Defend activists & organizers under attack! Defend Black lives!

As the anti-racist uprising of 2020 roiled “business as usual” in cities across the U.S., many protesters have been hit with severe charges after being arrested for offenses that would normally be considered violations or misdemeanors. Many arrestees are facing possible sentences of years in prison or even life sentences.

In a dangerous attack on our right to protest, Attorney General William Barr in a recent conference call with U.S. attorneys across the country even encouraged sedition charges be widely used against anti-racist protesters. Sedition means conspiracy and intent to overthrow the U.S. government and can result in 20 years in prison.

The Socialist Unity Party has issued an appeal to all revolutionary left organizations and activists to unite in defense of those facing repression from the capitalist state and its allies in the white supremacist-fascist movement.

Please share widely. This list will be updated regularly. If you know of a case that should be added, send details to info@struggle-la-lucha.org.

Socialist Unity Party

Louisville

In Louisville Sept. 24, cops trapped and cornered marchers protesting the state’s refusal to charge the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. They arrested 127 people and surrounded a church.

Among the arrested were State Rep. Attica Scott and her daughter Ashanti. Representative Scott was targeted by the cops, who shouted, “Circle her,” as she and her daughter tried to enter the church.

Scott, the only Black woman in the Kentucky legislature, is the author of a bill to abolish no-knock warrants in the state, Breonna’s Law. She is charged with inciting to riot. That’s the same level of felony as the wanton endangerment charge against former cop Brett Hankison, who fired into the wrong apartment when his partners were murdering Breonna Taylor.

Cops absurdly accuse Scott and other protesters of trying to burn down a public library. “I have no idea where that came from and I’m quite frankly offended and disgusted that they would try to accuse me of setting fire to the library when I’m one of its biggest champions,” Scott said. “And this is the library in my district, District 41. That makes absolutely no sense.”

San Diego

Denzel Draughn, a well-known San Diego anti-racist activist and supporter of the African People’s Socialist Party, was arrested Aug. 28 at a demonstration in solidarity with the movement in Kenosha, Wis., calling for justice for Jacob Blake, who was shot seven times in the back by police. Draughn is charged based on the ridiculous claim that he pepper-sprayed nine cops. He is facing 19 years in prison or even life sentences.

In fight against killer cops, ‘An injury to one is an injury to all’

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In fight against killer cops, ‘An injury to one is an injury to all’

On Sept. 19, the newly formed New York City chapter of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression held a rally in Union Square Park to demand: “Stop police crimes! Withdraw federal troops! Community control now!” It was part of a national day of action called by the NAARPR.

Speakers expressed their commitment to the struggle to defend Black lives from police murder and to keep the fight going and growing in the streets. They also called for solidarity with activists and community members targeted for repression by the police and Trump administration.

Participating groups included the New York Community Action Project, BAYAN USA, New York Boricua Resistance and the Communist Party USA. A highlight of the rally was the appearance by three high school students that they are forming a New York chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

The following remarks were given by Greg Butterfield, representing the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper:

“We’re proud to be here today with all of you, and to be part of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The launching of the New York Alliance is a big step forward.

“It’s been almost exactly 10 years since the FBI raids on anti-war activists in the Midwest, including several members of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. Back then, the revolutionary left rallied to the defense of these comrades, and eventually, together, we succeeded in beating back the government attack.

“Why do I bring this up? After all, we want to focus on building the movement to defend Black lives, for community control of the police. We want to encourage people to stay in the streets and not back down. But to do that, people have to have a movement!”

Continued on page 6

By Greg Butterfield

“Say her name! Breonna Taylor! No justice, no peace!”

The cry rang out through the streets of Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 23 as more than a thousand people gathered at Barclays Center to protest the exoneration of the Louisville cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. Later, the crowd marched across the Manhattan Bridge and converged with hundreds more protesters in Manhattan. The cry continued on page 4.

Continued on page 6

Protesters arrested during police riot in Tallahassee, Fla. Sept. 5.

Defend Black lives!
Why the Catholic Church owes reparations to California’s Indigenous peoples

By Zola Fish

On July 1, 1769, Father Junípero Serra reached the top of a bluff overlooking what is now San Diego Harbor and declared the area “San Diego” (Saint Didacus) for the Spanish colonial city. Serra had a burning obsession with Native people. His goal was to baptize as many “savages” as he could and force them to assimilate to European colonialist norms and culture. The educational system established in California by the Spanish colonists, and later adopted by the U.S., enforced the myth of Serra as a devout Jesuit who loved and cared for the Indigenous people of the land. In Spain he was thought of as the savior of California. The King of Spain wanted California, and Serra had promised him success. The Catholic Church was a major weapon used by the colonizers to achieve their ends.

In 2015, Pope Francis made Serra a saint, despite the outcry of Native peoples and their allies. The Pope who promised to be progressive turned a man responsible for cultural genocide and countless deaths into an official figure of veneration in the 21st century.

Brutal colonizer

Fr. Serra’s first California mission was created on July 16, 1769. A cross was raised facing the harbor where the San Diego Presidio stands, and a makeshift altar was constructed. By Francis J. Webber, the ceremony went smoothly at first. But when Serra raised his hand to sprinkle water on the baby’s head, the parents grabbed the child and ran off. The child’s father was so devastated, it was said that he cried when the ceremony was mentioned. Serra was a brutal colonizer who ordered the Spanish army to kill many Natives who refused to convert and assimilate. Those who did convert were enslaved. Six thousand Native people were baptized, then forced to live at the missions and become slave laborers. When slaves tried to escape, they were caught, brought back and executed as examples.

So says the Catholic Church. If the Church teaching wasn’t followed correctly, the accused Native person was deemed “immoral.” The victim was whipped and beaten in the same manner as Black slaves. Serra and the Church did not build the missions, as it says in our children’s history books. No! Six thousand Native American slaves built the mission system.

The Chumash Revolt of 1824 was part of a long history of Indigenous resistance to colonialism in California. The Spaniards didn’t have an organ, so they discharged their firearms instead. The smoke from muskets acted as incense as the first mass was performed. Serra somehow convinced a Native couple to allow their new baby to be baptized. According to “The Life and Times of Father Junípero Serra” by Francis J. Webber, the ceremony went smoothly at first. But when Serra raised his hand to sprinkle water on the baby’s head, the parents grabbed the child and ran off. The child’s father was so devastated, it was said that he cried when the ceremony was mentioned. Serra was a brutal colonizer who ordered the Spanish army to kill many Natives who refused to convert and assimilate. Those who did convert were enslaved.

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The Catholic Church doesn’t want us to know that Serra and the Church did not build the missions, as it says in our children’s history books. This was on top of the theft of their land that did not and does not belong to the colonizers.

The Catholic Church owes reparations to all Native tribes, bands and nations along the California coast. History books need to be rewritten to tell the truth of Saint Junípero Serra. He was not a hero of California, nor was he the “Radical” of Spain. He was a brutal colonizer, slaver and murderer.

The Catholic Church is a vastly wealthy capitalist institution. If it can make reparations to the victims of priests that sexually abused children, then surely it can pay up and make reparations to the Native peoples of California. Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Rally for housing justice in Baltimore

By Lev Koufax

On Sept. 14, activists with the Peoples Power Assembly and delegates of the Baltimore public housing Resident Advisory Board marched and rallied for housing justice. The demonstrators demanded increased funding for public housing and an end to attempted privatization of Baltimore City public housing. For several years, the government of Baltimore City and Johns Hopkins University have been working to pave over public housing developments and replace them with condominiums and mega-development developments and replace them with condominiums and mega-development.

In the meantime, funding for public housing maintenance and upkeep have been slashed significantly. Most egregiously, the city has refused to provide COVID-19 relief money to Baltimore residents of public housing. When the Resident Advisory Board spoke out against this failure, it was met with attacks from the city government. The Resident Advisory Board is a group of individuals who advocate on behalf of tenants of the 7,000 public housing units in Baltimore City.

For these reasons, the demonstration outside City Hall demanded “Hands off!” the Resident Advisory Board, no more sales of public housing units, the cancellation of evictions and rent during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the delivery of $10.7 million dollars in relief funds to the Resident Advisory Board.
Fires, climate, and prisons: Systematic racism, sexism is deadly

By John Parker

Los Angeles, Sept. 18 — The National Interagency Fire Center, which delivers global guidelines for fire agencies in the U.S., said the fires burning in Washington state, Oregon and California since the end of August have burned over 4.5 million acres so far — an area larger than Connecticut.

The documentary can attest to that. They’ve gone from grey to red and back to grey again and the air quality here in South Central Los Angeles is registered as UG — Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups — meaning folks with asthma and other pulmonary diseases shouldn’t be outside. Our local school should spend most of the day inside.

For some, this latest crisis drives home the impacts of climate change worldwide about the dangers of doing nothing about global warming. For others, like Trump and his flock, it’s just about the origin of the fires, the fire, the panic, or whatever initially started the fire. We needn’t concern ourselves, they say, with the intensity and duration of the fire that follows, just focus on the match.

Last month, Trump said at one of his rallies that if you want to stop the fires, “You’ve got to clean your forrest. There are many, many years of leaves and broken trees and they’re — so flammable,” the BBC reported.

Tree debris isn’t new, greenhouse gas levels are new

Yeah, those untidy plants have been making a mess for about 370 million years on earth. So, that’s nothing new. But what’s different is the unrelenting increase in the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. A rake isn’t going to do that.

Although the headlines today are focused on the West Coast, actually these fires have been a global phenomenon. Wildfires have burned large areas of our planet in various continents with smoke drifting across oceans and exacerbating global warming.

According to Matt McGrath, environmental correspondent for BBC news, “While natural factors such as strong winds have helped the spread of these massive fires, the underlying heating of the climate from human activities is making these conflagrations bigger and more explosive.”

McGrath writes that nine of the ten warmest years on record have happened since 2005 and the United Nations had already warned that five years from 2016 would be the hottest ever recorded. This is why, he says, six of the 20 largest fires on record in California all occurred this year. In addition, the report said, “Over the past decade has killed millions of trees, turning them into potent fuel for the fires.”

“Climate scientists had forecast that western wildfires would grow in size, scale and impact — but their predictions are coming to fruition faster than expected,” writes McGrath.

Tens of thousands evacuated, but not prisoners

The North Complex Fire in northern California, in the counties of Plumas and Butte, initially started by lightning on Aug. 17, 2020, is among the deadliest in history. So far, news reports say that ten bodies have been found and another 16 people are missing.

Last week, the Los Angeles Times reported that 20 people in California had died from fires last month. BBC News reported that tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders in California due to fires.

In 2016, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2018 suggested that keeping temperatures down to a certain critical level to avoid environmental catastrophe would require “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.”

As the COVID-19 crisis has shown, the U.S. under the system of capitalism is not only a threat to itself, but to the world. The U.S. is the leading contributor to global warming, far exceeding China in regards to emissions per population, and its rejection of the Paris Accords regarding the international fight against global warming and rejection of the World Health Organization during this pandemic once again shows the necessity of smashing capitalism for the sake of humanity.

A system that breeds racism and sexism, like the former prisoner said, is a recipe for killing hope. Imagine how many of those now fearing the fires behind prison walls could have been the scientists who help us cope with COVID or global warming. Systemic racism in the criminal justice system put them there and keeps them there and denies us their potential contributions. Just as sexism does the same. In fact, global warming was discovered three years prior to its “discovery” by a man. But those findings weren’t taken seriously since it was the scientist EuniceFoote, a woman, who actually discovered the first to discover the relationship between greenhouse gases and atmospheric warming. So, we lost three years. Let’s not lose any more in this fight.

Prisoner firefighters are paid $5 a day. The prisoners are highly trained to face the most hazardous conditions and are on the front lines of the fires.

The New York Times reports that Adnan Khan, who was previously incarcerated in California and runs ReStore Justice, a criminal justice reform organization, spent three years at the prison in Solano. Last month, he spoke to a friend at the prison over the phone. “I got a call and honestly, man, I could literally hear people coughing in the background,” he said. “I’m like, ‘Is that COVID? What’s going on?’ My friend says, ‘No, there’s fires here.’”

Khan said his friend told him that corrections officers were walking into the building with ash on their hats and shoulders and that he didn’t believe the prisoners would be safely evacuated. “Approximately 7,000 people in both prisons,” he said. “And COVID. And buses. Where are you going to get all these buses from? Fire evacuations are relatively fast. You can’t just take your time.”

COVID-19 and fires a death sentence, release prisoners now

“This is why the demand to release the prisoners from these overcrowded death traps is so important and should be elevated. Due to the pandemic and the fires, many prisoners have, in all practicality, had their sentences increased to the death penalty due to criminal neglect by the state and federal governments,” he said. It is interesting that Gov. Gavin Newsom last Friday signed a bill allowing more inmates, who work as firefighters while serving their sentences, to get jobs with fire departments once they are released. The timing is interesting because the demand for that right, along with a real wage, not slave wages, has a long history.

But now, the prisoner volunteer pool has been greatly reduced due to early releases or sickness due to COVID-19. So, they are in much greater demand to a state that relies so heavily on these “volunteers.” Perhaps the governor had a change of heart, or felt the necessity to sweeten the pot.

The New York Times quoted a former prisoner at San Quentin, Mr. Stanley-Lockhart, reflecting on how this crisis affects prisoners already dealing with COVID-19 and who live in a country with the highest incarceration rates and long sentences: “It tends to attack your sense of hope,” he said. “If COVID doesn’t get us, the fires will get us. If the fires and COVID don’t get us, we’ll never be able to come out from underneath these sentences.”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2018 suggested that keeping temperatures down to a certain critical level to avoid environmental catastrophe would require "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."
It’s the people who make history

By Stephen Millies

People tend to imagine that Trump nominated and right-wing zealots Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, especially endemically, to advance reproductive rights, rights that enable women to control their own bodies. People may have been right at these concerns. The courts are the most reactionary part of the capitalist government. Supreme Court justices have upheld jailing children in cages because they are migrants. Hundreds of poor people have been executed as racist judges. Troy Davis was strapped to a gurney on the evening of Sept. 21, 2011. Troy Davis was executed because of racist judges. His law office was already closed. His case was a travesty of justice. African American judges had been appointed in the interest of the power of the people.

It was President Clinton who nominated and right-wing zealots Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. In one of her last court decisions, Ginsburg joined Breyer and the five more liberal reactive judges on the tri- bunal in denying asylum to Vijaya- kumar Thurasisingham, a farmer from Sri Lanka. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, of the American Immigration Council, de- scribed the June 25 ruling as “a dev- estation of asylum rights of asylum seekers who arrive at our border seeking protection.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor denounced this decision in a dissent joined by Justice Elena Kagan. Sotomayor wrote that it “handcuffs the judiciary’s ability to perform its constitutional duty to safeguard individual liberty.”

Rights are won in the streets

Nothing was ever given to us by the wealthy and powerful. Every right has had to be fought for. Troy Davis was a victim of the Supreme Court outlaw school segregation in Brown v. Board of Education? It wasn’t because nine white guys in black robes had a change of heart. As California governor, Chief Justice Earl Warren had supported the racist deportation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

This historic, yet limited, 1954 dec- ision was issued as the capitalist economy increasingly needed Black workers. It was also five years after the triumph of the Chinese socialist revolution, which was a tremendous victory against racism.

Against a backdrop of anti-colonial revolts in Africa, Asia and Latin America, U.S. big business and its courts couldn’t openly defend white supremacy.

Every progressive law and court decision was the result of struggle. It was Black children fearlessly con- fronting police dogs and firehoses in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 that led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Demonstrators tormented by Alabama state troopers in Selma won the Voting Rights Act.

Part of that struggle was in the courtroom. We have witnessed the hypocrisy of those lawyers who were freedom fighters. Charles Hamilton Houston worked just as hard to death preparing human rights court cases while dean of the Howard University Law School. He represented Thurmond Harris, who argued against segregation in Brown and later became the first Black Su- preme Court justice.

There was also the second Black woman to graduate from Co- lumbia University Law School and the courtroom companies for ripping off jazz artists Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker. She was one of the lawyers who successfully defended 21 members of the Black Panther Par- ty in New York City facing 165 absurd charges of plotting to bomb buildings. Ramon J. Jimenez led the fight to save Eugenio Maria de Hostos High School Community College in the South Bronx from closing. His law office was al- ways open to help the working class.

Many more attorneys could be mentioned who fought for the people. Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela and V.I. Lenin — the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution — had been trained as lawyers.

Thousands of attorneys belong- ing to the National Lawyers Guild and other organizations defend the poor. NLG members working as legal observers have been arrested and brutalized during Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

The work of all these advocates in the courtroom has depended on how strong the people’s movement has been at any particular time.

The legal magician Johnnie Co- chran could not save Ethel Rosenberg’s life at the height of the anti-communist witch hunt. She and her husband Julius Rosenberg were framed on made-up charges of giv- ing “atomic secrets” to the Soviet Union and were burned to death in the electric chair on June 17, 1953.

Billionaires control the courts

The communist leader Vincent Co- peland emphasized how the anti-communist Supreme Court is. Nobody elects the court’s nine judges, who can serve for life, like Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

copeland also pointed out that these judges were the direct rep- resentatives of the capitalist class.

They are groomed and monitored during their careers.

Most of the U.S. Supreme Court judges that upheld lynching and black men’s convictions for ignoring an injunction during the 1894 railroad strike had been lawyers for the rail lines. How about that for a conflict of interest?

As a socialist leader who had won the votes of hundreds of thousands when he ran for president, Debs would later be jailed for giving a 1918 anti-war speech. He compared a five to four decision by the high court throwing out a law banning child la- bor to a craps game. That act of free speech was considered blasphemy.

The Supreme Court during the 1920s was just as reactionary. Its anti- labor decrees were overturned by the working-class upsurge of the 1930s.

The courage of George Katzenbach in protesting police brutality is more important than all the judges put together. Judge Ruth Ginsburg at- tended Katzenbach for years, though she had the decency to later apologize.

It’s the Black Lives Matter move- ment with more than 20 mil- lion people who have joined in the demonstrations that is changing U.S. politics. As dangerous as Trump’s pick for the Supreme Court will be, the people can fight back.

Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Senate are undemocrat- ic and need to be abolished. Only by bringing millions of more people into the struggle will we defeat all the Trumps.

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Tallahassee, Fla.

On Sept. 5, Tallahassee police and Leon County sheriff’s arrested a peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration. After pulling a Black Lives Matter organizer and police car into the 700 police attack around 75 to 100 protestors. Fourteen were arrested on the spot and five more have been arrested since. Judge Copeland also pointed out that the Students for a Democratic Society and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization’s protests to the police are facing multiple charges, including felonies, that could result in fines of $10,000 and to years in jail. Others face up to one year in jail and a $1,000 fine for each misdemeanor they’re charged with.

The demonstration was to protest a grand jury decision not to indict the police officers who murdered Tony McDade, Mychael Johnson and William Woodard. The three were gunned down by Tallahassee police in March and May of this year.

Call State Attorney Jack Campbell at (850) 606-6000, or email saa- tech@leoncountyfl.gov. Click the “File a Complaint!” button on the Tallahassee Police Depart- ment webpage at talogov/public- safety/tpd-complaint.aspx.

Go to the GoFundMe page to help with the legal fund: gofundme.com/f/community-support-for-blm-protestors-in-tally.

Portland, Ore.

The battle against police rac- ism is raging in Portland. Nightly demonstrations have enjoyed their fourth month. Since the end of May, hundreds have been arrested. In August, Portland police tested, incoming Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt dropped charges against protestors. Demonstrations to challenge sys- temic racism, arrests and brutality continued, and charges have become

Defend activists & organizers under attack!

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Donate to $ParrishDavis on CashApp, @Fish - Davidson Venner. Go to the Dele McCarthy Community Bail Fund: gofundme.com/f/help-us-raise- funds-to-support-our-community

Denver

On Sept. 17, police agencies in the Denver area arrested anti-racist organizers in a coordinated assault.

Terrance Roberts of the Front Line Party for Revolutionary Action was arrested, as well as Whitney Lucero and Troy Anthony Quinn. So was Russell Ruch in a parking lot at a Horizons Apartments complex. He was arrested by Denver police and Lillie Lious. That afternoon, SWAT teams arrested Joel Northam at his apartment on Aliza Lucero. Lucero was also arrested. These last four are members of the party for Socialism and Liberalism. All seven are correctly demanding justice for Elijah McClain, who was brutally murdered by the Aurora Police Department. After days in jail, McClain was arrested, multiple felony charges and years in prison in an obvious frame-up aimed at stopping the movement for justice.

Sign the petition to drop the charges: pslsweb.org/dropthecharges. Join the legal support campaigns for these or- ganizers: pslsweb.org/donate/denver.
Defend Black lives!

Continued from page 4

more severe. On Aug. 27, a news release by the U.S. Attorney’s District of Oregon office announced that it is going ahead with prosecutions of 100 people who have been arrested since May, many by Trump’s federal officers. Seventy-four of those are facing felonies that could result in prison sentences of years. A Sept. 5 NPR audit of the felony charges concludes that the actions protests were accused of and arrested for were minor and should never have resulted in felony charges.

Call the District Attorney’s office at (503) 727-1000 or comment on the U.S. Attorney’s District of Oregon website by emailing 12thFloor, webmaster@usdoj.gov to demand that charges be dropped against anti-racist protesters.

Oklahoma City

In Oklahoma City, where the entire Black community of Tulsa was burned down in 1919, and where a white tornado of racist terrorism killed mostly Black people in 1995, Oklahoma County District Attorney Prater has charged three teenagers, Malachai Davis, Haley Lin Crawford and Sydney Lynch — as well as two other participants in protests against the police murder of George Floyd — with terrorism. The bond amounts for a docket of 102 of those who are charged is between $200,000 and $1 million. The harshest treatment has been directed at those who are the known Black American. Terrorism convictions could mean years or even decades in prison for charges that should have been misdemeanors. In May, DA Prater refused to charge cops who killed Isaiah Lewis during a mental health crisis in September 2019. When 62-year-old Terrick Scott was in custody of Oklahoma City cops in May 2019, he told them he couldn’t breathe and asked for his medication. The cop’s response was “I don’t care.” Scott died soon afterward, but Prater brought no charges against those cops either. In August of that year, James Harmon was shot in the head by cops, also in Prater’s jurisdiction, and there is no indication that charges will be brought against the cops who killed him.

Call DA Lewis Prater’s office at (405) 713-1600 and demand that he drop all charges against anti-racist protesters and bring charges against killer cops.

Salt Lake City

In Salt Lake City, a group of protesters are charged with felony criminal mischief. District Attorney Eliwell added a “gang enhancement” — which could mean life sentences for seven people who were protesting Gill’s decision not to file charges against two SLC cops who shot Bernardo Palacios–Carabaljai in the back and killed him. Gill justifies the gang enhancement by saying that the activists conspired to splash red paint and break the windows of a building. The gang enhancement is an inherently racist feature of the criminal justice system, and the fact that it is being used against people protesting police murders of people of color is a further travesty of justice. More than 30 others in Salt Lake City have been hit with serious terrorism charges from recent anti-racist demonstrations, including some felonies.

Call District Attorney Sim Gill’s office at (756) 486-7600 to demand that he drop charges against anti-racist protesters.

Miami

Jonathon Gartrelle, a leading gay, African American, anti-racist activist and Miami, is charged with strong-arm robbery and escape — both felonies — as well as two misdemeanors. Jonathon is accused of removing two Trump flags from parked vehicles and throwing them on the ground while counterprotesting a Trump rally. Gartrelle himself was hit by a SUV, which drove away and was not pursued by the police. Gartrelle is claiming that Gartrelle declined to press charges. Gartrelle wanted to press charges but refused to go with the police to fill out a report at a precinct.

Sign the petition: change.org/pl/miami-police-department-justice-for-jonathon-gartrelle

Call Miami–Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez–Rundle at (305) 547-0000 and demand that she drop charges against Jonathon Gartrelle.

Compiled by Scott Scheffer
Meatpackers and Trump lie, workers die

By Stephen Millies

Saul Sanchez didn’t have to die from the coronavirus. The 78-year-old worker at the JBS meatpacking plant in Greeley, Colo., died on April 7. His fellow workers, his six children and 12 grandchildren mourn him.

Several days after his death, Saul Sanchez told San Juan Times that some employees had already tested positive for the virus. “They knew their employees were testing positive for COVID-19 before my dad got sick,” said Sanchez’s daughter, Beatrice Rangel.

The world’s biggest meat and poultry plants continue to work close together to produce millions of tons of meat and poultry, often in close quarters with inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE). These plants were no more designed to be operated safely. So much for “for better or worse.”

According to this pork boss, “Social distancing is a nicety that makes sense only for people with laptops.”

So “for better or worse,” workers had to die while Sullivan takes home $37 billion last year, failed to quickly provide personal protective equipment to workers. Neither did JBS make any attempt to socially distance its employees. Workers at meat and poultry plants continue to work close together to produce millions of tons of meat and poultry, often in close quarters with inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Management lied to Local 7 officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. Bosses claimed that Sanchez had caught the virus while on vacation when in fact he caught it at work.

Saul Sanchez spent over 30 years of his life as an essential worker at the Greeley plant. But as Beatrice Rangel said, he had a just a number to JBS.

In addition to Saul Sanchez, five other workers died at the JBS plant in Greeley. Two hundred and ninety others have tested positive.

Weid Weld County health officials closed the Greeley plant in April. But just as the prisons are filled with Black, Indigenous and Latinx people, so are the meatpacking and poultry plants. Seven out of every eight meatpacking employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 are Black, Indigenous and Latinx workers of color and/or immigrants.

Smithfield Foods is the world’s biggest pork company. At its Sioux Falls, S.D., plant — one of the biggest hotspots in the United States for the coronavirus — prisoners and slaughterhouses. Twenty-six of them have died.

At least 203 meatpacking workers died of COVID-19, and 494 meatpacking workers in 494 plants have tested positive for the coronavirus.

‘Social distancing is a nicety’

The biggest hotspots in the United States for the coronavirus are prisons and slaughterhouses. Around 2,237 inmates at California’s San Quentin prison have caught the virus. Twenty-six of them have died.

At least 203 meatpacking workers died of COVID-19, and 494 meatpacking workers in 494 plants have tested positive for the coronavirus.

In addition to Saul Sanchez, five other workers died at the JBS plant in Greeley. Two hundred and ninety others have tested positive.

Weld County health officials closed the Greeley plant in April. But just as the prisons are filled with Black, Indigenous and Latinx people, so are the meatpacking and poultry plants. Seven out of every eight meatpacking employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 are Black, Indigenous and Latinx workers of color and/or immigrants.

Smithfield Foods is the world’s biggest pork company. At its Sioux Falls, S.D., plant — one of the biggest hotspots in the United States for the coronavirus — prisoners and slaughterhouses. Twenty-six of them have died.

At least 203 meatpacking workers died of COVID-19, and 494 meatpacking workers in 494 plants have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Saul Sanchez

JBS was able to get it reopened in less than two weeks without implementing many of the safety measures that were needed. Not even all the returning workers were tested for the coronavirus.

‘An injury to one is an injury to all’

In the United States since the age of two and England where he was alarmed by reports of detainees subb...
Sept. 22 — Activists gathered across from the United Nations headquarters in New York City this afternoon to denounce Filipino dictator Rodrigo Duterte, who had spoken to the U.N. General Assembly.

Duterte unleashed a wave of terror against workers, peasants and human rights defenders in the Philippines. Among those murdered was 72-year-old Randall “Randy” Echanis, who was stabbed to death on Aug. 10. He was a beloved peace consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

At least 30,000 people have been killed by police in Duterte’s “war on drugs.” These executions without trial are meant to terrorize the poor. "These actions come on top of immense denunciations of mistreatment of migrants under the Trump government, ranging from forced separation of families, placing children in cages, hospital conversions to processing centers to process and expeditiously unregulated deportation of children and families, the lack of protective equipment and conditions that have caused the spread of COVID-19, cancellation of the right of asylum, paramilitary-style roundups, and complaints of sexual abuse by guards, among other things.

Referring to a regulation invented in March using COVID-19 as an excuse, more than 8,800 unaccompanied minors and 7,800 families are part of the total of 159,000 people deported without the opportunity to present their cases, CBS News reports. On Sept. 16, as a gift to Mexico, U.S. authorities sent a river of deportees by railroad and buses to El Paso, Texas, in the U.S. to Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, reported Alfredo Cortez of Dallas Morning News.

“The systematic, ongoing dehumanization of immigrants by the president and his henchmen has created the climate in which serious human rights abuses happen. ... It is an entire system that views immigrants as disposable,” stated Roosevelt of America’s Voice in Washington.

Source: La Jornada/Resumen Latinoamericano, North America bureau
Indigna en EU la esterilización de migrantes en centro de detención

By David Brooks

Sept. 18 — An accusation that there were large numbers of hysterectomies performed without the consent of the women involved in an immigrant detention center exploded at the beginning of this week. This and other reports of medical abuses have fueled a series of accusations of violations and abuses of human and civil rights set in motion by the anti-immigrant policies of Donald Trump.

The first accusations that migrant women were forced to undergo gynecological surgery without their consent were brought to light by a complaint made by a nurse at the Irwin Detention Center in Georgia, a private prison run by LaSalle Corrections under contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The nurse, Dawn Wooten, revealed that a number of women had told her that a doctor, called “the Uterus Collector,” had removed their uterus or performed other gynecological procedures without their consent. Two other doctors, who had previously worked at the Irwin Detention Center, are represented in this case by Project South as a doctor, called “the Uterus Collector,” had removed their uterus or performed other gynecological procedures without their consent. Two other doctors, who had previously worked at the Irwin Detention Center, are represented in this case by Project South as

By David Brooks

Sterilization of migrant women in U.S. detention centers causes outrage

Nueva York — Una denuncia sobre posibles hysterectomías masivas practicadas sin consentimiento de las afectadas en un centro de detención de migrantes estalló a principios de semana, y otras denuncias de que mujeres migrantes fueron sometidas a procedimientos ginecológicos sin su consentimiento fueron dadas a conocer el pasado lunes en una queja que presentó una enfermera en un centro de detención Irvin, en Georgia, administrado por LaSalle Corrections, empresa privada bajo contrato a la agencia de control migratorio ICE.

La enfermera Dawn Wooten informó que varias mujeres le dijeron que un doctor, apodado El colleccionista de úteros, les había quitado el útero o practicado otros procedimientos ginecológicos sin su permiso. Esa queja fue reforzada por las de varias migrantes entrevistadas y ahora representadas en ese mismo caso por Project South junto con la Alianza Latina por Derechos Humanos de Georgia, la Red de Apoyo de Inmigrantes del Sur de Georgia y Georgia Detention Watch.

Se estima que la detención hasta ahora de entre cinco y 17 casos en ese centro de detención. Una migrante, quien es testigo, describió la instalación como un campo de concentración experimental. Uno de los legisladores federales envió una carta al inspector general del Departamento de Seguridad Interior exigiendo una investigación inmediata de las quejas con un primer informe el 25 de septiembre. Estamos horrorizados por informes de detenidas sometidas a histerectomías y otros procedimientos involuntarios forzados en una cárcel de ICE manejada de manera privada, declaró Amnistía Internacional Estados Unidos.

“Estoy llenando de frustración... ¿Qué más tenían? ¿Qué más?”, pregunta Erika Andiola, de RAICES, organización de defensa de derechos de migrantes. Estamos horrorizados por informes de detenidas sometidas a histerectomías y otros procedimientos involuntarios forzados en una cárcel de ICE manejada de manera privada, declaró Amnistía Internacional Estados Unidos.

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Más aún, estas versiones de inmediato generaron comparaciones con prácticas parecidas de las autoridades estadunidenses en diferentes periodos de su historia y hasta muy recientemente, sobre todo en campos de concentración. El doctor que percibe a los migrantes como menos que estadunidenses e indígenas, tenemos leyes de eugenesia en 32 estados que llevan a la esterilización de más de 60 mil mujeres consideradas mentalmente defectuosas o débiles mentales; algo que sirvió de modelo para los nazis en Alemania. Pero hay casos más recientes, como las de 150 mujeres en prisiones de California que fueron esterilizadas entre 2006 y 2010.

Las revelaciones de esta semana provocaron denuncias de organizaciones de derechos humanos y de defensa de migrantes. Estamos horrorizados por informes de detenidas sometidas a histerectomías y otros procedimientos involuntarios forzados en una cárcel de ICE manejada de manera privada, declaró Amnistía Internacional Estados Unidos.

“Estoy llenando de frustración... ¿Qué más tenían? ¿Qué más?”, pregunta Erika Andiola, de RAICES, organización de defensa de derechos de migrantes. Esta revelación, sin embargo, no afectó a nuestros puntos de vista, como las de 150 mujeres en prisiones de California que fueron esterilizadas entre 2006 y 2010.

Estas acciones se suenan a las innumerables denuncias del maltrato a los migrantes en el gobierno de Trump, desde la separación por el puente desde El Paso hasta Ciudad Juárez, informó Alfredo Corchado, del Dallas Morning News.

“La deshumanización sistemática y constante de migrantes por el presidente y sus hombres ha creado el clima en el cual ocurren serios abusos contra los derechos humanos... Es un sistema en el que los migrantes son considerados menos que humanos...”, afirmó Douglas Rivlin, de America’s Voice en Washington.

Fuente: La Jornada

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