants the total spending bill cut to just \$1.5 trillion.

CEPP on cutting room floor

Also left on the cutting room floor as of this writing is the Climate Energy Performance Program (CEPP). That

proposal would have paid power generators incrementally to switch to wind, solar, hydro or nuclear power instead of coal or diesel. It would have imposed penalties for non-compliance.

CEPP was the flagship among the climate change proposals included in the spending bill, and the Biden administration was counting on it to happen before Glasgow.

The overall bill is framed in the media as grand and ambitious, but it doesn't live up to the urgency of the climate

crisis. None of these climate change proposals go after the profits of the giant U.S. banks or energy industry. The CEPP came the closest — and that was too close for comfort from the point of view of Big Capital. Manchin is their attack dog.

The congressional group aligned against the bill used phony concern over deficit spending — a favorite of the right-wing — as a cover story. It's really the profits of giant corporations that they're defending.

The money is there. Much of it is locked away in the bloated military budget with near-unanimous bipartisan support. U.S. military spending over the same 10-year period projected in the Build Back Better spending bill will add up to at least \$8 trillion — and that's a conservative guess, because there will be increases.

But Pentagon spending is considered untouchable, as are the trillions of dollars in the coffers of the tiny handful of corporate owners that dominate the world.

Their wealth far outstrips that of the rest of the population of the planet.

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► Their elections and our struggle

► Unemployed Workers Union



► STOP 'no-knock' police raids!

► Raise wages

► BERLIN: Expropriate the landlords!

► TAIWAN

► HONDURAS

► NICARAGUA

► End sanctions on ZIMBABWE

► PHILIPPINES
Red salute to Ka Oris

► CUBA

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

Dedicated to Moananum James, Bert Waters, and others who have returned to the ancestors.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!
We welcome all our relations crossed by the U.S. border & ICE.



In 2021, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.



**52ND ANNUAL
NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
NOV. 25, 2021
12:00 NOON
Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA**

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE) for updates.
E-mail: info@uaine.org Website: [uaine.org](https://www.uaine.org)

- Capitalism is the crisis
- National Day of Mourning
- Their elections and our struggle
- Unemployed workers will continue to fight
- Stop terrorist 'no-knock' police raids!
- Raise the minimum wage (and give Marx a prize)!
- Berlin voters say: Expropriate the landlords!
- New York Times on cybersecurity: More like war propaganda
- Biden targets China: Turning Taiwan into a military outpost
- 12 years after coup, Honduran resistance fights for fair election
- Nicaragua stands up to U.S. election interference
- End sanctions on Zimbabwe
- Philippines: In memory of Ka Oris
- Estados Unidos tiene una obsesión malsana con Cuba
- The U.S. has an unhealthy obsession with Cuba



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#STRIKETOBER!

The working class rises up

By Stephen Millies

The U.S. working class is waking up angry and defiant. More than 100,000 workers are on strike from coast to coast. Here are some of the biggest battles that broke out during "Striketober":

- 10,000 members of the United Auto Workers are on strike at 14 John Deere plants in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Georgia, and Kansas. The manufacturer of construction and agricultural equipment, including tractors, is expected to rake in profits of nearly \$6 billion this year. That hasn't stopped Deere from demanding pension cuts for newly hired workers. Salaried, non-union employees are being forced to cross picket lines to try to break the strike. It's dangerous for these workers to perform jobs that they're not trained for.
- 38,000 Kaiser Permanente health care workers in California and Oregon have authorized a strike. After 19 months of putting their lives on the line fighting COVID-19, they want better staffing and wages that get ahead of inflation.



- 60,000 members of IATSE (the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) authorized a strike that would have shut down Hollywood. They're sick of working 14 or more hours a day so that movies can be

- completed. The workers' solidarity forced the studio bosses to come to a tentative agreement.
- 1,400 Kellogg's cereal workers — members of the Bakery Workers

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#FreeAlexSaab now! 7

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'Mobilizing in our own name'

Interview with author and labor activist Clarence Thomas

This season is being called #Striketober. Workers are showing their power by striking, and demanding better conditions. The release of the anthology, "Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March" is timely.

Author Clarence Thomas — an African American labor activist, longshore leader, and an organizer of the 2004 Million Worker March — has been speaking at meetings and gatherings around the country. We talked with Thomas on Oct. 17, the anniversary of the Million Worker March in Washington, to get his insights on the labor struggle today.

Struggle-La Lucha: Welcome to Striketober. Tell us about your new book.

Clarence Thomas: Thank you for the opportunity to have this conversation. I have been a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Workers (ILWU) Local 10 for 31 years. Though retired from the waterfront, I'm still in the struggle. After I finished the book, I first reached out to the ILWU Local 10 members. I introduced the book at the Local 10 commemoration of Juneteenth



Million Worker March Movement contingent at the New Orleans 'Justice after Hurricane Katrina' march in December 2005. Clarence Thomas on right end of banner.

and at a Labor Fest program on July 10 where I did a book signing and reading for union members and the community.

There are Local 10 members that are featured in "Mobilizing in Our Own Name." For many, it was their first opportunity to meet an author who wrote a book about them and their union. Of course, they're very enthusiastic about the book.

Since then, most of my interactions have been through Zoom. In the past

several weeks, I've begun to travel to events. I attended and sold books at the Teamsters Women's Leadership Conference that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada. We met with workers from across the country: Louisville, Kentucky; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; New York City; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and from Phoenix, Arizona. It was the first time that we had a chance to meet workers in one location from various parts of the country.

The Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) invited us to the women's conference. They played a very important role in organizing the 2004 Million Worker March. Brother Chris Silvera who is the longest serving principal officer in the Teamsters, heads up Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, New York. Local 808 members are responsible for maintaining the track at Metro-North. Chris Silvera was the East Coast coordinator of the Million Worker March (MWM) along with sister Brenda Stokely from AFSCME DC 1707.

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National Day of
Mourning 2021

THURSDAY NOV 25
12 NOON

Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA
(hill above Plymouth Rock)

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores. Masks Up, Mayflowers Down!

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE) for updates.
E-mail: info@uaine.org
Website: Uaine.org

- #STRIKETOBER!
- 'Mobilizing in our own name'
- Justice for Ahmaud Arbery! Lynched for jogging while Black
- Supply chain crisis? There's more to that story
- Free Ruchell Magee!
- NFL's racism, misogyny and homophobia
- Capitalism stands in the way of reversing climate crisis
- Union victory for New Orleans city workers
- South Korean labor calls general strike to free union president
- China is not labor's enemy, Wall Street is
- Biden kidnaps Venezuelan diplomat: #FreeAlexSaab now!
- Washington escalates: U.S. special forces secretly operating for past year in Taiwan
- Propping up the U.S. military is driving the economy down
- Congreso quiere frenar la agroecología en Puerto Rico

