



Cops raid Wet'suwet'en camps Indigenous and allies respond: Shut Down Canada!



By M. Tiahui

Indigenous people and allies who support Indigenous sovereignty have taken to the streets throughout Canada in response to multiple raids on peaceful encampments in Wet'suwet'en territory in British Columbia.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with guns, dogs and helicopters have conducted raids against Wet'suwet'en clan camps. The camps, located along a road in Wet'suwet'en lands, are part of an effort to block the Coastal Gaslink pipeline company from entering Wet'suwet'en lands.

Twenty-eight people have been arrested by police as part of enforcement operations in Wet'suwet'en territory. All have since been released, with some facing future court dates.

On Feb. 6, the RCMP launched a pre-dawn raid on the first Wet'suwet'en camp at kilometer 39 of the Morice Road. They arrested six people, detained journalists and dismantled the camp.

On Feb. 7, the RCMP—including tactical squad members with rifles—moved in via helicopters and vehicles on the Gidimt'en camp at kilometer 44, eventually arresting four people.

On Feb. 10, the RCMP entered the Unist'ot'en camp and arrested seven there who were in a prayer ceremony for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIWG2S).

All of these raids have included dogs, snipers, helicopters flying overhead, and removing or distancing journalists so that they often could not record what was happening.

Years of resistance

The RCMP raids have been in response to years of resistance by the traditional clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation to TransCanada's Coastal GasLink pipeline. Their stolen lands are unceded, not subject to any treaty. They do not consent to the destruction of their lands. Despite this, Coastal Gaslink has continued to violate environmental regulations and destroy archaeological sites that are sacred to the Wet'suwet'en. Canada and its partner corporations seek to exploit and destroy the lands and protect corporate profits.

The RCMP is enforcing their interpretation of laws and court orders to allow Coastal GasLink pipeline workers into the area. Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, title holders to the land, have refused to consent to the pipeline.

Canadian law had previously recognized the rights of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs and five clans, in addition to recognition of the government-sanctioned "Indian Act" band council chiefs. A Supreme Court of Canada ruling confirmed the land's unceded status in 1997.

Nonetheless, the British Columbia Supreme Court recently declared that Coastal GasLink lines could pass through their lands.

According to a Unist'ot'en statement, "Each clan within the Wet'suwet'en Nation has full jurisdiction under their law to control access to their territory. Under 'Anuc niwh'it'en (Wet'suwet'en law) all five clans of the Wet'suwet'en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and have not provided free, prior and informed consent to Coastal Gaslink/TransCanada to do work on Wet'suwet'en lands."

The Wet'suwet'en have their own laws. Their laws and systems of governance predate Canada by thousands of years. The collective will of the people is the final law, not the signatures of single chiefs or band councils (Canada-approved tribal governments).

In addition to protecting the future of the lands, the Wet'suwet'en are also trying to protect their people from violence. Coastal GasLink was building a work camp that would house up to 400 men only 20 km. from the Healing Center on Wet'suwet'en Yintah (lands). As a result, the hereditary chiefs had closed a road to protect the people from harm, since man camps are well-known to be dangerous to nearby Indigenous women.

"Just these past two years we've had two women from our own community of Witset go missing," Dr. Karla Tait from the Healing Centre said. "One was discovered murdered. Despite being such a small Indigenous community, I think we've lost about seven women, that I'm aware of, that we don't have any suspects or any leads on their whereabouts." Witset has a population of about 815.

Red dresses symbolizing #MMIW

As the RCMP entered the Unist'ot'en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women #MMIW. Coastal Gaslink workers and the RCMP tore them down.

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Freda Huson wears her blanket, a nighthawk, before RCMP invasion of Unist'ot'en Healing Center. As the RCMP entered the Unist'ot'en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees symbolizing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women #MMIW. Coastal Gaslink workers and the RCMP tore them down.

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El movimiento por Bernie Sanders 8

The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

By Sharon Black

We have no illusions about the Democratic Party. It is a billionaire and bankers' War Party. Any notion that the Democratic Party represents the working class is a sugar-coated charade. At its core, it remains a neoliberal institution bent on preserving capitalist rule.

Destructive imperialist wars have been waged under Democratic Party administrations; workers' rights and benefits for the poor have been stripped under every single administration, regardless of party. What is constant regardless of which party prevails is the system of capitalism and imperialism that is the root cause of so much human misery.

So why are we calling for critical support of the Sanders movement?

Bernie Sanders as the candidate is not the pivotal issue. What's critical is the struggle that his campaign has unleashed against the Democratic Party establishment. A struggle which has struck fear in the ruling class.

This campaign is a working-class movement, mostly of young people and increasingly of the oppressed, that deeply distrusts the Establishment of both parties. It is a movement fueled by increasing anger against the rule of billionaires and the growing gap between rich and poor that has left so many workers impoverished.

The fact that the ruling class is so worried and so frantic to cut this movement off at the pass is a clear indicator of their own fear that the movement, galvanized around health care, free education, curbing the climate crisis, etc., may well get out of control. Meaning that it might leave the constricted straitjacket of the Democratic Party.

The increasingly virulent anti-Bernie Sanders attacks have been picking up steam ever since it's become clear that Sanders' campaign might win the primary. Of course, there are a million tricks between now and the July Democratic Convention, and the likelihood of a stolen election looms large.

The Iowa Caucus debacle was a sickening reminder that forces behind the curtain pull the strings. That they would go so far as to wreck the Iowa Caucus in an attempt to slow the Sanders campaign demonstrates their real contempt for their own so-called democracy.

Billionaires reject even mild reforms — Imperialist war is their answer

The class of billionaires and bankers isn't inclined at this point to give much in the form of concessions — whether it's to provide health care, education, curb predatory landlords or raise the minimum wage — let alone push back police terror and the white supremacist system driving it, shutting down the immigrant detention centers, respecting Indigenous rights, pro-

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Chuck Africa goes home

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

For over 40 years, Chuck Sims Africa, member of the famed MOVE 9, veteran of the MOVE confrontation of Aug. 8, 1978, has been imprisoned in state joints across Pennsylvania, serving what is arguably an illegal sentence of 30 to 100 years for third-degree murder. Several days ago, he walked out of prison and went home.

Chuck, the youngest of the MOVE 9, was one of the feistiest members. During the 1980s, he was on the prison boxing team and went around the state trying guys' chins. He was a devastating puncher — in and out of the ring.

When he was at SCI Dallas state penitentiary, a white-shirted officer disrespected him. And Chuck knocked him out cold.

Over the years, he spent time studying history — Black history and world history. He taught what he learned to other prisoners.

Finally, Chuck Sims Africa goes home: the last of the MOVE 9.

From Imprisoned Nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Listen to Mumia's commentary at Prison Radio. [🔊](#)

Chuck Africa (with Alia Africa) after his release from prison Feb. 7.

PHOTO: MIKE AFRICA JR.



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“When Unist’ot’en needs support, Block the trains and block the ports!”

The sight of Mounties (RCMP) invading Wet'suwet'en lands and of the peaceful defenders being arrested inflamed people across Canada and in other countries, as well. Many Indigenous people were already outraged by the December 2019 Guardian revelation that the RCMP had secretly been ready with snipers during previous Wet'suwet'en raids in January of 2019, with RCMP officers calling for “lethal overwatch” to protect the Coastal Gaslink project.

Calls to #ShutDownCanada rose up, and people around Canada engaged in fast and furious actions to intervene economically and politically so that Canada would take notice. Supporters of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs blocked roads and bridges in cities across Canada. Access to the busy Port of Vancouver was blocked for days before dozens were arrested. In Halifax, on the other side of the continent, part of the port was blocked for some hours. The Tyendinaga Mohawks in Ontario and other defenders elsewhere have blocked train tracks to shut

down service on the CN Rail and Via Rail. “When justice fails, Block the rails!” From coast to coast, marchers round dance at public places, march, and demand that Canada back down from Wet'suwet'en and from its destructive defense of oil and gas extraction.

Youth-led occupations of the offices of federal cabinet ministers and members of Parliament have occurred across the country. Indigenous youth locked themselves down to the main entrance to the British Columbia Legislature, where hundreds more people later joined and



blocked the doors on the opening day of the legislative session.

Reconciliation Is dead

When the RCMP arrived at the gate to Unist'ot'en, the matriarchs were in ceremony and cremated a Canadian flag marked with the words “Reconciliation is dead.” Matriarch Freda Huson threw the paper with the court injunction against the Wet'suwet'en into the fire, shouting “This is all it's worth, the paper it's written on.”

The RCMP has a lengthy and bloody history as an occupying army whose role for generations has been removing Indigenous people from their lands, suppressing Indigenous resistance, breaking strikes and more.

While Trudeau and other politicians have sometimes paid lip service to Indigenous sovereignty and the concept of reconciliation, it has become painfully clear that they are not interested in building better relationships with Indigenous nations and have not kept their promises to improve conditions for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people.

Indigenous children continue to be condemned disproportionately to foster care and experience suicide crises in all too many communities. Indigenous people are disproportionately imprisoned, impoverished and underhoused. Many reserves continue to lack basics such as clean drinking water. Indigenous women, girls and 2-spirit people continue to go missing and murdered. Colonialism and genocide have never ended.

Indigenous sovereignty is not respected, and the government and energy extraction corporations collaborate in trying to force Indigenous consent or ignoring Indigenous refusal of projects that impact them. Oil and gas companies and the government use economic and legal pressure and intimidation to force consent whenever possible. If they can't manufacture consent, such as with the Wet'suwet'en, they roll ahead with their plans anyway.

It has become increasingly clear that the British Columbia government and the RCMP do the bidding of energy corporations such as Coastal Gaslink, and that Prime Minister Trudeau is hand-in-glove with energy extraction and mining corporations that sustain the current form of the Canadian economy.

Please donate to the legal fund:
<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/Unistoten2020LegalFund>



RCMP cops cross the bridge leading to Unist'ot'en Camp on Feb. 10. The red dresses are part of the campaign to remember missing and murdered Indigenous women.

PHOTO: UNIST'OT'EN CAMP

The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

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viding justice for women, oppressed genders and the LGBTQ2S communities or saving the planet.

Capitalism as a system is in crisis and because of this it has become harder and harder for it to provide for the needs of the mass of people. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the threat of planetary collapse.

What the capitalists are driven to is imperialist war in all its many forms, whether by direct intervention or through sanctions. Democrats and Republicans are united in the imperialist attacks on Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Palestine, Korea, Zimbabwe, China and other countries.

The importance of the movement

Will Sanders take this to the logical conclusion, that is, to openly break with the Democratic Party? While unlikely from his own admissions, it remains an important question. What his supporters do is even more critical.

It is the movement that we are most interested in, and the potential for a larger struggle to push the working class in an independent direction in its own name.

Many of us at Struggle-La Lucha were extremely active in organizing and promoting the “Million Worker March” (October 17, 2004), which was founded and led by Black trade unionists who called the national march in large part with the goal of developing an independent workers’ movement that would break from the chains of the Democratic Party.

Shouldn’t revolutionary socialists and communists be in the Sanders movement — especially if it takes a critical turn — so that we can agitate, educate and explain what the next step could be?

Referendum between capitalism and socialism

Both in the time leading up to the Democratic Convention — and also, if for some unforeseen reason Sanders wins the nomination — what, de facto, will take place is a referendum between capitalism and socialism.

It doesn’t so much matter whether Bernie Sanders is or is not a real socialist or a “New Deal Democrat” — socialism is how the issue is being defined by the bourgeois establishment of both parties. Trump is already defining this, as are many in the Democratic Party establishment.

Appeal to revolutionaries disgusted by the bourgeois elections

The U.S. electoral system is wholly undemocratic. Just look at who can and cannot vote and how many times elections have been rigged, stolen, subverted or bought off in the interests of the ruling class. A good contrast could be made between the Cuban electoral system and that of the U.S. in an argument about which is more democratic.

In addition, the electoral system as it’s constituted in the U.S. does not cover the police and military, who are not elected, but their actions can be a matter of life and death. Also unelected are our bosses, who exercise day-to-day power. You get the picture.

Nevertheless, it was the architect of the Bolshevik revolution, V.I. Lenin, who argued for revolutionaries to participate in parliamentary politics, not as an end but as a means.

Elections are a barometer of the struggle, but more importantly in this instance, they are also where that struggle of a large layer of the working class is taking place.

Why is this so? Many of us have a history inside the workers’ and union movement.

Any experienced worker or union representative will tell you that most workers do not want to go on strike. Why would they? It means going without a paycheck, taking the risk that you’ll lose your job completely and facing major hardships that could impact not only yourselves but your young children.

A strike, a sit-down action, a workplace takeover only materializes around the actual fight — after easier routes are exhausted. Maybe not in stages, but usually not as the first choice.

And it takes painstaking preparation and work by organizers who consistently do the work of distilling lessons and of raising consciousness, as we popularly used to call it.

It should not be surprising then, that the many workers and those in the community, both young and old, would want to go with what they are most accustomed to and what seems easiest, and that is to vote for change at the ballot box.

It is only necessity that drives class struggle forward.

Critical support

Finally, no one is proposing that revolutionaries join the Democratic Party, drop our call for

revolutionary socialism or blunt our criticism of Bernie Sanders.

Quite the contrary. He is not an anti-imperialist; you cannot even claim that he is thoroughly anti-capitalist. On these issues and perhaps others, we will find ways of making clear and effective critiques.

Perhaps the most important criticism of his campaign on the domestic front has been his failure to embrace the call for reparations for the descendants of those enslaved. We can explain why supporting reparations and opposing white supremacy will strengthen the working-class movement and why it is a necessary bridge to building solidarity.

But none of this criticism will be effective or meaningful from the sidelines of the flesh and blood struggle.

We need to be with the working class, who will learn by trial and error, through experience, that we can only win our liberation by being in the streets, by conducting sit-ins and sit-downs, by strikes and ultimately organizing working-class power on a global scale. As Frederick Douglass said, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

We should remind ourselves that the Russian revolution of 1917 based itself on the call for “peace, bread and land.”

Vice President Mike Pence’s words at a campaign rally in Atlanta, on August 11, 2019, shouldn’t be lost on anyone. He said, “The moment America becomes a socialist country is the moment America ceases to be America.”

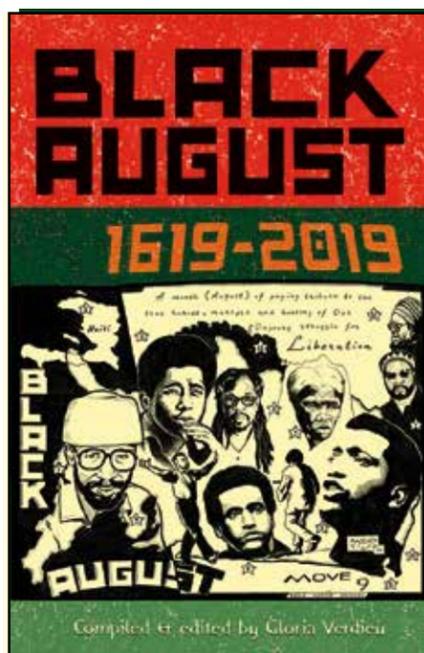
For the capitalist class, it doesn’t really matter what kind of socialism is under consideration (at least at this moment), whether it’s a revolutionary version, or simply a reform that they believe will cut into their profit margin. Of course, that would all change if they were confronted with these two choices, reform or revolution. It’s our job, to see that the latter choice is ultimately on the table. [📄](#)

Mistrial in case against Venezuelan embassy protectors

A hung jury in the Trump administration’s case against activists who were arrested protecting Venezuela’s internationally recognized embassy in Washington, D.C., is being heralded as a major win for sovereignty, amid the U.S. government’s floundering coup attempt against the Chavista government in Caracas.

On Feb. 14, a jury of 12 D.C. residents were deadlocked over the issue of the embassy defenders, forcing the judge to declare a mistrial — in a blow to the federal government and to a judicial system that had stacked the odds against them.

Full report <https://tinyurl.com/ugcd3x4>



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The real State of the Union

By Greg Butterfield

Feb. 12 — Let's talk about the State of the Union.

No, not Trump's speech. Don't worry, I'll get to that shortly.

I'm talking about the real deal: the political reality facing poor and working people living in the United States.

In Brooklyn, N.Y., on Feb. 6, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops attempted to grab Gaspar Avendaño-Hernández, a construction worker from Mexico, as he was leaving his home.

They weren't wearing uniforms or badges. They didn't have a warrant. And they attacked Gaspar with a taser.

So Eric Díaz, a son of Gaspar's partner Carmen Cruz, intervened to stop the kidnapping. He was unarmed.

And one of Donald Trump's ICE goons shot Díaz in the face.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio likes to portray himself as a progressive. He says New York is a sanctuary city and that he's standing up to Trump. That was the basis for the mayor's short-lived presidential bid last year.

But what happened when the New York Police Department showed up at the scene of the crime? Did they arrest the ICE agent who shot Eric Díaz? Did they free Gaspar and send the ICE gangsters packing?

Of course not. Instead, they helped ICE make a clean getaway.

The NYPD militarized Maimonides Hospital, where Díaz was taken and where his family gathered. Activists who came to support the family, including health-care union members, clergy and local officials, were kept out. Many stayed outside around the clock anyway.

Police roughed up protesters as ICE dragged Gaspar off to the Hudson County Correctional Center in New Jersey, where he is now awaiting deportation.

This happened just two days after Trump's State of the Union address to Congress on Feb. 4 — a racist, anti-worker rant that demonized migrants and refugees like Gaspar, including thousands of children



PHOTO: 1199SEIU

Hospital workers rally in Brooklyn to demand "ICE out of hospitals" after the shooting of Eric Díaz, Feb. 7.

who've been separated from their families and kept in conditions that constitute torture.

Four days after Trump's campaign rally on Capitol Hill, and two days after Eric Díaz was shot in Brooklyn, 150 masked white supremacists marched through the streets of Washington, D.C.

Apparently D.C. police only oppose people wearing masks when they are Black and Brown and anti-fascists. Because, according to reporters and counterprotesters on the scene, the various Washington police agencies assigned to the march pampered the fascists and gave them first-class protection.

The cops even closed off the lawn in front of the Capitol for the fascist rally. Commenting on this, Zach Roberts of Visu.News said, "I've covered rallies in Washington, D.C., for nearly 20 years now. I've never seen a group allowed to have a private space protected by the police department and no one else was allowed in."

These weren't just any bigots, either. This was Patriot Front, formerly known as Vanguard America — one of the main groups behind the "Unite the Right" invasion of Charlottesville in 2017. The fascist who killed Heather Heyer was one of them.

You may remember that Trump referred to the white supremacists who terrorized Charlottesville at that time as "very fine people."

But not just that. At the State of the Union, Trump awarded bigoted ra-

dio "personality" Rush Limbaugh, a hero of the Charlottesville set who is dying of lung cancer, with the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

Is it any wonder that the racist filth are emboldened to march through the streets of Washington — a city that is still nearly half Black, despite advancing gentrification?



Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Donald Trump applaud Juan Guaidó at the State of the Union, Feb. 4.

Pelosi's rip and Guaidó's ovation

Contrast this kid gloves treatment with the four Embassy Protectors, who were illegally dragged out of the Embassy of Bolivarian Venezuela in May 2019 and today are on trial in Washington, despite having express permission to be in the embassy from the legitimate government of Venezuela.

Which brings us to another feature of the State of the Union.

Everyone saw the clip of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tearing up a copy of Trump's speech. This was supposed to show her (and the Democratic Party leadership's) intransi-

gent "resistance" to Trump. Pelosi did it knowing that the Senate was poised to reject Trump's impeachment the next day.

But something else that Pelosi did that night — and that most other congressional Democrats in attendance did too — spoke much more eloquently about where they really stand.

Pelosi and her Democratic colleagues joined Trump and the Republicans in giving a standing ovation to Juan Guaidó, the self-appointed, U.S.-approved, would-be "president" of Venezuela.

Guaidó was supposed to be installed last year by a U.S.-backed coup that would finally end Wall Street and Big Oil's long nightmare of a Bolivarian Venezuela moving toward socialism.

But the workers and peasants, the women and Indigenous of Venezuela rejected the Empire's scenario. A year after Guaidó's first coup attempt, he is farther than ever from his goal.

But Trump and Pelosi, Republicans and Democrats, are united in their hostility to Venezuela, its combative people and their democratically elected President Nicolás Maduro.

After the State of the Union, Guaidó met for photo-ops with Pelosi and other officials, who reiterated their commitment to bringing his brand of "democracy" — currently on display by the far-right coup regime in Bolivia — to Venezuela. Trump brandished new sanctions against Venezuela's state-owned airline Conviasa.

As the perfectly engineered meme of Pelosi ripping Trump's speech made the rounds of the corporate media, many progressives were asking: Wouldn't it have been better if she and the Democrats had ripped up the \$738 billion war budget that they handed Trump in December?

Of course. But while they may differ on details of how to administer the capitalist state, Republicans and Democrats, Trumps and Pelosis, are all united in the main cause of the bosses they serve: to wage a war for exploitation against the workers and oppressed, both here and abroad. [📌](#)

New York Governor Cuomo's war on the poor

By Stephen Millies

People are protesting New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's vicious campaign against folks who can't pay New York City's \$2.75 subway fare. Over a thousand people gathered at Grand Central Terminal on Jan. 31 and marched across midtown Manhattan. At least 13 were arrested.

The real crime is that New York City transit fares have increased 55 times since 1948. Back then, it cost a nickel to ride, but now the price of a weekly MetroCard is \$33.

It's tragic that Malaysia Goodson fell to her death on Jan. 28, 2019, while protecting her baby. The Black mother died falling down the stairs because the subway station at 53rd Street and 7th Avenue — like three quarters of New York's stations — lacks elevators. That's illegal and a violation of the Americans with-

Disabilities Act.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's law breaking doesn't bother Gov. Cuomo too much. Cuomo's outrage is reserved for people who jump a turnstile or enter the back door of a bus because they can't afford the fare. The greatest crime in capitalist society is to be poor.

Cuomo demanded that the MTA hire 500 more cops to arrest and harass people. This will cost at least \$50 million, enough money to buy 62 electric buses. But the Cuomo-controlled MTA board rubber-stamped the governor's ultimatum.

The Community Service Society rightfully called Cuomo's actions "antiquated broken window policing" that will "not reduce police bias, but rather enable it." Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wrote on Twitter that "ending mass incarceration means challenging a sys-

tem that jails the poor to free the rich. Arresting people who can't afford a \$2.75 fare makes no one safer and destabilizes our community."

Never forget Michael Stewart and Darryl Goodwin

Between October 2017 and June 2019, 90 percent of those arrested for allegedly not paying the fare were Black or Latinx, according to New York Attorney General Letitia James.

"I got tired of hunting Black and Hispanic people because of arrest quotas," said a former police officer, Christopher LaForce.

Adding 500 cops will mean even more racism.

Instead of "fare-beating," 37 years ago the capitalist media were screaming about graffiti. One result was that the 25-year-old Black artist Michael Stewart was beaten and

choked to death by 11 transit cops in September 1983.

Andy Cuomo's father, Mario Cuomo, was New York governor at the time. Mario built more prisons than all the other New York governors put together did. To do so, the elder Cuomo stole billions from the state's Urban Development Corporation that was supposed to have built affordable housing.

Latinx women selling snacks are victimized by police. The Ecuadorian immigrant Elsa Morochoduchi was arrested on Nov. 8, 2019, inside the Broadway Junction station for selling churros.

Vendors like Morochoduchi stand on their feet for long hours so that they can pay their high rent. Gov. Cuomo doesn't have to worry about that.

Along with his \$225,000 salary,

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China mobilizes to combat coronavirus

By Scott Scheffer

Feb. 3 — A newly discovered coronavirus in China has infected nearly 13,000 people over a period of weeks, and as of this writing there have been more than 250 fatalities. The disease was discovered in Wuhan, the largest city in Hubei Province.

Similar to the SARS virus outbreak that hit China in 2003-2004, it is believed to have originated in bats, traveled to an intermediate animal—as yet unknown—and then transmitted to humans. There are a handful of reported cases of human to human transmission outside of China. The virus presents symptoms similar to influenza, and can lead to pneumonia, which has generally been the cause of death.

The outbreak happened during the Spring Festival, when millions of people are traveling in celebration of the Lunar New Year. This contributed to its rapid transmission.

Outside of China, it was fear that spread in epidemic proportions and has been promoted by the Western capitalist press. There have been instances of anti-Asian racism; a U.S. stock market dive has been blamed on the effects of the coronavirus outbreak; major airlines have cancelled flights in and out of China; travelers returning from or near Wuhan have been quarantined; and many businesses from outside of China have closed their operations there.

The symptoms of the viral infection are relatively mild compared to the SARS virus and other outbreaks. The fatality rate, between 2 percent and 2.5 percent, is relatively low. For perspective and comparison, many experts cite the death toll of 650,000 from this year's flu season, which is not yet over. That toll is not out of the ordinary for annual flu outbreaks.

Nearly all of the coronavirus fatalities have been of people whose health was compromised by advanced age or pre-existing health conditions. This, however, doesn't mean that the outbreak is not a crisis. Chinese officials, medical professionals and scientists have de-



PHOTO: XINHUA

Medical workers in Zhengzhou form an "assault brigade" to combat coronavirus before setting off for Wuhan on Feb. 2. They will join tens of thousands of health care workers from across China going to hard-hit areas.

clared war on the virus. Health care workers from across China have mobilized to go to Wuhan and other hard-hit areas.

China's extraordinary measures

Travel to and from all of the cities in the province of Hubei, where Wuhan is located, is shut down. More than 50 million residents are effectively on lock down. Travel inside the cities is discouraged and people are asked to stay at home.

According to the journal Nature, there are concerns that the virus could become endemic, meaning that it circulates continuously, as does influenza or chicken pox. It is still unknown whether or not infected but asymptomatic people can spread the virus, which would compound the risk that the virus represents.

And so, regardless of how mild the symptoms are, and the fact that nearly all people recover, the Chinese authorities have taken extraordinary steps. First and foremost, the objective is to contain the coronavirus and minimize loss of life, and then to research the makeup of the virus.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak to be a global emergency on Jan. 31, Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters: "This declaration is not a vote of no confidence in China. On the contrary, WHO

continues to have confidence in China's capacity to control the outbreak. ... Our greatest concern is the potential for this virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems."

An Associated Press article also acknowledged the remarkable efforts by China: "Chinese authorities are striving to keep 50 million people in cities at the center of the outbreak both isolated and fed in the biggest anti-disease effort ever attempted. Few governments could attempt such drastic restrictions on a population bigger than South Korea's or Australia's."

China opened its first hospital dedicated exclusively to the coronavirus in a city near Wuhan. The building had been completed but was vacant. Incredibly, in 48 hours, a team of 500 people, many of them volunteers, worked around the clock loading medical equipment, installing electricity, communications equipment and the internet, and readied the hospital for a full medical staff to begin working.

At least three other hospitals are being constructed and will be running by the first week of February, using prefabricated steel boxes similar to shipping containers that can be stacked. The boxes are pre-wired and can be converted into operational hospitals almost immediately.



The Global Times reported Feb. 2, "With more than 1,000 beds, the Huoshenshan Hospital finished its nonstop construction on Sunday. The hospital is managed by the People's Liberation Army. It will receive patients starting Monday."

Workers in a factory that produces facemasks have also stepped up to help alleviate a shortage of medical masks that people wear all over China to protect themselves and others from infection. They, too, are working around the clock and their wages have been quadrupled.

'Massive collaborative effort'

In a remarkable breakthrough, just ten days after the virus was identified, Chinese scientists figured out the DNA sequence and sent it electronically to health agencies all over the world so that study could be global.

In the Science section of the Washington Post, reporter Carolyn Johnson wrote: "That precious bit of data, freely available to any researcher who wanted to study it, unleashed a massive collaborative effort to understand the mysterious new pathogen."

Postdoctoral fellow at Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Michael Letko, said, "The speed and openness of the scientific response to the coronavirus has been unprecedented. ... This is one of the first times we're getting to see an outbreak of a

new virus and have the scientific community sharing their data almost in real time."

It is the socialist foundation of China's economic and social system, the legacy of the 1949 revolution, that made these accomplishments possible.

Speaking at a Communist Party leadership meeting, President Xi Jinping said that his country was "faced with the grave situation of an accelerating spread of the new coronavirus," but that the country would "definitely be able to win the battle," according to state media.

"Life is of paramount importance," Xi said. [R](#)

Over a thousand protesters marched across town from Grand Central Terminal on Jan. 3

Andy gets to live in a rent-free executive mansion set on 10 acres of land. To travel around the state, he got a brand new \$12.5 million helicopter in 2017.

Police also target transit workers. Station agent Darryl Goodwin was arrested on May 16, 2017, at the Columbus Circle station for supposedly unlocking a subway gate too slowly for police. The 27-year-long member of Transit Workers Union Local 100 was eligible to retire the following year.

Because of the stress caused by his illegal arrest and the need to work overtime to make up for being suspended for 60 days, Darryl Goodwin didn't make it. The Black worker died three months later on Aug. 15, 2017.

Cuomo was even going to send armed state police last year to take attendance and check the overtime of Long Island Railroad workers.

That smells of fascism.

Tax-free interest and stolen wages

A trillion dollars of Manhattan real estate would be worthless without a rapid transit system. It's union workers on subways, buses and commuter railroads, as well as in repair shops and offices, that move millions of people everyday.

To the billionaire class, the function of the Mass Transit Authority is to pay interest on its \$44 billion debt.

In 2018, capitalist bankers and other capitalist bondholders lapped up over \$2.5 billion in tax-free interest like pigs at the MTA feeding trough.

Next year, this massive robbery will gobble up 19 cents of every dollar in fares. But we're supposed to get upset over some poor person who couldn't pay \$2.75?

The capital of capitalism actually



has fewer miles of rapid transit than it did in 1940. That's largely because elevated lines, like on Third Avenue, were torn down but not replaced by subways, though they should have been. Twenty-one cities in the socialist People's Republic of China have opened subway systems just since 2009. It can be done.

Meanwhile, Gov. Cuomo celebrated New Year's Day by vetoing legisla-

tion that would help workers recover their stolen wages. Bosses in New York State steal more than \$1 billion in wages from workers annually, according to a U.S. Department of Labor study.

The Securing Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) act would have closed loopholes by putting liens on sweatshop owners who cheat workers out of their pay. [R](#)

Palestinians: Trump-Netanyahu plan intends to cement apartheid

By Bill Dores
New York

A Palestinian flag as long as a city block was carried outside New York's City Hall on Jan. 31 as hundreds rallied to protest "the deal of the century" that Trump and Netanyahu seek to impose on the dispossessed Palestinian people.

Among the protesters was a large contingent of religious anti-Zionist Jews from Neturei Karta International — Jews United Against Zionism. A bus brought members of New Jersey's large Palestinian community to the protest. Organizers included American Muslims for Palestine, Al-Awda NY, The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, the New York for Palestine Coalition, the Palestinian American Community Center NJ, the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, Students for Justice in Palestine at John Jay College and Within Our Lifetime — United for Palestine.

A statement read, "The 'Deal of the Century,' crafted by U.S. and Is-

raeli officials to the exclusion of Palestinians, was met with protests across the world, organizers said in a statement. The Trump-Netanyahu plan intends to institutionalize illegal settlements, expand Israeli land theft, entrench military occupation and cement the segregation of Palestinians from each other by the Apartheid Wall, declared illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004."

Sayel Kayed of American Muslims for Palestine-New Jersey chapter, said, "Palestinians have suffered under Israeli apartheid, colonization and violence for over 72 years and this so-called deal is an attempt to normalize Israeli violence and erasure of Palestinians."

Ahmad Khatib from the Palestinian American Community Center added, "The steal of the century is another Nakba, all prior similar plans and impositions of the past seventy years have excluded Palestinian refugees, who are the majority of the Palestinian population."

Human rights attorney Lamis J.

Deek noted that "this is not a deal. It is an admission of criminal intent. It is an admission of intent to commit grave breaches of international law by expanding apartheid, population transfer, military occupation and military violence against an already subjugated Palestinian people. This so-called deal not only threatens Palestinian lives but threatens the international mechanisms designed to protect the world from returning to an era of barbarism and racialized subjugation. For the sake of global morality and safety, this declaration should be condemned by all people and governments and should be treated as evidence by the ICC in any future prosecution or investigation of Israel."

"I think the only good thing that has come from the Trump-Netanyahu plan is that it has united and galvanized Palestinians in Palestine, in the refugee camps and across the world to work even harder to pursue



PHOTO: AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE

their right to return to their homes in freedom and justice. We know now that our work for justice is more difficult, but we are ready, and we have a lot of support here in New York and across the world," said Nerdeen Kiswani, of Within Our Lifetime — United for Palestine.

Supporters of Struggle-La Lucha took part and spoke at the rally.

On the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz

By Lev Koufax

Over the past two weeks, the global working-class community has observed several anniversaries dating back to World War II. These anniversaries have included the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in the 1943 Battle of Stalingrad, the lifting of the 1944 siege of Leningrad and the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The anniversary of the Stalingrad victory is Feb. 5. The end of the siege of Leningrad and the liberation of Auschwitz share an anniversary, Jan. 27. They occurred a year apart, to the day. Jan. 27, 2020, was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The Auschwitz Concentration Camp is the most notorious of Nazi concentration camps. This is due to the extremely high death count and the experiments of the "Angel of Death"—Josef Mengele—on innocent people. Over a million people died within the walls of Auschwitz, the vast majority of whom were Jewish or Roma. Of the million who perished, 850,000 were Jews who were killed in gas chambers upon arrival. The tragedy of the Holocaust left a deep scar in the Jewish community, which is still healing today.

When the multinational Soviet Red Army marched into Auschwitz as liberators on Jan. 27, 1945, they found a horrific scene. Days earlier, 58,000 prisoners at Auschwitz were forced by the Nazis on a march of over 100 kilometers in freezing temperatures. As the Nazis retreated, they had left behind approximately 7,000 prisoners. All of these prisoners were starving and ill.

The Soviet troops that liberated

Auschwitz were commanded by Lt. Col. Anatoly Shapiro, a Jewish officer in the Red Army. Another Jewish Soviet officer, Georgii Elisavetskii, was one of the first soldiers inside the camp. His experience was recounted in the 2015 book "Liberation of Camps" by Dan Stone:

"When I entered the barrack, I saw living skeletons lying on three-tiered bunks. As in fog, I hear my soldiers saying: 'You are free, comrades!' I sense that they do not understand and begin speaking in Russian, Polish, German, Ukrainian dialects; unbuttoning my leather jacket, I show them my medals. ... Then I use Yiddish. Their reaction is unpredictable. They think that I am provoking them. They begin to hide. And only when I said to them: 'Do not be afraid, I am a colonel of the Soviet Army and a Jew. We have come to liberate you.' Finally, as if the barrier collapsed, they rushed towards us shouting, fell on their knees, kissed the flaps of our overcoats, and threw their arms around legs. And we did not move, stood motionless while unexpected tears ran down our cheeks."

This passage reflects the conflicted reality of the liberation. The military defeat of the Nazis was a great victory for all workers and oppressed people across the globe. The liberation of Auschwitz was a moment of relief and joy for those who had been kept



Soviet Red Army soldiers chatting with children just liberated from the Auschwitz concentration camp.

there. However, the situation was as equally horrific as it was victorious.

Leading up to the liberation were two Soviet victories over Nazi forces: at Stalingrad and at Leningrad. Anniversaries of both these battles were also recently observed. These victories came at immense cost to the Soviet people. The Battle of Stalingrad lasted over 5 months and came at the cost of one million Soviet lives, soldier and civilian. Throughout the battle, the people of Stalingrad suffered disease, hunger and frigid weather. But their sacrifice led to the destruction of the German Sixth Army, which surrendered on Feb. 2, 1943. It was the biggest defeat the Nazis had yet suffered and was the turning point in the war.

On Jan. 27, 1944, Soviet forces finally broke the lines of the Nazi army at Leningrad. Nazi forces had besieged the city for almost two and a half years. Over 800,000 civilians died in the siege, mostly of hunger and disease. That was as many as the combined casualties of the U.S. and Britain in the entire war. Eventually,

these victories would allow the Soviet army to launch the Vistula-Oder offensive, which resulted in the liberation of Auschwitz.

The evils of fascism should never be forgotten. And we must reject the capitalist line that the United States and Britain defeated Hitler. Nazi fascism only rose in the first place as an outgrowth of capitalist crisis in the wake of World War I. Many in the U.S. capitalist class supported the Nazis, who drew inspiration from

the murderous racism and "white supremacy" which was still the law of the land in the United States. The socialist Soviet Union, aided by Communist-led Partisan movements across Europe, played the decisive role in their defeat.

The blood was not dry on Europe's battlefields — its ruined cities still smoldered — when the U.S. and Britain allied with former Nazis to launch a "Cold War" against the USSR and the new socialist countries of East Europe and East Asia. This was also a war against the liberation struggles of oppressed people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today, despite its "Cold War victory," the global capitalist system is in contraction. The specter of fascism again raises its ugly head. The danger of a new world war looms on the horizon. Working-class and oppressed peoples around the world must draw inspiration and lessons from our struggles in the past.

The writer is a Jew who had ancestors perish in the Holocaust.

Interview with Julia ‘Pachamama’ Fernández and Gualberto Arispe Maita

‘It is clear that this is U.S. neoliberal interference in Bolivia’

Struggle-La Lucha’s Scott Scheffer spoke with Los Angeles Native/Quechua/Chicana activist Julia “Pachamama” Fernández, and with Gualberto Arispe Maita, a MAS (Movimiento al Socialismo) representative and MAS deputy candidate in Chapare and the president of MAS Youth. Julia interpreted our questions to Gualberto by phone and relayed his responses to us.

Struggle-La Lucha: Evo Morales expelled the United States Agency for International Development from Bolivia in 2013. Now, the Trump administration has sent its agents back into Bolivia in January to “assist” the coup regime. What role is the U.S. and USAID playing in the May 3 elections?

Gualberto Arispe Maita: The presence of the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] /USAID was to make us fight between Bolivians, dividing the social sectors in our politics. That is why President Evo [Morales] made the decision to expel them and now, after the coup, they will return to our country. It is clear that this is U.S. neoliberal interference. Those institutions have not given good results nor have they helped the Bolivian people; on the contrary, they have always left us massive problems, causing destabilization. The OAS [Organization of American States] and other accredited institutions like them will oversee the elections on May 3, but they do not have the confidence of the Bolivians because they were the ones that supported the consummation of the coup in our country. We are asking other organizations to come to see the elections to make the results transparent.

SLL: What has been the impact on the Indigenous and working-class population of the expulsion of Cuban health care workers?

Gualberto: On the issue of our Cuban medical brothers/sisters, it is unfortunate because thanks to them many Bolivians recovered their eye-



Julia “Pachamama” Fernández

sight. On the issue of literacy, they have also helped us a lot, but the so-called transitional government, which clearly is a U.S. backed coup, expelled them and their accredited embassy in Bolivia. We want the social sectors to repudiate those dictatorial acts. ... Our effort is to recover democracy for our people, which we are currently lacking.

Julia “Pachamama” Fernández: I was just told by a woman in Bolivia who does not want to have her name publicized that the Juana Azurduy program has been suspended by the de facto government today. And, it’s a stipend program that’s designed to provide health and nutrition benefits, basically for pregnant mothers and young children in underserved sectors of the population — so that’s been suspended.

And it’s clear that most of the most vulnerable communities which predominantly comprise our Indigenous peoples in the rural areas are the ones obviously being most affected. And that, along with the expulsion of our Cuban medical doctors, has basically created panic within the sectors.



David Choquehuanca Céspedes, Gualberto Arispe Maita and Luis Arce Catacora in La Paz, Bolivia, Feb. 9.

And so we have elders, we have children, pregnant women and men, which includes those protectors of democracy who were assaulted and shot during those peaceful marches in Sincata and Sacaba, who still have not received medical attention, so they are the most vulnerable. For me that spells out G-E-N-O-C-I-D-E. For me that’s what’s happening.

SLL: The illegitimate government of [Jeanine] Áñez wants to bar Evo Morales from running for senator, saying he hasn’t been a resident of Bolivia, even though it was their coup, backed by the U.S., that forced him at gunpoint to leave. They’ve also implied that they may try the same tactic to stop the MAS presidential candidate [Luis] Arce and vice presidential candidate [David] Choquehuanca from running. Of course, there is also continuing repression, harassment and on-going arrests of MAS supporters. Yet, the movement seems so strong and determined. What is the MAS view on possibilities of the upcoming elections and how to move the struggle forward?

Julia: It’s going to get heavier in the months to come. But I just don’t want to think the worst. I’m hopeful because my people are very strong. We’ve been through so many different wars and we’ve gone through the gas war and the water wars, and we’ve won.

Basically, the Indigenous movement is being forced to rebuild amid all the chaos happening in Bolivia. Right now, there’s like a series of intimidations, of persecution and unlawful detention of innocent MAS supporters, false accusations against grassroots journalists and against MAS political leaders — even, you know, false allegations against the presidential candidate Luis Arce Catacora. The focus — in spite of what they’re facing — is to really stay together against all odds. And the Bolivian Indigenous peoples have fought and won the gas and water wars in the past. The May elections may not be fair, but international volunteers will arrive to be witnesses of the upcoming historical events happening in Bolivia. And as for the Bolivian people, their courage and their strength will pull them through. [📍](#)

PFLP mourns internationalist fighter for Palestine, Richard Reilly

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine mourns the internationalist comrade, Richard Reilly, one of the most consistent, committed defenders of the Palestinian cause.

In the name of our General Secretary, Comrade Ahmad Sa’adat, and all the comrades of the Front inside Palestine and in exile, to the Palestinian people, the international movement in solidarity with our cause, and all of the strugglers for justice in the world, the PFLP mourns the Irish American comrade and freedom fighter Richard Reilly, who passed away today in Chicago after a long struggle with illness.

He spent his life as a fighter and an advocate for the Palestinian cause and for the just causes of oppressed



Richard Reilly with his fist in the air.

peoples and liberation movements inside the U.S. and around the world. On this occasion, the Front sends its deepest condolences to his companion, Christine Geovanis and all of the comrades, family and friends of this dedicated fighter for Palestine in the United States and Ireland.

We know that Palestine has lost

one of the most deeply committed voices that has always stood with the Palestinian people in the most difficult of stages, a comrade who always struggled on the front lines, a fighter for oppressed communities and Black and Indigenous liberation movements.

He always believed deeply in the inevitability of the victory of the Palestinian people and the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

During the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he was involved in launching widespread media, political and popular campaigns to defend Beirut within the United States. In 1988, during the first Intifada, he led a solidarity delegation that joined a march in Ramallah organized by Palestinian women’s organizations

on the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. After that protest, the Zionist occupation forces deported him from Palestine and prevented him from returning ever since. Palestine, however, and the Palestinian people, remained in his heart, mind and actions, as he consistently mobilized against imperialism, Zionism and racism, fighting for a liberated society always.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine pledges that we will not forget this great comrade. We will remain true to his path of struggle and continue to adhere to the principles for which he fought and dedicated his life, until victory over imperialism and Zionism.

Rest in power, comrade Richard. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine February 11, 2020

El movimiento por Bernie Sanders: ¿De qué lado estás?

Por qué socialistas revolucionarios convocan a un apoyo crítico

Por Sharon Black
8 de febrero de 2020

No tenemos ninguna expectativa hacia el partido Demócrata. Es un partido guerrillista de multimillonarios y banqueros. Cualquier noción de que el Partido Demócrata represente a la clase trabajadora es una farsa. En su esencia, sigue siendo una institución neoliberal empeñada en preservar el dominio capitalista.

Guerras imperialistas destructivas han sido libradas bajo las administraciones del Partido Demócrata; los derechos de los trabajadores y beneficios para los pobres han sido despojados por cada administración, independientemente del partido. Lo que sí es constante, independientemente de qué partido gane, es el sistema de capitalismo e imperialismo que es el origen de tanta miseria humana.

Entonces, ¿por qué convocamos a un apoyo crítico al movimiento Sanders?

Bernie Sanders como candidato no es la cuestión crucial. Lo que sí es crítico es la lucha que su campaña ha despertado contra el sistema del Partido Demócrata. Una lucha que ha causado miedo en la clase dominante.

Esta campaña es un movimiento de la clase trabajadora, principalmente de jóvenes y cada vez más de los oprimidos, que desconfían profundamente del sistema de ambos partidos. Es un movimiento alimentado por la creciente ira contra el gobierno de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres que ha dejado a tantos trabajadores empobrecidos.

El hecho de que la clase dominante esté tan preocupada y tan frenética por parar este movimiento, indica claramente su propio temor de que el movimiento, galvanizado en torno al cuidado médico, la educación gratuita, la contención de la crisis climática, etc., bien podría perder el control. Lo que significa que podría abandonar la apretada camisa de fuerza del Partido Demócrata.

Los ataques cada vez más virulentos contra Bernie Sanders han ido ganando fuerza desde que se hizo evidente que la campaña de Sanders podría ganar las primarias. Por supuesto, habrá millones de trucos desde ahora hasta la Convención Demócrata en julio, y hay una gran probabilidad que haya robo de las elecciones.

La debacle del Caucus de Iowa fue un recordatorio repugnante de que las fuerzas detrás de la cortina mueven los hilos. Que hicieran tanto para destruir el Caucus de Iowa en un intento por frenar la campaña de Sanders, demuestra su verdadero desprecio por su susodicha democracia.

Multimillonarios rechazan hasta pequeñas reformas — su respuesta es la guerra imperialista

La clase de multimillonarios y banqueros no está inclinada en este punto para dar mucho en forma de concesiones, ya sea para proporcionar servicios de salud, educación, frenar a los propietarios depredadores o aumentar el salario mínimo — ni mucho menos detener el terror policial y el sistema supremacista blanco que lo impulsa, cerrar los centros de detención de inmigrantes, respetar los derechos de indígenas, dar justicia a la mujer, a los géneros oprimidos y la comunidad LGBTQ2S o salvar el planeta.

El capitalismo como sistema está en crisis y por esto se le hace más y más difícil satisfacer las necesidades de las masas. No solo se ha ampliado la brecha entre ricos y pobres, sino que la próxima generación enfrenta la amenaza de un colapso planetario.

Lo que mueve a los capitalistas es la guerra imperialista en todas sus formas, ya sea por intervención directa o por sanciones. Los demócratas y

los republicanos están unidos en los ataques imperialistas contra Venezuela, Cuba, Irán, Palestina, Corea, Zimbabue, China y otros países.

La importancia del movimiento

¿Llevaría Sanders esto a la conclusión lógica, o sea, abiertamente romper con el Partido Demócrata? Si bien es poco probable según sus propias palabras, sigue siendo una pregunta importante. Sin embargo, lo que hacen sus seguidores es aún más crítico.

Es el movimiento lo que nos interesa, y el potencial de una lucha más grande para empujar a la clase trabajadora hacia una dirección independiente en su propio nombre.

Muchos de nosotros en Struggle-La Lucha estuvimos muy activos en la organización y promoción de la “Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores” (17 de octubre de 2004), que fue fundada y dirigida por sindicalistas negros que convocaron a la marcha nacional en gran parte con el objetivo de desarrollar un movimiento independiente de trabajadores que se liberara de las cadenas del Partido Demócrata.

¿No deberíamos los socialistas y comunistas revolucionarios estar en el movimiento Sanders, especialmente si toma un giro crítico, para que podamos agitar, educar y explicar cuál podría ser el próximo paso?

Referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo

Tanto antes de la convención demócrata — pero también, si por alguna razón imprevista Sanders gana la nominación — lo que de hecho tendrá lugar es un referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo.

No importa tanto si Bernie Sanders es o no un verdadero socialista o un “demócrata del ‘New Deal’”: el socialismo es cómo el establecimiento burgués de ambos partidos define el tema. Trump ya está definiendo esto, al igual que muchos en el sistema del Partido Demócrata.

Llamado a revolucionarios disgustados con las elecciones burguesas

El sistema electoral de los EUA es totalmente antidemocrático. Solo fijémonos en quien puede y no puede votar y cuantas veces las elecciones han sido manipuladas, robadas, subvertidas o compradas en interés de la clase dominante. Se podría hacer un buen contraste entre el sistema electoral cubano y el estadounidense en una discusión sobre cuál es más democrático.

Adicionalmente, el sistema electoral como está constituido en los EUA no cubre a la policía ni al ejército que no son elegidos, pero sus actos pueden ser una cuestión de vida o muerte. Tampoco son elegidos nuestros patronos, que ejercen el poder diario en nuestras vidas.

Sin embargo, fue el arquitecto de la revolución Bolchevique, V.I. Lenin, quien abogó por que los revolucionarios participaran en la política parlamentaria, no como un fin sino como un medio.

Las elecciones son un barómetro de la lucha, pero aún más importante en este caso, son donde se está llevando a cabo la lucha de un gran sector de la clase trabajadora.

¿Por qué es así? Muchos de nosotros tenemos un historial dentro del movimiento sindical y obrero.

Cualquier trabajador con experiencia o representante sindical dirá que la mayoría de los trabajadores no quiere irse en huelga. ¿Por qué lo harían? Significa no cobrar su paga, arriesgarse a perder su trabajo y enfrentar grandes dificultades que podrían afectar no solo a él, sino a sus hijos pequeños.

Una huelga, una sentada, una toma del lugar de trabajo solo se materializa en torno a la lucha real, después de que se agotan las rutas más fáciles.



Quizás no en etapas, pero generalmente no como una primera opción.

Y requiere una preparación y un trabajo minucioso por parte de los organizadores que constantemente hacen el trabajo de extraer lecciones y de crear conciencia, como solíamos llamarlo popularmente.

Entonces no nos debe sorprender que muchos de los trabajadores y aquellos en la comunidad, tanto jóvenes y viejos, quieran ir con lo que ya están más acostumbrados y lo que parece más fácil, y eso es votar por el cambio en las elecciones.

Es solo la necesidad lo que impulsa la lucha de clases hacia adelante.

Apoyo Crítico

Finalmente, nadie está proponiendo que los revolucionarios nos unamos al Partido Demócrata, abandonemos nuestro llamado al socialismo revolucionario o suavicemos nuestras críticas a Bernie Sanders. Todo lo contrario. Él no es un antiimperialista; ni siquiera se puede afirmar que es completamente anticapitalista. En estos temas y quizás en otros, encontraremos formas de hacer críticas claras y efectivas.

Quizás la crítica más importante de su campaña en el frente interno ha sido su incapacidad de aceptar el llamado a reparaciones para los descendientes de los esclavizados. Podemos explicar por qué apoyar las reparaciones y oponerse a la supremacía blanca fortalecerá el movimiento de la clase trabajadora y por qué es un puente necesario para construir la solidaridad.

Pero ninguna de estas críticas será efectiva o significativa al margen de la lucha en carne y hueso.

Necesitamos estar con la clase trabajadora, la cual aprenderá intentando y errando a través de la experiencia, que solo podemos ganar nuestra liberación si estamos en las calles, realizando sentadas, mediante huelgas y, en última instancia, organizando el poder de clase a escala global. Como dijo Frederick Douglass, “Si no hay lucha, no hay progreso”.

Debemos recordar que la Revolución Rusa de 1917 se basó en el llamado a la “paz, el pan y la tierra”.

Las palabras del vicepresidente Mike Pence en un mitin de campaña en Atlanta, el 11 de agosto de 2019 no deberían olvidarse. Él dijo: “El momento en que Estados Unidos se convierta en un país socialista es el momento en que Estados Unidos deja de ser Estados Unidos”.

Para la clase capitalista, realmente no importa qué tipo de socialismo se esté considerando (al menos en este momento), ya sea una versión revolucionaria o simplemente una reforma que cree que reducirá su margen de ganancias. Por supuesto, todo eso cambiaría si se enfrentaran a estas dos opciones, reforma o revolución. Es nuestro trabajo ver que la última opción esté finalmente sobre la mesa. 📌

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STRUGGLE ★ **LA LUCHA**
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