The 12-year-old Black youth Tamir Rice had a toy gun when he was shot to death by a white Cleveland cop on Nov. 22, 2014. Armed fascist terrorists are driving up and down the streets of Kenosha, Wis., without interference by police or sheriff’s deputies.

Nightly demonstrations have taken place in the city against police violence. Videos show 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse carrying his AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. On the night of Aug. 25, the white teenager allegedly shot to death two anti-racists, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, and wounded a third, Gaige Grosskreutz.

Wannabe cop Rittenhouse had been a police cadet and plastered his Facebook page with “Blue Lives Matter” lies.

The killings occurred two days after Jacob Blake was shot and paralyzed by Kenosha policeman Rusten Sheskey. A video showed the white cop firing seven shots into Blake’s back while the Black father was entering his own car. Three of Blake’s children were in the back seat.

Police officers in an armored car can be seen on video tossing water bottles to Rittenhouse and his fellow vigilantes, all of whom are armed. No arrest was made to arrest any of these racist thugs, even though it was after an 8 p.m. curfew. Instead, an officer is heard saying, “We appreciate you guys. We really do.”

Another video shows Rittenhouse walking past police with his AR-15 over his shoulder. Members of the crowd were yelling for him to be arrested because he had shot people.

Police did nothing and Rittenhouse was allowed to return to Antioch, Ill., 20 miles away. There, in his hometown, Rittenhouse was finally arrested. Not until the paralyzed Jacob Blake is chained to his hospital bed.

Defending fascist terrorism

The Kenosha city police chief, Daniel Miskinis, refused to call the killings an assault of homicide. He blamed the victims of fascist violence for their own deaths, while blaming the violence occurred after curfew.

But Miskinis says it’s okay for vigilantes to break the curfew. The police chief claimed they were just “armed civilians who have come out to exercise their constitutional right and to potentially protect property.”

Many of the armed thugs belong to the “Kenosha Guard,” an outfit formed by Kevin Mathewson. The former member of Kenosha’s City Council posted a call to arms” on its Facebook page. It was only taken down by Facebook after Huber and Rosenbaum were killed.

Tucker Carlson justified the shootings on Fox News. He asked, “How shocked are we that 17-year-olds with rifles decided they had to maintain order when no one else would?”

To this ten-million-dollar-a-year hatemonger, killing anti-racists is “maintaining order.” Carlsson had earlier defamed Jacob Blake.

Another fascist — Ann Coulter. — applauded the shooter, Rittenhouse, writing, “I want him as my president.”

The Kenosha County sheriff, David Beth, is just as racist. In 2008, referring to five accused shoplifters who were Black, Beth said, “We need to build warehouses, to put these people into it [sic] and lock them away for the rest of their lives.”

Is it any wonder that a Kenosha cop felt free to pump seven bullets into Jacob Blake’s back?

Counterattacking Black Lives Matter

Then there’s the bigot-in-chief who presided over a four-day hate fest known as the Republican National Convention. Kyle Rittenhouse loves Donald Trump and was in the front row of Trump’s Des Moines, Iowa, rally in January.

The Black Lives Matter movement is the biggest political force in the U.S. to have successfully defied the police and white supremacists.

Baltimore #SayHerName protest elevates voices of women vets

By Sharon Black

Baltimore — The Peoples Power Assembly and Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha held a rally and march to “Say Her Name” at the Gar- matz Federal Courthouse in downtown Baltimore July 30. It coincided with a march in Washington, D.C., for murdered Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén, who was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. The event also highlighted women killed by police, including Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Korryn Gaines and others.

Annetta Johnson, a veteran from Baltimore, led the protest. Earlier, she attended the march for Vanessa Guillén in D.C. Johnson is the founder of Purpose Driven Journeys and has spoken out on the lack of services for women and Black veterans.

Ellen Barkfield, an organizer with the Philip Berrigan Memorial Chapter of Veterans for Peace, also spoke out. Barkfield was also stationed at Fort Hood. She gave a moving account of her own experience of sexual assault and harassment at Fort Hood. Barkfield’s political awakening was sparked by her own experience at Fort Hood, she said.

Kumeyaay ancestral burial and sacred sites desecrated to make way for a wall along the Southern border

By Zola Fish

On Aug. 19, a group of Kumeyaay Natives and local activists went out into the 105-degree heat to hold a Sacred Space prayer circle at a Kumeyaay ancestral burial ground and ancient village at the U.S.-Mexico border. The line is now spray painted by the Border Patrol to remind us not to cross.

We met early in the morning and caravaned up the mountain to be met by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) drilling into Mother Earth to plant dynamite to blow up the Kumeyaay ancestors and their historical villages for the wall of white supremacy. We held circle and prayed at many different sites and at each site the ACOE had to stop all work.

Due to the efforts of some dynamic female youth leaders from the La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians, one of the twelve bands of the Kumeyaay Ipai, Tipai Nation, the ACOE is behind schedule, three weeks now.

The Kumeyaay have historically lived in the San Diego border region for over 12,000 years. Places along the border line play a part in their creation story. Among places scheduled to be dynamited and dug up, then filled with concrete and steel, is an ancestral cemetery near the community of Jacumba. The Kumeyaay believe there are souls attached to bodies of the bones and are being desecrated so the U.S. president can get his monument to himself and to white supremacy.

Midden soil has been found where the ACOE is behind schedule, three weeks now. The midden soil is proof that this land has always been Native. The artifacts found in midden soil tell a story of villagers, religious life and cemeteries of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Middens are an archive of ancient lifestyles and environments. Middens can pre-
Trump, China, TikTok, Tulsa. Free speech?

By Jasmine Johnson

On Aug. 5, President Donald Trump announced that he’s planning on banning TikTok due to “national security risks” and the fact that the app collects data of the users. There are lots of people happy (mostly right-wing Trump supporter’s) about this decision due to the fact they’re not okay with the idea of their information being collected by others.

That’s despite the fact that TikTok, like many other websites and apps, has a terms-of-service in which it explains that “by agreeing you accept our privacy policy.” This privacy policy explicitly explains the information they collect. The irony is of all this being that before TikTok even was available on the app store, the app was even available on the app store.

While many people aren’t self-aware enough to recognize the irony of wanting to ban the app, most TikTok users see the hypocrisy in banning one app for collecting the user’s personal information but not the other apps. It’s obvious that Trump and his supporter’s only issue is that this is someone from China who is collecting this information.

Not once has Trump ever mentioned banning Facebook or Amazon for their collection of data information. An alternative to the ban is for ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, to give up ownership to companies like Microsoft. Even if Microsoft were to buy TikTok, Trump said a fee would have to be paid to the U.S. Treasury. This isn’t just among Trump and the right. This anti-China propaganda is common among liberals and Democrats. Sen. Chuck Schumer said that he was the one that had first “exposed” TikTok’s links to China and is in full support of this ban.

A factor that may have played into this was the sabotage of Trump’s Tulsa rally. TikTok users had shared videos on how to get free tickets for Trump’s June 20 rally in Tulsa, Okla. He went on Twitter to say, “Almost One Million people requested tickets for the Saturday Night Rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma.” Despite bragging about getting one million people to his rally, fewer than 6,000 turned out. Trump couldn’t fill his 19,000-person capacity arena.

I’m not defending any of the companies, but it’s obvious that this is Trump and his supporters being very anti-China. This is also his way of retaliating against the sabotaging of his rally. Many supporters of his are pro-free speech but they don’t realize (or make him accountable) that Trump is against free speech.

PROOF TRUMP IS DESECRATING OUR ANCESTORS

Midden soil, the dark layer on top, has been found where the ACOE is working.

The lawsuit was announced by Save the Homelands of the Indigenous and End Land Desecration (SHEILD), a coalition of advocates battling the Trump administration’s construction of a border wall on sacred Kumeyaay sites and burial grounds.

“We cannot sit back and continue to watch the bones of our ancestors being dug up and strewn about like random debris. Ancestral Kumeyaay burials are being impeded, and construction continues to tear through our former village sites along the border wall areas,” Cynthia Parada, spokeswoman for SHEILD and council member with the La Posta tribe, said.

“There is a generation that identifies with the Kumeyaay Nation. The protests will continue until the Kumeyaay ancestors are not further being dug up and desecrated. The struggle against colonization is an ongoing struggle that Native peoples have been fighting since the beginning of the genocide of our people. The fight for liberation, freedom and justice is an uphill battle against the anti-Indian, anti-immigrant wall, pro-Trump sentiment. The struggle continues.”

Baltimore #SayHerName protest elevates voices of women vets

Continued from page 1

serve a record of a thousand years of ancestral occupation.

There is proof of what the Kumeyaay have been trying to tell the government. Protesters were told the ACOE would be skipping a consultation with the tribe for “national security reasons.” For seven days, there was work with no Native monitor on site.

The La Posta Band of Diigumo Mission Indians filed a lawsuit to get an injunction to stop all work at the wall. The lawsuit was filed against the Trump administration, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who oversaw the military funds diverted from the military to the border wall; Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, and Lt. Gen. Todd Seidmonite, commander general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lawsuit states, “Defendants are currently constructing the border wall directly through Kumeyaay Burial and Sacred Lands, causing irreversible and easily avoidable damage to Kumeyaay remains, cultural items, history and religious practices.

More of the court filings say: “Since the arrival of Europeans in the region, the Kumeyaay territory, culture, religion and very existence have been under attack to make way for non-Indian settlement. In the most recent episode of Indigenous erosion, the President of the United States and his administration are desecrating Kumeyaay ancestral burial and sacred sites to make way for a wall along the Southern border.”

Another part of the lawsuit says the construction is “excavating and desecrating Kumeyaay remains and prohibiting Tribal members from properly treating the remains and participating in religious ceremonies at the Tribe’s sacred sites where the border wall construction is taking place.” It further states that no tribal consultation has taken place between the federal government and the tribe.

The Rev. Annie Chambers, Peoples Power Assembly organizer, said, “Our fight is right here in the U.S.” She emphasized, “We live in a capitalist, racist country, and if we never fight them then it won’t change.” The action ended with a march around the courthouse under the watch of an overwhelmingly large presence of Department of Homeland Security agents, which included dogs and a score of white vans lined up close to the protest.

Trump, China, TikTok, Tulsa. Free speech?

Continued from page 1

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Brooklyn march: Stop unsafe school reopening plan!

By Greg Butterfield

Brooklyn, N.Y. — A protest led by Black and Brown teachers and students drew hundreds of people to Grand Army Plaza on Aug. 20. Their call was to “oppose unsafe opening of New York public schools.” Organizers provided masks, hand sanitizer, water and snacks to those who needed them.

Solidarity with the mass movement to defend Black lives from police violence and the culture of terror by police was the spirit at the action. Many signs demanded “Defund the NYPD, fund public schools!” and “Police out of schools.”

Speakers called out the racist character of the city’s plan to reopen schools for in-person classes on Sept. 10. The unsafe conditions would fall on the backs of Black and Brown communities and working-class families, where and with whom the vast majority of public school students live.

Special education teacher Amy Tan works at a school in Brooklyn’s Sunset Park neighborhood, where the infection rate is now 7 percent. Tan described a “climate of fear” in the multinational neighborhood, which has also been terrorized by the threat of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids.

“All we want is to ask our students to go into these conditions that have been defined for decades?” she asked. “No!” shouted the crowd.

Earlier this year, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza delayed closing schools while the virus spread, until a virtual mutiny by teachers, students and parents forced them to do so in late March. Some protesters held signs with the names and photos of teachers who died from COVID-19.

The city was hard-hit by the pandemic in the spring, with hundreds dying daily, mostly in Black and Brown communities. Lockdown measures finally brought down the death rate by June.

But the uncontrolled spread of the virus throughout the rest of the U.S. now threatens a new surge here. Infection rates were not only inadequate, rushed and underfunded, but downright dangerous for the community. Today, New York is the only major school system in the country that plans in-person classes for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Some smaller school systems across the U.S. that began in-person classes, as well as some colleges and universities, have been swiftly forced to shut down as COVID-19 continues to spread. A growing number of studies show that young people can spread the virus and become seriously ill.

On Aug. 20, United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew said that city teachers could strike if they feel returning to work is unsafe, despite the state’s anti-union Taylor Law, which prohibits strikes by public employees. Mulgrew’s announcement came after unions representing principals, cafeteria workers, janitors and administrative workers joined the teachers in demanding a delay in reopening schools.

Tax big business

One chant at the Brooklyn protest was, “We need money for education! We don’t have soap or ventilation!”

This reflects the reality of New York’s underfunded, overcrowded and often decrepit school facilities — a reality that cannot be hidden from the parents, students and school workers who have struggled daily with the lack of basic supplies, inadequate medical staffing and unhealthy classrooms, even before the coronavirus.

Speakers at Grand Army Plaza demanded that the government tax the wealthy and big business to provide an income for everyone to stay at home until a vaccine is available and school facilities can be adequately renovated. They said the Department of Education should focus on making sure all teachers and students have adequate equipment and training for remote learning.

They pointed out that de Blasio’s stubborn refusal to delay reopening schools is actually driven by Wall Street’s desire to make parents return to work (also in dangerous conditions).

Meanwhile, according to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo plans to cut the public education budget by 20 percent, firing 20,000 school workers statewide. Cuomo has refused calls to tax billionaires and huge giveaways to big business in order to fund essential services.

Protesters marched south through Prospect Park, armed up with chants led by young activists, and were greeted by many families and workers along the way. They ended with a rally in front of Chancellor Carranza’s home, vowing to keep organizing and protesting for the safety of students, school workers and their communities.

‘Billionaire landlords have to go!’

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 20 — Over five hundred people came to New York City’s public research library on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue this afternoon. They were determined to stop the wave of evictions that is coming.

New York Gov. Cuomo’s ban on evictions will expire on Sept. 4. Tenant groups across the state are preparing to stop the slumlords and sheriffs from throwing families into the streets.

The action today was called by the Right To Counsel NYC Coalition, Housing Justice for All and the Metropolitan Council on Housing. People belonging to local tenant organizations came from all over the city.

Members of the Crown Heights Tenants Union, the Flatbush Tenants Union, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), Tenants & Neighbors and other neighborhood groups came with their colorful banners.

“Cops and landlords have to go!” was a favorite chant. Speakers in both Spanish and English denounced evictions with their remarks translated.

One woman talked of how she wanted to move to another state so she could be near her terminally ill mother, but the big landlord refused to break her lease.

This writer carried a sign from Struggle-La Lucha that said, “Never Forget Eleanor Bumpers.” The 66-year-old Black grandmother was killed on Oct. 29, 1984, as police enforced an eviction from her Bronx apartment. New York policeman Stephen Sullivan fired two blasts from his 12-gauge shotgun at her. Bumpers owed $36, in back rent. As the sign read, evictions kill!

REBNY here we come

People were eager to march through the biggest concentration of corporate criminals on the planet. They chanted, “We believe that we will win!” as they left Fifth Avenue and went east on 42nd Street.

Hundreds of people trooped up Madison and Park avenues past dozens of skyscrapers that house much of U.S. big business.

There were probably at least 100 construction workers who died building these structures. Nowhere was there a plaque remembering those who were killed.

People ended up at 51st Street and Lexington Avenue, the headquarters of the Real Estate Board of New York. Known as REBNY, it’s the united front of all the landlords and developers in the city.

If it was up to REBNY, every poor person would be driven out of the Big Apple. People held a speakout right in their face.

Tiffany King of the Crown Heights Tenants Union told listeners of her family’s righteous struggle against their greedy landlord. Ms. King is determined to persevere.

That spirit is shared by thousands who are determined to stop evictions.
Wrecking the post office and the election

By Stephen Millies

From Portland to Seattle, mail boxes are being removed by orders of Trump’s handpicked postmaster general, Louis DeJoy. Trump is sabotaging the post office in an attempt to steal the 2020 presidential election.

The mail is being deliberately delayed with processing machines being removed from postal facilities. Postal workers have been told to leave mail behind if delivering it will result in delays to the mail.

The first victims will be seniors and all other persons whose prescriptions need to be delivered. People for diabetes, the delay in receiving insulin could be fatal.

To Trump and DeJoy, anyone dying as a result is just “collateral damage.” That’s the lying term used by the Pentagon to justify the deaths of children and other civilians in bombing raids in the name of Big Oil.

Being targeted are the tens of millions of voters who will be mailing in their ballots because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The postal service sent letters to 46 states and Washington, D.C., warning that the mail-in ballots may be delayed and thus not counted.

DeJoy sent out this threat not only to discourage people from voting by mail but also to cast doubt on the results. Some are even suggesting that the October 31st deadline is arbitrary. If people choose to send their ballots after this date, there may be a judgment that the ballots are invalid or that they were delayed in the mail.

Trump threatened to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act — which was enacted to suppress rebellions of enslaved Africans — to send troops to shoot protesters.

It’s absurd to claim that the post office can’t handle the mail-in ballots. Last year the postal workers handled 142.6 billion (that’s “billion” with a “b”) pieces of mail. In three weeks, postal workers handled 150 million ballots that will be cast, many of which will be cast in person.

They sneer at democracy

Stealing elections in the United States is nothing new. That’s how George W. Bush got to the White House 20 years ago with help from his brother, then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The wealthy and powerful scorn democracy. They mock it as something that vote of a homeless person — or any poor and working person — shouldn’t count as much as theirs.

The late oil billionaire H.L. Hunt who may have been a co-conspirator in John F. Kennedy’s assassination was not afraid to order the rich that the richest could cast the most votes. Hunt even wrote a novel entitled “Al Paca” describing this monstrosity.

The Wall Street Journal’s editorial page editor Robert L. Bartley justified George W. Bush going to war in Iraq because the choice was 543,895 less votes than Al Gore. Bartley did so on the basis that many of the Democratic votes were cast by “union households” and “Blacks.”

The day after this racist rant was published, five U.S. Supreme Court justices selected Bush as president on Dec. 12, 2000.

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1870. It mandates that the right to vote can’t be denied “by any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.”

The capitalist class never enforced their own constitutional amendment while millions of the first people were denied the vote by Ku Klux Klan terror.

The FBI did nothing when Harriette and Harry T. Moore were bombed in their home on Christmas Day, 1951. They were murdered by the Klan for registering Black voters.

The 24th Amendment is also a dead letter. Ratified in 1966, this amendment prohibits poll taxes.

Yet the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld state laws requiring voters to have photo identification, which usually costs money. If people choose to spend money to vote, isn’t that a poll tax?

If the U.S. were a democracy, people would vote not as a right but as a matter of free health care, a $20 per hour minimum wage and community control of the police.

The people in Baltimore voted for rent control in a 1979 referendum, a judge threw out the election.

Why they hate postal workers

The attacks on the post office are not just because of the election. For more than 40 years, postal workers have been under assault. Dozens of employees have died of the coronavirus.

Employment has fallen from almost 800,000 workers in 2016 to half a million last year. Yet the Postal Service is the largest employer of union workers in the U.S.

These cuts have fallen heaviest on Black workers, who comprise 37 percent of postal employees. The post office is the largest employer of African Americans earning more than $50,000 per year.

Over 40 percent of postal workers are Asian, Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

Democrats have never forgiven postal employees for their rebellion, the Great Postal Strike of 1970. President Richard “Watergate” Nixon sent GIs to try to break the strike.

The 200,000 workers who went on a wildcard strike won a victory for all poor and working people.

Postmaster DeJoy is a multimillionaire who bought his position with millions in campaign contributions. As CEO of the New Breed Logi-istics, he refused to hire members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in a Compton, Calif., facility.

Four women in New Breed’s Memphis warehouse suffered miscarriages in 2014, because supervisors refused their requests for light duty.

On Aug. 18, DeJoy announced that he was suspending, not reversing, a further cutbacks in postal service until after the presidential election.

This union buster can’t be trusted. The capitalists want to privatize the postal service and break the postal unions.

This disaster would be followed by Social Security being taken over by Wall Street brokerage firms and hedge funds.

The people need to be mobilized to defend the post office and the elections.

‘Feds get out!’

Portland movement fights to put power into the hands of the people

By Scott Scheffer

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Cody Urban of the International Union of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS) about the protests against racist police terror in Portland, Ore., and the violent federal agents dispatched by the Trump administration to terrorize the community.

Struggle-La Lucha: All eyes were on Portland as the fight for justice and the ousting of rage over the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police exploded there. After more than two months of standing up against brutality and arrests, can you describe who is involved? What areas of Portland are the protests taking place in?

Cody Urban: Protests have been organized and led all over the city and most suburbs — that’s been one of the greatest achievements of the mass movement here in Portland. While generally decentralized, the protests have really reached so many people from so many corners of the movement. The protests that have garnered the most news and have been met with the harshest repres- sion have been centered downtown outside the Justice Center, symbolizing the people’s rage at the countless lives taken and immense public theft at the hands of bourgeois “justice.”

But while the downtown protests could rightfully be seen as the central focus of confrontations against state forces, it would be remiss not to mention the near-daily rallies in streets, parks, car caravans and many other locations in defense of Black lives and against the increas- ing attacks on all working and oppressed people. These attacks started increasing long before COVID-19, but it took a moment like now to heighten the class contradiction to a crisis and to divert attention away from the further cutbacks in post- un ivory warehouse suffered miscarriages — workers in the Pacific Northwest voted for rent control in a 1979 referendum, a judge threw out the election.

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Continued on page 5
We need free public transit

By Stephen Millies

New York City bus riders will have to start paying $2.75 again on Aug. 22, 2020. Mayor Bill de Blasio and the MTA claimed they need the money to pay for overtime, furloughs, and personal protective equipment (PPE) for bus operators, because the corona virus is spreading rapidly. Back door loading on buses helped protect the operators from the coronavirus. If even one more bus operator catches the virus, it must be reinstituted.

In the city that never sleeps, Cuomo’s MTA suspended overnight subway service. One reason was to protect the train operators who was kicked out homeless people. In 2017, 75 percent of NYC bus riders were people of color. This is the uprising against the impunity of the police. One key reason the MTA was cut back was to avoid having to pay $2.75 fare eats up 5 percent of these workers’ income in a city where 44 percent of households have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. That’s 55 times what the fare was in 1948, when it cost a nickel.

Socialism means good public transit

Socialist & Dignity

Capitalist New York City took 90 years to open three stations on the subway. This is the fare that was first planned in the 1920s. Twenty-one cities in the socialist People’s Republic of China have opened subway systems just since 2009. The gleaming subway systems in Beijing and Shanghai are the busiest in the world, each moving more than 9 million passengers a day. That’s the power of socialist economic planning. In a socialist country, public transit systems and high-speed rail lines are the vehicles that bring people home to their families.

Socialism means free public transit

Socialism & Dignity

This relationship between Portland Police and the Department of Homeland Security has been visible only through the lack of bus service to the suburbs. Portland has had numerous activists and members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who use the lack of bus service as a recruitment and organizing tool. The federal troops in Portland are an escalation of fascist state violence, but they are using to a wider crisis.

The kingpins of the Portland Police and the governor of Oregon opposed the presence of Trump’s federal agents. Many folks need cars, including workers who use public transit into the hands of the people. Bloomberg and the real thugs. His $56.9 billion stake could whack every New Yorker $6,383.

Carpe diem!

By Stephen Millies

 chloride. The lack of a lack of an elevator at the Seventh Avenue and 53rd Street station in Manhattan that killed Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Black mother fell down the stairs to her death while protecting her one-year-old daughter.

COVID-19 continues to kill people and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) CEO Patrick Foye from demanding that every bus rider pay. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s.

Bus drivers were people of color. The median yearly income of riders with jobs was just $28,455. The $2.75 fare eats up 5 percent of these workers’ income in a city where 44 percent of households have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. That’s 55 times what the fare was in 1948, when it cost a nickel.

Most U.S. cities have worse public transportation systems than New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s. The lack of public transit and a fifth of New Yorkers are unemployed. That hasn’t stopped New York’s.

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That’s the power of socialist economic planning. In a socialist country, public transit systems are the vehicles that bring people home to their families. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is building rapid transit systems in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Working and poor people in the U.S. need free public transportation. Millions of workers could be employed at union wages building new transit systems and high-speed rail lines between cities. Two hundred billion dollars a year can be found to do this by abolishing the police and bringing 2.3 million police home to their families.

The writer is a retired Amtrak worker.
Election by coup?

By Gary Wilson

With President Donald Trump ruling primarily by decree, there were many who feared a recent tweet — and the mass anti-racist movement — could and should respond. The President’s July 30 tweet casting doubt on the election by saying “I am your president of law and order.” He proceeded to characterize the large-scale protests in cities across the nation as “acts of domestic terror.” If the marches and demonstrations did not cease, Trump promised to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 and “deploy the U.S. military” on the streets of every major city, including Washington. Trump went on, “As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel, and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, chaos and the wanton destruction of property.”

“He then issued the following threat: “If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the U.S. military and quickly solve the problem for them.” (‘Trump’s June 1 coup attempt’ tinyurl.com/june1-coup) The unidentified paramilitary secret police force that was unleashed in Washington on June 1 has since been used by Trump against the cities of Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Chicago; and other places, targeting any and all anti-racist protests.

Trump’s effort to establish a personal dictatorship on the basis of repressive rule is the product of a protracted economic and political crisis in the U.S. of extreme social inequality and endless war. The system is in crisis and is unstable.

November 3 to January 20

The run-up to the Nov. 3 Electoral College selection (Election Day) and the 11-week period between the selection and Jan. 20 inauguration threaten to be periods of deep political crisis. The Washington Post reported: “As Trump demurs, an unimaginable question forms: Could the president reach for the military in a disputed election?”

The Post reports: “President Trump’s refusal to commit to accepting the results of a disputed election, paired with his penchant for plunging the military into the partisan fray, has prompted scholars and legal experts to ask a once-unthinkable question: How would the armed forces respond if pulled into a disputed election?”

“Speculation about whether the military could be asked to play a role in events following the 2020 presidential vote has intensified in the wake of the Pentagon’s involvement in the government’s response to demonstrations against racism and police brutality.”

With the election approaches, the president has once again declined to say he would accept its results.

I ‘have to see,’ he said during a Fox News interview this month. ‘I’m not going to make any predictions about how it’s going to turn out. I say no. And I didn’t last time either.’”

“President has warned for months that mail-in voting — expected to be used more widely than ever due to the coronavirus pandemic — or potential foreign interference in Democracy. Trump could yield widespread fraud and a ‘rigged’ election, comments his critics worry are laying the groundwork in case he decides to take the result.

“Scholars cautioned that they are not suggesting that the military would proceed unilaterally to influence the vote, but rather that Pentagon leaders could be forced in a disputed election to become involved in a way that would appear partisan, similar to what occurred in the nation’s capital in the wake of protests in June....”

“Fears about the use of the military have at times been a feature of previous presidential transitions.”

“In 1912, a retired Marine Corps general declared, the military would be used if the president reach for the military in a disputed election.”

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Struggle • La Lucha
FASCISM: how it develops and how to fight back

By Sam Marcy

With the 2020 elections fast approaching, the workers’ and progressive movements in the U.S. are debating the best tactics to fight the Donald Trump regime and the growth of violent white-supremacist, neofascist groups. As a contribution to this urgent discussion, Struggle—La Lucha is publishing excerpts from two articles by Sam Marcy, a leading Marxist thinker and fighter of the second half of the 20th century, about the nature of fascism and how to fight it.

From “The specter of fascism,” origi- nally published in December 1933.

Bourgeois democracy won in struggle

Bourgeois democracy is not a gift from the ruling class. It was won in struggle. A capitalist democracy, whether in Britain or France or other countries, is the result of working-class struggle that has forced the bourgeoisie to grant democratic rights.

For all too long there were no rights for the masses in this country. Only property–owning white men could vote. Native people had no rights. In a giant section of the U.S., there was chattel slavery. Even after abolition, Black people had no rights at all for many years. Women couldn’t vote.

It was only in 1919, when over a citi zen at least 18 years old was legally enfranchised, although registration was still made difficult enough to dis- cour age many.

So this democracy we have was earned in the course of struggle, including a bloody civil war. Bourgeois democracy does give the illus- sion that it is part of the “benefits of capitalism.”

But democracy and fascism are not synonymous. Democracy is a form of state, as is fascism. The es- sence of a capitalist state is the rule of the bourgeoisie. Capitalism as a system can exist without capitalist democracy.

The working-class movement can thrive and advance if it utilizes cap- italist democracy to its own advan- tage in the struggle to bring about a socialist state.

This introduction is necessary be- cause the bourgeoisie never refers to the real significance of the struggle between bourgeois democracy and fascism. They always give the im- pression that they are in the forefront of struggle against fascism and are the proponents of democracy.

There is nothing the bourgeoisie likes so much as to cover themselves with redemptive phrases about democracy as long as it seems to serve their ends — and as long as the workers don’t use that democracy to move in their own direction, not only to advance this or that capitalist politician.

Full-scale fascism means the complete abolition of capitalist de- mocracy. That has happened several times in the 20th century, only to advance this or that capital- ist’s interests.

The earliest form of fascism took place in Italy. Later, it took over in Germany and in Spain.

What led to Mussolini’s takeover of the power in Italy? The workers’ movement had reached a stage in its development where it had become a threat to the very existence of capitalist rule. Even Frederick Eng- elts thought at one point at the end of the 19th century that the workers’ movement would take over in Germany. It was the gener- al strike standing there as a result of parliamentary means the workers’ movement would ultimately rule. But that turned out to be an illusion. The ruling class could not easily overcome the great achievements of the working class by mere elections. Even if they could win absolute ma- jorities in a few elections, they could not fundamentally change the class position of the working class. So much had been won that it would take a military struggle to change it. That is where fascism came in.

The bourgeoisie in a number of European countries ruling class turned in a direction. Instead of being the patron saint of bourgeoisie democracy, they slowly and grad- ually threw overboard everything it brought with that tradition.

They began to instigate move- ments for the overthrow of capitalist democracy altogether, as a means to abolish the gains of the workers, and revamp and redesign the form of the state. The object was to develop on a world scale and become the most aggressive group of capi- talists in order to redivide the colonies in their favor.

Personality of leaders not decisive

The development of fascism didn’t have anything to do with the psycholog- ical bent of leaders. It didn’t have anything to do with an obsession with liberty, free speech and the like.

It had to do with the necessity to sustain the rule of a particular class over another class, to sustain capi- talism when it is very much under siege from the workers.

The enormous strength of the workers’ organizations on the Euro- pean arena had frightened the bour- geoise. The confidence of the work- ers’ movements was such that they were openly speaking not only about the overthrow of the bourgeoisie but also how they would soon govern over society. It was just a matter of time before the ruling class would be out of business.

In the ruling class sees its most substantial interests under siege, it doesn’t care much about democracy, freedom or anything else. It is ready to stake its all on retaining its system, even to the point of the loss of millions of lives. It will think of its class interests above all and will throw overboard everything it has fought for democracy, freedom, god or whatever — in the interest of retaining its class position.

This is how the fascist movements
developed. Not as a automatic, an- ti-democratic tendency, but because of the ruling class’s organic need to save its class interests and system.

What led to Mussolini’s takeover of the power in Italy? The working class was strong in Italy. Even the monarchy did not stand in the way of the workers’ organizing. The CIVIL war was pronounced. The workers’ movement was also reaching out to the peasants.

In the years immediately after the Russian Revolution, the Italian masses tried to take it all. They or- ganized general strikes and tried to take over all of industry, occupiy- ing the plants. They wanted to make short shrift of the slow, eventual growth of the working class — par- ticularly the workers who were making- gains?

Even if Mussolini had organized the fascist coup d’etat on his own, his subsequent stay in power showed how the ruling class in Italy and by the imperialists as a whole. His march on Rome to “rescue Ita- ly from Bolshevism” and his Black Shirts would have been a temporary thing with no importance had big capital not supported him.

So the first characteristic in the development of a fascist regime of the classical type is the existence of a revolutionary situation caused by the rise of a workers’ movement. This in turn causes the capitalist ruling class to abandon capitalist democracy and turn to fascism to retain its rule.

True, a fascist dictatorship means that even the bourgeoisie cannot up certain of its rights. Nonetheless, the results of fascism everywhere to were to strengthen the ruling class as the ruling class.

In Italy, this classical form of fas- cism existed from 1922 all the way up to the end of World War II, when the workers overthrew Mussolini as a result of their own independent efforts.

Fascism in Spain

Fascism took a different route. The revolutionary working class developed very rapidly in the 1930s — threatening not only the monarchy but the capitalist system, which was still tied in with all the ancient feudal institutions. Spain seemed to be the country par excellence where feudal institu- tions could exist within the womb of capitalist society. It seemed as if the workers’ movement was more removed from Marxism than in Italy, Germa- ny and elsewhere in Europe. But this Continued on page 8
By Greg Butterfield

Six years after the U.S. government helped to engineer a right-wing takeover of Ukraine using mass protests, another former Soviet satellite — Belarus — is now in the gunsights of Washington and the European Union. It is the latest front in the anti-war movement here to raise the demand: U.S.-NATO hands off Belarus!

On Aug. 8, presidential elections were held in Belarus. According to the central election commission, incumbent President Alexander Lukashenko won with 80.1 percent of the vote, easily avoiding a second-round runoff. Opposition candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, his nearest competitor, won just over 10 percent of the vote. No other candidate received more than 2 percent.

Tikhanovskaya claimed to have won 60 percent of the vote and accused the government of fraud. She immediately left the country for neighboring NATO country Lithuania, which has been ruled by a fascist government that persecutes communists, bans Soviet-era symbols and regulates the internet.

Other opposition candidates fled to the West and charged as fraud. As usual, at first, they called for a re-count, but then the numbers dropped and they lost interest in favoring demands for new elections.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), aligned with the NATO members, was invited to send election observers but declined, blaming “the lack of a timely invitation.”

In Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, Tikhanovskaya announced the formation of a “Power Transfer Coordination Council” to implement the removal of Lukashenko. She suggested that she may declare herself the legitimate president. On Aug. 24, she was appointed as head of a minor ranking U.S. diplomat, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Bigan.

The OSCE has tasked some commentators in the former Soviet countries to label Tikhanovskaya “the Belarusian Juan Guaidó,” comparing her to the Venezuelan “interim” leader. She remained in hiding in Belarus, with the backing of the U.S. and European countries, against demands from the newly elected President Nicolas Maduro.

On Aug. 20, during the presentation of an award to Belarus Ambassador Oleg Paferov in Caracas, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said, “Belarus and Venezuela are facing similar attacks that repeat the same scenarios.”

Opposition groups protested the election results. State forces clamped down hard on the protests, arresting many and there were reports of police brutality.

Afterward, most protesters were free to return to work, apologizing for the harsh response and permitting protests to continue.

Since then, there have been large demonstrations in support of Lukashenko’s re-election in the capital, Minsk, and around the country. A U.S.-NATO financial organization has reportedly engaged in provocative movements near Belarus’ borders with Poland and Lithuania. The U.S. and EU representative have been trying to destabilize the situation in western Belarus, particularly the city of Grodno, and rushed additional troops to the area to defend the country’s territorial integrity.

Both Lukashenko and independent observers say the actions of the U.S. and other NATO powers, and of Tikhanovskaya and other opposition leaders, is an attempt to derail the wave of “color revolutions” used to overthrow governments considering the whole strategy of “color revolutions” used to overthrow governments consider inadequate, subversive Western imperialist powers and Big Capital, including Yugoslavia, Libya and Ukraine.

Why Belarus is a target

Belarus is a country of 9.5 million, the first in the world in 1990. It is bordered by NATO members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to the north and west, NATO-aligned Ukraine to the south, and Russia to the east.

Although relations between Belarus and Russia have been strained recently, the two countries are members of a Union State established in 1999 with strong bonds of economic cooperation and mutual defense.

Belarus is one of the “belligerent states” between Russia and NATO since the neoliberal/fascist takeover of Ukraine in 2014. The coup in Ukraine, backed up with anti-communist, pro-privatization and ultranationalist opposition protests as they are determined to prevent a new socialist revolution as they are determined to prevent a new socialist revolution.

The coalition that promotes it is rooted in the fight against imperialism and for the restoration of the socialist era intact, especially when it comes to social provision. The workers’ movement went on strike have so far fallen flat, reflecting the disconnect between the concerns of the workers and the program of the opposition over privatization and austerity.

Andriy Manchuck, a Ukrainian Marxist and editor of Liva.com.ua, exposed the “Resuscitation Reform Package” — which was formed in 2014, and supplies the Ukrainian government with neoliberal reformers and experts, with an emphasis on privatization, denationalization of the economy, and promotion of the interests of international financial organizations and transnational corporations.

Belarus, not West, will decide

Communists and socialists in Belarus who seek to represent the interests of the workers and oppose imperialist intervention are working over the heads of the workers. They understand the frustratiobs and fears of the working class and the need to counter the ways that people are working to improve their lives to defend their sovereignty.

In Russia as well as in the West, there are powerful capitalist interests to see the preservation of the Belarusian industry and agriculture. Although the present protest movement may subside for now, the pressure on Lukashenko’s government to dismantle workers’ rights will continue to grow, as will NATO’s military presence.

The best guarantee for Belarus’ continued independence and access to jobs, education and health care is the growth of a working-class movement rooted in the fight against imperialism and for the restoration of socialist society.

Here in the U.S., we must fight against every manifestation of military, political and economic intervention by Washington and its NATO allies. Building the movement against war and racism, and organizing workers, the oppressed people to fight for socialism here, is the best way to assist the Belarusian people’s struggle to defend their sovereignty.

U.S.-NATO hands off Belarus!

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Continued from page 7

the theory vanished in thin air when workers went on revolutionary strikes and threatened to topple not only the monarchy but also the capitalist institutions.

There is a legend in the U.S. that the whole struggle in Spain was between democracy and fascism. That is not true. It was between the revolutionary working class and the capitalist class. The bourgeoisie masked itself in a democratic form late in the day.

The existence of an armed and revolutionary working class in Spain compelled the ruling class to appeal to the military. Not being able to convince the entire military to stage a counterrevolutionary insurrection, they used one of “the key’’ — the militarists — Francisco Franco — to lead an open, violent, counterrevolutionary assault on the workers’ movement. He was bought out in 1936. He openly denounced bourgeois democracy as responsible for all the evils in Spain. He got the support of the Catholic working class.

Armed to the teeth, Franco began a bloody extermination of the workers’ organizations: the communists, socialists and anarchists.

Continued on page 9
Bolivia mass mobilizations against U.S.-backed coup continue

By Julia ‘Pachamama’ Fernández

A 12-day national Bolivian blockade led by massive social movements, students, elders, unions and farmworkers ended on Aug. 13. It had paralyzed the entire country, resulting in food/fruit shortages and in the complete instability of the Andean nation itself. The movement was temporarily lifted after the government agreed to have presidential elections on Oct. 18, but union workers forewarned Haiti that without a clear and fair follow-up, expect more mobilizations to continue.

On that same day, a terrorist attack by a group of hooded men used explosives against the centers of Las Barrilomas, a primary union organization of Indigenous women, and of the COB, a union federation of Bolivian minersworkers. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the deliberate brutal attacks on rural Indigenous communities have the people on edge. Amid the blockades, student hunger strikes, and workers taking control of local resources, increased deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the deliberate abandonment/neglect foisted upon the poor. The workers continue to endure the worst state violence and political persecution it has seen in decades.

Since the U.S.-backed coup took over, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) and its Indigenous leaders have experienced non-stop civil unrest. On Aug. 18, the all-right paramilitary group, Resistencia Juvenil Cochachí (RJC), which is funded by the EU and partly by the U.S. government, girded up to be ready to attack first.

Trotsky urged the revolutionary workers to be on guard and prepare for insurrection. He also urged the Soviet Union to open up military maneuvers on its Western front and to give courage and support to the communists and the workers’ movement.

One of the people listed is a young Quechua medical doctor and MAS member and leader, Marisol Coca Calderon, who resides in the Sacaba/Hualayani area, where a bloody massacre took place on Nov. 15, 2019. During a phone conversation with Calderon, she shared with me how she is being threatened and harassed daily. Because the de facto government supports and funds them, there is no justice for the one she can call the “murderers.”

For now, she continues to organize at a small local center called "Murderers Revealed!! These Are Bolivia’s Enemies!!"

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From "Marxism and mass action: Strategies for the struggle ahead," published in December 1994

What to do next

The art of revolutionary politics is knowing what to do next. It is okay to theorize about fascism or the strength of the right-wing, but our organization differs from a debating society. We must take a firm, indeed revolutionary, stance.

Individuals can change, but the ruling class’s trend is toward repression, solidifying in the most undemocratic way possible its control over the resources of the country and indeed of the globe. U.S. imperialism is on the march everywhere. The devastating results fall on the backs of the workers at home as well.

What do we do? We know the right-wing is moving, and that there is only a thin difference between the right and the ultra-right.

One of the great lessons of the 1930s was Leon Trotsky’s writings on the question of how to fight fascism. He stressed how important it is not to overlook what is happening, how it is possible to lose the historic moment, and allow the ruling class to be victorious.

He delineated in a dramatic and readable way the potential that led to the victory of fascism in Germany.

In the U.S. at that time there were only the beginnings of fascist groupings. No sooner did the wave of reaction sweeping Europe reach these shores than the great sit-down strikes among the workers were wiped out completely.

They were never able to get a foothold among the workers. The myriad of small fascist groups were washed away by the upsurge of the working class.

That is the surest way to end any fascist attempt to establish itself as a political force over the working class.

There has been no experience here with fascism on a mass scale. We are basically looking at a theoretical and ideological discussion.

Our task is not to wait until things happen, in which case you can be absolutely sure the liberal bourgeoisie as well as certain sections of the big bourgeoisie will get it right. Instead, we need to work in a way that both differentiates and apathetic in this great struggle.

The possibility for the growth of neoliberalism, if you can call it that, and for political reaction generally is in the soil because monopoly is growing. The contradiction between the forms of capitalist production and the forms of capitalist distribution grows wider and wider.

The struggle against the imperialist nations grows sharper. There is no tendency toward political equilibrium.

None of the small countries that were actual colonies and became independent has shown any move toward economic independence. They would like to do it but cannot because of the monstrous growth and position of the big banks and corporations over the entire planet.

Opportunity for a mass struggle

We can go to the masses and promote tremendous activity to challenge the already considerable size of the bourgeoisie. We need not be fearful about going beyond the legal limits that the bourgeoisie constrains us to. On a picket line, you never know when you’re going to get arrested, but you don’t say, “Don’t have the picket line.” That kind of talk leads to failure.

In the 1930s, the Communist Party and other organizations were very conscious of the growth of fascism, not to a large degree, but they were trying to win the big bourgeoisie to support the struggle against it.

There is nothing wrong with asking them to support the struggle against fascism, but it’s another thing to expect it from them. We have to explain this to the most oppressed and persecuted people. We need to make them understand that fascism is not merely an exposition of the borders of the working class, but it’s another thing to explain it to them to support the struggle against it.

Marxism is as Marxism does. It is not merely an exposition of the tendencies in capitalist society that is inevitably lead to destruction. It is also a means for arming the workers and oppressed people on how to proceed in the next period.

Are we mainly directing our attention to the program of the right-wing Republicans? No. We shouldn’t leave the other Republicans and the Democrats off the hook.

To make it very clear, our struggle against the right wing is an extension of the struggle for some new development on our part. We are going to conduct a revolution and working-class struggle in the most comprehensive way.

Many of you will remember before them, with greater emphasis on developing an initiative in the struggle against the right wing and the neofascist tendencies that may spring up now and then.
Celebrating the Life of Fidel Castro Ruz

By Gloria Verdejo

On Aug. 13, 2020, the U.S.-Cuba Normalization International Conference (ICAP) celebrated and honored the life and legacy of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro Ruz on his 94th birthday. The historic event was attended by hundreds on Zoom and many hundreds more via a live broadcast on Facebook. The entire event can be viewed on the U.S.-Cuba Normalization website, and on the National Network on Cuba Facebook page and YouTube channel. Some of the content is summarized here.

Naida Vigezzi, co-chair of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), opened the program, welcomed everyone and thanked all the organizers who worked to bring this amazing virtual program filled with discussions, performances, discussions, scholars, students, statepeople, academics, activists and so many of us who are connected with the brilliance of Fidel and the Cuban people.

The NNOC, the U.S. umbrella organization of solidarity groups, has been involved in supporting and upholding Cuban sovereignty and extending the travel ban and the unilateral, economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. since 1991.

Vigezzi introduced the co-facilitators: Ikie Nahem, anti-imperialist, socialist, and author of "Fidel: The Light of the Life of Fidel Castro: A Marxist Appreciation," and member of Teamsters and Railroad Workers United Union, and Tamara Hansen, executive member of the Canadian Network on Cuba, author of "5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution: The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership." Vigezzi also thanked all the organizers who worked to bring this amazing program together.

Vigezzi spoke of the many lessons learned from Fidel, beginning with the first days following the triumph of the October 26th Revolution and the education and health care. She gave an overview of the many struggles that many of us in the U.S. have participated in, the fight against the travel ban, struggles to return Elián González to his homeland, campaigning to Free the Five; the students who graduated from the Latin American School of Medical Science and are performing medicine at the invitation of Fidel; those who joined Fidel’s call to Free the Five; and the many who have visited Cuba in defiance of the travel blockade. These were among the many messages Vigezzi expressed during her presentation that González acknowledged.

González spoke of the current crisis, where the U.S. government has blocked the purchase of medical supplies, and the many Cuban medical personnel saving lives in 28 countries. Cuba’s Henry Reeve International Brigade — named by Fidel Castro for the 26-year-old U.S. soldier who fought and died on Aug. 4, 1876 in Cuba’s War of Independence — formed from the volunteers gathered to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The three-hour program flowed nonstop with many live speakers, video-taped presentations, live cultural performances and solidarity messages.

Five ambassadors on the program made amazing presentations on the legacy of Fidel and the Cuban Revolution and the promise that a better world is possible. The ambassadors were: Carola Díaz-Cubas, Cuban ambassador to the United States; Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy, permanent representative of Vietnam to the United Nations; Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations; Josefa Vidal, Cuban ambassador to Canada; and Adán Chávez, Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba.

Ambassador José Ramón Cabáñas, who published text of the speech in La Jornada, referred to one of the pillars of Fidel’s revolutionary thought and work by quoting, “The defense of universal access and free health care is a fundamental human right for every human being and the importance of training, the necessary resources, and establishing an effective health care system at all levels that allows the exercise and enjoyment by the people.”

Ambassador Ana Silvia Rodríguez remarked on Cuba’s foreign policy, quoting Fidel at the United Nations General Assembly 60 years ago. He said, “In sum, we support all the no-votes and abstentions of all peoples. That’s our position. We support and shall always support everything that is just, namely against destruction and plunder, against exploitation, against monopolies, against militarism, against the arms race, against playing with war. We shall always be against these things. That shall be our position.”

Ambassador Dan Dinh Quy said that for the Vietnamese people Fidel has been a symbol of revolutionary heroism. Cuba was the first country to recognize the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam in 1963 and the only country who set up an embassy in 1967. Fidel sent construction engineers to build hospitals, and doctors and nurses to train the Vietnamese in medical profession and are functioning now. There are concrete examples of solidarity that Fidel had with the Vietnamese people. This has been a symbol of existence today, as we can see Cuban medical teams in many countries to fight COVID-19. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy said that for Brazil, invited Cuban doctors to her country. She was removed from office on trumped-up charges in a parliamentary coup. Rousseff said, “Cuba’s humanitarian relationshio with the world is exemplary and demonstrates that solidarity is its basic value and principle.”

Don Rojas, former press secretary for the martyred prime minister of Nicaragua, Comrade Maurice Bishop, said that this day in early 1980 when a Cuban ship arrived in Grenada to fulfill an economic development goal expressed by Bishop to Fidel Castro. Its cargo included brand new construction equipment from bulldozers to cranes and earthmoving trucks for construction of Grenada’s international airport, today named for comrade Maurice Bishop.

In her words, Fidel González Cabáñas, Fidel sent medical doctors, dentists and nurses, and then teams of Cuban engineers and architects who worked alongside their Grenadian counterparts to construct the airport as well as access roads to the airport. Today, there are literally hundreds of doctors and nurses from Cuba scattered throughout the country assisting in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rojas concluded by saying that on this occasion, while we honor the life and legacy of Fidel Castro, “I also want to honor the memory of the many Cuban international workers who fought and shed their blood and died defending themselves and defending their Grenadian comrades when the U.S. military invaded Grenada on November 14, 1983,” when Ronald Reagan invaded Grenada in October of 1983, and to say, “Down, down with the illegal and immoral blockade of Cuba! Viva Fidel! and the glorious Cuban Revolution!”

Clever Banganyai, with the Friends of Cuba in South Africa, is a Cuban trained engineer who lived in Cuba from 1991 to 1996 and the recipient of the Friendship Medal, the highest honor of the Cuban People’s Republic of State for his work in the campaign against the U.S. blockade and for the freedom of the Cuban Five. This is a personal account of the statement he presented in person from South Africa.

“We celebrate Fidel Castro’s outstanding contribution as a world revolutionary, as an inspired internationalist, as a statesman truly devoted to the aspirations of people of the developing world, the people of Cuba and for millions of people of the developing world. As a loyal friend of Africa, South Africa in particular, Fidel Castro led the people of Cuba in a most significant international contribution for the liberation of the African continent with his conviction, unity, and solidarity as a tool of victory. Fidel Castro’s lessons of unity, solidarity, and commitment to revolutionary peace groups are a source of inspiration for today’s young generations of Africans and all other youth in the world. His profound political ideas must be widely shared and understood. Only socialism can ensure conditions of survival of the human species, that another world, a better and peaceful one in harmony with nature is possible and that the oppressed have the revolutionary capacity to build against injustice.”

Gail Walker, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, referenced the creation of one of Fidel’s many living legacies, the creation of the Latin American School of Medical Science (ELAM).
on his 94th birthday

Vijay Prashad 
Clever Banganyai

It was the forward vision of Fidel Castro to take a naval barracks and convert it into an internationally renowned medical training center and, thanks to that vision, tens of thousands of young people from more than 135 nations including the U.S. are now practicing medicine in underserved communities across the globe. In the year 2000 at that historical Raul Mondoví day celebration, Fidel offered free medical scholarships to qualified candidates from all regions of the U.S. from low income communities and communities of color who would not otherwise have access to medical education. That was the gift with the only obligation being that those scholarship recipients would return and practice in medically underserved communities in the U.S.

And since that year 2000, under the direction of my father, Rev. Lucius Walker, IFO has been honored to take on the role for young people to participate in this scholarship program. To date, as the ambassador explained, Cuba has graduated 196 doctors including the very country that has imposed a genocidal blockade for more than six decades.

Walker continued, “From Standing Rock to the front lines of the fight against coronavirus, we in the United States are the beneficiaries of Cuba’s long-standing commitment to medical internationalism. The U.S. government may have shamefully rejected Cuba’s beautiful offer of the 1970 census, just three percent of the whole world saw George Floyd die, a world record, with 10 million people have marched in protest. This mobilization in U.S. history. Two hundred and fifty thousand African Americans have lost their jobs due to deindustrialization was a disaster in Chicago. The American Motors engine plant in Kenosha belongs to the people, not the fascists! The writer is a former Wisconsin resident.”

Kenosha cops and fascists work hand-in-hand

Continued from page 1

mobilization in U.S. history. Twenty million people have marched against racism in thousands of places, including rural areas. Many of the participants have been Black people.

This unity is dangerous to the billionaire class. Three months after the whole world saw George Floyd being choked to death on May 25, the police and other racist scum want to strike back.

There were only three days in the last three months in which U.S. police haven’t killed anyone. Kenosha is their target. The corporate headquarters of Uline — owned by the ultraright billionaires Elizabeth and Richard Uihlein — is located in Pleasant Prairie, a village in Kenosha County. The Black community in Kenosha has always been small.

Ten thousand African Americans live there, a tenth of the city’s population. According to the 1970 census, just 1,970 Black people lived in Kenosha.

That’s despite Kenosha having been an industrial powerhouse. The American Motors assembly plant on the lakefront once employed 12,000 workers who belonged to United Auto Workers Local 72. Hundreds of people worked in other factories, including where Jockey underwear was made. Most of the Black workers employed in these factories lived in nearby cities, including Milwaukee; Racine, Wis.; and Waukegan, Ill.

The American Motors engine plant closed in 1990. The assembly plant on the lakefront shut down three years earlier.

Luxury housing has been built on the lakefront where Ramblers once rolled off the assembly line. The housing’s residents can take a newly built streetcar to the commuter rail station and travel to their jobs in Chicago.

Fifty years ago, the first phase of deindustrialization was a disaster for Black workers in the Midwest. The median income of the region’s African American families fell by 36 percent between 1978 and 1982. A reverse migration to the South began. Yet Kenosha’s Black community has grown five-fold since 1970. Thousands of Latinx people live in Kenosha.

Almost all of the factories in Kenosha that paid union wages and benefits are gone. But capitalists still need workers.

White workers who have woken up because of the Black Lives Matter movement will join Asian, Black, Indigenous and Latinx workers in fighting the new Great Depression.

Fifty-six years ago, the world mourned the murders of Fred Hampton, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. The Black and Jewish martyrs were killed by the Ku Klux Klan near Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964. The anti-racist activists who were killed in Kenosha, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, will not be forgotten.

Gaige Grosskreutz, who was wounded, needs reconstructive surgery on his bicep. He needs help paying his medical expenses. Donations to a GoFundMe account can be sent to “Help Gaige, Kenosha medic, with medical bills” tinyurl.com/yyz2944.

Kenosha belongs to the people, not the fascists! The writer is a former Wisconsin resident.

The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

by Stephen Mills

SLL articles include:
• Bombings greet the Great Migration
• Who lost the union vote?
• Communists fight racism and evictions
• Chicago Mayor Daley’s racist machine
• Never forget Fred Hampton
• The people put Harold Washington in City Hall

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**After tragic Beirut explosion: Imperialist vultures pounce on Lebanon**

By Greg Butterfield

A powerful explosion ripped through the port of Beirut, Lebanon’s capital, on Aug. 4. At least 171 people are dead, and thousands were injured, including many Syrian and other non-Lebanese workers. Human remains have been made homeless by the disaster.

Beirut is the country’s main port. For Lebanon’s nearly 7 million residents, the port is crucial to their livelihood. While the West Asian country relies on the explosion and struggles to recover, the embargos of the U.S., France and Britain along with their regional attack dogs, Israel and Saudi Arabia, have seized upon the tragedy to ratchet up pressure on Lebanon.

Warships from Britain and France — Lebanon’s former colonial ruler — now patrol the waters of the Beirut port, under the pretext of providing “humanitarian aid.” Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron has rushed to Beirut on Aug. 6, not for altruistic reasons, but to make a thinly veiled threat: “we will not forgive you.”

The U.S. and European Union powers are eager to exploit the tragedy to destroy Lebanon’s fragile balance of political and religious forces, established by the Taif agreement that ended the 1975-1990 civil war, and particularly to strike a blow against the Popular Resistance Bloc led by Hezbollah.

It was this movement that drove Israel, the U.S. and French occupation forces out of Lebanon and rebuffed an Israeli invasion in 2006. Its main base is Shia Muslims, Lebanon’s largest community, but its deeds have won it support in all Lebanese communities. The Resistance bloc is part of the Regional Axis of Resistance that includes Syria and Iran.

Under pressure, Prime Minister Hassan Diab’s government resigned on Aug. 10. He will stay on as caretaker prime minister until a new government is agreed upon.

On Aug. 11, just a week after the Beirut explosion, three Israeli tanks violated Lebanon’s southern border and fired a phosphorous bomb. The Lebanese government continued its nightly rain of U.S.-made missiles on the desperate and besieged people of Gaza. On Aug. 20, those attacks were in their tenth night.

Hezbollah has given aid and solace to the Palestinian people of Gaza in their fight against the brutal U.S.-Israeli siege.

**Resistance responds to false charges**

In the hours after the disaster, a narrative was quickly fashioned by the Western media and local right-wing forces claiming that the explosion was caused by a cache of Hezbollah weapons stored at the Beirut port. These charges were swiftly refuted by Hezbollah and other sources. But their real aim was to rally the imperialist forces inside and outside Lebanon.

In a televised speech on Aug. 7, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said, “I naturally deny the claim that Hezbollah has arms cache, ammunition or anything else in the port.”

French President Emmanuel Macron, in an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, confirmed that it was “impossible” for Hezbollah to be responsible for the blast, since the resistance does not store weapons in the Beirut port.

In fact, the blast was caused by 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate moved from an abandoned ship and stored in a warehouse at the port since 2014 — long before Prime Min- ister Diab took office in January 2020.

The compound can be used to make fertilizer and explosives. What sparked the blast is still unknown.

The report released by the New York Times, the U.S. government knew about the large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the Beirut port and the danger it posed since at least 2016.

“According to the cable, the consultant, under a contract with the U.S. Army, reported in 2013 to 2016. The cable said that the advisor ‘conveyed that he had conducted a port facility inspection on security measures during which he reported to port officials on the unsafe storage of the ammonium nitrate.’

“Tahini wears a hijab. She was a consultant who had worked in the Middle East; she was not the consultant who normally have conveyed his findings immediately to the American officials. But they did not use as an excuse for political aims — the cause of the blast should be investigated carefully.”

French President Emmanuel Macron wasted no time attempting to assert the former colonial ruler’s authori-

ty. On a supposed humanitarian visit on Aug. 6, Macron stepped direct-

ly into Lebanese politics, calling for the formation of a “national unity government” to negotiate under French auspices, and encourag-

ing right-wing elements among the opposition.

“Tahini wore a hijab. She was a consultant who had worked in the Middle East; she was not the consultant who normally have conveyed his findings immediately to the American officials. But they did not use the information; however, several current and former American offi-
cials who have worked in the Middle East say that the consultant normally have conveyed his findings immediately to the American officials. But they did not use as an excuse for political aims — the cause of the blast should be investigated carefully.”

“I will propose a new political pact [in Lebanon] this afternoon,” Macron told protesters in Beirut, who were chanting “revolution” and “End the regime.”

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cials who have worked in the Middle East say that the consultant normally have conveyed his findings immediately to the American officials. But they did not use as an excuse for political aims — the cause of the blast should be investigated carefully.”

“I will return on the first of Sep-
tember, and if they [the Lebanese people] can’t do it, I’ll take my polit-
ical responsibility,” he said.

Macron’s hypocrisy wasn’t lost on many Lebanese protesters, who pointed to his re-

pression of France’s “yellow vests” movement and union-led pro-
tests against austerity programs he champions at home.

Perhaps the clearest example of Macron’s duplicity is the con-

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Solidarity with Cuban Women Federation

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Solidarity with Cuban Women Federation

who developed the vaccine that is big news for the pandemic-shocked world. The Director General of the Finlay Institute of Vaccines, the two women scientists who developed the vaccine and the director of Cuba’s medical regulator agency CECMED. It is the first vaccine trial submitted from Latin America and the Caribbean. Its name, Soberana, means sovereignty.

According to a report from CubaInformacion.tv the number of subscribers to Mesa Redonda’s channel had doubled in 2020. Social media, like YouTube provide Cuba’s voice unfiltered and unslanted by the imperialist-minded corporate media.

Since it was established in 2009, the Mesa Redonda YouTube channel had accumulated archives of the programs, interviews and documentaries, creating an international resource that is now unavailable. CubaInformacion.tv also reported the cancellation of three YouTube accounts for the Cuban state television channel TVT and access to its Gmail emails. The three accounts were Complete TVT Programs, Multimedios TVT and the dedicated account for live transmission.

The development of digital media and communication platforms opens new avenues to information challenging the white supremacist, neoliberal capitalist lens. These tools combat the U.S. propaganda war of lies about Cuba and Venezuela penetrating the media monopoly.

A current example is the scurrilous U.S. slander campaign waged against Cuban internationalist medical solidarity. The Pan American Health Organization awarded the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade the prestigious 2017 Prize for Public Health. Cuba’s 250 specialized “health workers constituted the single largest medical operation on the ground in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia” during the 2014–2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak. And now a global movement supports awarding the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize to the Henry Reeve Brigade for the fight to curb the coronavirus pandemic and save lives. (CubaNobel.org)

In the late 1960s, the direct voice of Cuba was only available via shortwave Radio Havana Cuba broadcasts or hand-to-hand sharing of digitized print editions of the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Gramma. Now, many Cuban publications can be found on the web, on Facebook, through WhatsApp and Telegram subscriptions, YouTube, Twitter and more. TeleSUR, the collaborative media initiated by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America is a powerful source for news from the world, including Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas.

Communication platforms taken for granted and more widely employed in the U.S. during the pandemic, like Zoom and WebEX, are blocked for use in Cuba. It is time for the economic, financial and commercial blockade to end. 🇨🇺

Stop the bombing! End the blockade! LET GAZA LIVE!

By Bill Dores

As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo illegally addressed the Republican national convention from Israel–occupied Jerusalem, U.S.-made Israeli planes launched U.S.-made missiles into the Gaza Strip.

Since Aug. 1, Israel’s U.S.-made, U.S.-paid-for, Israeli Air Force has bombed the besieged enclave every night. Israel’s Navy has shut down Gaza’s fishing industry, stopping the people of Gaza from fishing their own waters.

Israel has also blocked fuel from entering Gaza, forcing its only power plant to shut down. This is while the besieged enclave is on 24-hour lockdown due to COVID-19.

The U.S., Israel and their collaborators in Egypt have turned the 25-mile-long Gaza Strip into the world’s largest prison. Nearly 2 million children, women and men are incarcerated there. Their crime: being born Palestinian in the land of Palestine.

Most of the families living in Gaza were expelled from their land a few miles to the north in 1948. The beaches there are now dotted with condos and luxury hotels for Western tourists and settlers. Now, the U.S.-Israel blockade, begun in 2007, has made the place they were driven to uninhabitable.

Commercial media are completely silent about the nightly bombing and the intensiﬁed blockade. Washington continues to pour more military aid into a occupation regime while people here in the U.S. face devastating unemployment and budget cuts. The people of the U.S. and the world must demand an end to the bombing and the blockade. Lift the siege on Gaza now! 🇨🇺
Apenas ocho meses después del triunfo de la Revolución Cubana el 23 de agosto de 1960, se fundó la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas. En esa reunión Fidel Castro recordó: “Siempre que se dan oportunidades de hacer cosas importantes, las mujeres deben participar en ellas. En Cuba, las mujeres siempre han sido activas en la lucha por la independencia de Cuba, las mujeres que llevaban mensajes desde la Sierra a las ciudades más allá de las líneas enemigas.”

Desde la líder de la rebelión esclavista Carlota hasta las mujeres del Moncada y el Pelotón de Mujeres Mariana Grajales en la Sierra Maestra, el desarrollo de CENESEX, el Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual de Cuba para abordar el espectro de la identidad, género, sexualidad, homofobia y transfobia, a las mujeres científicas de hoy que produjeron la vacuna Sóberana-01 COVID-19 que comenzaron los ensayos clínicos el 24 de agosto, las mujeres son una fuerza revolucionaria dentro de la revolución. El 15 de agosto, el programa virtual de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas reunió a amigos de la Federación Revolucionaria Internacional de Mujeres, la Marcha Mundial de Mujeres y otras organizaciones en un foro virtual con la Secretaria General de la FMC Teresa Amarelle Boué. Venezuela, México, Ecuador, Brasil, Panamá, Argentina y Berta Joubert-Ceci de Puerto Rico cuyos comentarios a continuación:

Compañeras, gracias por hacer posible este foro de celebración y por el honor de habernos invitado a participar.

Nuestra organización Mujeres en Lucha, miembro de la FMC en su aniversario. Quisiera comenzar destacando el papel de la FMC, a través de Vilma Espín, quien tuvo esa visión de asegurar la continuidad de la CENESEX luego de la desarticulación de los países socialistas en los 90, de continuar ese proyecto de unidad internacional liderado por mujeres. Compañeras, después de haber participado en varios escenarios a nivel internacional con las mujeres de la FMC, nos gustaría compartir algunas de las cualidades que nos han impactado de ellas, cualidades que sirven como ejemplo para todas nosotras: su gran generosidad con su tiempo, siempre dispuestas a compartir experiencias y sugerencias — férreas defensoras de su revolución, su comprensión, su búsqueda de consensos, y su tenacidad para enfrentar problemas y obstáculos. Mucho hemos aprendido de ustedes compañeras.

Este año, nos hemos enfrentado a un desafío a nivel global, la pandemia del COVID-19 nos ha obligado a asumir un aislamiento físico, sin embargo, ese mismo aislamiento ha forzado la apertura de una puerta virtual hacia el mundo. La pandemia se ha convertido en un desafío y a la misma vez en una oportunidad para acercarnos más íntimamente a otras luchas, a apropiar e incorporar milenios de luchas, a sentir más de cerca sus vicisitudes, sus sufrimientos y la resistencia de sus pueblos. Nos ha llevado a aprender nuevas formas de movilizaciones y de resistencia. De sentimos más parte de otras luchas.

Aunque no haya sido posible encontrar aún ese punto crucial de respuesta global conjunta que pueda de una vez y por todas destruir este sistema capitalista que es la raíz de toda opresión, se está dando ese proceso de acercamiento que nos da la oportunidad de lanzar campañas globales. La criminalidad del capitalismo ha sido expuesta más claramente de esta pandemia. Cuba ha devuelto la noción equivocada de los EUA como “ente salvador de la democracia”, las brigadas médicas cubanas han llevado salud, esperanza y una muestra de generosidad como sólo Cuba revolucionaria y su desarrollo socialista puede hacer.

Cuba siempre ha sido ejemplo de humanidad, y las mujeres de la FMC han sido exponentes de ello. Por donde quiera que han ido sus delegaciones, se han destacado por su compromiso con las causas justas alzando su voz en todos los foros. Nunca han sido observadoras silentes. Y siempre han aprovechado cada foro para defender su revolución, para exponer los crímenes de EUA contra su isla, desde Elián hasta los Cinco Héroes cubanos, exigiendo siempre que se elimine ese bloqueo asesino.

Así que, siguiendo su ejemplo, quisiera hacer un llamado a todas las participantes:

- Solidaridad con el Movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan y el Movimiento Inmigrante en los EUA.
- Y con Puerto Rico, alzar nuestras voces a nivel mundial contra 122 años de invasión, ocupación y colonialismo por los EUA.
- Estamos viviendo momentos muy difíciles en nuestro archipiélago. Hay hambre y desempleo, hay falta de viviendas desde los huracanes Irma y María hace tres años. Desde enero la tierra en el sur ha estado temblando constantemente y se han derrumbado más viviendas, escuelas y edificios históricos. Había señales seguidas de lluvias copiosas que provocan deslizamientos de tierra; y luego esta pandemia durante la cual el gobierno cubano hizo un frente con éxito en la lucha contra el coronavirus, han robado al pueblo y negado las ayudas que más se necesitan.

La camisa de fuerza que es Cuba y que nunca cedió la lucha por la revolución, la democracia, las delegaciones, el apoyo a pueblos en el mundo, han sido exponentes de ello. Cuba ha devuelto su búsqueda de consensos, y su tenacidad a todos los pueblos. Nos ha llevado a aprender nuevas formas de movilizaciones y de resistencia. De sentirnos más parte de otras luchas.

Compañeras, gracias por hacer posible este foro y por el honor de habernos invitado a participar. ¡Viva la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas!

Solidarity with Cuban Women Federation on its 60th Anniversary

Just 8 months after the victory of the Cuban Revolution, on Aug. 23, 1960, the Federation of Cuban Women was founded. Among those who remembered the historic contributions of Cuban women, including mothers like Mariana Grajales, all of whose sons fought and died for Cuban independence, and the women who carried on their search for consensus, and their tenacity to face problems or obstacles. Much have we learned from you compañeras.

This year we have faced a global challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced us to assume physical isolation as a preventive measure. However, that same isolation...