Socialist countries beat back COVID-19
By Scott Scheffer

Nov. 22 — Another wave of COVID-19 is raging across the U.S. The death count has now reached a quarter-million; Black, Brown and Indigenous communities have suffered the heaviest toll.

After actively discouraging all recommended methods of slowing the spread of the disease and cutting lockdowns short to try to get capitalist production restarted, the Trump regime has focused for months exclusively on the development of a vaccine.

In March, in an article about the efforts to develop a vaccine, the New York Times reported:

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Whoever’s in the White House, get ready to fight

By Greg Butterfield

Nov. 25 — The year 2020 has been exhausting.

At the beginning of this year, a U.S. war of aggression against Iran seemed imminent. President Donald Trump ordered the illegal, provo-

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cative and downright racist assassination of Gen. Qasem Soleimani, commander of Iran’s Quds Force, responsible for beating back the threat of Islamic State (ISIS) forces in Syria, Iraq and throughout West Asia.

Then came the global pandemic, which killed almost 15 million people worldwide by late November. While some countries were able to take swift, organized, community-supported action to stop the spread — especially socialist countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba — those based on market-driven capitalism, with inadequate, privatized health care, were unable to meet the challenge.

That was the U.S. most of all, with 12.7 million cases reported on Nov. 25 and 260,000 deaths, the worst in the world. Both numbers continue to rise, and in broad daylight. The city and the whole country erupted in a mass uprising against racist police violence.

Led by Black youth, millions took to the streets against the killer cops and their political enablers from city halls and statehouses to Washington. The New York Times reported that as many as 26 million people in the U.S. participated in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd.

For those low-wage workers and health care workers lucky enough to keep their jobs — the so-called essential workers, also disproportionately oppressed and poor people, including undocumented migrants — every day is a struggle to stay safe from infection.

A study by National Nurses United, the country’s largest nurses’ union, found that Filipinx workers have been one-third of the nurses who have died, despite being only 4 percent of nurses in the U.S. That’s because they are disproportionately on the frontlines in emergency rooms and care centers, and have less access to necessary equipment and health care themselves.

Black Lives uprising

In May, Minneapolis cops murdered George Floyd, a Black man, in broad daylight. The city and the whole country erupted in a mass up-

rising against racist police violence. Led by Black youth, millions took to the streets against the killer cops and their political enablers from city halls and statehouses to Washing-

ton. The New York Times reported that as many as 26 million people in the U.S. participated in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd.

The multinational uprising, which some have termed the largest protest movement in U.S. history, shook the racist foundations of the capitalist system.

Lacking coordinated national leadership, this heroic movement was unable to sustain its early momentum as the capitalist state brought its forces to bear to suppress it. But valuable lessons were learned and the anger of the people has not gone away.

Each new outrage, like the blatant grand jury manipulation to let off the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., brings people back into the streets.

And then there was the election. No, let’s call it what it really was: a referendum on Trump’s racism. And Trump lost, by 6 million votes and counting.

Now, as we enter the last month of 2020, with Trump in office for eight more weeks, the threat of U.S. war on Iran looms again.

Get ready to fight

After all this — when the media announced on Nov. 7 that Trump had been defeated and Biden had won the necessary Electoral College votes to take office — the masses of workers and oppressed people let out a collective sigh of relief. In many places, people spontaneously came out into the streets to celebrate Trump’s defeat.

This feeling is completely understandable. The tension ramped up again as Trump denied the results. To this day, Trump has refused to concede defeat. He and his backers in the ruling class, the capitalist state, and fascist gangs like the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and Wolverine Watchmen, have not stopped plotting to overturn his electoral defeat.

Until Trump is out of the White House, we must remain on guard and

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Capitalism’s coronavirus catastrophe

By Stephen Millies

Wall Street’s war machine includes 11 aircraft carriers and 5,800 nuclear weapons. Yet the capitalist government in the United States is helpless to combat the latest coronavirus surge. Daily, they have soared to 180,000 with over a thousand deaths per day. Hospitals throughout the Midwest are being overwhelmed. New York City has closed its public schools again.

None of this was inevitable. Donald Trump has blood on his hands. By sabotaging absolutely necessary public health measures — like wearing masks and practicing social distancing — they have guaranteed thousands of more deaths.

The Trump regime follows decades of cutbacks and privatizing government programs. Hundreds of hospitals have closed with tens of thousands of hospital beds lost. Now they are needed.

Some of the closed hospitals — like St. Vincent’s in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village — have been turned into luxury housing. Real estate profits are more important than human lives.

Contrast the tragedy unfolding in the U.S. with the socialist countries fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty-two new cases of the coronavirus were reported on Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 in the People’s Republic of China.

That’s 10,000 times fewer cases than in the U.S. How has socialist China been able to control the pandemic?

People’s health comes first under socialism. China’s government, led by President Xi Jinping, didn’t hesitate to temporarily shut down the economy in order to save lives.

Socialism vs. COVID-19

In socialist countries, people are encouraged to be organized. Members of communist parties volunteer for duty in the war against the coronavirus.

A 25-member delegation was sent by the Communist Party of China, which included 60 members of women’s associations and youth groups. Unions are mobilized to enforce safe working conditions.

Police kill three people per day in the U.S. At least half are Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

When the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan was shut down to fight COVID-19, unarmed socialist police delivered meals to people’s homes.

Thirty-five people have died of COVID-19 in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a country of 97 million people. North Dakota’s 762,000 people suffered 732 deaths from the virus as of Nov. 13.

The Pentagon killed at least three million people in Vietnam, using napalm and phosphorus bombs to burn children to death. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, dropped by U.S. planes, as do thousands of U.S. veterans.

When 13.5 million people were killed in neighboring Laos. The U.S. killed over three million people during the Korean War.

Both the capitalist Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the socialist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea have reported no deaths from COVID-19.

For 60 years, socialist Cuba has been economically blocked by the U.S. Socialist health care system has become world famous. Cuban medical workers have gone to Italy to help during the pandemic. Cuba, with 11.3 million people, has had 113 deaths due to COVID-19. The 11.7 million people in Ohio have had at least 5,700 deaths.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is also beating back the coronavirus, despite Trump’s cruel sanctions. Venezuela’s 28.6 million people have suffered 844, COVID-19 deaths. The 29.5 million people living in Texas have had at least 19,917 deaths from COVID 19.

Africa fights back

Africans have been pillaged for over 500 years by European and U.S. capitalists. Yet African countries have been among the countries much more effectively than their colonial exploiters.

With four times the population of the U.S., all of Africa has had less than one-fifth of the cases of COVID-19.

The people of Zimbabwe have been punished by the U.S. and the European Union for daring to take back their land from white settlers. These sanctions are aimed at strangle Zimbabwe’s economy.

With around 15 million people, Zimbabwe has had 257 COVID-19 deaths. Pennsylvania, with around 13 million people, has had at least 9,353.

More than a vaccine is needed

People are hoping for the rollout of vaccines against the coronavirus. Capitalists see dollar signs.

After Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech announced a potentially effective vaccine, $44 billion poured into U.S. stock markets. U.S. billionaires have grabbed another trillion dollars during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, 15 million workers are scheduled to lose their unemployment benefits the day after Christmas. Temporary moratoriums on evictions and home foreclosures are set to expire.

We have to demand the reinstatement of the $600 weekly supplemental unemployment benefits that ended in July, with the missing weeks paid in full. Black and Latinx workers, who are hit hardest by evictions on evictions and foreclosures must be enacted.

This won’t happen automatically even if Trump is kicked out of the White House. We have to organize the power of the people to win it.

Socialist countries beat back COVID-19

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York Times said that “the United States, China and Europe are battling to be the first.” That competition is built into the major capitalist countries. It is an all-out, cutthroat battle — each country prioritizing their economy, trying to reopen businesses in their own country. Secrecy abounds and the competition is even between companies in the same country. But the New York Times was being deceitful to include China in the battle “to be the first.”

China, Cuba and communists and socialists around the world have led amazingly successful campaigns against the virus and have a different economic and political outlook than the capitalist countries. They don’t view gaining control of the virus in their own countries as the end of the fight, their goal is to help the rest of the world as well.

China’s death toll under 5,000

China’s Communist Party prioritized saving lives over keeping their economy going and shut down huge areas where around 100 million people live as soon as COVID-19 was identified. Their economic sacrificie
Colin Kaepernick: Now is the time to release Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Gloria Verdieu

“Release Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners” was the message of the Nov. 16 Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Press Conference. As an image and a video opened from Colin Kaepernick, calling on the movement against racist policing to join in the work to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home. Listen to and view Kaepernick’s entire presentation on YouTube — at tinyurl.com/yg3zxul.

Johanna Fernandez opened the virtual press conference with an urgent emergency message regarding 77-year-old political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoats, Shoats, suffering stage 4 cancer for the last year and a half, has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

This infection is no doubt a result of the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in Pennsylvania state prisons and the callous disregard shown by prison authorities to elderly and infirm incarcerated people, including withholding testing and unhygienic isolation of those who report symptoms. The message included a request for all supporters to call the office of Pennsylvania Attorney General Wolf and demand the unconditional release of Russell Maroon Shoats and all older prisoners with COVID-19. The message was signed by Russell Maroon Shoats Jr., son of Shoats. The number to call (717-778-2900) was posted on the chat and Fernandez repeated this information throughout the press conference.

Following Fernandez, Johanna Kisseberth of the virtual press conference, is an associate professor of history at Baruch College, author of “The Young Lords: A Radical History” and producer of “Justice on Trial: An examination of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

Police frame-up of Mumia

Pam Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal followed, discussing workshops on the movement in the fight to release Black political prisoner and world-renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Mumia is clearly a target of judicial, prosecutorial, political misconduct and terrorism. District Attorney Larry Krasner has already released fifteen people who had been subjected to judicial and prosecutorial misconduct. The police frame-up of Mumia has been in the forefront, internationally recognized, as Krasner knows, but he has not released Mumia.

“We demand that Krasner do for Mumia what he did for the other fifteen exonerees, thirteen Black, one white, and one Latino,” Pam Africa said.

“We are asking people to help us stop the plot and stop the plan. It is clear that they are trying to kill this innocent man. Mumia could have been released just before the Kings Bench Act, which Linn Washington will talk about later. Africa continued, “I cannot express enough how very ill Mumia is in that prison, not like he was two years ago. Mumia has cirrhosis of the liver.”

Cirrhosis is a disease that involves loss of liver cells and circling of blood vessels. Hepatitis B and C are common causes of cirrhosis of the liver. According to the Mayo Clinic, life expectancy for advanced cases of cirrhosis of the liver is six months to two years depending on complications.

“Mumia is now living under the threat of COVID-19, which is the case for everyone else in the prison,” Africa continued. “The thing is, he should be on the streets based on the evidence. We now have to successfully put pressure and demand that Krasner release Mumia based on judicial and prosecutorial misconduct.”

Africa added, “We must not stop expressing this enough. The plots, the failed plots for 39 years where they tried to kill Mumia. If it were not for a judge in Scranton and the movement, Mumia would be dead today! The prison officials were in a plot that got exposed inside the courtroom before a lot of people that they were manipulating papers to kill him. We are not just talking about judicial and prosecutorial misconduct. We are talking about a plot, a continuous plot to try to kill Mumia.”

Fernandez explained that Pam Africa was referring specifically to the part of the prosecutor’s office in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The trial dates brought before the court and the records suggest that is what he is. At that point, the judge intervened, saying that someone is about to perjure themselves and there are going to be serious problems with the case. Eventually the struggle was won and Mumia got the health care and services he needed. As a result of this health lawsuit, other prisoners across the country are now receiving treatment for hepatitis C.

Daniel Washington, a professor of journalism at Temple University, explained that the “King’s Bench,” gives the Pennsylvania Supreme Court the power to intervene in matters brought before the court and take up cases that are before a lower court. This power is supposed to be used in extraordinary instances of the public interest. What the Pennsylvania Supreme Court did was to intervene by itself to grant a petition filed by the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) to block Mumia’s legal appeals, which had been granted by the state Superior Court.

Kwame Ajamu, one of three wrongfully convicted prisoners in Cleveland, Ohio, was exonerated in 2011. All three were initially sentenced to death for murder based on the testimony of a 12-year-old boy, Edward Verbena. Both boys were convicted to life in prison, and, after forty years, Vernon came forward and said the Cleveland police detectives coerced him to testify falsely at the trial. Kwame was 17 years at the time of his conviction. Ajamu was pardoned in 2003 and exonerated in 2012. Ajamu is currently the chairman of Witness to Innocence, an organization that has an intention, desire and strong mission to stop capital punishment and end the death penalty. Ajamu said he will stand behind Mumia until eternity.

Mumia’s words brought life

Dwayne Betts is director of the Million Book Project at Yale Law School, public defender and award-winning author. Betts read a prepared poetic statement that began: “My name is Regional Dwayne Betts; I am a poet; I am a lawyer; I am a convicted felon. In 1997 I went to prison as a 16-year-old. I pleaded to two shootings, sentenced for nine years. During those years in cells, I discovered Mumia Abu-Jamal’s writing. I discovered him in the same way that I discovered Asanta Shaktur, and George Jackson, and James Foreman, and Stokely Carmichael, and H. Rap Brown, Fred Hampton, Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, Malcolm X, Dr. Angela Davis.” Betts said that Mumia’s words brought life to him when he was in solitary and he speaks for all people in prison regardless of their innocence.

Professor Angela Davis, author of “Are Prisons Obsolete,” registered her unwavering support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. “It is right and just for us to accelerate our efforts to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners,” Davis said.

Mumia’s grandson Jamal spoke of how “This is something I’ve had to endure all my life.” He said it is great to see so many organizations coming together, strategizing and figuring out action plans to get his grandfather free. Jamal spoke the names George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Walter Wallace, who was recently shot by the police in Philadelphia.

Jamal said, “It’s good time to have my grandfather’s case come to the forefront. There are a lot of individuals who are misguided, so much misinformation provided by the Fraternal Order of Police. I am grateful for so many that are participating in this press conference.”

The press conference concluded with a powerful statement from Colin Kaepernick. Watch the complete event on YouTube.

For more on the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal go to Mobilization4Mumia.com.
Last June 1, as reported by Struggle-La Lucha, President Donald Trump attempted to carry out a coup d’etat when his administration ordered U.S. soldiers act. National Guard troops to “dominate” Washington, D.C., during mass protests against the police murder of George Floyd. Trump’s plan was to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 — first enacted to suppress slave rebellions — and dispatch the military to put down Black Lives Matter protests across the U.S.

The scheme collapsed when Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper lost their nerve, fearing that rank-and-file soldiers, mostly from the working class and many from Black and Brown communities, would refuse to carry out these orders and join the protesters.

Instead, Trump deployed an illegal secret federal police force, including agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security and the Border Patrol, to Portland, Ore., Seattle and other cities for a smaller-scale attack on protesters. In September, Trump’s stormtroopers carried out the cold-blooded execution of anti-fascist Michael Reinoehl, agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security and the Border Patrol, to Portland, Ore., Seattle and other cities for a smaller-scale attack on protesters. In September, Trump’s stormtroopers carried out the cold-blooded execution of anti-fascist Michael Reinoehl, an advocate of austerity and anti-communist Cu

Biden is expected to nominate several women and people of color to top posts since August. Mayorkas, an anti-communist CU

Biden’s former chief of staff, Bruce Reed, an advocate of austerity and cuts to Social Security, is his likely pick for the Office of Management and Budget. Reed is a veteran of the Peronist labor movement in Argentina, where he was a key figure in the Peronist labor movement in Argentina, where he was a key figure in the struggle against the regime of the military junta that ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983.

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The call goes on to point out the hypocrisy of Trump and his allies when they attempt to use the troops to circumvent the capitalists’ own U.S. National Guard troops called out in Los Angeles, May 31, 2020.

The task force is troubled about the absence of effective legal alternatives for servicemembers dealing with possible illegal orders and being forced to carry out illegal orders or face real conflicts with their moral, political or religious beliefs in the context of the 2020 presidential election. In the aftermath, we are concerned that National Guard members and other military personnel may be used in voter suppression or repression of progressive demonstrations.

The Task Force is troubled about the absence of effective legal alternatives for servicemembers dealing with possible illegal orders and be-cause it is essentially forcing most members of the military are fully informed about their rights under the law. ... For this reason, the Task Force has set up a system for free, confidential telephone consultations with attorneys to discuss possible illegal orders and related issues.” And a popular appeal to U.S. soldiers was issued by Detroit’s Morat-atorium Now! Coalition, “Attention! Refuse to Follow Trump’s Illegal Orders to Overturn the Election.” The call is endorsed by the Peoples Power Assembly, the Peoples Alliance–Bay Area, Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha, the People Movement and Youth Against War and Racism, among others.

“Do you have a choice” The call states: “At some point, Trump may declare the 2020 election to be ‘null and void.’ He would then order you, U.S. servicemembers, into cities and towns across the country, to suppress the millions of people who pour into the streets to protest his illegal coup d’état. Are you ready to shoot down civilians, just to keep Trump illegally in power despite the election outcome?”

“Union locals and labor councils across the country are already preparing for a national general strike. Like if Trump refuses to recognize the people’s decision and overturns the election. Are you ready to bayonet workers standing up for our democratic rights?”

“Some 42 percent of U.S. soldiers are of color. Are you willing to kill for this racist bigot as he tries to hold his grip of power and un-leashes bloody revenge on any who oppose him?”

The call goes on to point out the hypocrisy of Trump and his allies when they attempt to use the troops to circumvent the capitalists’ own dominance and the endless war machine.

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By Stephen Millies

Trump’s campaign to steal the election isn’t stopped. It still depends on stealing Black votes. His No. 1 thug Rudy Giuliani wants the votes in Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee and Philadelphia thrown out.

All these cities have large Black communities with Atlanta and Detroit holding Black majorities. If Trump is able to ditch the votes in these cities, he can overturn the results in Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and win the Electoral College.

That’s what Trump supporter Monica Palmer — a Pennsylvania legislator from Wayne County, which includes Detroit. Sitting on the county election board, Palmer wanted to certify just the votes of Detroit’s suburbs but not those of Detroit itself.

That’s despite the suburb of Livonia having the second highest number of county precincts with irregularities. While Detroit is nearly 80% Black, Livonia is less than 5% African American. It also has large Arab and Latinx communities whose votes would have been thrown away.

It was the power of the people that stopped this outrage. Hundreds marched to stop the steal. Local congressperson Rashida Tlaib — a Palestinian American — denounced the racist attack to disenfranchise Detroit’s voters.

In Milwaukee, racist Trump supporters are harassing election workers, many of whom are Black, during a recount. “It looks like [Trump is] looking to do pretty much everything he can disenfranchise voters of color,” said Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, the first Black person elected to that post.

That’s nothing new. After the 1976 presidential election, former Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles claimed people were being driven around Milwaukee in a school bus and voting a zillion times.

Then there’s North Carolina. People registered to vote who were Black, going to polls on Halloween in Alamance County were pepper-sprayed, 27 were allegedly arrested by sheriff’s deputies. The Reverend Greg Drumwright and two others are now facing frame-up felony charges.

Sheriff Terry Johnson, who ordered the attack, is also a notorious anti-immigrant and anti-Latinx bigot.

Black voting power under attack

It was Black voters who prevented David Duke from being elected Louisiana governor in 1991. While 55% of white voters cast their ballots for the neo-Nazi, the Black community, with support from progressive whites, mobilized to stop Duke.

A Black shield stopped the deluge of anti-Jewish racism and fascist violence that would have followed Duke’s election.

Ollie North wasn’t elected a U.S. senator in 1984, from Virginia because Black, Latinx and working-class people were mobilized to block him. Black, Latinx and working-class people made the difference.

The plot is to have them nominate pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College — and pressed by the Wayne County, Mich., Board of Canvassers — and pressured toViagra to those of Detroit itself.

TRUMPS 2020 ELECTION

Nov. 28: “Biden can only enter the White House if the Electoral College votes for him.”

Trump backtracked on his statement that he would leave the White House if he couldn’t prove that his ridiculous 62,986,937 votes were not fraudulently or illegally obtained. When you see what happened in Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia & Milwaukee, make no mistake, he’s got a big, big, ineluctable problem.”—Editor

The Black vote was won by Black soldiers during the U.S. Civil War and by bloody struggles during the Reconstruction period that followed. The Fifteenth Amendment, passed in 1870, was supposed to guarantee the right to vote.

That right was swept away by the overthrow of Reconstruction by a Ku Klux Klan terror. Black people fought for decades to defend their right to vote without any support from the federal government.

In 1898, the city government of Wilmington, N.C., was overthrown by a white racist mob. Sixty Black people were massacred in the coup. Within two years the right to vote was stolen from virtually all African Americans in North Carolina.

People died for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Harriette Moore and Harry T. Moore were bombed in their home on Christmas Day 1951. They were murdered by the Klan for registering Black voters.

NAACP leader Medgar Evers fought for voting rights in Mississippi and was assassinated on June 12, 1963. The attack on demonstrators in Selma, Ala., in 1965, in which future congressperson John Lewis was nearly beaten to death by George Wallace’s state troopers, shocked the world.

More than 40 years of political re-

action in the U.S. have included vicious attacks on Black voting rights. The voter ID laws passed by over 30 states are deliberately crafted to limit voting by Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and poor people in general.

The 24th Amendment, enacted in 1964, banned poll taxes. Since photo to identification usually costs money, isn’t that a poll tax? Yet the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld almost all these discriminatory state ID laws.

Six judges on that capitalist court threw out the vital enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013 by a 5-4 vote under Chief Justice John Roberts.

“We’re not a democracy.”

The struggle for Black voting rights empowers all poor and working people. Literacy tests were used to stop Indigenous people from voting in Arizona until 1970.

One of the enforcers in Arizona who tried to prevent Black, Indigenous and Latinx people from voting in the 1964 election was William Rehnquist. The thug was rewarded for his strong-arming by being made chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Millions of white workers benefitted when Harlem’s Adam Clayton Powell Jr. was chair of the Education and Labor Committee in the House of Representatives. The Black congressperson pushed through in the minimum wage and extended coverage to millions of low paid workers.

The Trump and Giuliani attack on Black votes is aimed at overturning the vote of 80 million people who voted against Trump. Among them were Asian voters who helped defeat Trump in Georgia.

While the super rich, like Michael Bloomberg, are willing to spend billions to buy elections, they sneer at democracy. Even cocksure capit-

alists consider it intolerable that the vote of poor and working people should count as much as theirs.

That was Robert L. Bartley’s attitude when he was the Wall Street Journal’s editorial page editor. He justifies his support for Trump in 2000 despite getting half-a-million fewer votes than Al Gore.

Bartley did so on the basis that making the votes of “union households” and “Blacks” while Republican voters were allegedly “producers of wealth.”

Listen up Wall Street Journal: if an election was held of only the essential workers who kept society together during the coronavirus pandemic, Trump would have lost in a landslide.

Attacks on the idea of democracy used to come from the winos of the John Birch Society. In an Oct. 7 tweet, Utah Sen. Mike Lee declared “We’re not a democracy.”

Lee wasn’t admitting that money talks during capitalist elections. He wants to get rid of any notion of democracy.

Poor and working people will show all the Trumps what real democracy looks like. That includes over two million workers who most educated former President Trump from the White House is just the first step.

“Not trying to take real democracy to the streets will we stop evictions and win compensation for all the jobless. We need to organize and fight more than before.”

Rudy Giuliani, the thug-in-charge of stealing the election for Trump

By Stephen Millies

Most of the media are laughing at Rudy Giuliani. The racist clown deserves it.

He’s been exposed as a greedy pig who wants to charge Trump’s re-election campaign $20,000 per day for his dubious legal services.

Giuliani’s Nov. 7 Philadelphia news conference — sandwiched between a phone book salesman and a computer — became a national joke. His loopy claims of voter fraud in an election that Trump lost by six million votes are being ridiculed.

One of this makes Giuliani any less dangerous. He’s attempting to have the votes of Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples in Detroit, Phil-
adelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities thrown out. Make no mistake about it: Trump is attempting to overturn the election with Giuliani as his thug-in-

charge.

Trump called Monica Palmer — who’s on the Wayne County, Mich., Board of Canvassers — and pressured her to reject the hundreds of thousands of votes cast in Detroit and surrounding communities.

Trump also sought to have Republican members of Michigan’s Legislature to the White House on Nov. 20. The plot is to have them nominate pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College despite Trump losing the state by 153,000 votes.

This is reminiscent of Trump’s June 1st coup attempt. That’s when he marched from the White House with the Pentagon brass. Tear gas and stun grenades were used to clear demonstrators from Lafayette Park.

Trump wanted to invoke the In-

surrection Act — which was passed in 1807 to suppress revolts of en-

slaved Africans — to crush the Black Lives Matter movement. The mil-

lion people on the streets stopped Trump from declaring martial law.

Another coup attempt is happening right now. The people must stop it.

Two media creations

Both Giuliani and Trump were made national figures by the capitalist media. NBC gave Trump his own TV show.

This wasn’t just a matter of pub-

licity. Trump used the $4.27 million
Frederick Engels at 200—better than ever

Nov. 28, 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Engels, co-founder of scientific socialism with Karl Marx. Following is an abridged article, written by the Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin after Engels’ death in 1895.

By V.I. Lenin

On Aug. 5, 1895, Frederick Engels died in London. After his friend Karl Marx (who died in 1883), Engels was the other principal teacher of the modern proletariat in the whole world.

From the time that fate brought Karl Marx and Frederick Engels together, the two friends devoted their life’s work to a common cause. And so this fact is that in his life’s work Engels has done for the proletariat, one must have a clear idea of the significance of Marx’s teaching and work for the development of the contemporary working-class movement.

Marx and Engels were the first to show that the growing demands of a newer, modern society are a necessary outcome of the present economic system, which together with the bourgeoisie creates and organizes the proletariat. They showed that it is not the well-meaning efforts of noble-minded individuals, but the class struggle of the organized proletariat that will deliver humanity from the evils which now oppress it.

In their scientific works, Marx and Engels were the first to explain that socialism is not the invention of dreamers, but the final aim and necessary result of the development of the productive forces in modern society. All recorded history hitherto has been a history of class struggle, of the succession of one kind of production forces and of victory of certain classes over others. And this will continue until the foundations of class struggle and of class domination—private property and anarchic social production—disappear. The interests of the proletariat in the development of these foundations, and therefore the conscious class struggle of the organized proletariat must be directed against them. And every class struggle is a political struggle.

'Engels' name should be known to every worker'

These views of Marx and Engels have now been adopted by all proletarians who are fighting for their emancipation. But when in the 1840s the two friends took part in the socialist literature and the social movements of their time, they were absolutely novel. There were then many people, talented and without talent, honest and dishonest, who, absorbed in the struggle for political freedom, in the struggle against the despotism of kings, police and priests, failed to observe the antagonism between the interests of the bourgeoisie and those of the proletariat. These people would not entertain the idea of the workers acting as an independent social force.

On the other hand, there were many dreamers, some of them geniuses, who thought that it was only necessary to convince the rulers and the governing classes of the injustice of the contemporary social order, and it would then be easy to establish peace and general well-being on earth. They dreamt of a socialism without struggle.

Lastly, nearly all the socialists of that time and the friends of the working class generally regarded the proletariat only as an ulcer, and observed with horror how it grew with the growth of industry. They all, therefore, sought for a means to stop the development of industry and of the proletariat, to stop the "wheel of history."

Marx and Engels did not share the general fear of the development of the proletariat; on the contrary, they placed all their hopes on its continued growth. The more proletariat this term means there are, the greater is their strength as a revolutionary class, and the nearer and more possible does socialism become. The services rendered and the work of Marx and Engels must be expressed in a few words thus: they taught the working class to know itself and be conscious of itself, and they substituted science for dreams.

That is why the name and life of Engels should be known to every worker. That is why in this collection of articles, the aim of which, as of all our publications, is to awaken class consciousness in the Russian workers, we must give a sketch of the life and work of Frederick Engels, the two friends, the teachers of the modern proletariat.

An enemy of tyranny

Engels was born in 1820 in Barmen, in the Rhine Province of the kingdom of Prussia. His father was a manufacturer. In 1838 Engels, without having completed his high school studies, was forced by circumstances to enter a commercial house in Bremen as a clerk.

Commercial affairs did not prevent Engels from pursuing his scientific and political education. He had come to hate autocracy and the tyranny of bureaucrats while still at high school. The study of philosophy led him further.

At that time Hegel’s teaching dominated German universities, and Engels became his follower. Although Hegel himself was an admirer of the autocratic Prussian state, in whose service he was as a professor at Berlin University, Hegel’s teachings were revolutionary. Hegel’s faith in human reason and its rights, and the fundamental thesis of Hegelian philosophy that the universe is undergoing a constant process of change and development, led some of the disciples of the Berlin philosopher — those who refused to accept the existing situation — to the idea that the struggle against tyranny and against existing wrong and prevalent evil, is also rooted in the universal law of eternal development.

If all things develop, if institutions of one kind give place to others, why should the autocracy of the Prussian king or of the Russian tsar, the enrichment of an insignificant minority at the expense of the vast majority, or the domination of the bourgeoisie over the people, continue forever?

Hegel’s philosophy spoke of the development of the human mind and its ideas; it was idealistic. From the development of the mind it deduced the development of nature, of man, and society, social relations. While retaining Hegel’s idea of the eternal process of development, Marx and Engels rejected the preconceived concept of a last view, turning to life, they saw that it is not the development of mind that explains the development of things but that the contrary, the explanation of mind must be derived from nature, from matter.

Unlike Hegel and the other Hegelians, Marx and Engels were materialists. Regarding the world and humanity materialistically, they perceived that just as material causes are all in all the most powerful forces so the development of human society is conditioned by the development of material forces, the productive forces. On the development of the productive forces depend the relations into which men enter with one another in the productive activity, the things required for the satisfaction of human needs. And in these relations lies the explanation of all the phenomena of social life, human aspirations, ideas and laws.

The development of the productive forces creates social relations based upon private property, but now we see that the development of the productive forces deprives the majority of their property and concentrates it in the hands of an insignificant number of people. And this, the basis of the modern social order, it itself strives towards the very opposite—wholesale to give itself up, to set itself free. All the socialists have to do is to realise which social force, owing to its position in modern society and its programme of organizing socialism about, and to impart to this force the consciousness of its task. This force is the proletariat.

Socialism and the working class

Engels got to know the proletariat in England, in the center of English industry, Manchester, where he settled in 1842, entering the service of a commercial firm of which his father was a shareholder. Here Engels not only did research work concerned about the slums in which the workers were cooped up, and saw their poverty and misery with his own eyes.

But he did not confine himself to personal observations. He read all that had been revealed before him about the condition of the British working class and carefully studied all the official documents he could lay his hands on. The fruit of these studies and observations, a book was appeared in 1845, "The Condition of the Working Class in England."

We have already mentioned the chief service rendered by Engels in writing "The Condition of the Working Class in England." Even before Engels, many people had described the sufferings of the proletariat and had pointed to the necessity of helping it. Engels was the first to say that the working class forms a single class; that is, in fact, the disgraceful economic condition of the proletariat that drives it irresistibly forward and compels it to fight for its emancipation. And the fighting proletariat will help itself. The political movement of the working class will contribute in the last analysis to fulfill their only salvation lies in socialism. On the other hand, socialism means for them when it becomes the aim of the political struggle of the working class.

Such are the main ideas of Engels’ book on the condition of the working class in England, ideas which have now been adopted by all thinking and fighting proletarians, but which at the time Engels wrote his book were set out in a book written in absorbing style and filled with moral and social consciousness of the misery of the English proletariat.

The book was a terrible indictment of capitalism and the bourgeoisie and created a profound impression. Engels’ book began to be quoted everywhere as presenting the best picture of the condition of the English proletariat. And, in fact, neither before 1845 nor after has there appeared so striking and truthful a picture of the misery of the working class.

Materialism

It was not until he came to England that Engels became a socialist. In Manchester he established a

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 4 highest law, the U.S. Constitution, with which the boss class tries to justify its rule as a global arbiter of “democracy”:

"You do have a choice. We know that you have been told over and over again that you must vote for the boss class. Orders. Trump may be for now the commander-in-chief, but you swore an oath to defend the Constitution, not Donald Trump. Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice dictates that you must follow only lawful orders.

"You know that if Trump seizes power by using the military against the people, that would break the law. And just following orders would be no excuse."

"If that day comes and Trump orders you to attack the people, stand down! Tell your commanders that you will not be able to "Trump to overturn the will of the people. Join with the people in the streets and help uphold all our democratic rights!"

Vets, activists call on soldiers to reject orders to overturn election

Continued on page 7
Continued from page 6
tacts with people active in the En-glis-speaking world at the time andbegan to write for English-soci-alist publications. In 1844, while on hisway back to Germany, Engels joined thefreethinkers who had converted him toParis with Marx, with whom hehad already started to correspond. InParis, under the influence of the Freethinkers, Engels had also become a socialist.

Here the friends jointly wrote a bookentitled “The Holy Family, or Criti-cisms of Hegel’s Philosophy of theSpirit,” which appeared a year before“The Condition of the Working Class inEngland,” and the greater part of whichwas written by Marx, contains thefoundations of revolutionary materialist socialism, the main ideas ofwhich we have expounded above.

The “Holy family” is a facetious nickname for the Bauer brothers, the philosophers, and their followers. These gentlemen preached a criti-cism which stood above all reality, above parties and politics, which rejected all practical activity, and which only “critically” contemplat-ed the surrounding world and theevents going on within it. These gen-tlemen, the Baurers, looked down onthe proletariat as an uncritical mass.

Marx and Engels vigorously op-posed this absurd and harmful ten-dency. In the name of a real, humanperson – the worker, trampled downby the ruling classes and the state – they demanded not contemplation, but a struggle for a better order of society. They, of course, regarded the proletariat as the force that is capable of making such a struggle and that is interested in it.

Even before the appearance of “The Holy Family,” Engels had published in Marx’s and Ruge’s Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher his “Critical Es-says on Political Economy,” in whichhe criticized the economic doctrin-ena of the contemporary economic order from a socialist standpoint, regarding them as necessary con-sequences of the existing private property. Contact with Engels was undoubtedly a factor in Marx’s deci-sion to study political economy, the science in which his works have pro-duced such a revolution.

1848 and the Communist Manifesto

From 1845 to 1847 Engels lived inBrussels and Paris, combining sci-entific work with practical activi-ties among the German workers inEurope. In 1847 Engels established contact with the secret German Communist League, which commissioned them to expend the man in principles of the socialism they had worked out. Thus arose the famous “Manifesto of the Commu-nists,” published in 1848. This little booklet is worth whole volumes: to this day its spirit inspires and guides the entire organized and fighting proletariat of the world.

The revolution of 1848, which broke out first in France and then spread to other Western European countries, brought Marx and Engels back to their native country. Here, in Rhenish Prussia, they again showed their detachment from the political parties. The political parties were for years his biggest cheerlead-ers in the name of a real, human soul of all revolutionary-democratic aspirations in Rhenish Prussia. They fought to the last ditch in defense of freedom and of the interests of the working people against the forces of reac-tion. The latter, as we know, gained the upper hand. The Neue Rheinische Zeitung was suppressed. Marx, who during his exile had lost his Prussian citizenship, was deported; Engels took part in the armed popular uprising in 1849 and after the defeat of the rebels fled, via Switzerland, to London.

Marx also settled in London. Eng-els soon became a clerk again, and then a shareholder, in the Manches-ter commercial firm in which he had worked as a clerk in 1837. Until 1870 he lived in Manchester, while Marx lived in London, but this did not prevent their maintaining a constant flow of ideas which they corresponded almost daily. In this correspondence the two friends ex-changed views and discoveries and continued to collaborate in working out the revolutionary-social-ism.

Engels and “Capital”

In 1857 Engels moved to London, and their joint intellectual life, of the most strenuous nature, continued until 1885, when Marx died. Its fruit was, on Marx’s side, “Capital,” the greatest work on political economy of our age, and on Engels’ side, a number of works both large and small. Marx worked on the analysis of the com-plex phenomena of capitalist econo-my, Engels, in simply written works, often of a polemical character, de-veloped with more general scientific prob-lems and with diverse phenomena of the past and present in the spirit of the materialist conception of history and Marx’s economic theory.

Of Engels’ works we shall mention: the polemical work against Dühring (analyzing highly important prob-lems in the domain of philosophy, natural science and the social sci-ences), “The Origin of the Fami-ly, Private Property and the State,” “Ludwig Feuerbach,” an article on the foreign policy of the Russian government, splendid articles on the housing question, and finally, two small but very valuable artic-les on Russia’s economic develop-ment (Frederick Engels on Russia,” translated into Russian by Zasulich, Geneva, 1864).

Marx died before he could put the final touches to his vast work on cap-ital. The draft, however, was already finished, and after the death of his friend, Engels undertook the oner-ous task of preparing and publishing the second and the third volumes of “Capital.” He published Volume II in 1885 and Volume III in 1894. (His death prevented the preparation of Volume IV.)

Also two volumes entitled a vast amount of labor. Adler, the Austri-an Social-Democrat, has rightly re-marked that by publishing Volume II and III of “Capital” Engels erected a majestic monument to the genius who had been his friend, a monu-ment on which, without intending it, he indubitably carved his own name. It is to the memory of Engels, whose relation-ship to each other surpasses the most moving stories of the ancients about human friendship. Engels al-ways – and, on the whole, quite just-ly – placed himself after Marx. “In Marx’s lifetime,” he wrote to an old friend, “I played second fiddle.” His love for the living Marx, and his rev-erence for the memory of the dead Marx were boundless. This stern fighter and austere thinker pos-sessed a deeply loving soul.

First International

After the movement of 1848–1849, Marx and Engels in exile did not confine themselves to scientific re-search, but took part in the Interna-tional Working Men’s Associa-tion, and led this society for a whole decade. Engels also took an active part in its affairs. The work of the Interna-tional Association, which, in accordance with Marx’s idea, unit-ed proletarians of all countries, had of tremendous significance in the development of the working-class movement.

But even with the closing down of the International Association in the 1870s, the unifying role of Marx and Engels did not cease. On the contrary, it grew even stronger. Marx as the spiritual leaders of the work- ing-class movement grew continu-ously, because the movement itself grew uninterruptedly.

After the death of Marx, Engels continued alone as the counselor and leader of the European socialist-is. Let us always honor the memo-ry of Frederick Engels, a great fight-er and teacher of the proletariat! (Source: tinyurl.com/sjycjclv)

Rudy Giuliani, the thug-in-chief of stealing the election for Trump

Continued from page 5

he collected from NBC to cover his real estate and casino losses. The same newspapers and maga-zines that are now mocking Giuliani were for years his biggest cheerlead- ers. He ignored his racist cam-paign to defeat David Dinkins, who was the only Black mayor New York City has ever had.

But this tactic blew up in Giuliani’s face. People went to jail instead of force spouses to give lying testimony. It’s to rec-ognize this case is called the resisters that this case is called the

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After the death of Amadou Diallo, in 1999, protesters gathered on Wall Street.

Haitian immigrants jailed at the Krome concentration camp near Miami. As a U.S. district attorney, Giu-liani organized the 1984, attempted fram- ing of the New York 8. Five hundred cops and federal agents staged terror raids in New York against Haitian communities to round up the defendants.

The New York 8 defeated Giuliani Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plumm-er, Ruth Carter, Omonowale Clay, Yvette Kelley, Jose Rios, Robert Taylor and Roger Wareham faced fantastic charges of con-spiring to rob banks and Brinks’ trucks, and to stage jailbreaks. Even their political activity was clamped down on. It would be a violation of the Racketeer In-fluenced and Corrupt Organiza-tions (RICO) Act.

This frame-up was part of the Reagan administration’s drive to crush all liberation movements. Eight 8 “co-conspirators” were held in an attempt to get around rules that spouses can’t be forced to testify against each other. Giuliani hoped to destroy the movement of the Fifth Amendment on the other defendants instead.

But this tactic blew up in Giuliani’s face. People went to jail instead of becoming lying snitches. It’s to rec-ognize these courageous grand jury resisters that this case is called the

The power of the people will de-feat Giuliani and Trump!
Three typhoons rock the Philippines, militant students strike

By Bayani

As if extrajudicial killings, the worst COVID-19 infection rate in Southeast Asia and a renewed government effort of red-tagging weren’t enough, the Filipino people were struck by three typhoons within the space of three weeks.

October 25: Typhoon Molave (called Quinto in the Philippines) made landfall at San Miguel Island and tore across Luzon for two days.

October 31: Super Typhoon Goni (or Rolly) struck the Bicol region, very close to where Molave made landfall.

November 11: Super Typhoon Vamco (or Ulises) hit the Quezon province. By Nov. 11, just 8% of where the first two typhoons made landfall.

Following the destruction of these three storms, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports:
- 73 deaths
- 24 injured
- 19 people still missing
- 92,800 people are in evacuation centers
- 82,900 people remain displaced
- 50 villages remain isolated
- Over $165 million in infrastructure damage across 8 regions
- Only 60 out of 316 municipalities have had power restored

Many of the working and oppressed masses of the Philippines have accepted that help is not coming. Despite the millions of U.S. dollars poured into military and police aid, none of it will be utilized for disaster relief or rescue.

By some of the most concomitant sequences of the storms were those that were avoidable and unnecessary — those that can be traced back to the actions, or lack thereof, of the Philippines government.

President Rodrigo Duterte’s perception and subsequent shutdown of the ABS-CBN news service meant that entire regions, where ABS-CBN was the only news service available, went without any prior warning of the incoming typhoons.

The budget for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has been dramatically slashed over time, specifically by 4 billion Philippine pesos (or roughly $84.8 million USD) in 2020, according to government reports. That P9 billion is no joke, and the whole amount will be much better repurposed to augment disaster relief efforts, as well as the COVID-19 response.

Students strike back

Youth and student groups called for a national academic strike against the criminal negligence of the Duterte administration. Students at University of the Philippines campuses, the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Santo Tomas and many more submitted pledges to withhold all submissions of enrollment requirements until their demands are met.

The demands:
- National academic break to promote education
- Urgent calamity aid and pandemic response
- Ouster of the Duterte administration
- Fair wages for university staff and faculty
- Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque threatened, “Babagsak po kayo,” or, “you will fail.” Duterte threatened to cut off funding to the University of the Philippines, red-tagging the university in the process. “Sure? UP? Fine. Stop studying. I will stop the funding. You don’t do anything except recruit communists. You study, and then you criticize the government. You are so lucky. Don’t threaten me, because I will oblige you.”

Alongside the student protests, at least 134 faculty members of the University of Philippines-Diliman issued a statement calling for the end of the semester.

The situation is very fluid. One way to follow developments is to tune into the hashtag #YouthStrikePH on all social media platforms. Whatever happens, this action led by youth and students, bringing together the workers and faculty of the universities and surrounding communities, is a remarkable example of mass action.

Revolutionary feminism

Continued from page 10

...men of 7.0%.

We all have been raised with many backward ideas about race, gender and sexual identity. We all have to continue to check ourselves and each other when any of these evils rears its ugly head.

I think one of the biggest gains in the fight for liberation of wom en today is the unity in the movement. Women, men, young, old, gay, straight, trans, Black, Brown, Indigenous and white, all stand with each other, protecting and defending each other, fighting for the liberation of the proletariat. If we are to achieve this goal we must continue to stay united. Keeping our eye on the true enemy: capitalism and imperialism.

COVID-19 and gender disparities

Comrades: I want to now focus on how COVID-19 has worsened the long-standing gender inequalities. Women are more likely than men to work in service occupations, including domestic work, retail, transport, tourism and hospitality, that require face-to-face interactions and have been hard-hit by layoffs. For these jobs, teleworking is not an option. Women workers are largely represented in frontline jobs, which also means one often deemed “essential” and require people to work in-person.

In addition women have been harder hit by pandemic-related job losses than men.

The pandemic recession has hit women especially hard for three reasons:

- Massive job losses in service industries and other occupations where we are disproportionately represented.
- Sex discrimination that makes us more likely to be laid off, and we tend to bear more responsibility for pandemic-related challenges to family health, school closures, and other disruptions.

These pressures have resulted in many women leaving the workforce altogether. The drop was particularly steep for Latina women, whose participation rate fell by 5.1%, and Black women, whose rate dropped by 4.0%. Transgender women are always in a precarious position, but COVID-19 pandemic has made them particularly vulnerable. According to research from University of California-Los Angeles, transgender women are at a higher risk for COVID-19 for several reasons. They are more likely to be low-income, with 47.7% of transgender women living below 200% of the official U.S. poverty line. They are also significantly more likely to suffer from asthma and HIV, conditions that put people at higher risk of mortality if they contract COVID-19. And they experience high barriers to receiving health care.

The pandemic has also hit transgender women especially hard economically. A poll from the Human Rights Campaign shows that as of June 2020, some 54% of transgender women had experienced reduced work hours — more than double the 23% of the total U.S. workforce. Twenty-seven percent of transgender women had experienced pay cuts, compared to just 7% of the U.S. workforce. And 19% had become unemployed due to the pandemic, a significantly larger share than the general population.

The gender poverty line

...people of color, affecting 21.2% of Black women, 18.7% of Latinas, and 22.8% of Native American women, compared to the national poverty rate for white women of 7.0%.

Liz Toledo at rally against police brutality and racist murders in Atlanta on May 29.
By Professor Ana M. López

Nov. 17 — It is a fallacy that this consultation constituted a majority vote in the 2020 plebiscite in Puerto Rico. “Staked their claim to ad-
mission as the 51st State of the Union.” (New York Times: Make Puerto Rico a State Now, June 17, 2020) People of Puerto Rico are not free to engage in a democratic process due to 122 years of U.S. military occupation and colonial rule. What takes place in Puerto Rico every four years is of little utility to the people of Puerto Rico. Whomever wins colonial elections merely becomes an adminis-
trator of the colony for the interests of the U.S. and Wall Street. Addi-
tionally, colonial elections have no real authority, and the elected officials have no real power since all local economic decisions are made by the Financial Supervisory and Manage-
ment Board created by federal legis-
lation. This board was not an elected body by and of the people of Puerto Rico, but is instead authorized and executed by the U.S. Congress, where there is no Puerto Rican voting representation. Furthermore, Congress specifically addressed this so-called plebiscite and stated that it will not be binding.

What is the fuss about this state-
hood? The “yes” or “no” vote for state-
hood in Puerto Rico on Nov. 3, 2020, is neither a “plebiscite” nor a “refer-
endum.” It constitutes a mere con-
But we continue to push forward, demanding that people of color have the resources to raise healthy children and make decisions about our lives and our bodies, whether this means keeping our babies and having the right to decide whether to reduce our health care, including medications and sur-
gery, to whatever degree that’s what we choose. We choose when and if we have babies, we choose in what body we want to live our lives, we choose whether to have our own families or choose to be single, we choose how we treat our Latinx, Middle Eastern and mul-
ticultural rule. What takes place in Puerto Rico every four years is of little utility to the people of Puerto Rico.

Confined from page 8

Transgender economic gaps

Transgender people experience poverty at double the rate of the general population and transgen-
der people of color experience even higher rates. The unemployment rate triples among transgender people in Puerto Rico compared to the general popula-
tion. The unemployment rate is even higher for Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Middle Eastern and multi-racial transgender people.

Black, Latinx and Indigenous people infected with COVID-19 are about three times more likely to be hospitalized than others, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

People of color have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The number of COVID-19 cases among Black and Latinx children and across all ages is higher than other groups. Black and Latinx people infected with the virus also died at dispropor-
tionately higher rates over the summer. In addition, due to pov-
er and healthcare disparities, com-
munities of color, including Latinx, African American and Indigenous people, are often uninsured and have higher rates of conditions like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, which can lead to more severe reactions to COVID-19.

The fight continues

While workers and specifically
women and trans workers made some gains prior to the pandemic, gender-based economic oppression and transgender violence has worsened. COVID-19 has set us back years. But we must con-
line forward, pushing demand-
ing of women and trans people of a political unit determine inde-
pendence or annexation with another country. Originally plebiscites were used by the Roman Empire to incor-
porate occupied territories and later used by Napoleon Bonaparte to do the same in Europe for France.

In Europe, plebiscites are elec-
tions held to decide two paramount types of political issues: government legiti-
macy and the national-
ty of territories contested between governments. Following the French Revolution in 1789, the plebiscite was widely popular in France, rooted as it was in the ideas of nationalism and popular sovereignty. In the 20th century, the plebiscite was also used by the Roman Empire to incor-
porate territories proposed 11 such plebiscites, after World War I, the League of Na-
tions promoted by the Partido Nuevo Progresista (PNP) in its plebiscite proposal adopted by the U.S. Congress and not in Puerto Rico. A vote for statehood is not a part of Latin America histor-
ically and culturally. Twenty-six percent of Puerto Rican people identified as Black, Mexican and Native Ameri-

can communities. Puerto Ricans go from being an “external colony” to an “internal colony” in the U.S. A vote for statehood is not progressive; it is the culmination of the imperialistic and colonial — the extinction of the Puerto Rican nation and the annihilation of the Puerto Rican nationality. Finally, the economic and immor-
ality of making Puerto Rico a state lies exclusively in the hands of the U.S. Congress and not in Puerto Rico. The U.S. Congress and the House of Repre-
sentatives will have to vote to ap-
prove on whether it incorporates Puerto Rico into the federal union. That a nation could be incorporated into another nation without nega-
tive consequences for the country being absorbed is farfetched. Puerto Rico is a Spanish–speaking country and a part of Latin America histor-
ically and culturally. Twenty-six percent of Puerto Ricans identify as Black, and the U.S. Congress may think they want to become a state, but the U.S. Congress has never ex-
pressed that interest after 122 years. If asked appropriately, most Puerto Ricans would want to maintain their nation, national identity, island ter-
ritory and cultural independence. That the U.S. Congress refuses to maintain the status quo makes the U.S. government guilty of the crime of gen-
eralized corruption and abuse.

To maintain the status quo and keep Puerto Rico a colony. Professor Ana M. López has been teaching political science at Hostos Community College for 31 years. Humanities Department—
Professor Ana M. López has been teaching political science at Hostos Community College for 31 years. Humanities Department—

For a multi-generational generation of Puerto Ricans, a vote for statehood was supposed to finally bring American democracy to the island, as well as the return of Puerto Rican nationals held in U.S. jails in the mainland. But the 56 million people of Puerto Rico had already cast a “No” vote. That is clearly a false choice. Its full consequences for the country are not in the interest of the people of Puerto Rico.

The fight continues

While workers and specifically
Feminismo revolucionario

Por Lizz Toledo

Queridas Compañeras: saludos

Por Lizz Toledo

Lizz Toledo al comité directivo mundial I de la FDIM/WIDF (Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres / Women’s International Democratic Federation, 2010). L, 2010, con el brazo levantado, en el WIDF/FDIM en Windhoek, Namibia.

Las mujeres y las mujeres trans que viven en el frente de lucha se han visto muy afectadas por los despidos. Para estos trabajadores, el trabajo no es un derecho. Las trabajadoras están representadas en gran medida en los trabajadores de primera línea, a las que menores de edad, los trabajadores de servicios domésticos, los que se ven obligados a trabajar. Las mujeres tienen un empleo formal de empleo y están siendo despedidas.

Continuado en la página 8