Stop stealing Black votes

By Stephen Millies

The whole world can watch Georgia state Rep. Park Cannon being arrested on YouTube. As an elected official, the Black woman was trying to witness Gov. Brian Kemp sign a voter suppression bill on March 25.

For merely knocking on a locked door, Cannon has been charged with two felonies. Kemp was inside signing a 98-page-long bill that makes giving free food or water to voters waiting in long lines a criminal act. Offering chairs, even to elderly and disabled voters, will also be illegal.

None of this has anything to do with alleged vote fraud. It’s all about preventing poor people from casting a ballot under a hot Georgia sun.

Other parts of the SB 202 bill include allowing unlimited challenges to people attempting to vote. This gives a license for racists trying to stop Black, Asian, Indigenous and Latinx people from voting. Voting by mail will be made harder as well.

Kemp signed the bill surrounded by six white men. Behind the governor was a painting of the Callaway Plantation, where a hundred enslaved Africans made its owner rich.

Meanwhile, Cannon was handcuffed and dragged by officers of the Georgia State Patrol, whose name is a reminder of the slave patrols that hunted runaway Africans.

The white supremacy seen inside and outside the governor’s office was deliberate. Kemp was making an openly racist appeal to Trump supporters in order to avoid a primary challenge next year.

Kemp had stolen the 2018 governor’s election from Stacey Abrams by purging the election rolls of 700,000 voters, the vast majority of whom were people of color. At the time, Kemp was Georgia’s secretary of state and illegally got to determine who could vote.

Attacking voting rights coast-to-coast

Nine days before Gov. Kemp signed a bill to gut voting rights, six Asian women and two other people were killed in the Atlanta area by a racist gunman.

This atrocity came after a year of Trump and his supporters blaring Asian people for COVID-19. Thousands of Asian people have been attacked.

Kemp’s racist voter suppression bill is aimed at Asian voters, too. The votes of Asian people helped defeat Trump in Georgia.

The white supremacist drive to deny voting rights isn’t confined to Georgia or the South. As of Feb. 19, at least 253 bills have been introduced in 43 states to make it harder to vote.

After Trump lost Wisconsin last year, three of the seven judges on the state’s Supreme Court ruled against expanding voting rights for tens of thousands of people.

The seven judges on the state’s Supreme Court wants to throw out the election results.

Coordinating the attack on voting rights is the Heritage Foundation, whose founder Joseph Coors broke the union at the family’s Colorado brewery. The lavishly funded outfit defended the apartheid regime in South Africa and declared “Nelson Mandela is not a freedom fighter.” The Heritage Foundation is also a hate factory against LGBTQ2S people.

For many capitalists, democracy is becoming dangerous. Too many poor people are voting.

David Harsanyi, now a senior writer at the National Review, wants to “weed out ignorant Americans from the electorate.” Harsanyi isn’t talking about the millions of bigots who voted for Trump. He wants to force voters to pass a quiz in order to cast a ballot.

That’s like the deliberately misspelled “literacy” tests that were used to stop Black people from voting in Mississippi just two generations ago. At the time, the National Review declared “the South must prevail” in denying human rights to Black people.

We want justice: Free all political prisoners!

Presentation by the Socialist Unity Party and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee to the Anti–Imperialist Symposium in Paris April 2–4, an annual event sponsored by the Anti–Imperialist Front. For a complete description of the event go to Anti–ImperialistFront.org.

‘We want justice’

Freeing all political prisoners, prisoners of conscience and prisoners of war is on the top of the list in the struggle for social justice, because the capitalist state continues to use the criminal justice system to lock up those who sacrifice their livelihood for freedom and justice for the masses.

We join the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Campaign to Release Aging People in Prison, Mobilization 4 Mumia, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and many others calling for the U.S. government to take immediate steps to de-populate jails, prisons, immigrant detention centers and juvenile facilities that are genocidal hotbeds for COVID-19 infections and death camps for millions.

It is an honor to speak to you so close to the 67th birthday of Mumia Abu-Jamal on April 24, 2021. Internationally-known U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was on Pennsylvania’s death row for 30 years. His death warrant was signed about the millions of bigots who voted for Trump. He wants to force voters to pass a quiz in order to cast a ballot.

That’s like the deliberately misspelled “literacy” tests that were used to stop Black people from voting in Mississippi just two generations ago. At the time, the National Review declared “the South must prevail” in denying human rights to Black people.

Mumia Abu-Jamal and many others calling for freedom and justice for the masses.

Gloria Verdieu

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Stop Kroger closings • Echo Park battle • Support Amazon workers • Missing and murdered Filipinas • Free Haiti • Iraq war anniversary • Ukraine war threats • Korean self-defense
Axe handles and voting rights

By Stephen Millies

There’s nothing new about the attack on voting rights in Georgia. In 1868, the racists in the state legislature declared its Black elected members to be ineligible. (“Black Reconstruction in America”) by W.E.B. Du Bois.

One hundred fifty-three years later, the Black woman legislator Park Cannon was arrested and dragged out of Georgia’s Capitol by police on March 25, 2021. She was trying to witness the signing of the SB 202 voter suppression bill by Gov. Brian Kemp.

In 1966, Georgia’s House of Representatives kicked out the Black-hoodooist Jim Bull for opposing the Voting Rights Act. Lester Maddox closed his Atlanta chicken shack restaurant in 1964, so he wouldn’t have to serve Black customers. The civil rights bill passed that year would have forced the bigot to do so. Maddox instead handed out axe handles to his white customers to beat Black people.

Two years later Maddox was selected to be Georgia’s governor despite getting less votes than his opponent. When the chicken-bone fascist ran for president in 1976, he campaigned at the Allen-Bradley factory in Milwaukee, which is now closed.

The Bradley family wouldn’t hire Black or Latinx workers at the factory despite other Milwaukee plants doing so. Today the tax-exempt Bradley Foundation greases voter suppression efforts with its $350-million annual budget.

Atlanta’s ruling class claims the city is too busy to hate. Yet the initial reaction to Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian was to support the voter suppression bill. The act makes it a crime to give water or food to voters waiting in line for hours.

Delta boss Bastian was following in the tradition of former Delta CEO Carleton Putnam, who wrote a segregationist manifesto “Race and Reason.” The book became a bible of the White Citizens Councils, which were an uptown version of the Ku Klux Klan that was an uptown version of the Ku Klux Klan. Nazi David Duke promotes the book today.

Stop stealing Black votes

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The rich can’t tolerate democracy

The Washington Post attacked the voting restrictions in Georgia. Yet the newspaper’s owner, billionaire Jeff Bezos, doesn’t want workers in his Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Ala., to unionize.

Capitalist elections have been used to bulldoze through cutbacks like Proposition 13, passed in a 1978 California referendum. This resulted in defunding the public schools there for over 40 years.

Yet in Baltimore, the vote for rent control in 1979, the results were thrown out by a judge.

If there really was democracy in the United States, people would be able to vote for a $20 minimum wage. They could vote for the right to housing, jobs and health care, as well as for meaningful control of the police.

These absolutely necessary demands will be won on the streets. That doesn’t mean socialists sneer at the struggle for voting rights. V.I. Lenin — the leader of the Russian Revolution — declared in “What Is To Be Done?” that the parliamentary socialists are the greatest fighters for democracy.

It is absurd that voting rights can come under attack 70 years after 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 in Florida.

Fifty-eight years ago, Mississippi NAACP leader Medgar Evers was assassinated on June 12, 1963. Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett embraced Evers’ assassin at his trial. Georgia Gov. Brain Kemp is just a latter-day version of Barnett.

A few months after Evers was murdered, Malcolm X delivered his famous speech, “The Ballot or the Bullet” on April 3, 1963. Malcolm X pointed out that dozens of members of the U.S. Congress were there only because Black people couldn’t vote.

The 14th Amendment called for these Dixiecrats to be expelled from Congress but the Democratic Party leaders refused to do so. They even refused to seat Fannie Lou Hamer and other Black members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic Convention.

It was the Black freedom struggle that won voting rights for all people. The 26 million people who demonstrated for freedom for 13 years are the greatest fighters for democracy.

It is absurd that voting rights can come under attack 70 years after the 1919 Chicago race riot

The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

by Stephen Millies

SLI articles include:

• Bombings greet the Great Migration
• What happened to the unions?
• Communists fight racism and evictions
• Chicago Mayor Daley’s racist machine
• Never Forget Fred Hampton
• The people put Harold Washington in City Hall
• A city of struggle

Available in a pamphlet form at tinyurl.com/1919chicago

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twice by the state. He came dangerous close to execution on August 17, 1995, and again on December 2, 1999. It was the mobilization of a mass international movement that saved his life.

In 2011, his sentence was commutated to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

After Abu-Jamal was taken off death row, prison officials tried to kill him through medical neglect — by denying him treatment for hepatitis C. Eventually he received treatment, because of a lawsuit; but since treatment was delayed, he developed cirrhosis of the liver.

The U.S. government claims there are no political prisoners in the United States. When, in fact, political prisoners make up the majority of the over 2.3 million people locked up in prisons, jails and ICE detention centers throughout the United States, because prisons are concentration camps for the poor.

Abu-Jamal is over 50 years old, has recently tested positive for COVID-19, has congestive heart failure and other pre-existing medical conditions that place him at a high risk of dying from this deadly disease.

Over 20% of U.S. prison inmates are over 50 years old and a large percentage of those have pre-existing medical conditions. It was reported in December 2020 that one in five prisoners (20%) in the U.S. have had COVID-19, and 1,700 have died.

This is a vast undercount, because there are many prisons where, when people get sick, they do not get tested or receive the needed care, so they get much sicker than need be. Today, there is no sign that the spread of the virus is slowing.

This is a crisis for all prisoners, but especially for our elders who are being held bars because of their involvement in political activity. They are not going to be considered for prison releases recommended by public health experts to scale back prison populations.

• Prisoners such as 66-year-old Mumia Abu-Jamal.
• 84-year-old Sundlata Acoli, 50 years incarcerated, has tested positive for COVID-19.

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We want justice:

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Free all political prisoners!

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- 82-year-old Russell Magee, 57 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old Native American Leonard Peltier, 43 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old Russell Maroon Shoat, 48 years incarcerated, has tested positive for COVID-19 and has undisclosed medical conditions.
- 77-year-old Ed Poindexter, 48 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old Jamal Abdullah Al Akhras (also known as Abu-Jamal), 39 years incarcerated.
- 71-year-old Mutulu Shakur, 33 years incarcerated.

There are many like the above: a few. There are hundreds more.

The collective call is to release all prisoners, especially those over 50 years old, who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19, and with pre-existing medical conditions, and to provide them at high risk of dying if infected.

This message was echoed by Abu-Jamal's medical consultant, Dr. Ricardo Alvarez.

"The only treatment is freedom!" Before preparing this talk, I read about the mother of political prisoner Helin Bölek in Turkey, who stood by her daughter, held her up and supported her in her fight for justice and freedom. Helin Bölek and three others (Ebru Timitik, Mustafa Koçak and İbrahim Gökçe) sacrificed their lives in the worldwide struggle for justice, demanding a fair trial, to be judged justly, and to stop the state terror against the musical band Grup Yorum.

Bölek was on a hunger strike for 28 days under the care of her mother and supporters, who loved her, nurtured her and provided her the strength to sustain. She was kidnapped by the state and forced into a stressful situation where she did not have the care and nurturing that she needed.

It does not surprise any of us that our struggles are connected. We are fighting the same enemy.

Grup Yorum was targeted because they played revolutionary, uplifting music, provided free music lessons and free concerts, and were embraced by the community.

The Black Panther Party was targeted because they were revolutionary, provided free breakfast for children, free medical clinics, free schooling and many programs that the community embraced.

The families and friends of incarcerated freedom fighters do not want any of them to die locked down in prisons, jails and detention centers.

They want them to be home where they can be properly taken care of, loved, touched and nurtured with human kindness.

We want them to be energized and ready to continue the song, the dance, the struggle, the fight for justice and freedom. We want them out here fighting with us.

This is why the only treatment is freedom.

So, please, everyone who hears these words: do something, but quickly.

Release all prisoners now! Because it is the right thing to do.

In closing, we must acknowledge that prisoners are concentration camps for the poor.

The only way we are going to end mass incarceration and abolish the prison-industrial complex is through revolution — revolution by the incarcerated.

https://tinyurl.com/c3wfcur5

Pam Africa is an activist deeply embedded in the social justice struggles that adelphiad and considered “one of the most significant rights leaders in the past 20 years.” She is the coordinator of the uncompromising International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMA).
By Anthony Dawahare

On the night of March 24, at around 11 p.m., over 200 Los Angeles Police Department cops — in riot gear with batons and rifles — descended upon the unhoused encampment at Echo Park, the largest homeless community in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County has an unhoused population of over 60,000 people.

Throughout the evening, five helicopters flew over Echo Park as 60 cop cars, two buses and sanitation trucks were preparing to destroy the community, which had expanded during the city’s pandemic lockdown. The city says it wants to clear the park to install a fenced perimeter around the park for renovations.

The city could clear the park by providing housing to the homeless. Instead it invaded Echo Park with an army of cops.

The police were met by a blockade of 200 residents and protesters defending the community. Cops demanded they disperse, calling it an “unlawful assembly.” When most refused, police used gas and batons to clear the people, including several journalists.

By March 26, the last two residents were arrested as the fence’s final sections closed.

Whispers of eviction had spread through the community for weeks, during the city's pandemic lockdown. During the time, a $500,000 cleanup order with just 24 hours notice, postioned at the lake for more than a year.

Project Roomkey

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reported that since the beginning of the week, outreach workers had helped place only 120 Echo Park unhoused individuals in temporary housing through Project Roomkey, a $100-million-plus state program to house the most vulnerable to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Project Roomkey is being “phased out,” seen as a failure, according to the Los Angeles Times. It met only 30% of its goal while showing a fascist-like record in regulations towards the occupants.

“You have to be inside by 10 o’clock, and you can’t leave until 7 in the morning unless you have a job,” Valerie Zeller, a former Echo Park resident, said. “That means you can’t even run to the market to buy milk. Basically they search you when you come in. It reminds me of Nazi Germany. Sorry, but I don’t want to live like that.”

As of March 23, Project Roomkey had 2,616 rooms rented, with only 1,724 occupied, and will be closing in the coming months.

Despite the poor success rate and impending demise of Project Roomkey, gentrified residential communities have played a key role in cutting off funding and progress in giving the displaced temporary housing.

Dozens of protesters close to these locations and in predominant-ly white neighborhoods condemned the program. They protested outside of the motels used to house homeless people. These gentrified communities are rapidly expanding within downtown, pushing up rental prices and new condos, forcing out the working class and unhoused.

Echo Park was once seen as a symbol for anti-gentrification in LA, with a wealth of history and rich culture rooted in its strong working-class Latinx residents. Though much has changed in the last 50 years due to the city’s steady “renewal” projects, the community continues to show unity through the brave protesters at the battle at Echo Park.

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Community defends Echo Park homeless camp against police attack

Los Angeles — On April 3rd, community organizations will unite to protest against Kroger’s plan to close 3 stores in LA County and 2 in Long Beach over the City Council’s emergency ordinance, which includes all national retail and drug store employees a $5 raise, expiring in July. The two Ralphs and a Food & Less In LA will be closing on May 15th, impacting 250 workers, their families and the surrounding communities. The lack of accountability in grocery chains negligence towards their employees has resulted in thousands of workers being infected by COVID and hundreds of deaths.

Kroger has stated the small raise to the workers will some-how end their ability to operate, yet Kroger’s profits have increased by 56% to $2.6 billion and its sales by 14% to $120.8 billion during the pandemic.

Essential frontline workers across the globe have risked their lives during the pandemic, with many national grocers gaining all time profit margins.

"After 32 yrs working in this store, I see it’s all about greed, it’s never enough! Kroger, keep this store going! Don’t shut it down, people need jobs! Hazard pay is a blessing for me!" stated Ronald Ford, a UFCW local 770 worker.

The rally will be held at one of the Ralphs stores set to close on 3300 Slauson Ave, Los Angeles, CA, demanding Kroger take back their announcement to close these crucial stores that supply fresh and accessible food to low income communities including the elderly and those who rely on public transportation. With the community outraged, many worry if the store locations will be replaced with an affordable grocer or at all. Any 12% increase in homelessness as of 2020 has also raised concerns that these locations will become hotspots for food deserts that are sweeping across LA County. These communities have struggled in the past with finding affordable prices and costs that can be covered from food stamps.

Stop Kroger’s greed!

The coalition organizations demand that all frontline workers be paid a living wage NOW and consist of the following groups: Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Southern Christian Leadership Conference of SoCal, UFCW Local 770, Baptist Ministers Conference of SoCal, Union Del Barrio, Community Coalition, National Action Network, United Workers Assembly, Families of Park Mesa Hills, and Harvard Boulevard Block Club.

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Pastor William D. Smart Jr. (SCC – SoCa)
Pastor Kevin Bham (SCC – SoCa)
Pastor John Parker (SCC – SoCa)
Pastor John Thompson (SCC – SoCa)

Los Angeles — National and local organizations demand Kroger stop closing stores over hero pay
By Jo Quiambao

As we celebrate Women’s History Month and reflect on the contributions of women in society, it is critical to highlight our struggles as Filipino women with an anti-imperialist perspective. As a community organizer with GABRIELA Washington, D.C., I have always aimed to go beyond U.S. identity politics in the political movement and study the experiences of women with a class analysis.

Coni Ledesma, from the Executive Committee of the International Women’s Alliance (IWA), provided further context during her speech for GABRIELA USA’s 2021 General Assembly.

“We believe that women’s oppression started with the development of private property and the development of classes. And women will be free only when the majority of women belong to the oppressor classes. That is why building an anti-imperialist women’s organization is imperative today. An organization that recognizes that women are oppressed as long as there are classes and private ownership of the means of production. That is why building an anti-imperialist organization from the majority of women because the majority of women belong to the oppressed classes.”

That is why building an anti-imperialist women’s organization is imperative today. An organization that recognizes that women are oppressed as long as there is private property. That is why it is imperative that keeps women oppressed and exploited.

The COVID-19 pandemic only exposed the worsening conditions of working-class people in our communities, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Fears of contracting COVID-19 at the workplace were exacerbated by the longer working hours (if employees/staff were reduced in workplaces) or cut hours as people experienced reduction of hours, or complete layoffs. Workers and domestic workers without the understanding of guidance or caution during the pandemic, workers/co-workers were attacked and neglected.

As one of the largest sectors of the population, Filipino women face an urgent call to unite with a collective understanding of who our oppressor, our enemy, truly is — U.S. imperialism. We must stand in solidarity with our sisters in the Philippines that women’s right to bodily integrity is threatened or further exploited. Abusive or controlling dynamics in the workplace against women only prevent women from reporting or pursuing action. Our enemy, the imperialist women’s organization is propelled by the bourgeoisie because the翔 monopoly of the means of production.

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**People v. Derek Chauvin opening arguments protest**

By Jess Sundin, FightBack News

Minneapolis — Hundreds of people protested Monday, March 29, to demand justice for George Floyd and conviction of Derek Chauvin. The demonstration took place after opening statements, and the first witnesses testified in court. Many were still reeling from an emotionally charged court, where videos of Floyd’s murder were replayed several times, and the proceedings were broadcast live.

In opening arguments, special prosecutor Jerry Blackwell told jurors that George Floyd said he could not breathe 27 times while Chauvin kneed on his neck and back. He played one of the bystander videos taken the day that Floyd was killed, which some jurors had not seen before. He said that Chauvin’s decision was not a split-second one, but instead deliberate, as Chauvin ignored pleas for Floyd’s life and sat on him for nine minutes 29 seconds (popularly reported as eight minutes 46 seconds, based on a viral video of the incident).

Blackwell said Chauvin’s actions were an exception, in a violation of Minneapolis Police Department use of force policies, and that several officers including the chief of police would testify for the prosecution. To suggest Floyd’s killing was not typical of MPD behavior overlooks that MPD kills unarmed civilians every year, as do police forces across the country. What is unusual is that Floyd’s torture and murder were captured on video and broadcast live on social media, as it was happening.

Chauvin’s opening arguments, presented by defense attorney Eric Nelson, blamed George Floyd for his own death: that he was much bigger than Chauvin, who had no choice but to use force; that Floyd was already breathing; and that he allegedly had used drugs. While the prosecution urged jurors to believe what they saw in the murder video, Chauvin argued that it is common sense that there are two sides to every story.

**Three prosecution witnesses testified March 29**

Jena Scurry is a 911 dispatcher who has watched Floyd’s murder unfold on police surveillance cameras in the area. She testified that despite never having done so in her several years working death investigations, she could report the situation with George Floyd to the MPD sergeant supervising Chauvin’s unit. A recording of that call was played in court, “You can call me a snitch if you want to but we have the cameras up here,” she said. Scurry said she did not know if they had used force or not, but they got something out of the back of the squad and all of them sat back from coming to Floyd’s aid. “He did what America does and blamed it on drugs for being a Black man on the ground. He said ‘This is what drugs do to you,’ and I replied, ‘This is what drugs do to you.’”

Before Williams’ testimony concluded, the court video feed stopped working, of course, just as protests were gathering outside.

**Large protest outside trial venue**

Emcees Sam Martinez, DJ Hooker and Angel Smith El energized the crowd with chants and invited them to join the invigorating organizing efforts, including the fight for community control of police. They work with Twin Cities Coalition for Justice & 4 Jamar (TCCJI), which is leading an effort to change the city charter to establish an all-elected Civilian Police Accountability Commission (CPAC).

Michelle Gross, of Communities United Against Police Brutality, began by speaking about the razor wire and barricades around the courthouse. “That’s because the city and state are more afraid of the community than they are of violent police. What does that say about our city and our state?”

But Gross and others are not intimidated. “We are going to watch this trial very closely. In the meantime we are going to be out here demanding the changes we seek. We want those nine bills passed at legislature. We want our recommendations to be followed. Rein in those brutal-ass cops, who are still brutal to this day. We won’t quit until these cops are reined in.”

Gross and others are supporting several bills for police accountability currently being considered at the Minnesota state legislature, including bills to end qualified immunity, to eliminate the statute of limitations for wrongful death, to strengthen civilian oversight, and to create an independent investigatory and prosecutorial body for police homicides.

**Toshira Garraway, founder of Families Supporting Families Against Police Violence, organizes not only for other families, but also for her son’s father, Justin Teigen, who was brutally beaten to death and thrown in a trash dumpster by Saint Paul police. She says that because state officials have allowed so many police murderers to go ignored, they are responsible for George Floyd’s deaths. Other family speakers included Del Shea Perry, mother of Hardel Sherrell; Marilyn Hill, mother of Demetrius Hill; Bayle Gelle, father of Dolal Idd; and Paul Johnson, friend of Travis Jordan.

Ka’ir Hirt and Chaz Neal spoke about the Locks for Loved Ones Lost project, an ongoing effort of family members and community members to attach padlocks to the police–state fencing around the Government Center. Twice, when locks have gone up during the day, the National Guard and sheriff’s deputies cut them down at night. The organizers say the locks are to, “remember the people they killed and the families they shattered. They keep cutting them down and we keep putting them back. We’ll never stop.” As a song played, hundreds more locks were placed on the fence. The next day, the group marched from the courthouse to the temporary headquarters of the Minneapolis police 3rd Precinct. The old 3rd Precinct building was destroyed by protesters just a few nights after George Floyd was killed.

Organizer Jae Yates spoke: “I’m representing Twin Cities Coalition for Justice & 4 Jamar today, but I’m also representing myself as a Black trans American. I feel like trans people — especially Black trans people — we always show up. Every time a Black person is killed, trans people are there, because trans people know that if they’re coming for us, and they’re coming for Black men, they’re coming for all of us. And we can’t continue to ignore the Black lives that some people in the Black community don’t want to claim. What we’re not gonna do is tolerate homophobia and transphobia in this movement. What I’m not gonna do is be out here and show up for Black lives and not even have my basic humanity respected.”

They concluded, “And when we fight together, they cannot beat us. There are not enough cops to stop us. There are not enough bosses to stop us. We outnumber every oppressive institution that is over us. When we fight, we win! All power to the people!”

Other speakers included Jaylani Hussein, of CAIR-Minnesota; Tahrehn Crews of Black Lives Matter Minnesota; Samantha Peer—Gonzalez; Meredithe Aby-Keirstead of the Anti-War Committee; Victor Ramirez Bustamante for MN Immigrant Rights Action Committee; Gabriel Black Elk of Native Lives Matter, and brother of Paul Castaway; Monique Cullars-Doty, aunt of Marcus Golden, also with TC C4J; and Chauntay Allen, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro.

When the march returned to the courthouse, Ka’ir Hirt chanted herself to the fencing, and vowed to stay until state and city political leaders meet with families of those murdered by police. As of Tuesday afternoon, Hirt was still chained to the fence, surrounded by supporters.

Source: FightBack! News tinyurl.com/zswjpa3e
One hundred fifty years ago, poor and working people in Paris took power into their own hands. The Paris Commune was born on March 18, 1871. This time — Napoleon III — thought the Franco-Prussian war would prolong his dictatorship. The so-called Emperor of the French surrendered his armies and was overthrown instead. Napoleon III was a nephew of the original Napoleon, whose armies conquered much of Europe but were driven out of Haiti. Napoleon III could have been a model for Trump. Both were lying scoundrels and white supremacists. The French dictator killed tens of thousands of people in Algeria and invaded Vietnam. Victor Hugo — who wrote “Les Misérables” — called the French impostor “Napoleon the little.” Karl Marx wrote “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” showing how the struggles in France allowed this faker to seize power. The “18th Brumaire” refers to the date in the French revolutionary calendar when the original Napoleon seized power in 1799.

It was the workers of Paris that overthrew the government. Louis Philippe was overthrown by a Paris mob in the February 1848 revolution. They were betrayed by the capitalists. Thousands of workers were killed when they rose up in June of that year. The wealthy and powerful united in the “party of order” to crush them. However, the ruling classes were divided, with some wanting a re-public while the monarchists supported three different candidates. Louis Bonaparte was able to exploit the divisions to pose as the savior of capitalist society against the poor. First elected as president, Louis Bonaparte seized power before his term ended in 1852. That’s what Trump wanted to do with his Jan. 6 coup.

The coming to power of Louis Bonaparte, who declared himself Napoleon III, was the last act of the 1848 revolutions that swept through Europe. All were defeated. Karl Marx and his co-worker Frederick Engels fled to Britain.

A long period of reaction set in, like the period following the overthrow of the Soviet Union. Karl Marx dissolved the Communist League. What turned things around was the U.S. Civil War. While landlords and capitalists supported the Confederacy, every progressive person wanted the slave masters defeated. Thousands immigrated to the United States to join the Union army. “The Black Jacobins” by C.L.R. James showed how the people of Haiti helped defend the French Revolution against invasion. In the U.S., the black troops in the Union army and a black general strike in the Confederacy proved decisive in overthrowing slavery.

Strikes broke out and workers’ organizations were formed across Europe following the North’s victory. Helping to promote these struggles was the First International, which was guided by Karl Marx. A wonderful, heroic legacy

The German armies overran northern France but couldn’t capture Paris. The people refused to surrender despite being starved. Following Napoleon III’s downfall, all the Trumps in the French percent formed a provisional government in Versailles. The former house of “Let them eat cake” Marie Antoinette is about 15 miles from Paris. The Versailles regime’s first act was to try to disarm the workers of Paris who had prevented the city’s capture. Capitalist leader Adolphe Thiers sought to crush the people who wanted a social republic.

To commit this crime, Thiers tried to seize artillery belonging to the worker-dominated National Guard in the city. Working women in the Montmartre neighborhood seized the cannon instead. The Commune was declared the same day. “The real women of Paris showed again at the surface,” wrote Marx, “heroic, noble and devoted, like the women of antiquity. Working, thinking, fighting, bleeding Paris — almost forgetful, in its incubation of its historic initiative.”

Thiers was a cannibal whose mercenary slaughterers the Commune’s defenders. In the same decade thousands of black people were murder by the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction’s bloody overthrow. While the working people of Paris in 1871 were trying to build a new society, the same year in Los Angeles — then a village of 5,000 — a racist mob lynched at least 17 Chinese people. In contrast, the military leader of the Commune was the Polish immigrant Jaroslav Dombrowski, who died on the barricades. A thousand Poles fought alongside Parisians.

Most French workers and even many revolutionaries initially supported Napoleon III’s reactionary war. They did so because of the memories of the French Revolution defending itself against the feudal armies of Europe. But the struggle to build a new society helped defeat national hatreds, often called chauvinism, named after the French soldier Nicolas Chauvin. Another Chauvin is the Minneapolisis pig that murdered George Floyd. French workers repudiated the first Napoleon’s bloody chauvinist record, which included restoring slavery. On May 16, 1871, they tore down the Vendôme column with its statue of Napoleon.

Meanwhile the German socialist leaders August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht were jailed on treason charges for demanding peace with France. This was internationalism in action.

A record to be proud of

The Commune accomplished so much in its too-short existence.

The existing state power was smashed. No more killer cops! Elected officials had salaries not exceeding that of a skilled worker and could be immediately recalled by voters.

Closed workplaces were reopened as cooperatives. Nightwork in bakeries was abolished. Education was declared a right.

In its pioneering attempt to create a new society, the Commune made mistakes. It didn’t take over the state bank.

Women weren’t allowed to vote. That didn’t stop women from being the Commune’s staunchest defenders. As Marx wrote, “The women of Paris joyfully gave up their lives on the barricades and on the place of execution.”

A Women’s Union was formed. Louise Michel fought on the barricades and was exiled to New Caledonia, which is still a French colony.

Forty-six years after the Commune, women textile workers in St. Petersburg, Russia, went on strike on International Women’s Day and overthrew a tyrant called the tsar.

The Paris Commune lasted 72 days within the shrinking limits of a single city. The Soviet Commune defeated Hitler and lasted 73 years over one-sixth of the earth.

Our class still has China, Cuba, People’s Korea, Laos and Vietnam. The peoples of Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Zimbabwe will not surrender to U.S. and European banksters.

Palestine and Yemen will be free. Iran will defend itself against the Pentagon.

Long live the Commune!
Baltimore supports Bessemer Amazon workers

By Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore bureau

Beautiful weather greeted demonstrators gathered outside Baltimore City Hall on March 20, a national day of solidarity with the 6,000 Amazon workers fighting for a union in Bessemer, Ala.

The rally included a program of powerful speakers. These included: Rev. Annie Chambers, Peoples Power Assembly; NAACP Baltimore Chapter President Rev. Kobi Little; Courtney Jenkins, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists–Baltimore Chapter; Nnamdi Lumumba, Ultima People’s Progress Party; and Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance representative Virginia Rodino.

All the speakers gave passionate talks in support of the Amazon unionization effort. Rev. Annie Chambers also expressed solidarity with the victims of the recent horrific anti-Asian shooting spree in Atlanta.

Peoples Power Assembly members Joyce Butler and Lars chaired the event, while PPA organizer Andre Powell read a powerful statement from a local Baltimore Amazon worker.

Groups of workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) attended. So did Van Green, whose spouse Duryea Green is unjustly imprisoned, and Marilyn Barnes, mother of police victim marked the 18th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The protest, which was emceed by Americans of Pakistani Heritage (AOPH). Two young

Whole Foods, chanting, “When Amazon workers are under attack, what do we do? Stand up! Fight back!”

Haiti demands freedom

By Stephen Millies

Haitian people and their supporters demonstrated around the world against the U.S.-imposed regime of Jovenel Moïse. Thousands marched in Haiti on March 28 against ex-president Moïse, who is still clinging to power despite his term having run out.

Moïse’s police thugs beat and kill Haitian people demanding freedom. But the real power is in the U.S. Embassy.

Demonstrations were held on March 29 to commemorate the passing of Haiti’s current constitution in 1987. The constitution marked the end of the Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier terrorist dictatorships.

People demonstrated in Atlanta, Boston, Miami, Washington, D.C., and other cities. An important demonstration was held in the Dominican Republic, Haiti’s neighbor.

A rally was held across from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City. Speakers denounced the U.S. and the U.N. for their occupation of Haiti. Deadly outbreaks of cholera, as well as killings and rapes, were the result.

A special disgust was reserved for Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, whose family-controlled foundation siphoned off millions of dollars that were supposed to be used to rebuild Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. Among the organizations that built the impressive action at the U.N. were the Committee to Mobilize Against Dictatorship in Haiti (COMORDA); Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees; Family Action Network Movement (FANM); Community Movement Builders; Organization of Human Rights and Democracy; Planwayan Haiti Literacy Project; Brigade Dessalines; Solidaridad Dominicana con Haiti; and Socialists Action.

The world capitalist class can’t forgive Haiti for having the only successful slave revolution in history. Every slave master from Texas to Maryland had nightmares of another Haiti starting on their plantation. It was the Haitian people who gave ships and other aid to the Liberator Simón Bolívar.

That’s why people around the world love Haiti, which deserves reparations, not a U.S.-imposed dictatorship.

Protest marks 18th anniversary of U.S. invasion of Iraq

Chants of “No more bombing, no more sanctions, no more regime change, no more war!” rang out in New York’s Times Square March 21, on the 18th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The protest, which marched to Herald Square, was emceed by Americans of Pakistani Heritage (AOPH).

Imam Dr. Sakhawat Hussain Sandralvi and Imam Shamsi Ali addressed the rally, which was ended by Ali Mirza of AOPH. Two young

Socialist Unity Party - Partido de Socialismo Unido
Twitter: @StruggleLaLucha
Facebook.com/strugglelalucha
email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

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Ukraine, U.S. drum up war threats against Donbass and Russia

By Greg Butterfield

“The USA has the unique condition of defending its right to human rights within its own borders and in practically every region of the world. No other nation has such a system- atic, massive, ceaseless.Provider of media and communications hides this truth from its own people.”

President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, in a television interview in 1996.

The Russian president, a champion of free speech and democracy, denounced the United States’ persistent sanctions, alleging that they were a form of censorship and propaganda.

The United States has been accused of using the so-called “propaganda war” to undermine Russia’s internal stability and to weaken its international standing.

In recent years, the U.S. has increased its efforts to influence Russia, including by promoting anti-government protests and supporting opposition figures.

Meanwhile, Russia has responded by blocking access to Western media outlets, including the BBC and Voice of America, and by limiting the activities of international organizations operating in the country.

The tension between the two nations has escalated in recent months, with both sides accusing the other of aggressive behavior.

Ukraine, which has been a key ally of the United States in its efforts to contain Russia, has also been targeted by the U.S.

The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, and has supported Ukraine’s efforts to secure a peaceful resolution to its conflict with Russia.

However, the situation has remained tense, with both sides accusing the other of violating the terms of the Minsk II ceasefire agreement.

On March 4, 2021, Ukraine announced that it had recorded a sharp increase in the number of ceasefire violations in the Donbass region, leading to calls for an immediate ceasefire.

The Ukrainian government has accused Russia of violating the ceasefire agreement, which was signed in 2014 and aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The conflict has claimed thousands of lives and displaced millions of people, and has been marked by intense fighting and allegations of war crimes.

The United States has played a key role in the conflict, providing military and economic assistance to Ukraine and pressuring Russia to comply with the ceasefire agreement.

However, the situation remains complex, with both sides engaging in tit-for-tat provocations and continuing to blame each other for the ongoing violence.

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STRUGGLE • LA LUCHA

A series of alarmsist articles appeared in late March and early April warning of an escalation in the seven-year war in the region and a buildup of Russian military forces in Crimea and near the border with Ukraine. The timing of the reports is recent statements by Biden administration officials.

"The Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, called a short call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba on Wednesday, affirmed Washington’s support for Ukraine’s territorial integrity in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression," the State Department said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported March 30 that U.S. Europe Command (EUCOM) had changed its commitment to defend the Donbas region, since mid-January.

At the same time, Ukrainian military forces have stepped up provocations on frontline settlements in Donbas and Lugansk, killing and injuring residents and targeting schools and other civilian targets.

Ukraine attacks civilians, violates ceasefire

The city of Gorlovka in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) was one of several that came under increased fire from Ukrainian forces starting in February.

On Feb. 20, "the mayor of Gorlovka denounced an increase in Ukrainian shelling on the outskirts of the city. According to the population of the area of Gorlovka, the use of heavy artillery, had started in the early morning and lasted throughout the night. At least one DPR Ministry of Defense staff member was killed during shelling by Ukrainian military. During an earlier occurred, 11 children had to be evacuated from the school. The residents of Zolote say that the hailing has become more frequent. There is no truce for Ukrainian militiamen. They use various weapons, including large-caliber mortars and Komolmoksiy Frqa Pravda reported.

These and numerous other acts are violations, not only of the current ceasefire agreement negotiated by the OSCE last July, but also of the 2015 Minsk Agreement between Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, which has provided for a demilitarized and demilitarized by the huge heavy weaponry in the region. DPR Foreign Minister Natalia Nikonorova said that Donbass is being battered by Ukrainian forces and is being battered by the Ukrainian forces and by the OSCE.

In the early morning of Feb. 21, a big attack on Gorlovka resulted in the deaths of several troops of the Donetsk People’s Militia.

Another settlement under frequent attack in February was Staromilykhaylova, where teacher Natalya Melnychenko’s house was destroyed by Ukrainian shelling on Feb. 17. Fortunately, she had gone out for coal and wasn’t home when the bomb hit.

It was only after weeks of escalating attacks that the Donetsk People’s Militia was authorized to respond with defensive fire on March 13.

On March 4, Ukrainian forces launched a missile attack on Donetsk, capital of the DPR. The Donetsk People’s Republic released a statement that “the strike at Donetsk with multiple rocket launchers on Thursday morning was terror against the civilian population. It is to protect the DPR, the Donetsk population. The strike was delivered from Ukrainian forces positions in the Opytsevka village area, according to the Donetsk News Agency.

The Donetsk Foreign Ministry repeated called for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to send monitors to investigate the increased attacks, and for Ukraine’s patrons in the United States and European Union to rein in Kiev’s provocations.

Pensioner killed

A 71-year-old pensioner was killed March 22 after Ukrainian troops opened fire on Alexandrovka, a suburb of the Donetsk capital. Emergency personnel were unable to provide medical aid or even remove the person’s body for some time while the shooting continued.

The DPR People’s Militia reported, “Punishers of the Ukrainian military, deployed to Maryinka, opened sniper fire on Alexandrovka in an attempt to provoke retaliatory fire, following the command of their commander Maxim Marchenko.”

On the night of March 26, in the frontline settlement of Zolote-5, in the Lugansk People’s Republic, residents said that they were wounded by shelling by the Ukrainian military. During an earlier occurred, 11 children had to be evacuated from the school.

“Residents of Zolote say that the shelling has become more frequent. There is no truce for Ukrainian militiamen. They use various weapons, including large-caliber mortars and Komolmoksiy Frqa Pravda reported. These and numerous other acts are violations, not only of the current ceasefire agreement negotiated by the OSCE last July, but also of the 2015 Minsk Agreement between Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, which has provided for a demilitarized and demilitarized by the huge heavy weaponry in the region. DPR Foreign Minister Natalia Nikonorova said that Donbass is being battered by Ukrainian forces and is being battered by the OSCE.”
Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Puerto Rico: Organizaciones de base desafian a gobierno

Podríamos decir que en Puerto Rico se están formando las bases que podrán ser el sustento de la conformación de un sistema paralelo de gobierno, si esto pudiera darse en una colonia antes de su liberación completa.

Por la falta de un gobierno que aunque colonial, pudiera atender las necesidades básicas de su población, organizaciones comunitarias de base se organizan para suplir muchas de estas necesidades. Hay muchos ejemplos como los son defensa de la mujer frente a la violencia de género y los comedores sociales, entre otros.

También hay coaliciones de organizaciones que estudian seriamente aspectos de la infraestructura del país y crean propuestas. Una de estas es Queremos Sol que ha diseñado un proyecto exhaustivo de energía renovable utilizando el sol. Recientemente anunciaron este trabajo que incluye el instalación paneles solares en el techo de las casas lo que lograría un 50% de esta generación para el año 2035 y un 100% para el 2050.

Sin embargo, y muy al contrario, el gobierno que opera en contra de los intereses populares, se empeña en desmantelar la agencia nacional de energía y regalarla a una compañía privada extranjera que prolongaría el uso de energía no renovable.

Desde PR para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

Sobre el proyecto de autodeterminación de Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En PR tenemos muchos problemas agudos que solucionar, consecuencias de la implementación de unas políticas neoliberales de privatización de servicios cada vez más agresivas.

Pero aún más agresivas son las políticas resultantes de nuestro estado colonial, éstas nos van despojando de nuestro patrimonio, de nuestra tierra, intentan expulsarnos de nuestra patria. Como dijera el héroe nacionalista Don Pedro Albizu Campos al referirse a los invasores yanquis: “quieren la jaula pero no el pájaro.” Recordemos que la mayoría del pueblo boricua ya no vive en PR, sino en los EUA. Seis millones allá, y poco más de 3 millones en PR.

Es por eso que la lucha primordial es la de la independencia. Y estos días hay un terreno muy fértil para avanzar nuestra lucha por la liberación. Se vio en las elecciones pasadas; se ve en la insatisfecha del pueblo con el gobierno y sus instituciones.

En el clima actual surge un proyecto de Ley para la Autodeterminación de Puerto Rico en el Congreso de los EUA impulsado por las congresistas boricuas Nydia Velázquez y Alexandra Ocasio que crearía una Asamblea Constitucional de Estado.

La independencia tiene que ser conquistada por el pueblo, pero este proyecto ha impulsado muchas deliberaciones entre el independentismo tanto aquí como en la diáspora, y ha despertado el interés de una nueva generación de jóvenes. Todo lo que lleve al camino correcto de la independencia debe ser utilizado.

Desde PR para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

Protests reject genocidal U.S. blockade on Cuba

By teleSUR

People and organizations from at least 60 countries on five continents demanded the end of the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba.

In a worldwide action launched a month ago by the Europe for Cuba campaign, together with solidarity movements and groups in different parts of the planet, actions were held March 27 and 28, with car and bicycle caravans, rallies, marches and mountain climbing, among other diverse actions.

“The call is also to flood the social networks in days of demonstration and repudiation of the genocidal blockade imposed on the island, in which we expect a good response, despite the restrictions derived from the COVID-19 pandemic,” José Antonio Toledo and Michele Mesagua, coordinators of the platform, told Prensa Latina.

They also assured that this first global caravan is only the beginning of a series that will last as long as Washington’s criminal policy applied to the Caribbean country for more than six decades remains in force.

In the past days, cities in France, Ireland and Sweden kicked off the actions of a global rejection of the blockade against Cuba.

In the southwestern French town of Périgueux, around 40 people took part in an event organized by the Cuba Linda association, in which they unfurled a banner against the siege that seeks to suffocate the people of the island.

Senator Marie-Claude Varallias and the leaders of the French Communist Party Laurent Pérèa and Julien Chouet expressed their condemnation of the blockade and stressed the injustice it represents, by attacking a nation that shows solidarity and is very active in helping others in times of pandemic.

Banners against the blockade were also used in Dublin and Gothenburg, while in the mountains of Harjedalen the Swedish-Cuban Solidarity Association waved the Lone Star flag.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel today highlighted and thanked the world caravans against the U.S. blockade organized by emigrants and friends of the country. Through his Twitter account, the president stressed that in 50 cities around the world this initiative will take place to demand an end to Washington’s economic, commercial and financial siege of the island.

“This is a call to the patriots abroad, friends of all nationalities. The fight for what is right unites us,” he added.

“This weekend, in half a century cities around the world, there will be caravans calling for the end of the blockade of Cuba. Thank you compatriots abroad, friends of all nationalities. The fight for what is right unites us,” he added.

Among the most recent announcements, the Italian–Cuban association “Para un Príncipe Enano” confirmed its participation with a virtual caravan that will join the international parades of cars, motorcyccoli, bicycles, walks, marches and acts in public spaces.

The editor-in-chief of Diario Latinoamericano and administrator of the NolBloqueoCuba.com page, Manuel Tejeda, maintained that the humanitarian and family character of the global caravans influences the great support from various sectors.

“The project began nine months ago in the city of Miami, U.S., and since then every last Sunday of the month has more participants,” he explained to Prensa Latina.

According to the official website of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, the International Caravan against the U.S. blockade on Cuba, the Co-mandante Aerostat took to the sky today from the outskirts of Moscow.

With the image of Ernesto Che Guevara and his message demanding an end to Washington’s economic, commercial and financial siege of the island, the balloon’s ascension was one of the initiatives of the organizations in solidarity with Cuba in the midst of restrictions established due to the epidemiological situation caused by the COVID-19.

Participating in the activity were the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Julio Garmendía; the president of the Russian Society of Friendship and Cultural Exchange with Cuba, Andrey Latyov, and the head of the Russian Committee for the Elimination of the Blockade against Cuba, Lena Loshkina, among others, from the island.

Source: tinyurl.com/26553aem