



Capitalism's debt to people of African descent demands

REPARATIONS NOW!

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY ★ BLACK CAUCUS STATEMENT

This system thrives on hiding the value that workers create, especially when it comes to the amount of wealth created by African slave labor, essential to capitalism's growth.

If this is allowed to continue, it will play into the hands of those who are dead set against reparations for Black people.

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal made the point about the need for reparations in an essay quoting the great abolitionist Sojourner Truth, who said: "America owed to my people some of the dividends. ... I shall make them understand that there is a debt to the Negro people, which they can never repay. At least, then, they must make amends."

Likewise, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. explained in his book, "Why We Can't Wait": "No amount of gold could provide an adequate compensation for the exploitation and humiliation of the Negro in America down through the centuries. Not all the wealth of this affluent society could meet the bill. Yet a price can be placed on unpaid wages."

As King said, that amount of value created from the labor of African people, brought here and born here under slavery, can be quantified. Its estimates are enormous, in the trillions of dollars; but that enormity pales in comparison to the combined wealth of those who benefited and still benefit from that labor.

History

In 1790, about 1.5 million pounds of cotton was produced in the Southern slave states. With the introduction of the cotton gin, production soared to two billion pounds by 1860. Slavery then drove into the Southwest and everywhere it could in order to expand its plantations and garner unprecedented profits.

Karl Marx, who stated, "Labor in the white skin can never free itself as long as labor in the Black skin is branded," also recognized the role slavery played in the development of Europe's wealth when he wrote: "It is slavery that gave the colonies their value; it is the colonies that have created world trade; and it is world trade that is the precondition of large-scale industry. Thus, slavery is an economic category of the greatest importance."

That tremendous wealth coming from slave labor went to finance the railroad industry owned by the Vanderbilts, to create Standard Oil owned by the Rockefellers, and to create U.S. Steel owned by J.P. Morgan. That money went into making the Rockefellers, Morgans and Mellons financial kings, creating the Manhattan Bank, soon to be Chase Manhattan Bank, and Chemical Bank. Slave owners who got rich in the cotton trade started Lehman Brothers investment bank.

Just as the wealth continues to pass on to the descendants of those who benefited from slavery, so to does the systemic harm pass on to the descendants of those slaves.

The second-largest banking group in the U.S. is



Philadelphia, July 4, 2020.

JPMorgan Chase. In 2019, it made over \$44 billion in operating profits on assets of \$2.69 trillion. In June of this year, a study by Chicago newsrooms City Bureau and WBEZ found JPMorgan Chase to have the most racist lending practices against Black neighborhoods of any bank in that city of one million Black people.

U.S. insurance giants Aetna, New York Life and AIG acquired companies that insured slaves as "property." Today, these same insurance firms are pushing doctors and employers to cut health costs while millions of African Americans are without health insurance and disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Yale and the University of Virginia are among the universities endowed by slave merchants and slave owners. Yet, while the racist "war on drugs" has sent millions of Black youth to prison, Yale continues policies that allow Black students to make up under 6 percent of its student body.

There is a clear line of oppression that haunts us today, inspired by the lynch laws and Jim Crow, that allows police to murder, frame and terrorize Black people consistently, with the help of both Democratic and Republican politicians. They are responsible for establishing and/or continuing the "war on drugs," the privatized prisons and mass incarceration of Black youth — from Reagan to Clinton to Biden to Trump.

President Trump is, in fact, a white supremacist whose fortunes are a result of passed-down wealth from slavery. Alex Brown and Sons, which merged with the German giant Deutsche Bank in 1999, financed the cotton trade. Deutsche Bank is the Trump empire's biggest creditor.

The case for reparations

Although monetary reparations in this country and in Europe have been granted to some victims of systemic racism, they have not included people of African descent. This, in spite of the fact that African people, as chattel slaves worldwide, faced the greatest exploitation, attempted genocide and dehumanization, and whose oppression was in-

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Unemployed Workers Committee says:

STOP EVICTIONS & UTILITY SHUTOFFS

By Sharon Black

The Peoples Power Assembly is launching an **Unemployed Workers Committee to Stop Evictions, Foreclosures and Utility Shutoffs**. Its slogan is, *'Through solidarity we can protect each other against capitalism and injustice.'*

Here is the list of seven things the group plans to do:

- Stop evictions and foreclosures** through mass action, by forming a human shield to physically prevent evictions;
- Advocate for governments and sheriffs' departments to extend no eviction and foreclosure orders** until people are safely back to work and able to pay;
- Hold the big landlords and banks responsible** during this crisis, which includes demanding no rent increases, evictions or foreclosures. Housing fit for human beings;
- Work to ensure unemployment rights and guaranteed income for all jobless workers;**
- Protect unemployed workers, the homeless** and also small landlords who are at the mercy of the big banks, and whose foreclosures will impact their tenants;
- Demand safe working conditions and hazard pay** for all workers to ensure that they do not get sick or spread infection to their families and friends;
- Defend the community from utility shutoffs; heat, water and light are a right!**



Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly organizer Steven Ceci said: "This is a long-term project aimed at uniting workers in the community for our self-defense through solidarity. Our goal is to be able to declare eviction-free and foreclosure-free zones."

The Rev. Annie Chambers, a PPA organizer and housing advocate at Douglas Homes Housing Project, stated: "If we can't work, then how can we pay? We are demanding no evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs until this crisis is over."

Chambers, along with the Ujima People's Progress Party and the Peoples Power Assembly, distribute free food as part of the Food Is A Right Campaign from Monday to Friday at Douglas Homes in East Baltimore.

Ceci added: "Those most impacted are Black, Latinx and poor workers. In fact, it was the 2008 subprime mortgage scandal in combination with deindustrialization and the loss of union jobs that stripped wealth from Black and Latinx families."

The PPA sees the launch of this mutual aid group as a continuation of its protests against racism and police terror. It invites all groups and individuals to join and pledges to unite with all groups that want to stop evictions and defend workers and the poor.

If you would like to join the Unemployed Workers Committee, please sign up here: tinyurl.com/y52y5jnp.

For more information, visit **PeoplesPowerAssembly.org** or call (410) 218-4835. Follow on Facebook @PeoplesPowerAssembly or Twitter @BaltoPPA.

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A. Philip Randolph wanted a \$16.88 minimum wage

By Stephen Millies

The anniversary of the Aug. 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom is approaching. The historic event is best remembered for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

What the capitalist media will almost never mention are the 10 demands of the march.

"A massive federal program" was demanded to train and hire all unemployed workers "on meaningful and dignified jobs at decent wages." With 30 million people currently out of work, this 57-year-old demand is even more needed today.

Another demand was for a "national minimum wage" of at least \$2 per hour.

Two dollars an hour back in 1963 is equal to \$16.88 per hour in July 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) inflation calculator. That's a little bit over \$35,000 per year, if an employee is able to work 40 hours per week for an entire year.

The current federal minimum wage is just \$7.25 per hour, although some state and local minimum wages are higher.

Winning a \$16.88 minimum wage would bring a better life to tens of millions of workers and their families.

The 13.5 million "food preparation and serving" workers earned an average wage of just \$12.82 per hour in 2019. The 209,000 laundry workers were paid an even more miserable \$12.22.

Six-and-a-half million "health care support" workers got just \$14.91 per hour. The 6.2 million "laborers and material movers" made \$14.70. The 4.4 million "building and grounds cleaning and maintenance" and 3.3 million "personal care" workers received \$15.03 per hour, according to the BLS.

From Pullman to Walmart

Fighting hardest for these demands at the 1963 march was A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP). Already 74 years old, Randolph was a key organizer of the march along with Bayard Rustin.

Amtrak has taken advantage of the coronavirus to cut service. Beginning in October, it wants to run its few long-distance trains just three days a week. Even before the pandemic, there were only 13 Amtrak trains with sleeping cars.

There were no jet planes in 1928. Every night, 100,000 people traveled in sleeping cars owned by the Pullman company.

Pullman passengers were overwhelmingly middle and upper class. Fares in a sleeper were much higher than traveling in a coach.

Eighteen thousand workers, virtually all of whom were Black, made the beds and were at the beck and call of passengers. Porters were expected to shine their shoes overnight.

Working more than 90 hours per week, the monthly wage of porters was \$67.50, or just \$810 per year. In the same period, steelworkers, who didn't have a union either, were

A. Philip Randolph (center) with Malcolm X and Anna Arnold Hedgeman at Local 1199 hospital workers' rally, July 1962.

PHOTO: SEIU

making an average \$1,600 annually.

Yet hiring discrimination against African Americans was so intense that being a Pullman porter was a prestigious job within the Black community. Many were college graduates. In one railroad wreck, the body of a porter was identified by his Phi Beta Kappa key from Amherst College.

For decades, the Pullman Company was the largest private employer of Black labor in the United States. With the Great Migration of African Americans to the North, United States Steel overtook Pullman in the number of Black workers it employed.

The steel trust was succeeded by General Motors as the largest employer of African Americans, with Ford and Chrysler close behind. All these workers won union wages and benefits.

It's a big step backwards that the largest employer of Black workers today is Walmart. Its 1.5 million U.S. workers are paid miserably low wages because none of them have a union contract.

Pullman porters were freedom fighters

A. Philip Randolph helped found the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on May 8, 1925. It sought to organize Pullman porters into a union.

The powerful Pullman Company, which also made passenger, freight and subway cars, crushed the BSCP's organizing drive. Many pro-union employees were fired.

Black workers persevered. On Aug. 25, 1937, BSCP members forced Pullman to sign a union contract that included a big wage increase and reduced the work week by 40 percent.

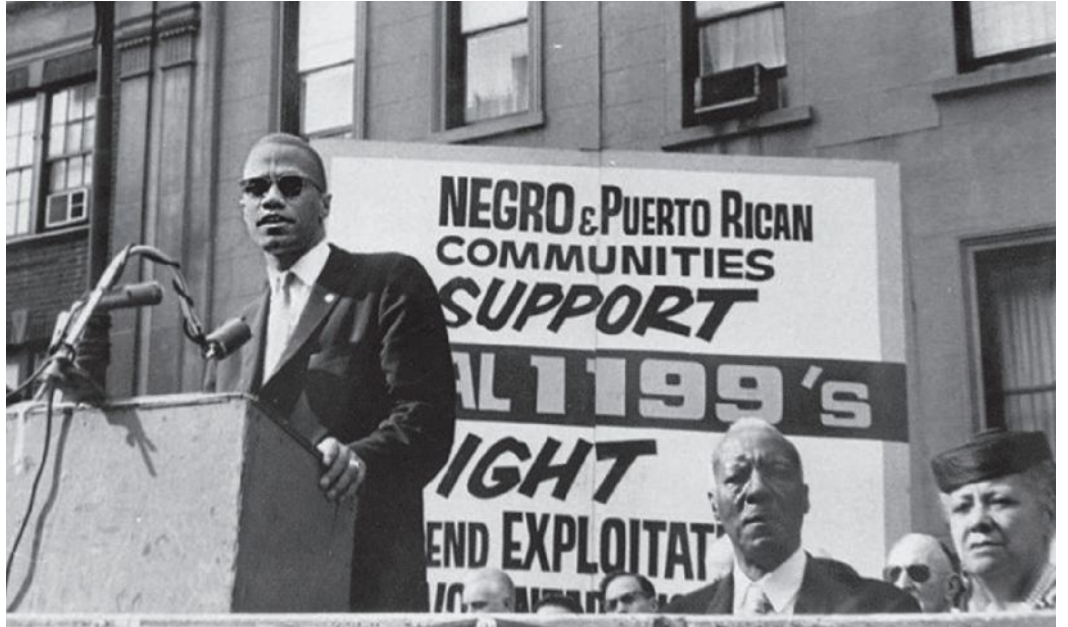
The Black-led BSCP played a vanguard role in the freedom struggle. A. Philip Randolph started the March on Washington movement in 1941 to demand an end to segregation in the armed forces and discrimination in employment.

With tens of thousands rallying in St. Louis, Chicago and New York, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was compelled to sign Executive Order 8802, which established the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

It was BSCP member E.D. Nixon who, while going between Montgomery, Ala., and Chicago three times a week as a Pullman porter, was the main organizer of the Montgomery bus boycott. In his book, "Stride Towards Freedom," Dr. King praised E.D. Nixon, who was a close friend of Rosa Parks.

A. Philip Randolph also fought against racism within the labor movement. AFL-CIO President George Meany didn't like that.

Meany's home union — Plumbers Local 1 in New York City — didn't have a single Black or Latinx apprentice at the time. Meany viciously



attacked Randolph at the labor federation's 1959 convention.

Steelworker Ted Dostal, a founding member of Workers World Party, motivated the Youngstown, Ohio, Labor Council to pass a resolution condemning Meany's racist tirade.

It was a shameful chapter in labor history when George Meany and the AFL-CIO refused to support the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom, although many unions, like the United Auto Workers, did so.

It's just as rotten today to allow police organizations to belong to the AFL-CIO.

We need a \$20 minimum wage

Back in 1963, A. Philip Randolph demanded a minimum wage of at least \$2 per hour. Today, we need a minimum wage of at least \$20 per hour.

Food prices are starting to go through the roof. Landlords are not

reducing rents.

Workers are more productive than ever. But almost all the gains have gone to the rich.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, labor productivity increased by 69.3 percent between 1979 and 2018. Hourly wages have gone up just 11.6 percent.

The result is that the 400 richest scoundrels in the U.S. have as much wealth as the poorest 64 percent of U.S. households. In the capital of capitalism, 114,000 schoolchildren in New York City are homeless.

Demanding a \$20 minimum wage is no more impossible than winning Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid. "In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold" is how the last stanza of labor's anthem "Solidarity Forever" begins.

Let's use that power to win \$20 per hour and to abolish the police! 📌

REPARATIONS NOW!

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stitutionalized, touching every fiber of society to this day.

Reparations had already been granted in the U.S. after the Civil War by order of Gen. William Sherman of the Union Army, with the blessing of President Abraham Lincoln. It was Andrew Johnson who stopped the program of reparations before it was done. So 400,000 acres of land that had been given to 40,000 former slaves, some of whom were veterans of the Union Army, was stolen and given instead to the former Confederate slave owners, those who had waged war against the union.

The fact that Black people in the U.S. must once again fight over this basic issue of compensation that was already promised is yet another indignity continuing the oppression of chattel slavery.

This is why the 10-Point Program of the Black Panther Party, written by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in 1966, stated: "We believe that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass mur-

der of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The Germans are now aiding the Jews in Israel for the genocide of the Jewish people. The Germans murdered six million Jews. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people; therefore, we feel that this is a modest demand that we make."

The unique circumstance of African and African American people in the U.S. after chattel slavery and persisting today is relevant in the discussion about reparations in this country. In terms of the non-Indigenous peoples, unlike any other nationality that came to these shores, we are a people brought to this country with nothing in terms of wealth — not even the ability to sell our labor power as a means to earn wages.

The obvious implication for today's descendants of slaves is that, while other nationalities were able to pass on wealth for over four generations, the wealth that Black people created was legally denied to them and instead given to white slaveholders and the industries they benefited.

The fight to be paid for work per-

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Ruling by Decree: Trump interrupts golf game to issue executive orders

By Gary Wilson

On Aug. 7, President Donald Trump interrupted his game at his golf course in New Jersey to announce four executive orders he says will provide economic relief for struggling workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and depression-level unemployment. So far it's unclear exactly when or how that will happen. It is clear that none of it would provide any kind of relief for more than a few weeks at most.

Trump has been ruling by decree ever since he took office, never even pretending to propose bills to Congress, the mythological way that a president is supposed to act in the U.S. Actually, U.S. presidents have been ruling by decree at least since the end of World War II, when the functional power to declare war was assumed by President Harry Truman to send troops into a war on Korea. Executive orders have almost replaced laws enacted by Congress.

There have been constant wars since the 1950s, but none of them authorized by Congress. Presidents have been ruling by decree. George W. Bush issued 291 executive orders in 8 years, the most of any U.S. president. Bill Clinton issued 254 and Barack Obama issued 276. The previous presidents were not as open about it as Trump has been. Trump has issued 177 executive orders as of August 3 and his term has another 5 months to go.

The U.S. Constitution, however, authorizes only Congress to declare war and only Congress to es-

Donald Trump at his Bedminster, N.J., golf club, Aug. 7. He'd gone on vacation because the stimulus negotiations with Congress had stalled.

establish laws. The president is supposed to "execute" what Congress has passed. They call it the rule of law over the rule of a supreme commander or monarch.

Congress — and, in particular, the House of Representatives — also has the "power of the purse," the ability to tax and spend public money for the national government, not the president. Instead we have rule by decree which appears to now include taxes and spending.

On Trump's executive orders offering 'relief'

1. \$400 ... \$300 .. \$??? Disappearing unemployment benefits

Instead of actually extending the \$600 supplemental federal unemployment assistance that unemployed workers have been receiving weekly under the CARES Act that Congress passed in March, Trump claimed his executive order would give \$400 in weekly assistance. Funding is to come from \$44 billion in disaster relief funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump had said in his announcement that it'd be \$400, but on Aug. 11 the Washington Post reported: "President Trump's senior aides acknowledged on Tuesday that they are providing less financial assistance for the unemployed than the president initially advertised ... the maneuver only guarantees an ex-

U.S. and European slave owners and beneficiaries of chattel slavery. Black people here in the U.S. will also continue to fight for what we need to allow us to live in dignity, without fear of the police, for equal access to education, voting rights, health care and housing, for economic equality and all that was stolen from us and continues to be stolen from us today.

Like the fight against racist local and federal police representing a ruling class that wants to push us into a renewed form of slavery, this continued denial of justice will be met with the same militance that our youth have shown protesting the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks, from Minneapolis to Atlanta to Portland. That militance is a continuation of the spirit of the Black slave rebellions that go back in history to the very beginnings of slavery in this country.

We are determined to fight for what is ours. Reparations now!

Socialist Unity Party - Black Caucus



tra \$300 per week for unemployed Americans."

Even that amount is being questioned, as most of the \$44 billion disaster relief funds may have already been spent.

State unemployment benefits are frightfully low, an average of \$378 weekly. It's a starvation rate, and only half of what federal guidelines say is the poverty level for a household of four. Most states provide 26 weeks of state unemployment insurance, but for workers who lost their jobs during the major business shutdowns in March and haven't been able to return to work, that will run out this month or next.

The federal weekly \$600 payments that went to unemployed workers in all states expired on July 31.

Trump's executive order goes outside the usual unemployment insurance system, so something new has to be established that will likely take months for states to implement.

Even if it is implemented, the jobless benefits won't go to those in greatest need. Only the unemployed who are receiving more than \$100 a week in state unemployment insurance are eligible for the federal aid. That means that those at the bottom of the income distribution — particularly workers who rely on tips and the self-employed — will get no federal benefit at all. Those workers are estimated to be at least 15 percent of those who've lost their jobs since March.

2. Payroll tax "holiday" could gut Medicare and Social Security

One of Trump's four executive orders directs the Treasury secretary to defer payroll taxes through the end of the year, with the media calling it a payroll tax holiday. The payroll taxes fund Medicare and Social Security.

Payroll taxes are paid by both employers and workers, each contributing half the total. The deferral means it has to be paid later to the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, by the end of 2021.

Trump says he wants to make the deferral permanent, after he gets his re-election in place. "Permanent" means the trust funds would never see the money restored. That would mean an end of the Social Security and Medicare programs.

Also, if workers have their tax "deferred," that would show up as a

wage "increase" to the IRS, meaning higher income taxes to be paid in April 2021.

3. Order on evictions and foreclosures is all smoke

As many as 40 million face eviction by the end of the year, according to researchers in a paper published Aug. 7 by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Because of the massive job and income losses in the pandemic, anywhere from 29 percent to 43 percent of all renter households in the U.S. face eviction, the researchers wrote. In some states, including Mississippi and Louisiana, more than half of all renter households could be at risk.

Trump's housing executive order is the most meaningless of the four. It simply says it is important to keep people in their homes during the pandemic, particularly so they can successfully socially distance themselves from others and prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"It is the policy of the United States to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, residential evictions and foreclosures during the ongoing COVID-19 national emergency," the order says.

The executive order does not actually prohibit any evictions or foreclosures.

The CARES Act included a 120-day eviction moratorium for renters who were living in a property with a federally guaranteed mortgage and for renters in federal housing assistance programs. That moratorium ended on July 24. In addition, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that the federal moratorium didn't cover approximately 31.4 million renter households, so there were thousands of evictions during this moratorium period.

The CARES Act also provided foreclosure relief for owners of single-family homes which had a federally guaranteed mortgage. The Federal Housing Finance Agency had extended that program, but it ends on Aug. 31.

4. A short student loan deferral

The CARES Act help for student loan borrowers was set to expire at the end of September, so Trump's order extends his policy to set the Department of Education loan interest rates to zero percent and let borrowers defer payments through the end of 2020. Or possibly earlier, as the order says: "It is therefore appropriate to extend this policy until such time that the economy has stabilized, schools have reopened and the crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided."

What determines the economy has "stabilized"? Do all schools have to reopen, or just a few?

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formed is a basic trade union demand: Why should it not include African people?

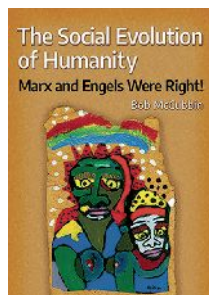
Reparations and the fight for socialism

Reparations must also include the right of all African peoples around the globe — descendants of those who were victims of chattel slavery — to be compensated for the greatest and harshest terror and exploitation this world has ever known.

We are also in solidarity with Indigenous peoples, who must receive reparations for the theft of their land and lives.

We know that the full value created by the labor of Black people that continues to be denied, especially by U.S. and European imperialism, like the value stolen from workers every hour of their workday, will only benefit us when the capitalist system is abolished and replaced with socialism. And part of that fight for a more just society is dependent on the unity that can only come from the solidarity of our entire working class in fighting together, especially for the needs of oppressed workers, whose demands reflect their fight against ongoing historical injustices.

African people, spread around the globe, are determined to continue to fight for the social and economic compensation from the former



The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

tinyurl.com/vwarcv7 Kindle or paperback

This study augments Frederick Engels' *'Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State,'* focusing on social/sexual relations, in particular, the changing social status of women.

McCubbin is the author of *'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.'* First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

Condemn assassination of Philippines peasant leader Randall Echanis

STATEMENT FROM THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY

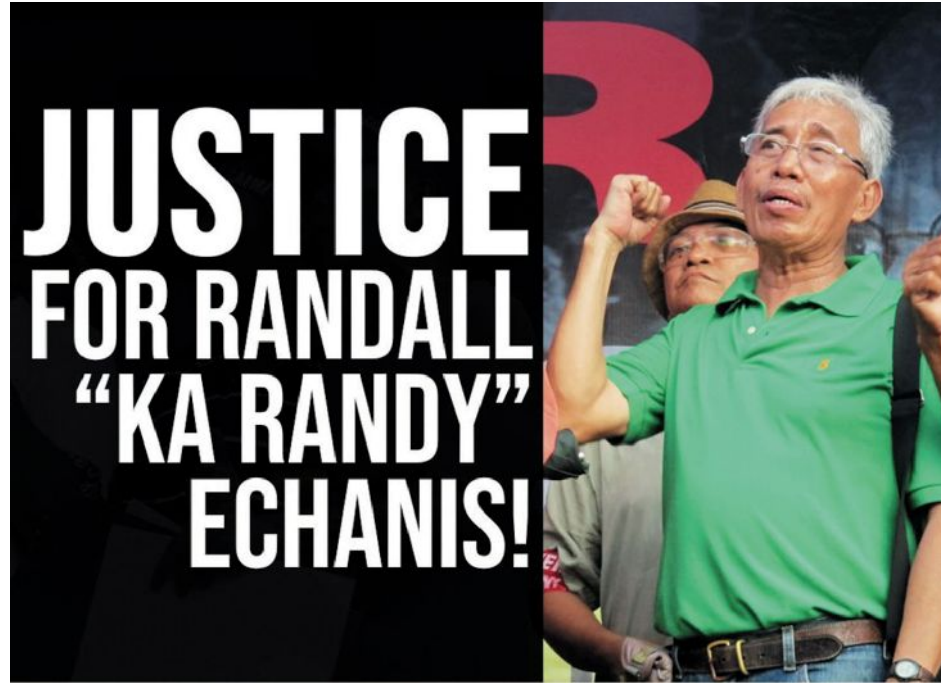
We of the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle★La Lucha newspaper in the United States are shocked and appalled by the cruel and cowardly murder of Randall “Ka Randy” Echanis, chair of the Anakpawis Party-List in the Philippines, along with a neighbor who came to his assistance. We condemn his assassination as a crime against all who labor, against all those who are exploited and oppressed, in the Philippines and all over the world.

We hold the murderous Duterte regime, its Davao death squads and the Philippine military responsible for this monstrous deed. Its backers and funders in the Trump regime and Pentagon are also guilty.

We condemn the seizure of his body and mistreatment of his family and friends by the Quezon City Police and demand the body be released to his family now.

Randy Echanis devoted most of his 72 years of life to the people, especially to the peasants, farmworkers and tillers in the Philippines. He worked and sacrificed for decades in their cause, most recently as national chairperson of the Anakpawis Party-List and deputy secretary general of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, the Peasant Movement of the Philippines.

He also served as a political consultant for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines during



the peace talks with the Philippines government, focusing on the urgent need of the peasant masses for real agrarian reform. He helped craft the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill, which aimed to break up the big landlord monopolies and give land to the landless.

Randy was murdered — stabbed and shot to death — during a raid of his own home, despite his being ill and undergoing medical treatment. Later that night, 10 police forcibly took Randy’s body from the funeral home where he was laid and took him to another. Early the next

morning, the Philippine National Police arrested Pao Colabres, a paralegal, who was guarding Randy’s body during a vigil.

It is painfully evident that state forces, led by the U.S.-backed President Rodrigo Duterte, are responsible for the murder of Ka Randy. It is also evident that what Ka Randy represented and fought for — land for the landless, the breakup of the land monopolies — challenges the interests of Duterte and the Philippine state, a government by and for the big landlords, compradors and imperialist monopolies.

Today in the U.S., millions are rising up against police terror and murder, which especially targets the Black community. We see the struggle against state terror as the same here and in the Philippines. The bloody hand that murdered Ka Randy and so many activists in the Philippines is no different than the hand that murdered George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain and so many others in the U.S. It is the hand that murdered Fred Hampton and Martin Luther King Jr.

The state terrorists in the Philippines carried out this murder in a way calculated to horrify and terrify the people of the Philippines, to silence their cries for peace and justice. It will not work. Such crimes have never stopped the people’s struggle for justice and freedom. It will not save the criminal regime of Rodrigo Duterte or the system he represents from its ultimate downfall.

Struggle-La Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party send our deepest condolences and solidarity to Randy’s partner, Erlinda Lacaba-Echanis, and to all of his family, friends and comrades. We continue to support the struggle to topple the tyrant Duterte and win liberation for the Filipino people.

Justice for Ka Randy! Justice for the workers and peasants of the Philippines! Down with the criminal Duterte regime! 📌

Palestinian Day of Resistance in Brooklyn

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 7 — Hundreds of people marched through the streets of the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn tonight demanding freedom for Palestine. People came from their homes along the route to show support in this heavily Arab community.

The Day of Resistance was called by Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine and the NY4Palestine Coalition. WOL posted on Facebook: “We will be taking to the streets again to not only reject the criminal annexation plan, but against the entirety of the Zionist colonial project from the river to the sea.”

One of the most popular chants

was “We don’t want two states! We want ‘48!” This voiced opposition to the phony “peace plans” that have continually robbed the Palestinian people of their land. It expressed the determination to return to a united Palestine, as it was before 1948.

The action started with a rally on Brooklyn’s Fifth Avenue near 72nd Street. People stood listening in the doorways of the Arab shops that line the street.

Within Our Lifetime chair Nerdeen Kiswani emceed the rally and tirelessly led the crowd in chants. Kiswani expressed solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement that is shaking the United States and the world.

Lamis Deek of Al-Awda NY denounced Donald Trump and called for liberation from the racist settler state.

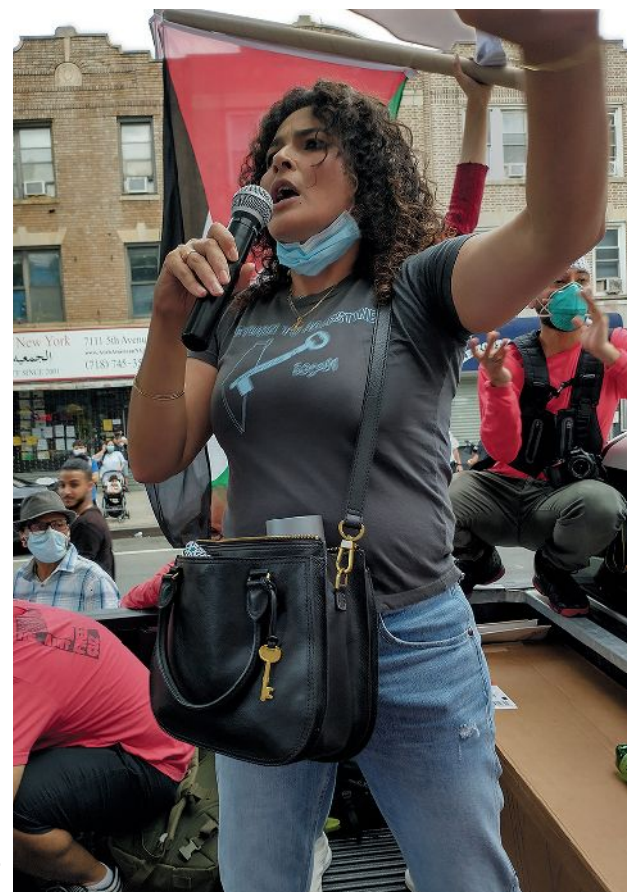
SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

A contingent came from nearby Sunset Park carrying Mexican flags and a sign saying “Mexicanos con Palestina” (Mexicans with Palestine).

Lamis Deek of Al-Awda NY, a Palestinian human rights attorney and longtime activist and organizer, denounced Donald Trump and called for liberation from the racist settler state. She denounced the hypocrisy of Israeli leaders for offering “aid” to Lebanon after they have killed thousands of Lebanese people by bombings and invasions.

A speaker from BAYAN expressed the solidarity of the Filipino people with Palestinians.

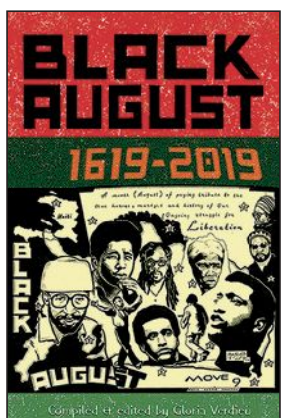
Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss expressed support for a united Palestine without Zionist occupation. While there was a tiny counterdemonstration



of Zionists across the street — who carried a “Trump 2020” flag — there were more Jewish people attending the Palestinian Day of Resistance.

It started raining while people marched through the streets. That didn’t stop protesters, who rallied again at the end.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! 📌



tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle.

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom

- ★ Contributions by Gloria Verdieu
- ★ Carl Muhammad ★ Zola Fish ★ Mary Lou Finley
- ★ Dennis Childs ★ Eusi Kwayana ★ Mumia Abu-Jamal
- ★ Curtis Howard ★ Sylvia Cameron Tafarou

U.S. crimes against humanity at home and abroad

By Alicia Jrapko and Bill Hackwell

This month marks the second year since former president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, announced to the world a campaign promoted by a group of Latin American writers and academics to declare August 9 as International Day of U.S. Crimes against Humanity. Appropriately, the day is to remember the second nuclear bomb dropped in 1945 on Nagasaki, Japan, that came just three days after the first nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Imagine how depraved and cold-blooded the then-Democratic president, Harry Truman, could be to find that he had incinerated 150,000 people on one day and turned right around and did it again in Nagasaki, instantly killing 65,000 more human beings. U.S. historical accounts love to turn truth on its head by saying how many lives those nuclear bombs saved when Japan was already defeated before the bombs were dropped after 67 Japanese cities had been leveled to the ground by relentless U.S. aerial fire bombings.

The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were sacrificed as an exclamation point on a proclamation to the world announcing the arrival of the U.S. as the world's new pre-eminent superpower. It also served as an example that the U.S. would commit any murderous crime of any proportion to maintain that imperial position of dominance, and they have demonstrated that to be true time and time again.

Even now, in decline, the U.S. has never apologized for this unnecessary crime because that could convey a sign of weakness and a step back from a policy of nuclear blackmail held over the nations of the world. Obama had the chance to do that in the final year of his presidency when he had nothing to lose in a 2016 visit to Hiroshima. Instead of apologizing to the people of Japan or easing tensions in the world, Obama, in eloquent fluffy double talk, said, "Mere words cannot give voice to such suffering. But we have a shared responsibility to look directly into the eye of history and ask what we must do differently to curb such suffering again."

The responsibility for the majority of suffering in the world was then and continues to be on an imperialist policy and its inherent neoliberal engine that violently throttles the ability of countries to develop in a way that would bring health and prosperity for the benefit of their majorities. In the end, it is an unsustainable system that only benefits a sliver of privileged society.

'American as cherry pie'

The U.S. crimes against humanity did not begin or end with the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Japan. As militant civil rights leader Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown) pointed out years ago, "Violence is as American as cherry pie." Since its inception, the U.S. has been ingrained with a motor force of violent oppression against everyone and every country that stood in its way of its expansion for control of



Hiroshima survivors after the U.S. atomic bombing.

PHOTO: ALBERT EISENSTAEDT

resources and its entitlement to limitless accumulation of vast wealth for a few.

The original thirteen colonies that rebelled against England were not motivated solely by being taxed without representation but more for the restrictions that King George had placed on the unbridled greed of the white settlers to expand and steal the lands of the Indigenous nations and communities and to establish a system of slavery which was the main source of capitalist accumulation, especially for the southern colonies.

At the time of the revolution, close to 20 percent of the population consisted of Black slaves. Slavery actually ran contrary to British common law so the only way the emerging class of landowners in the colonies could flourish was to secede from the British Empire. In doing so, it established a pivotal component of the original DNA of the United States; structural racism as a means to justify any level of discrimination and oppression with a deeply embedded belief in the inferiority of any race not white and Christian.

The cries of Black Lives Matter in the streets today of all the major cities and towns of the U.S. are a resounding echo of resistance that comes from the plantations and the slave ships that came from Africa.

The genocide of Indigenous people in the U.S. was its initial crime wave against humanity as it expanded westward destined by God to exercise its Manifest Destiny. The early history of this country is littered with hundreds of massacres of the original caretakers of the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. And that crime continues to this day with Native Americans suffering from the highest infection rates of COVID-19 in the country as a direct result of government neglect and broken treaties that keeps the reservations in grinding poverty, including in many areas where there is not even running water.

On July 21, Congress passed a \$740 billion military appropriations bill, the biggest ever, and \$2 billion more than last year. The U.S. spends more

on national defense than the next 11 largest militaries combined. A well-intended but feeble attempt by sections of the Democratic Party to cut 10 percent of the budget to go to health and human services failed because ultimately funding the 800 U.S. military installations that occupy territory in more than 70 countries around the world takes precedence over something so basic and human as subsidized food programs. Meanwhile, approximately 20 percent of the families in this country are struggling to obtain nutritious food every day, just as one example of the growing social and health needs.

Wars and occupations are expensive and that money goes right down the drain. It does not recycle through the economy. Rather, it is equipment and operations meant to destroy and terrorize and the only part of it that is reused is the militarization of police forces in the U.S., who are geared out in advanced equipment for the wars at home not even normally seen in theaters of war abroad.

When Obama took over from Bush Junior, he vowed to end the war in Afghanistan and instead left office with the unique distinction of having had a war going every day of his eight years in office. He launched airstrikes or military raids in at least seven countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan.

Wars of attrition

And Trump came in and did not miss a beat and has carried the war of death, destruction and destabilization of Afghanistan into its twentieth year. The Pentagon knows that the days of outright winning a war are over and relies now on hybrid wars that are perhaps even more criminal. It is now wars of attrition, with proxy and contract armies, aerial bombardment, sabotage of infrastructure that turns into endless wars whose intent is to make sure that a country is imbalanced, exhausted and does not become independent or develop and use its resources for the benefit of its own people.

This, of course, is not the only type of criminal warfare in the Em-

pire's arsenal. Economic sanctions are just as much a crime against humanity as military attacks. No one should ever forget the ten years of the U.S.-orchestrated United Nations sanctions against Iraq in the 1990's that were responsible for the deaths of 500,000 Iraqi children. Primarily through executive order, Trump has put some sort of sanctions on around one-third of the countries of the world ranging in severity starting with the 60-year-old unilateral blockade of Cuba for the crime of insisting on its sovereignty just 90 miles away, to the sanctioning of medicines and food to Venezuela causing the deaths of 40,000 people, the outright stealing of billions of dollars of their assets out of banks and organizing coup plots against the democratically elected president, Nicolás Maduro.

Now the chickens have come to roost with Trump sending shadowy military units of federal agents into cities like Portland, Seattle and other cities like it was a military invasion of some poor country, barging in uninvited not to bring order and peace but to brutalize, escalate and provoke people in the streets, people who, for months now, have been demanding real justice and equality.

The combination of the failure of the Trump administration to confront the pandemic with any sort of will or a national science-based plan, the existing economic crisis with its glaring separation of wealth and the endless murdering of people of color as normal police policy has exposed the system like never before. The growing consciousness of a majority of the U.S. population that now seem to be getting that there has to be fundamental change will be the catalyst for real change to happen. It will not come from a government that does not reflect their interests. Only through a unity of struggle will we be pointed in a direction that will push U.S. crimes against humanity, at home and abroad, to become a thing of the past.

Bill Hackwell and Alicia Jrapko are members of the U.S. chapter of the Network in Defense of Humanity.

Source: Resumen

¡REPARACIONES AHORA!

Por Partido de Socialismo Unido - Caucus Negro

Este sistema prospera ocultando el valor creado por los trabajadores, especialmente cuando se trata de la cantidad de riqueza creada por el trabajo esclavo africano, esencial para el crecimiento del capitalismo.

Si se permite que esto continúe, beneficiará a aquellos que están en contra de las reparaciones para los negros.

El prisionero político Mumia Abu-Jamal hizo hincapié en la necesidad de reparaciones en un reporte que cita a la gran abolicionista Sojourner Truth, quien dijo: “Estados Unidos le debía a mi pueblo algunos de los dividendos. ... Les haré entender que hay una deuda con el pueblo negro, que nunca podrán pagar. Al menos, entonces, deben hacer reparaciones”.

Asimismo, el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. explicó en su libro, “Por qué no podemos esperar”: “Ninguna cantidad de oro podría proporcionar una compensación adecuada por la explotación y humillación de los negros en Estados Unidos a lo largo de los siglos. Ni toda la riqueza de esta próspera sociedad podría cubrir la factura. Sin embargo, se puede poner un precio al trabajo no pagado”.

Como dijo King, esa cantidad de valor creado a partir del trabajo de los africanos, traídos aquí y nacidos aquí bajo la esclavitud, se puede cuantificar. Sus estimaciones son enormes, en billones de dólares; pero esa enormidad palidece en comparación con la riqueza combinada de aquellos que se beneficiaron y aún se benefician de ese trabajo.

Historia

En 1790, se produjeron alrededor de 1,5 millones de libras de algodón en los estados esclavistas del sur. Con la introducción de la desmotadora de algodón, la producción se disparó a dos mil millones de libras en 1860. La esclavitud luego se trasladó al suroeste y a todos los lugares donde pudieron expandir sus plantaciones y obtener ganancias sin precedentes.

Karl Marx, quien afirmó: “El trabajo de piel blanca nunca podrá liberarse mientras que el trabajo de piel negra esté marcado con carimbo”, también reconoció el papel que desempeñaba la esclavitud en el desarrollo de la riqueza de Europa cuando escribió: “Es la esclavitud lo que le dio a las colonias su valor; son las colonias las que han creado el comercio mundial; y el comercio mundial es la condición previa para la industria a gran escala. Por tanto, la esclavitud es una categoría económica de la mayor importancia”.

Esa tremenda riqueza proveniente del trabajo esclavo se destinó a financiar la industria ferroviaria propiedad de los Vanderbilt, para crear Standard Oil propiedad de los Rockefeller y para crear U.S. Steel propiedad de J.P. Morgan. Ese dinero se destinó a convertir a los Rockefeller, Morgan y Mellon en reyes financieros, creando el Manhattan Bank, que pronto sería Chase Manhattan Bank, y Chemical Bank. Los propietarios de esclavos que se enriquecieron con el comercio del algodón crearon el banco de inversión Lehman Brothers.

Así como la riqueza se sigue transmitiendo a los descendientes de aquellos que se beneficiaron de la esclavitud, también lo hace el daño sistémico a los descendientes de esos esclavos.

El segundo grupo bancario más grande de Estados Unidos es JPMorgan Chase. En 2019, obtuvo más de \$4.4 mil millones en ganancias operativas sobre activos de \$2.69 billones. En Junio de este año, un estudio de las salas de redacción del Chicago City Bureau y WBEZ encontró que JPMorgan Chase tenía las prácticas crediticias más racistas contra los vecindarios negros de cualquier banco en esa ciudad de un millón de negros.

Los gigantes de seguros estadounidenses Aetna, New York Life y AIG adquirieron compañías que aseguraban a los esclavos como “propiedad”. Hoy en día, estas mismas compañías de seguros están presionando a los médicos y empleadores para que reduzcan los costos de salud mientras millones de afroamericanos no tienen seguro médico y se ven afectados de manera desproporcionada por COVID-19.

Yale y la Universidad de Virginia se encuentran entre las universidades dotadas por comerciantes y propietarios de esclavos. Sin embargo, mientras que la “guerra contra las drogas” racista ha enviado a millones de jóvenes negros a prisión, Yale continúa con las políticas que permiten que los estudiantes negros solo representen menos del 6 por ciento de su cuerpo estudiantil.

Existe una clara línea de opresión que nos persigue hoy, inspirada en las leyes de linchamiento y Jim Crow, que permite a la policía asesinar, incriminar y aterrorizar a los negros de manera constante, con la ayuda de políticos demócratas y republicanos. Son responsables de establecer y / o continuar la “guerra contra las drogas”, las cárceles privatizadas y el encarcelamiento masivo de jóvenes negros, desde Reagan hasta Clinton, Biden y Trump.

El presidente Trump es, de hecho, un supremacista blanco cuya fortuna es el resultado de la riqueza transmitida por la esclavitud. Alex Brown and Sons, que se fusionó con el gigante alemán Deutsche Bank en 1999, financió el comercio del algodón. Deutsche Bank es el mayor acreedor del imperio Trump.

El Caso Para las Reparaciones

Aunque se han otorgado reparaciones monetarias en este país y en Europa a algunas víctimas del racismo sistémico, no se han incluido personas afrodescendientes. Esto, a pesar de que los africanos, como esclavos en todo el mundo, enfrentaron la mayor explotación, intentos de genocidio y deshumanización, y cuya opresión fue institucionalizada, tocando cada fibra de la sociedad hasta el día de hoy.

Ya se había otorgado reparaciones en los Estados Unidos después de la Guerra Civil por orden del general William Sherman del Ejército de la Unión, con la bendición del pres-

‘Estados Unidos le debía a mi pueblo algunos de los dividendos. ... Les haré entender que hay una deuda con el pueblo negro, que nunca podrán pagar. Al menos, entonces, deben hacer reparaciones’.

– Sojourner Truth

idente Abraham Lincoln. Pero fue Andrew Johnson quien detuvo el programa de reparaciones antes de que se pusiera en marcha. Así que 400.000 acres de tierra que se habían otorgado a 40.000 ex esclavos, algunos de los cuales eran veteranos del Ejército de la Unión, fueron robados y entregados a los antiguos propietarios confederados de esclavos, los que habían hecho la guerra contra la Unión.

El hecho de que los negros en los Estados Unidos deban luchar una vez más por este tema básico de compensación que ya se prometió, es otra indignidad que continúa la opresión de la esclavitud.

Es por eso que el Programa de 10 Puntos del Partido de las Panteras Negras, escrito por Huey P. Newton y Bobby Seale en 1966, decía: “Creemos que este gobierno racista nos ha robado y ahora estamos exigiendo la deuda vencida de cuarenta acres y dos mulas. Hace 100 años se prometieron cuarenta acres y dos mulas como restitución por el trabajo esclavo y el asesinato en masa de personas negras. Aceptaremos el pago en moneda que se distribuirá a nuestras muchas comunidades. Los alemanes ahora están ayudando a los judíos en Israel por el genocidio del pueblo judío. Los alemanes asesinaron a seis millones de judíos. El racista estadounidense ha participado en la masacre de más de cincuenta millones de negros; por lo tanto, sentimos que esta que hacemos es una demanda modesta”.

La circunstancia única de los africanos y afroamericanos en los EUA después de la esclavitud y que persiste hoy, es relevante en la discusión sobre las reparaciones en este país. En términos de los pueblos no indígenas, a diferencia de cualquier otra nacionalidad que llegó a estas costas, somos un pueblo traído a este país sin nada en términos de riqueza, ni siquiera la capacidad de vender nuestra fuerza laboral como un medio para ganar un salario.

La implicación obvia para los descendientes actuales de esclavos es que, mientras que otras nacionalidades pudieron transmitir riqueza durante más de cuatro generaciones,

la riqueza que crearon los negros se les negó legalmente y, en cambio, se les dio a los esclavistas blancos y a las industrias que se beneficiaron.

La lucha por el pago del trabajo realizado es una exigencia básica de los sindicatos: ¿por qué no debería incluir a los africanos?

Las reparaciones también deben incluir el derecho de todos los pueblos africanos de todo el mundo, descendientes de aquellos que fueron víctimas de la esclavitud, a ser compensados por el mayor y más cruel terror y explotación que este mundo haya conocido.

También nos solidarizamos con los pueblos indígenas, que deben recibir reparación por el robo de sus tierras y sus vidas.

Sabemos que el valor total creado por el trabajo de los negros que sigue siendo negado, especialmente por el imperialismo estadounidense y europeo, como el valor robado a los trabajadores cada hora de su tiempo laboral, solo nos beneficiará cuando el sistema capitalista sea abolido y reemplazado por el socialismo. Y parte de esa lucha por una sociedad más justa depende de la unidad que sólo puede provenir de la solidaridad de toda nuestra clase trabajadora en la lucha unida, especialmente por las necesidades de los trabajadores oprimidos, cuyas demandas reflejan su lucha contra las continuas injusticias históricas.

Los africanos, repartidos por todo el mundo, están decididos a seguir luchando por la compensación social y económica por parte de los antiguos propietarios de esclavos estadounidenses y europeos y los beneficiarios de la esclavitud. Los negros aquí en los EUA también continuaremos luchando por lo que necesitamos para permitirnos vivir con dignidad, sin miedo a la policía, por el acceso equitativo a la educación, el derecho al voto, la atención médica y la vivienda, por la igualdad económica y todo lo que nos fue robado y se nos sigue siendo robado hoy.

Al igual que la lucha contra la policía local y federal racista que representa a una clase dominante que quiere empujarnos hacia una forma renovada de esclavitud, esta continua negación de justicia se enfrentará con la misma militancia que nuestra juventud ha mostrado en protesta por los asesinatos de George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery y Rayshard Brooks, desde Minneapolis a Atlanta y hasta Portland. Esa militancia es una continuación del espíritu de las rebeliones de esclavos negros que se remonta en la historia a los mismos inicios de la esclavitud en este país.

Estamos decididos a luchar por lo nuestro. ¡Reparaciones ahora!

Partido de Socialismo Unido - Caucus Negro

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