Reparations Now!

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 15 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 Rockefeller, 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 do the systemic harm pass on to the descendants of those slaves.

The second-largest banking group in the U.S. is JPMorgan Chase. In 2009, it made over $4.4 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 has made 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 lynching 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 Continued on page 2

Socialist Unity Party ★ Black Caucus Statement


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 is a human being;

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 @PeoplePowerAssembly or Twitter @BaltoPPA.

Unemployed Workers Committee says: STOP EVICTIONS & UTILITY SHUTOFFS

• A. Philip Randolph
• Condemn assassination of Philippine leader Randall Echanis
• Palestinian Day of Resistance
• Trump Decrees
• U.S. crimes against humanity

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY ★ BLACK CAUCUS STATEMENT


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 is a human being;

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 @PeoplePowerAssembly or Twitter @BaltoPPA.
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, “on a useful 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 in back in 1963 is equal to $16.88 per hour in July 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ consumer price index calculator. That’s a little bit over $3,900 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 and benefits 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 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 33 million “personal care” workers received only $13.93 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 movement. AFL-CIO President George Meany viciously attacked Randolph at the labor federation’s 1959 convention.

Randolph was a key organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP). Already 74 years old, Randolph was a key organizer of the movement. AFL-CIO President George Meany viciously attacked Randolph at the labor federation’s 1959 convention.

Steelworker Ted Dostal, a founding member of Workers World Party, dedicated 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 the 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 1977 and 2018. Hourly wages have gone up just 11.6 percent.

The result is that the 400 richest soundbites 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.

We need 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!  

Continued from page 1

Continued on page 3

REPARATIONS NOW!

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

Streuggle = La Lucha

Page 2 August 17, 2020

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—Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

Continued on page 3
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 depressed employers. It's far from clear exactly when or how that will happen. It is clear that none of these moves are designed to cover 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 for at least since the end of World War II, when the functional power to declare war was assumed by President Harry Truman. The House of Representatives — 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

$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 $2,000 in weekly assistance. Funding is to come from $4.4 billion in disaster relief funds from the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump had said in his announcement that he was going to give $4,000, 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 exercise of executive power. 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.

We know that the full value created by the labor of Black people that continues to be denied, especially by U.S. and European employers, includes the value stolen from workers every hour of their workday, will only benefit us if the capitalist system is abolished and replaced with a socialist society. 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 desires are the opposite of their employers: to save so many jobs, leave behind so many unemployed.

African people, spread around the globe, are determined to fight for the social and economic compensation from the former 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 police, the fight against racist imperialist and federal and 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 part 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

The Social Evolution of Hospitality

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study augments Frederick Engels’ Origin of the Family, Private Property and 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 early LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.
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 Randy "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 oppressed 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 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 para-legal, 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 same 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!

Condemn assassination of Philippines peasant leader Randall Echanis

STATEMENT FROM THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY

Palestinian Day of Resistance in Brooklyn

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 7 — Hundreds of people marched through the streets of the Bay Ridge neighborhood in 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 NY Palestine 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 unified 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 Neerdeen 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.

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 denounced Donald Trump and called for liberation from the racist settler state.

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

SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

today tinyurl.com/vn3gvn5

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019 commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle. This anniversary commemorates the destruction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped. A speaker from BAYAN expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people with Palestinians.

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 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.

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 same 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!

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 denounced Donald Trump and called for liberation from the racist settler state.

SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES
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 academicians to declare August 9 as International Day of U.S. Crimes against Humanity. Appropriately, the day is to remember the second atomic bomb dropped in 1945 on Nagasaki, Japan, that came just three days after the first 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 bombings.

The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to be an affirmation point on a proclamation to the world announcing the arrival of the U.S. as the world’s new pre-eminent superpower. It is 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 to go to Japan to see and to Hiroshima. Instead of apologizing to the people of Japan or easing tensions, Obama also served up a 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 around the world was then and continues to be on an imperialist policy and its inherent neoliberal ideology that violently undermines the ability of countries to develop in a way that would bring health and prosperity for the benefit of their many people. This is the 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 atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As militant civil rights leader Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown) pointed out years ago, “Violence is the common denominator.” 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 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 23, 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 ultimately 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 infrastructures that turns into endless wars whose intent is to make sure that a country is so 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 Empire'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 death 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, baring 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
Esto es una inclusión del texto de un nuevo documento.