The wolf is at the door: Mobilize workers against a stolen election

By Sharon Black

Sept. 30 — Since our last article, “2020 elections and capitalist instability: How should we prepare?”, President Donald Trump has declared several times that he won’t leave office if the presidential election is “not fair.” By that he means, if he does not win. It may be the first time that a U.S. president has openly said that he won’t accept the vote, indicating that there will be no peaceful transfer of power.

This is not an idle threat. Trump has his own paramilitary police force, which has been deployed against protesters in test runs from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Ore.; the Department of Homeland Security; the support of the most virulent and reactionary police departments; and a myriad of violently racist, vigilante-type groups.

At the Sept. 29 debate in Cleveland with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden, after the moderator asked if he would condemn white supremacists including the Proud Boys, a violent far-right racist group, Trump declared: “Proud Boys: Stand back and stand by,” acknowledging that he was their leader.

Later in the debate, Trump refused to say that he would abide by the results of the election and declined to tell his supporters to remain calm or avoid violence. “If I see tens of thousands of ballots, I can’t go along with that,” he said, urging his supporters to go to the polls and “watch very carefully.”

If anyone is fooled into thinking that Trump is remotely anti-war, his 9-minute rant at the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 22 is a vivid example.

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Growing repression

State attacks on the Black Lives Matter uprising against racism and police terror have escalated.

In Louisville, Ky., Attica Scott, the only Black woman state representative, and her 39-year-old daughter were arrested Sept. 24 on felony riot charges during protests after the grand jury decision exonerating Breonna Taylor’s killers. Twenty-two others were arrested at the same time, along with 127 more on Sept. 23.

This follows on the heels of draconian charges against Party for Socialism and Liberation and Frontline Party for Revolutionary Action members in Aurora, Colo.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently announced a law that all police are “Category III” Violent Crime. Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act. It would drastically intensify criminal charges against protesters. Blocking traffic would become a third-degree felony, but drivers who intentionally plow their vehicles into crowds would not be held liable for injury or death.

Destroying or toppling monuments, such as Confederate statues, would become a second-degree felony.

These recent events make it all the more imperative for the working class to intervene actively in what undoubtedly will be a series of major crises this year and into 2021.

Lessons of 2000 election

The 2000 election pitted Democrats Al Gore and Joe Lieberman against George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. It was stolen by outright suppression of Black and working-class voters in Florida.

After several contentious months of struggle, sometimes in the street, the outcome was resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned a Florida Supreme Court decision ordering a recount. Bush was declared the winner. Not even the undemocratic Electoral College, but just nine Supreme Court justices chose the president.

At that time, James Baker was chief legal advisor for Bush’s campaign and oversaw the Florida recount operation. Baker was responsible for the strategy to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court after losing in a deeply corrupt effort on the state level.

Baker later became Bush’s secretary of state. John G. Roberts Jr., one of the lawyers on Baker’s team, was rewarded by Bush with an appointment to the Supreme Court. Roberts is now the chief justice.

As Struggle-La Lucha’s Gary Wilson wrote in “Yes, Trump is giving them exactly what they want.”

Democratic Party’s role

In 2000, the Democratic Party fought the election theft with one hand tied behind its back. It pulled Jesse Jackson back from organizing demonstrations. Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman, who later became chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, broke ranks and called for conceding to Bush.

This should serve as a lesson to not count on the Democratic Party to protect the rights of the people. In the final analysis, the Democratic Party could not be relied upon to defend African American voters. In the end, its allegiance was only to Big Capital.

Readers should take note: Following that election and the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. started the endless “War on Terror” and the second Iraq War. At home, the expansion of the repressive apparatus of the state became gargantuan — a tendency that V.I. Lenin described in the pamphlet “The State and Revolution.”

In 2002, the Homeland Security Act was passed, and in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security was formed. Today, it is the third-largest...
Baltimore takes to the streets for Breonna Taylor

By Lev Koufax

On Sept. 26, hundreds of people and dozens of cars took to the streets of Baltimore to demand justice for Breonna Taylor and the end of the racist U.S. police state. The march and caravan were called by the Peoples Power Assembly and the Uljima People’s Progress Party.

The demonstration came in response to a Louisville, Ky., grand jury’s decision to charge only one of the cops who participated in the March 13 attack where Breonna Taylor was murdered inside her own home. Adding insult to injury, the charges against the officer did not include murder or manslaughter.

At the time of her death, Taylor was serving her community as an emergency medical technician. She was a frontline worker in the fight against COVID-19.

Taylor’s family immediately denounced the decision as disrespectful to Breonna’s memory. The family’s attorney, Ben Crump, condemned the decision and demanded a new special prosecutor be appointed to the case.

In many ways, it was reminiscent of a Ferguson, Mo., grand jury’s decision not to indict Darren Wilson, the racist police officer who murdered Michael Brown in cold blood after Brown had raised his arms to indicate surrender.

For these reasons, the people of Baltimore took to the streets in solidarity with Breonna Taylor, her family, the people of Louisville and all the victims of racist police murder.

‘Revolution against racist capitalism’

The march began at the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center and proceeded first to the Baltimore City Jail. At the jail, the Rev. Annie Chambers spoke directly to prisoners through a sound system. She told the prisoners that the people would continue to fight for their freedom and against the racist criminal justice system.

From the prison, the march and caravan proceeded east past Latrobe Homes, a historic Baltimore public housing development. The demonstration ended at McKeldin Square, in downtown Baltimore, where a rally was held.

Rev. Chambers opened the rally with an impassioned speech calling for a revolution against the racist capitalist system of the U.S. She insisted that she and her brothers and sisters in the struggle would not rest until that revolution was complete.

She was followed by Andrew Mayton, representing the local chapter of the Malaya Movement, and Arnette Johnson, a local activist who fights for the rights of women veterans.

Peoples Power Assembly organizer Sharon Black thanked the crowd for their dedication on the long march and for staying in the struggle. She then provided a much-needed analysis of the upcoming presidential election and the state of the movement.

Black asserted that now more than ever, the movement must defend the victories of the Black Lives Matter struggle in recent months.

She argued that the current BLM movement is the continuation of the unfinished revolution of Reconstruction.

The message of the march and rally was clear: The only way to stop Trump’s white supremacist wave, and the decades-old racist police war on oppressed communities, is for the poor and working-class people to take to the streets and continue to demand a better world.

Youth collective marches for FTP times three

By Bayani

On Sept. 30, the organization Good Kids Mad City held a march in Baltimore City.

Struggle – La Lucha interviewed Destini Philpot, spokesperson for Good Kids Mad City, who gave the following statement:

“We are a Black, Brown and Indigenous collective of youth called Good Kids Mad City. We are a Baltimore to Chicago organization. We work to dismantle oppressive systems that cause violence to occur in our cities in the first place. This is the launch of our FTP Times Three series, which is ‘Fuck The Police, Free The People, Fight The Power.’

“So while we’re out here protesting the police brutality we experience in America daily as Black and Brown people, we also acknowledge the importance of putting into our community and providing resources for those who have less. This won’t be our only action, so we’ll come back out and we’ll do rallies where we’re providing basic needs and resources, whether it be around housing or education.

“We will be out here as long as it takes.”

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019 
commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle

On the occasion of Black August 1619-2019, Struggle-La-Lucha embarked on a two-week journey through the history of the African diaspora in the Americas, visiting and celebrating African ancestors and the stages of Black liberation in the U.S. and Latin America. The journey spanned the span of 400 years, from the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in Virginia to the present day.

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West Coast office East Coast office
5728 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019 2011 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218 Phone: 323.306.6240 Phone: 443.221.3775

Struggle-La-Lucha.org Struggle-La-Lucha.org
Twitter: @StruggleLaLucha Facebook.com/strugglelalucha
email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

SLL PHOTOS

STRUGGLE • LA LUCHA

Page 2 Oct. 12, 2020
The 45-year-long billionaire bonanza

By Stephen Millies

Almost 13 million people in the U.S. are “officially” jobless. The real number is far higher. Many haven’t received an unemployment check in weeks.

Then there’s Jeff Bezos, who runs Amazon and owns the Washington Post. His stash ballooned by another $72 billion in the last six months.

Over a million people have died of the coronavirus around the world. More than 210,000 expired in the United States of Trump.

But it’s been partytime for the super-rich. Millions line up at food pantries and worry about being evicted or losing their home. Meanwhile, U.S. billionaires gained another $845 billion in wealth according to the Institute for Policy Studies.

This nearly $2 trillion-dollar gain during the pandemic is merely dessert for these parasites. They’ve been having a feast for nearly 50 years.

If workers were receiving the same share of the economy as they had in 1975, their wages would have approximately doubled by 2018.

The bottom quarter of wage earners would be taking home an average of $63,000 per year instead of $33,000. Those in the middle would be making $92,000 instead of $50,000.

These figures represent another $2.5 trillion stolen every year from poor working people by the wealthy and powerful.

Big Capital’s counterattack

This massive transfer of income isn’t the result of sunspots or UFOs. It’s the product of a worldwide class struggle between the rich and the rest of us.

The class struggle doesn’t just include workers on strike or future union organizing drives at Amazon or Walmart. Every fight-back against oppression is a class struggle.

The Black Lives Matter movement is a class struggle. So is the struggle of the Filipino people against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Rodrigo Duterte. Transgender people trying to survive is a class struggle.

The height of the Black liberation struggle is visible in early 1970s. The master class was pushed back.

The Vietnamese people defeated the Pentagon war machine. Africans in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique won independence.

French workers carried out a general strike in 1968.

Big Capital staged a counteroffensive. Dozens of Black Panther Party members were murdered by police.

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller massacred the Attica prisoners. Decades before Iraq was invaded, war criminals Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney were destroying anti-poverty programs for President Richard Nixon.

Hamlet Congressperson Adam Clayton Powell Jr. fought to increase the minimum wage and make it cover millions of workers. Just to keep up with inflation, the federal minimum wage of $1.60 per hour — enacted in February 1968 — would have to be $7.25 today.

Instead it’s $7.25. That’s a pay cut for the poorest workers of $4.91 per hour or $986 for every 40-hour work week. This wage theft of over $10,000 per year has meant hundreds of billions of more profits for capitalists.

Union workers suffered job cuts because of automation. Thousands of unionized workplaces were shut down, particularly in the Midwest and Northeast.

Members of Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in New York have been on strike against the Spectrum cable monopoly since March 28, 2017.

The banksters that lent Spectrum billions have insisted on this union busting.

In the capital of capitalism, 114,000 New York City schoolchildren are homeless. Despite a 60-year-long U.S. economic blockade, not a single child in socialist Cuba is homeless.

We need a socialist revolution

The biggest defeat for poor people was the overthrow of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Reconstruction’s bloody overthrow guaranteed decades of hell for Black people in the U.S. The Soviet Union’s downfall was followed by 30 years of more cut-backs.

The Fair Work Center is demanding a new deal of the capitalist class producers.

game, at least back to the conditions of 1975. The RAND study shows that a minimum wage of at least $20 per hour is perfectly feasible.

Why don’t we get rid of the capitalist card game altogether? Every cent of profit is produced by the working class, both employed and unemployed.

Karl Marx called what the banksters, landlords and capitalists steal from us “surplus value.” That’s because the wages and benefits we get are only a fraction of the value that the entire working class produces.

The long period of reaction we’ve suffered isn’t unique. Globalization isn’t new. The capitalist world market was jumpstarted by the African Holocaust and the genocide of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

Hundreds of billions of dollars in profits continue to flow to Wall Street from super-exploited workers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific islands. They need reparations, as do Black and Indigenous people in the U.S.

Two hundred years ago, real wages fell by half during Britain’s industrial revolution. Workers rebelled and formed unions.

Decades of struggle around the world led to the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Other socialist revolutions were inspired by the Bolshevik example.

A growing tide of struggle will continue no matter what happens in the presidential election. Part of that struggle is spreading knowledge of socialism. We need a socialist revolution just to stop capitalism from cooking the earth.

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Capitalist elections and socialist revolution


This was at the beginning of what Marcy called “the historic reversal which the ruling class is trying to impose upon the working class by embarking on the road to reversing basic and fundamental concessions which the working class and oppressed have won in decades of struggle.”

The war of the rich against the rights of the workers and oppressed has continued unabated for 40 years, with the presidency of Donald Trump marking its all-time low (so far).

By Sam Marcy

On this (the “historic reversal”), both candidates are in full agreement. Their method differs slightly, but their objective is the same. Individual elements in the ruling class may have their preferences for either Reagan’s or Carter’s method. But what binds the ruling class together in approving both candidates is that Carter and Reagan share a common objective — reversing the previous era of rising expectations among the masses — and are both bent on solving the incurable economic crisis of the ruling class by expanding its adventurous role abroad.

A hundred years ago, Frederick Engels, the co-worker of Marx, writing in the still relatively progressive stage of capitalism, wrote that participation of the workers in bourgeois elections is an “index of the maturity of the working class” and of the progress it is making in educating itself for the day when it seizes power. Engels’ implicit or explicit statement of his time cannot be wholly regarded as applicable in the circumstances of the imperialist epoch as it has evolved in the U.S. today.

The working class, as an independent class, which was what Engels was writing about, is totally excluded from the bourgeois political process. No avenue whatsoever has been left open for truly independent working-class participation in the U.S. as it has in the European arena and in Engels’ time. On the contrary, the manipulation of the electoral process by the bourgeoisie and the strangulation of virtually all independent forms of initiative and political participation is an index of the deterioration of the ruling-class political system.

Engels’ analysis is, of course, applicable as it concerns the importance of the effort to break through the bourgeois political process by every conceivable method and utilize the bourgeois election, no matter how restrictive or narrow the opportunity may be, so long as it is...
The wolf is at the door: Mobilize workers to stop a stolen election

Continued from page 1

cabinet department and is co-
ordinated at the White House by the Homeland Security Council. It has 15,000 employees, and law, DHS employees cannot be represented by a union. Brown University professor Peter Andre-
reas called the creation of DHS as the most significant government reorganization since the New Deal.

While there are comparisons being made between 2000 and today, it’s important to note that they are much more volatile; capitalism is in deeper decay and decline. The U.S. imperial-
list system, which is in contrac-
tion, is itself in direct con-
petition with the growth of the Chinese economy.

1876 election, Black freedom and Reconstruction

The election of 1876 was also thought to be sectional and essentially ti-
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finished revolution for Black freedom is being
resurrected today.

The working class and revolutionary socialists

Continued from page 3

not an effort to legitimize bourgeois, imperialist parliamentarism, but to undermine its political system in a revolutionary way by exposing it to the masses and educating them in the process.

Because so many working-class organizations in the post-Lenin era have once again fallen prey to the illusion that they can change the system by parliamentary means, as in Europe as well as here, it is all the more necessary not to abandon the political arena to bourgeois parties or their lackeys.

On the contrary, it is imperative for the work-
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El lobo está en la puerta: Movilizar a la clase trabajadora contra unas elecciones robadas

Continúa de página 8

El actual movimiento antirracista y antiterrorismo policial, Las Vidas Negras Importan, es una continuación de la lucha que fue detenida por la contrarrevolución contra la Reconstrucción, literalmente el período más democrático de los Estados Unidos. La traición de 1876 subraya la importancia de preservar, defender y expandir lo que ocurre hoy en las calles. Aunque no sea reconocido por muchos de los que se unen a la lucha espontánea que está tenien-

El lobo está en la puerta: Movilizar a la clase trabajadora contra unas elecciones robadas

do lugar ahora, aquella revolución inconclusa por la libertad del pueblo negro se está resucitando hoy.

¿Por qué planificar, inscribirse, abiertamente contra el fascismo? La寬que las fuerzas reaccionarias y fascistas encauzadas por Trump, o si crecerá de una manera que pueda implementar cambios más profundos que lleguen al corazón del sistema capitalista. Por supuesto, hay mucho más que eso; en última instancia, esta reacción está dirigida a toda la clase trabajo-

Sí bien se están haciendo comparaciones entre el 2000 y hoy, es importante señalar que el 2020 es mucho más volátil puesto que el capitalismo está en una deca-

dencia más profunda. El sistema imperialis-

ta estadounidense, que está en contracción, se encuentra en competencia directa con el crecimiento de la economía china.

Elecciones de 1876, libertad negra y Reconstrucción

Las elecciones de 1876 también fueron completa- mente manipuladas y bás-


icamente anuladas la era de la Reconstrucción posterior a la Guerra Civil. En un acto que tuvo profundo consecuencias. Samuel J. Tilden había vencido a Rutherford B. Hayes tanto en el voto popular como en el Colegio Electoral. Pero después de muchas maniobras, Hayes fue declarado ganador.

El líder marxista Vince Copeland explicó me-


jo en su libro “Elecciones de mercado”: “La his-

toria del campo de 1876 no es solo una de corrupción en las urnas, sino de traición de proporciones colosales. Dirigida en primer lugar contra el pueblo negro, en segundo lugar contra la mayoría blanca del norte que había sacrificado tanto en la Guerra Civil, y tercero contra los blancos pobres del sur, que ahora se convirtieron len-


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“Por otro lado, era realmente cierto que estos estados – y casi todos los estados del Sur – habían amañado las elecciones, particularmente contra los afroamericanos. Pero si los republicanos hubie-


eran iniciado un proceso para revertir esto, habría significado una continuación de la Reconstruc-

tión, algo que ellos mismos no querían. ¿Por qué planificar, inscribirse, abierta-


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Independientemente del resultado de las elec-

ciones, el peligro de una guerra imperialista – ya que las guerras están a través de subsidios, intervenciones directas, sanciones y bloqueos más profundos – se intensificará y amenazará con agravar la pandemia y la crisis climática.

Prepararse para la intervención de la clase trabajadora

Es muy difícil predecir exactamente hacia dónde se dirige todo esto. Trump tiene la fuer-


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La clase obrera y los socialistas revolucionari-

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El papel histórico de las fuerzas revolucionarias en la lucha contra el fascismo es notable. Uno de los factores más importantes es reconocer que el peligro es real.

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Bolshevik Revolution

Fighting erupted on Sept. 25, 1920, between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. So few people have been killed in the fighting, including at least 47 civilians. An earlier war between the two territories in the early 1990s cost 30,000 lives.

The intervention of Turkey, a member of the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance, and the interests of Western oil and gas profiteers are factors in the bloodshed. Neighboring Iran, as well as communist-oriented parties of the region, have called for an immediate ceasefire, warning of the potential for a wider war.

This article, originally published in the April/May 1990 issue of Liberation! A Journal of Revolutionary Marxism, explains how the restoration of capitalism in the former Soviet Union led to the breakdown of solidarity between peoples and made the region prey for imperialists' intrigue. It was written in the last months of the USSR, when the Gorbachev administration was dismissing socialism there.

In 1922, when the Soviet Union came into being on the ruins of the "prisonhouse of nations" that was the old Russian empire, it inherited a terrible legacy of inequality and hatred that had lasted for centuries. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the czars and Western capitalists had plundered and exploited the peoples of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Siberia much as European colonialists plundered Africa and India, and with similar results. In Central Asia (now the Soviet republics of Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan), illiteracy was universal, disease was endemic and nearly half of all children died before the age of five.

Describing how life had been in his town before the revolution, a Uzbek farmer told a U.S. writer: "The past was a place where children were carpeted by pain. The Uzbeks feared to go past was a stairway of years carpeted with tears. Today, the Uzbek Republic is a place where children are brought up together." (Corliss Lamont, "The Peoples of the Soviet Union, 1942").

The legacy of capitalist industry to some areas only worsened national hatreds. In the 1870s, vast oil reserves drew Western capital to the city of Baku, which one visitor described as "a cotton plantation for Russian in-". (Corliss Lamont, "The Peoples of the Soviet Union, 1942").

The ending of discrimination and national oppression was a priority of the new socialist state. At Lenin's initiative, the Soviet government adopted a revolutionary political system that guaranteed political empowerment to the formerly oppressed nationalities. A system of national republics was established, each with its own parliament, legislation and equal representation in the Council of Nationalities, one of the constituent bodies of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. Each also had the legal right to secede from the Union.

Within the national republics now is 15, all, there were 38 smaller autonomous republics, regions and areas, which also had control over their internal affairs but lacked the right to secede.

Soviet achievements

Soviet power transformed life in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Illiteracy was abolished, and schools, universities, hospitals and power stations were built. The first-time male life expectancy, under 35 years before the revolution, more than doubled. Newspapers and newspapers were published in all 100 languages, some of which had never before been written down. In the city of Baku, where it was once said, "It is easier to find an oasis in the desert than a literate man" (and a literate woman, for that matter), there are now more doctors and college graduates per capita than in West Germany or Pakistan. Uzbekistan now has over 30,000 scientific workers, one-third of whom are women.

By 1940, Azerbaijan's industrial output had risen to 18 times what it had been before the revolution while more than 1,300 large industrial enterprises had been built in what once was Central Asian republics. Today, Uzbekistan, which the czars had reduced to a cotton plantation for Russian in-...
Fidel Castro’s historic New York visit

By Gloria Verdieu

Sixty years have passed since Fidel Castro’s historic 1960 visit to the United Nations General Assembly and electrifying welcome in Harlem. The 1960 commemoration of these events in Havana is captured in Rosemary Mealy’s book “Fidel and Malcolm: Memories of a Meeting” (see tinyurl.com/). Mealy, a cofounder of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Mealy used virtual tools to once again organize a remembrance of this history, bringing new voices and material to events demonstrating the unbreakable bond between Black people and the Cuban Revolution.

On Sept. 19, 2020, a webinar commemorating the 60th anniversary of President Fidel Castro’s historic New York visit was hosted by Rosemary Mealy and Nancy Cabrera, from Casa de las Americas. Cabrera meticulously detailed previously little known history of the early ties of Cuba’s July 26 Movement with the movement in New York City through the remembrances and documents of Armando Barrón, a founding leader of the New York 26th of July Movement that became today’s Casa de las Americas. Cabrera’s words drew pictures of the working-class movement including the contributions of Barrón’s spouse and political partner Gloria Barrón.

The webinar featured two long-time activists who witnessed the crowds who welcomed the Cuban delegation to Harlem — Joe Kaye and Jim Campbell — plus a telephone interview with Raúl Rour Kouri in Havana, who at the time was a young diplomat that had the community contacts and literally orchestrated the move of the delegation to the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. Joe Kaye, author and New York activist, was part of the thousands of onlookers who welcomed the Cuban delegation. Kaye read a recollection by his late spouse, novelist Sarah Wright, from the book “Fidel and Malcolm: Memories of a Meeting.” Jim Campbell, a 95-year-old civil rights activist, who joined the commemorative virtual event from Charleston, S.C. Campbell is known throughout the country and abroad as a loved and respected movement teacher in Tanzania, having worked alongside Malcolm X. Throughout his life, Campbell has worked with organizations focused on socialism, Pan Africanism, freedom struggles and equality in education. Campbell recalled the huge crowds of people and the chants that alternated between “Cuba Si! Yankee No!” and “Fidel and Che!”

“It was a tremendous mixture. I was observing and listening to the expression of an American constitutional right of freedom of speech and its responsibility and was amazed by the mixture of African Americans and Latinos, whom I assumed were Cubans.

“I imagined, in that mixture, there was a few hundred people around and every now and then someone from the top floor where the delegation was would come out and wave.” He recalled seeing Comandante Juan Almeida walking among the crowds. Almeida fought alongside Fidel in the guerrilla war against the U.S.-backed Batista regime.

Raúl Rour Kouri recalled being given the task of writing notes on cards that Fidel used when he addressed the U.N. General Assembly. Fidel’s four-hour speech, an indictment against imperialism, was incredulous. The hall was packed full of people from all over, all nations, delegates, and members of the secretariat, were present listening with intense, tremendous interest. After his speech, many came to greet and speak with him.

He asked what the significance of the 1960 meeting was today, Raúl answered, “The significance of the meeting of Fidel with Malcolm X is that the struggle is not only on, but it is still pending. The resource, the achievement of a society free of racism, free of racial discrimination is something we must do, especially in the United States.”

Philippines: Outrage as U.S. Marine pardoned for murdering transwoman

By Bayani

All of Jennifer Laude’s friends called her “Ganda” or “Beauty” in Filipino. Her friends described her as selfless, generous and confident about her sexuality. She was murdered for being a trans woman, and her murderer was never brought to justice because of the neocolonial relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines.

On Oct. 11, 2014, a custodial worker called Jennifer Laude dead in a motel bathroom, naked, her head shoved in a toilet, with strangler marks on her neck. Earlier that night, Joseph Scott Pemberton, a 19-year-old U.S. Marine, brought Jennifer to a motel in Olongapo City after meeting her at a bar. The doctor who performed the autopsy testified that she was beaten, strangled and drowned to death.

Over a year later, on the first day of December 2015, Pemberton was found guilty of homicide, not murder, and was sentenced to 6 to 12 years in prison, later reduced to a maximum of 10 years.

Because of the Visiting Forces Agreement between the Philippines and the U.S., Pemberton remained in U.S. custody throughout the trial proceedings, and spent his prison time on a U.S. military base, rather than in a Philippine prison.

On Sept. 8, 2020, only five years into his sentence, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte granted Pemberton an absolute pardon. Days later, Pemberton was deported back to the U.S. The recent reports say that he is now stationed in Hawai’i.

LGBTQ+ rights organization Bagahagi released the following statement condemning Duterte’s pardon:

“Pemberton violently murdered our sister, transwoman Jennifer Laude, six years ago. Even with the admission of his brutal, hateful killing, the courts upheld that Pemberton’s conviction was to be commuted from murder to homicide, for which he was sentenced to 6 to 12 years of imprisonment. That alone was a massive slap to Jennifer’s family and the movement for justice for our slain sister.

“The feeble conviction is a precedent for the LGBTQ+ community and the Filipino people: under the VFA, if a U.S. soldier brutally murders a transgender woman on Philippine soil, they would ultimately roam free after as little as six years of incarceration.

“In Pemberton’s case, it was ‘incarceration’ in an exclusive Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group compound inside Camp Aguinaldo, where only American personnel and Philippine officials with clearance may enter. It is no stretch to assert that Pemberton has, in fact, been serving ‘jail time’ comfortably, at ease and with impunity.

“Pemberton’s release is two-pronged. Firstly, it represents the unfettered violence and injustice the LGBTQ+ community continues to face. Moreover, it symbolizes the Philippine government’s continued submission to U.S. imperialism. Justice for Jennifer cannot exist without both being decisively ended.

“Duterte suspended the VFA’s termination in exchange for military aid from the U.S., and for its support of the Anti-Terrorism Law. The VFA and ATL are, in fact, quid pro quo for continuing U.S. military aid for Duterte.

“Hence, we assert that the Visiting Forces Agreement, which has enabled and exacerbated injustice for Jennifer Laude to the greatest extent and which continues to serve as Duterte’s offering in his ploy for continued U.S. assistance, must be finally abolished to bring justice for our slain sister.”

Protest against pardon of U.S. marine who killed Jennifer Laude in Manila, Sept. 8.
El lobo está en la puerta: Movilizar a la clase trabajadora contra unas elecciones robadas

Por Sharon Black

30 Sept. — Desde nuestro último artículo, “Elecciones del 2020 e inestabilidad capitalista: ¿Cómo debemos prepararnos?”, el presidente Donald Trump ha declarado varias veces que no dejará el cargo si las elecciones presidenciales “no son justas”. Queriendo decir, si no gana. Puede que sea la primera vez que un presidente de Estados Unidos ha dicho abiertamente que no aceptará el resultado de la votación, lo que indica que no habrá una transición pacífica ni del poder.

Esta no es una amenaza frívola. Trump tiene a su servicio: su propia fuerza policial paramilitar ya probada desplegándose contra manifestantes desde Washington, D.C., hasta Portland, Oregon; el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional; como también el apoyo de los departamentos de policía más virulentos y reaccionarios; y una miríada de grupos violentamente racistas.

En el debate del 29 de septiembre en Cleveland contra su oponente demócrata Joe Biden, después de que el moderador le preguntara si condenaría a los supremacistas blancos, incluyendo a los Proud Boys, un grupo violento y racista de extrema derecha, Trump declaró; “Proud Boys: retrocedan y esperen”, reconociendo así que ellos no serían responsables de las lesiones o muertes ocasionadas.

Más adelante en el debate, Trump rehusó decir que aceptaría los resultados de las elecciones y se negó a decir si seguiría a sus seguidores que se mantuvier- an en calma o evitaban la violencia. “Si veo dece- nas de miles de papeletas, no puedo estar de acu- erdo con eso”, dijo, instando a sus seguidores a ir a las urnas y a que “observen con mucho cuidado”. Si alguien se engaña creyendo que Trump está firmemente contra la guerra, su perorata de 9 minutos en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el 22 de septiembre debería aclarar las co- sas. Fue una disfrazada nacionalista de preparación para la guerra contra China, junto con Irán, Ven- ezuela y Cuba. Aunque esto no es inusual para Trump, fue una desviación del subterfugio utili- zado por la mayoría de los políticos capitalistas en el escenario mundial.

“Cuando alguien te muestran quién es, creále a la primera” es un dicho que la escritora y poetita Maya Angelou hizo famoso. Deberíamos creerle a Trump.

Creciente Represión

Los recientes eventos al levantamiento de Black Lives Matter [La vidas negras importan] contra el racismo y el terror policial se han intensificado. En Louisville, Ky., Attica Scott, la única repre- sentante estatal negra, y su hija de 19 años fueron arrestadas el 24 de septiembre acusadas de deli- tos graves por disturbios durante las protestas después de la decisión del gran jurado que exoner- aba a los asesinos del Black Lives Matter de Ona Dewayne McDougal. Scott y su hija son dos de ocho personas que sufrieron un ataque similar en calma del estado de Bush. John G. Roberts Jr., uno de los abo- nados de los abogados que defendieron a Scott, anunció recientemente un proyecto de ley, la “Ley para combatir la violencia, el desorden y el saqueo y proteger la aplicación de la ley”. Esta intensifi- cará drásticamente los cargos penales que se les colidía a los manifestantes. Bloquear el tráfico se convertirá en un delito grave de tercer grado, pero los con- ductores que intencionalmente arrojen sus he- rrocillos contra la multitud no serían responsables de las lesiones o muertes ocasionadas.

Destruir o derribar monumentos, como las es- tatutas confederadas, se convertirá en un delito de segundo grado.

Estos recientes acontecimientos hacen que sea aún más imperativo que la clase trabajadora in- tervenga activamente en lo que sin duda será una serie de grandes crisis este y el próximo año.

Lecciones de las Elecciones del 2000


Como escribió Gary Wilson de Struggle-La Lu- cha en “Los codiciosos partidarios petroleros de Donald Trump quieren más”:

“El ex secretario de Estado James Baker con- sideró votar por Joe Biden en noviembre, pero en cambio seguirá respaldando a Donald Trump, revela una nueva biografía sobre el proceso que describe una razón clave para el continuo apoyo republicano al presidente estadounidense plaga- do de escándalos”, The Guardian informa.

“Aunque la ‘miríada de escándalos éticos que rodean a Trump eran de- aconsejantes’, dijo Baka- er a los autores, ‘valió la pena por haber consegui- do jueces conservadores, recortes de impuestos y desregulación’.

“Sí, Trump les está dando exactamente lo que quieren”.

El Papel del Partido Demócrata

En el 2000, el Partido Demócrata luchó contra el robo electoral con una mano atada a la espal- da. Retiró a Jesse Jackson de organizar mani- festaciones. El senador demócrata Joe Lieberman, quien luego se convirtió en presidente del Comité Senatorial de Seguridad Nacional, rompió filas y pidió que se concediera la victoria a Bush.

Esto debería servir como una lección para no contar con el Partido Demócrata para proteger los derechos del pueblo. En el análisis final, no se podía confiar en que el Partido Demócrata de- fendiera a los votantes afroamericanos. Al final, su lealtad fue solo para el Gran Capital.

Los lectores deben tomar nota de que después de esas elecciones y los ataques del 11 de septiem- bre, EUA inició la interminable “Guerra contra el terrorismo” y la segunda guerra contra Irak. En EUA, la expansión del aparato represivo del es- tado se engrandeció, una tendencia que V.I. Lenin describió en el folleto “El Estado y la revolución”. En el 2003, se aprobó la Ley de Seguridad Nacio- nal y en el 2005 se formó el Departamento de Se- guridad Nacional. Hoy, es el tercer departamento más grande del gabinete y está coordinado en la Casa Blanca por el Consejo de Seguridad Nacional. Tiene 240,000 empleados. Por ley, los empleados del DHS [por sus siglas en inglés] no pueden es- tar representados por un sindicato. Peter Andreas, profesor de la Universidad de Brown, describió la

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