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Partido de Socialismo Unido

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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 Adams 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 blaming 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 wanted 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 misnamed "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

Continued on page 2



PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL / TINYURL.COM/4WKTFUS4

On March 27, protests in over 60 U.S. cities denounced the rise of anti-Asian hate. In San Francisco, pictured here, 3,000 came out.

We want justice: Free all political prisoners!

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
UPDATE 3

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 depopulate 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.

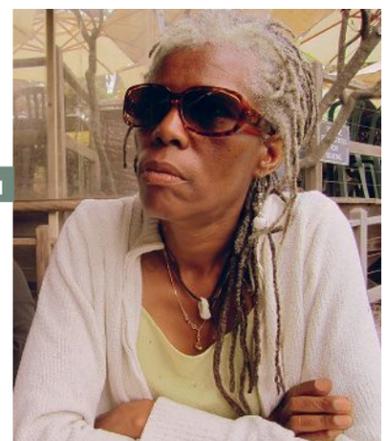
Internationally-known U.S. political prisoner Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist and author of ten books and over 2,500 written essays and audio commentaries from prison. His

writings are uncompromising, factual and searing indictments of racism and political bias in the U.S. judicial system. His call for justice and defiance has not dimmed, despite decades of being shackled and caged. He is one of our most courageous revolutionary intellectuals, who says what is on his mind without fear of consequences. His book "Live from Death Row" has been translated into seven languages.

It is clear to the movement that he remains in prison for telling the truth about capitalism, imperialism, the prison-industrial complex, and the entire U.S. criminal justice system.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was on Pennsylvania's death row for 30 years. His death warrant was signed

Continued on page 2



Gloria Verdieu

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. Cannon 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 human-rights activist Julian Bond for opposing the Vietnam War.

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.

Stop stealing Black votes

Continued from page 1

people.

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 vote for a union.

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 when Baltimore voted 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 community 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 revolutionary socialists are the greatest fighters for democracy.

It's outrageous that voting rights can come under attack 70 years af-

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 \$850-million hate kitty.

Atlanta's ruling class claims the city is too busy to hate. Yet the initial reaction of 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 the 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. Neo-nazi David Duke promotes the book today.

ter 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. Brian Kemp is just a latter-day version of Barnett.

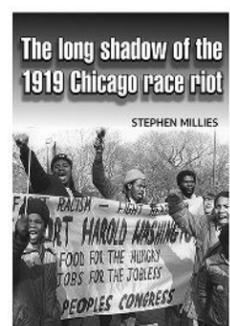
A few months after Evers was murdered, Malcolm X delivered his famous speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet" on April 3, 1964. Malcolm X pointed out that dozens of members of the U.S. Congress were there only because Black people couldn't vote.

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 George Floyd will not have their votes stolen.

If the capitalists don't want us to use the ballot, they may force people to use the bullet. 📌

The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot



by Stephen Millies

SLL articles include:

- Bombings greet the Great Migration
- What did the unions do?
- 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



Officials take down a KKK sign from a building downtown in Dahlonega, Ga., in 2017.

But within a few days both Delta and Coca-Cola changed their tune and were instead speaking against the SB 202 anti-voting bill. These corporate giants didn't get religion. They were feeling the power of the people.

Blood libels and lynching

The denial of voting rights allowed super-racist Eugene Talmadge to be "elected" Georgia's governor four times. Talmadge declared martial law to break the 1934 textile workers' strike. Almost all of the strikers were white.

Talmadge is believed to have instigated the lynching of two Black couples on July 25, 1946: Dorothy and Roger Malcom, and Mae Murray and George Dorsey.

A week before, the World War II veteran Maceo Snipes was murdered by the Klan for having been the first Black voter in the history of Georgia's Taylor County.

The election of Rev. Raphael Warnock to the U.S. Senate enrages racists. Warnock is the first Black U.S. senator in Georgia's history. He's the senior pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer

Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once presided.

A century ago, Tom Watson occupied the senate seat now held by Raphael Warnock. According to the historian C. Vann Woodward, Watson arranged the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank, who was Jewish. It was Frank's lynching that marked the beginning of the modern Ku Klux Klan.

Frank had been framed for killing a young white woman, Mary Phagan. The frenzied campaign against Frank was a blood libel, like charges in medieval Europe that Jewish people were responsible for the plague.

Today racists want to blame Asian people for the coronavirus. That's a blood libel, too. Six Asian women and two other people were killed by a racist shooter near Atlanta on March 16.

Georgia's master class never wanted Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and poor people in general to vote. The resistance to the attacks on voting rights shows that the days of Tom Watson and Eugene Talmadge are over. Poor and working people won't allow their votes to be stolen. 📌

We want justice:

Continued from page 1

twice by the state. He came dangerously 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 commuted 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 behind 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 **Sundiata Acoli**, 50 years incarcerated, has tested positive for COVID-19.

Continued on page 3

Mumia update: The new Krasner brief

By Pam Africa, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

As you can see from our petition, we have been seeking to approach Larry Krasner diplomatically. In our effort to attract the widest possible range of supporters, we have written the petition with polite language. We are trying to give DA Krasner the benefit of the doubt by considering the possibility that he is sincere in his stated desire to confront Philadelphia's ugly history of racial injustice.

For Mumia's sake, we truly hope that DA Krasner's defense of Mumia's conviction is because he has not actually researched the case himself, that his position on Mumia's case is simply a product of the Philadelphia corporate media's well-documented bias against Mumia. We are sincerely presenting him with an opportunity to rethink his position and to do the right thing. We hope that he listens.

This photo of Mumia's leg shows the sores and bloody wounds that now cover his entire body.

Unfortunately, on Feb. 3, Krasner filed a new brief in Mumia's case, where he continued to defend the legitimacy of Mumia's 1982 conviction. DA Krasner's several years of opposing Mumia's appeals has already been vile and disgusting. However, with this new brief, he somehow manages to stoop even lower.

There is much to criticize about DA Krasner's Feb. 3 brief, but one particular aspect really stood out for me. On page 5, in the section titled "Statement of Facts," the brief states:

"Officer Faulkner was put in a police van and rushed to Jefferson University Hospital. When the police attempted to handcuff defendant and place him in a police wagon to transport him to the hospital, he violently resisted. He continued to struggle



PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

At a rally outside DA Krasner's office on March 12, 2021, Pam Africa displays photos of Mumia then and now that show the shockingly fast decline in his health. Krasner is joining the lynch mob to the outrage of millions around the world who love Mumia and his wisdom.

against the officers when they subsequently brought him inside the hospital, the same one in which doctors were attempting to save Officer Faulkner's life. The officers carrying defendant – he refused to walk – temporarily placed him on the floor of the lobby next to the entrance to the emergency room."

Does DA Krasner oppose lynchings?

Has DA Krasner actually read the trial transcripts? If so, does he realize the implications of him describing Mumia's arrest in such a despicable way? What actually happened that morning when police arrived on the scene was an attempted lynching of Mumia, with the police acting as the white supremacist lynch mob.

The anti-lynching cartoon by anti-racist activist Seth Tobocman depicts Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner with a choice

to make. The white supremacist FOP-led lynch mob wants DA Krasner to help them kill Mumia, while Mumia's family and friends call on DA Krasner to stand up to the FOP-led lynch mob.

Before even speaking with a single eyewitness, the mob of cops brutalized Mumia so viciously that when his sister Lydia arrived at the hospital she could not even recognize him. Make no mistake: The cops wanted him to die from the gunshot wound before receiving medical treatment, ultimately taking over 30 minutes to begin treatment at the hospital. This was an obvious attempt to execute him before even conducting an investigation, let alone a fair trial.

Has DA Krasner read the trial testimony of defense witness Dessie Hightower who reported seeing someone flee the crime scene immediately after the shooting? At tri-

al, Hightower described Mumia's arrest as being "an attack" by the police. In his book "The Framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal," author J. Patrick O'Connor summarizes Hightower's trial testimony:

How could DA Krasner possibly write such an offensive description of Mumia's treatment by police, like claiming that Mumia "refused to walk" into the hospital after he had been shot in the chest and nearly beaten to death?

"He said that shortly after the first police officer showed up, about eight or nine other officers arrived. He then observed three or four of them striking Abu-Jamal with nightsticks while one or two others were kicking

him and pulling him by his dreadlocks. He also saw the police, in carrying Abu-Jamal to the police van, ram his head into a no-parking pole and drop him to the ground."

Has DA Krasner read the trial testimony of Dr. Regina Cudemo, who was working at the hospital when Mumia arrived? If not, author J. Patrick O'Connor has also summarized her account:

"She testified that she saw Abu-Jamal at about 4:20 a.m. on the floor, 'on what I call the treads of the emergency room' – the mats outside the emergency room doors. She said four to six police were around Abu-Jamal... she saw one of the police officers around Abu-Jamal raise his leg and then heard Abu-Jamal 'moan.' After observing this incident, she said she was directed by another police officer to leave the area."

O'Connor also writes that after Mumia was dropped on the floor of the entryway to the emergency room, "instead of taking Abu-Jamal to an operating room, hospital security guard Priscilla Durham had the police drag him to the family room." Only after this, "Abu-Jamal was brought handcuffed to the emergency room for surgery."

Does DA Krasner think that an attempted police lynching of a prominent Black journalist, loving father and respected community activist is some kind of joke? If he has read the trial testimony of Dessie Hightower and Dr. Regina Cudemo, why is he not concerned about Mumia's treatment by police that morning?

Lastly, how could he possibly write such an offensive description of Mumia's treatment by police, like claiming that Mumia "refused to walk" into the hospital after he had been shot in the chest and nearly beaten to death? We need answers from DA Krasner.

Please sign our petition!
<https://tinyurl.com/c3wfcu5>

Pam Africa is an activist deeply embedded in social justice work in Philadelphia and considered "one of the most significant rights leaders in the past 40 years." She is the coordinator of the uncompromising International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFFMAJ).

Free all political prisoners!

Continued from page 2

- 82-year-old **Ruchell Magee**, 57 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old Native American **Leonard Peltier**, 43 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old **Russell Maroon Shoatz**, 48 years incarcerated, has tested positive for COVID-19 and has pre-existing medical conditions.
- 77-year-old **Ed Poindexter**, 48 years incarcerated.
- 77-year-old **Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin** (H. Rap Brown), 19 years incarcerated.
- 71-year-old **Mutulu Shakur**, 33 years incarcerated.

These are just 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 that place 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 Timtik, Mustafa Koçak and Ibrahim Gökçek) 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 288 days under the care of her mother and supporters, who loved her, nurtured her and provided her the strength to sustain. She was kidnaped 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 prisons 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 — a worldwide socialist revolution.

youtu.be/SRiZW8M2GwM 📺

Community defends Echo Park homeless camp against police attack

By Anthony Dawahare

On the night of March 24, at around 11 p.m., over 400 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 66,000 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 around 200 protesters defending the community. Cops demanded they disperse, calling it an “unlawful assembly.” When most refused, police used force and arrested 182 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, due to the March stay-at-home order being lifted, and the county entering its initial reopening framework.

An earlier attempt to evict the homeless from Echo Park in January used a “cleanup crew.” That attempt failed as protesters blocked a pathway in front of a city truck and demanded that the crew not touch tents and other personal belongings.

But on March 24, the unhoused community was hit with an eviction order with just 24 hours notice, posted on trees. The notice cited an until-then unknown \$500,000 cleanup, repair and restoration project.

“They're doing it all in secret,” said Ayman Ahmed, a resident who lived 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 track 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



The battle of Echo Park, March 24.

PHOTO: TED SOQUI

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 22, 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 gentrifiers 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. [📍](#)

National and local organizations demand Kroger stop closing stores over hero pay

Los Angeles — On April 3rd, community organizations will unite to protest against Kroger closing 3 stores in LA County and 2 in Long Beach over the City Council's emergency ordinance, which provides all national retail and drug store employees a \$5 raise, expiring in July. The two Ralphs and a Food 4 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 have resulted in thousands of workers being infected by COVID and hundreds of deaths.

Kroger has stated the small raise to the workers will somehow 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 go-

STOP KROGER'S GREED!



No Store Closures!

Since this pandemic began, all across the country, workers in grocery stores have been told they were essential and that they had to keep working in spite of the health risk. Thousands of front line workers have been infected and hundreds have died. In spite of this, they've kept working and made sure that we could feed our families. *They are heroes and deserve to be paid.*

Pay Workers Hazard Pay!

Closing this supermarket will leave no access to quality fresh food in our community. *Food deserts have a negative effect on Black and Brown Communities!* Many people - especially elderly and disabled - lack transportation and shopping would become challenging and expensive if Kroger is permitted to close it.

Quality Food for Black People Matters!

Closing this supermarket will leave no access to quality fresh food in our community. *Food deserts have a negative effect on Black and Brown Communities!* Many people - especially elderly and disabled - lack transportation and shopping would become challenging and expensive if Kroger is permitted to close it.

PROTEST RALLY

Saturday, April 3rd, 12 noon

@ Ralph's Supermarket

3300 Slauson Ave, L.A.

Want to help? Call 323-306-6240 or 310-268-4820 or email socialjusticecenterla@gmail.com

ORGANIZED BY: HARRIET TUBMAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF SO CAL, BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UNION DEL BARRIO, NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, UNITED WORKERS ASSEMBLY, FAMILIES OF PARK MESA HEIGHTS, & HARVARD BOULEVARD BLOCK CLUB, COMMUNITY COALITION

ing! 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. An already 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.

Commencement of the rally will begin at 12 pm PST, with organization leaders and workers of Kroger speaking out against this attack and calling for solidarity at 1 pm.

The chosen date for the demonstration also sheds light to its historic significance in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech “I've Been

to the Mountaintop” to a crowd of 25,000 workers, igniting the sanitation workers strike and expanding the civil rights movement. King affirmed the value of the sanitation workers' labor, saying, “Secondly, let us keep the issues where they are. The issue is injustice. The issue is the refusal of Memphis to be fair and honest in its dealings with its public servants, who happen to be sanitation workers.”

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 Heights, and Harvard Boulevard Block Club.

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(SCLC - SoCa)

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John Parker

Harriet Tubman Center

323-899-2003

johnthompsonparker@gmail.com [📍](#)

GABRIELA activist: Class analysis and anti-imperialism necessary for the women's movement

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've realized there is a need 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 continue to be oppressed as long as there are classes and private ownership of the means of production. That today, imperialism exploits 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 it is imperialism 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.

Reporting in-person to work, without the understanding of guidance or particular protocols and restrictions, further worsened spaces that congregated workers (or people) and confined them in spaces — i.e. factories, prisons, detention centers,

schools, healthcare facilities, service industry workplaces, etc.

Even prior to the pandemic, working people had already experienced being overworked, underpaid, lacked protection, and have been neglected by state governments that lacked sufficient handling and planned responses to COVID-19 prior to reopening phases, which only proves that state governments only view workers as dispensable.

In being exposed to the experiences of migrant Filipino women, our kababaihan (women) also share a common struggle of economic hardship. Their work is a cheap source of labor and a commodity bought and sold in order to produce more profit. Lack of citizenship status creates an abusive economic environment where the employer utilizes the lack of immigration status to either threaten or further exploit women.

Abusive or controlling dynamics in the workplace against women only prevent women from reporting or exposing their conditions because of the fear of retaliation or losing their only source for economic survival.

With common struggles and coercive conditions, migrant women

bear the brunt of worsening exploitation and oppression.

For Filipino women, their hardships are even more dangerous when encountered with harassment, sexual assault, physical or verbal abuse, and other controlling and power dynamics that become manipulative and harmful — whether in the workplace or at home. Being unable to afford basic needs on their own and feeling shamed, Filipino women for these reasons sometimes stay with an abusive boss or spouse/partner.

As one of the largest sectors of the population living outside of the Philippines, Filipino women face an urgent call to unite with a collective understanding of who our oppressor, our enemy, truly is — U.S. imperialism. While holding the culprits and perpetrators accountable in situations met with violence and abuse, it is not enough. It is not enough to bash the cis-presenting male, it is not enough to name patriarchy, misogyny and the looming arguments about a women's right to her body. It's beyond these symptoms of oppression. The conditions of women demand further investigation and unity in fighting our common oppressor.

A woman's place in the struggle should always be linked to the conditions of people, of the most marginalized in our communities. These conditions necessitate a broader demand to organize women, particularly among the ranks of the working class. Our fight for human rights and protection as Filipino women is dependent upon the growth of a mass movement to defend and protect the livelihood and rights of the people. With a deeper understanding of our common enemy and building an organized movement, we can truly defend her, defend Filipino women, and fight for our liberation!

Jo Quiambao is a community organizer from GABRIELA Washington, D.C. GABRIELA D.C. was formed as an organization in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area of GABRIELA USA. The organization formed as a vehicle to empower Filipinas in our communities, whose human rights and welfare are being attacked and neglected. Founders of GABRIELA D.C. united to rise up, take action, and advance the national democratic movement as a path to genuine liberation, equality and justice for all marginalized Filipinos in the motherland and abroad. [M]

Emergency rally responds to anti-Asian murders

By Brittany Tabora, chair of Anakbayan D.C.

On March 17 in Washington, D.C., grassroots organizations Total Liberation Collective, Asian and Pacific Islander Resistance and Anakbayan D.C. organized an emergency action and vigil in response to the killings of eight people in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16.

The New York Times wrote an article that included a photo of me, titled "After Georgia Attacks, Asian-Americans Demand Serious Action on Bias," but it doesn't talk about demands that Asian Americans are making, let alone the demands from the action. I'll share them here:

Washington, D.C.

Brittany Tabora and Ina Padua at a march in Washington on March 17 in response to the shootings in Georgia that left eight dead, six of them women of Asian descent.



1. Disband the Metropolitan Police Department's Asian Liaison Unit — it will not keep Asian communities safe no matter what language a cop speaks or what they look like.
2. Incorporate anti-Asian violence as part of the K-12 curriculum.
3. Incorporate Black History as a focus of the year-long K-12 curriculum. [M]

Project Sunlight: Podcast on epidemic of missing and murdered Filipinas in U.S.

By Rissa Magayon

Inspired by the growing movement to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) throughout North America, true-crime podcast Project Sunlight aims to address the worsening crisis of missing and murdered Filipinas in the United States.

The solo-hosted podcast, re-launching in April, is based on the first-ever database documenting more than 350 missing and murdered Filipino American women.

Project Sunlight takes its inspiration from the MMIW movement as a podcast focused on untold stories of true crimes, whose victims are national minority women. There

are more than 4 million Filipinos in the United States; as a demographic, Filipinos are the third-largest Asian American subgroup after Chinese and Indian Americans.

Despite the rich multi-generational history of Filipinos in the U.S. and the rapid growth in immigration, Filipinos are chronically underrepresented in mainstream media and culture. Filipino women who have disappeared or died as a result of violent crime have been woefully ignored.

Project Sunlight will appeal to audiences that are looking for an in-depth podcast that dares to examine how colonization, foreign policy, immigration and institutionalized oppression have created an epidem-

ic of missing and murdered Filipino American women. As the first-ever show of its kind, Project Sunlight is a groundbreaking venture that will draw the listener into a world where true crime and social sciences intersect.

The podcast will provide a bedrock of information from which Filipino American communities and the greater public can glean, but its broader goal is to promote a culture of awareness around the epidemic, leading to a reduction in incidences. Listeners can expect that "taboo" subjects, from intimate partner violence, divorce, immigration status, sexual assault, intergenerational trauma and mental health, will be covered through the lens of the Fil-

ipina as a Filipino American-hosted show.

The victims documented in the database range in age, background and circumstances, but what they all have in common is that they were daughters, sisters, aunts, mothers and grandmothers whose stories must be told. The hope is that this podcast can lead by example in its mission to promote awareness and healing, inspiring others to be active participants in this important initiative.

Project Sunlight has been on hiatus since early last year, but returns with all new episodes April 15. Project Sunlight is available on popular streaming platforms iTunes, Spotify and Google Podcasts. [M]

People v. Derek Chauvin opening arguments protest

By Jess Sundin, FightBack! News

Minneapolis — Hundreds of people protested on 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 emotional day in 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 knelt 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 by Floyd and the nearby crowd for nine minutes 29 seconds (popularly reported as eight minutes 46 seconds, based on a viral video of the murder).

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 that Chauvin's brutality is 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. Nelson argued that Floyd was much bigger than Chauvin, who had no choice but to use force; that Floyd had pre-existing health conditions and that he allegedly had used drugs. While the prosecution urged jurors to believe what they saw in the murder video, Nelson 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 had 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 dispatch, Scurry called to report the situation with George Floyd to the MPD sergeant supervising Chauvin and his accomplices. 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 for [squad] 320's call and ... I don't know if they had to use force or not, but they got something out of the back of the squad and all of them sat on this man."

The second witness was Alisha Oyler, a lead worker who was on duty at the Speedway gas station across the street when Floyd was killed. When asked why she took several videos of the murder, Oyler said it was because police "are always messing with people and it's wrong." The Speedway has been closed since



that day, and has been renamed the People's Way, part of the area known as George Floyd Square, an intersection has been closed to traffic by the community since Floyd's murder.

The third prosecution witness on Monday was Donald Williams, a mixed martial arts fighter who said he witnessed Chauvin torturing Floyd with what he called a "blood choke." When he described that move as deadly, the defense objected to his remarks because Williams is not a medical expert. The judge upheld the defense objection.

Williams was asked about his interaction with then-officer Tou Thao, who was holding the crowd 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 not what drugs do to you.'"

Before Williams' testimony concluded, the court video feed stopped working, and court recessed, just as protesters 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 get involved with ongoing organizing efforts, including the fight for community control of police. They work with Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar (TCC4J), 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 murders 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.

Kaia Hirt and Chaz Neal spoke about the Locks for Loved Ones Lost project, an ongoing effort of community members to attach padlocks to the police-state fencing around the Government Center. Twice, when locks have gone up during the day, 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.

Then, 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 — specifically 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; Trahern Crews of Black Lives Matter Minnesota; Samantha Pree-Gonzalez; Meredith 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 TCC4J; and Chauntyll Allen, Black Lives Matter Twin Cities Metro.

When the march returned to the courthouse, Kaia Hirt chained 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/2vsppa3e



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

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5

- Especially celebrates the legacy & accomplishments of Black women.
- Dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, & poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

Long live the Paris Commune!

By Stephen Millies

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.

Karl Marx — the founder of scientific socialism, also known as communism — wrote that the workers in Paris “had stormed heaven.”

The world’s first working-class government lasted just 72 days before being drowned in blood. At least 30,000 of its supporters were killed by counter-revolutionary forces.

Yet the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and every socialist revolution that followed were inspired by the workers of Paris. The Bolshevik leader Lenin declared that “we all stand on the shoulders of the Commune.”

One reason revolutionaries raise clenched fists is because captured Communards did so as they were executed by firing squads. The revolutionary anthem “The Internationale” was composed by Eugène Pottier and Pierre De Geyter, who were both supporters of the Commune. The title refers to the First International workers’ party and declares that the international party will unite humanity (“shall be the human race”).

The title of Franz Fanon’s classic work on the African Revolution — “The Wretched of the Earth” — comes from the Internationale’s stirring words: “Arise, ye prisoners of starvation! Arise, ye wretched of the earth!”

The road to the Commune

The Commune arose as a result of France being invaded by German armies in 1870. The French leader at the 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 imposter “Napoleon the little.” Karl Marx wrote “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” showing how the class 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 King Louis Philippe in the February 1848 revolution. They wanted a social republic with full employment and an end to hunger.

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-



Workers defend a barricade in the rue de Charonne during the Paris Commune.

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 attempt.

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 one percent formed a provisional government in Versailles. The former home 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 a new society, of the cannibals at its gates — radiant in the enthusiasm of its historic initiative.”

Thiers was a cannibal whose mercenaries slaughtered the Commune’s defenders. In the same decade thousands of Black people were murdered 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 Minneapolis 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, Ujima 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 Marlyn Barnes, mother of police victim



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Marlyn Barnes, from the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

At the conclusion of the rally, the crowd marched to Amazon-owned

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



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

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 (KOMOKODA); Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees; Family Action Network Movement (FANM); Community Movement Builders; Organization of Human Rights and Democracy; Flanbwayan Haiti Literacy Project; Brigade Dessalines; Solidaridad Dominicana con Haití; and Socialist 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 called by Americans of Pakistani Heritage (AOPH).

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

speakers, Serene Ali Mirza, 8, and Jahanay Abidi, 10, spoke of the suffering of children in Iraq, Syria and Yemen and called for an end to war and sanctions.

Other participating organizations included Jaafari Youth of New York, the Jaafria Association, Muslims for Peace, New York Peace Action, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, Struggle-La Lucha and United National Antiwar Coalition.

- Bill Dores



SLL PHOTOS: BILL DORES

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Sharon Black

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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 being a flagrant violator of human rights within its own borders and in practically every region of the world. No other nation has such a systematic record. Its massive control of media and communications hides this truth from its own people.”

I thought of this tweet from Carlos F. de Cassio, the Cuban Foreign Ministry’s director for U.S. affairs, while reading the latest corporate news reports about the conflict between Ukraine and the independent Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics in the Donbass region of eastern Europe.

A series of alarmist 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. Fanning the flames of these reports are recent statements by Biden administration officials.

“U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a phone call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro 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,” Reuters reported March 31.

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported March 30 that U.S. European Command (EUCOM) had changed Ukraine’s status on an internal watch list from “possible crisis” to “potential imminent crisis.”

Completely missing from these reports, however, is the fact that Ukraine has been building up its troops and military hardware on the “line of contact,” the front line of the conflict, since mid-January.

At the same time, Ukrainian military forces have stepped up unprovoked attacks on frontline settlements in Donetsk and Lugansk, killing and injuring residents and targeting homes, 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 the increase in Ukrainian shelling on the outskirts of the city. According to the population of the area, the bombardments, with the use of heavy artillery, had started in the early morning and lasted throughout the night. At least one DPR soldier was killed in the shelling, after which, as a precaution, shelters in the city were reopened,” reported Slavyanograd.es.

Then on the night of Feb. 21-22, 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 Staromikhaylovka, where teacher Nadezhda Vasilievna’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 these escalating attacks that the Donetsk People’s Militia was authorized to respond with defensive fire on March 3.

On March 4 Ukrainian forces launched a missile attack on Donetsk, capital of the DPR. The Donetsk People’s Republic Foreign Ministry said that “the strike at Donetsk with multiple rocket launchers on Thursday morning was terror against the civilian population.” It was the first time Ukraine had used these prohibited weapons since 2018, it said.

“Earlier, the Joint Center for Control and Coordination reported that Kiev forces used a Grad-P rocket system to fire at the northern suburbs of Donetsk on Thursday morning. The strike was delivered from Ukrainian forces positions in the Opytnoye village area,” reported the Donetsk News Agency.

The Donetsk Foreign Ministry repeatedly appealed for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send monitors to investigate the increased attacks, and for Ukraine’s patrons in the U.S. 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 28th Brigade, 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, a school and residential buildings were damaged after shelling by the Ukrainian military. During an earlier shelling, in the daytime on March 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 militants. They use various weapons, including large-caliber ones,” Kom-somolskaya 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 bars Ukraine from deploying and using heavy weaponry in the region.

DPR Foreign Minister Natalia Nikonorova said: “Donbass has repeatedly seen that it makes no difference to Ukrainian armed formations who their targets are: soldiers, pensioners, women or children. While Ukraine reports at international venues the successful observation of tighter ceasefire control measures, civilians continue to get killed.”

On March 1, “The Pentagon announced a \$125 million military aid



Aftermath of Ukrainian rocket-launcher attack in Donetsk, March 4.

PHOTO: DONETSK INTERNATIONAL

package for Ukraine, the first of its kind under the Biden administration,” wrote Defense News. “The U.S. State Department has [also] cleared a potential sale to Ukraine of 16 Mark VI patrol boats and other gear worth \$600 million.”

While these amounts are small potatoes by Pentagon standards, they sent a clear message of encouragement to Kiev. (It was Donald Trump who first authorized direct weapons sales to Ukraine. The Obama administration preferred to arm Ukraine through third parties in NATO, including Poland and Turkey, and the Persian/Arabian Gulf monarchies. These are still the country’s main sources for offensive weaponry.)

On March 15, Ukrainian media quoted sources in the military that they were at “readiness level one” awaiting orders for a military offensive against Donbass.

The Russian government restated its commitment to defend the Donbass in the event of a full-scale Ukrainian assault. This was the context for Biden’s subsequent provocative declaration calling Russian President Vladimir Putin a “killer” during an ABC interview March 17.

Trump, Biden and Ukrainian fascists

As Struggle-La Lucha has reported, President Joe Biden has a long-time relationship with the right-wing regime in Kiev.

After the U.S.-backed coup of February 2014, Biden — then vice president — became the official in charge of overseeing the new regime to ensure the interests of U.S. big business and NATO military goals. This included austerity measures, repression, privatization and the war in Donbass.

U.S. imperialism has had a long-standing plan to dismantle the neighboring Russian Federation since the early 1990s, which includes the expansion of NATO military power to Russia’s border.

A key component of the U.S. takeover of Ukraine was the use of ultra-right nationalist and neo-Nazi groups. These groups provided the shock troops for the 2014 coup, took violent measures against opposition groups in Ukraine, and were unleashed as “volunteer battalions” against Donetsk and Lugansk after their people voted overwhelmingly for independence. The fascist gangs were then integrated into the Ukrainian army and police.

Today Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky is relying on these

same forces to increase pressure on the Donbass republics and Russia. For example, journalist Dmitry Rodionov noted that large numbers of troops affiliated with the fascist group Right Sector are being transferred to the region near Gorlovka.

“According to sources, the militants were spotted in Konstantinovka and Dzerzhinsk. The Rightists do not hide their presence, openly wear their symbols, intimidating the local population. The militants are occupying houses, driving out the owners from them. At the same time, the local authorities are not doing anything — no one wants to challenge them,” Rodionov explained.

The Ukrainian neo-Nazis regard the Russian-speaking residents of the Donbass region as sub-humans who should be “cleansed.” They have the same opinion of other national minorities and any ethnic Ukrainians with leftist and anti-fascist views.

Besides the war in Donbass, which has claimed 14,000 lives according to the U.N., the clearest expression of their intentions was the massacre of 48 anti-fascists and labor activists in the Ukrainian city of Odessa on May 2, 2014.

Fascists rallied for Trump at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6. But in Ukraine fascists were emboldened by Biden’s taking office. Ironically, Ukrainian nazis also helped to train some of the Trump-supporting white supremacists who took part in the deadly 2017 Charlottesville “Unite the Right” rally that ended in the death of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer.

This is why it’s important for workers in the United States to understand that both capitalist parties represent the interests of imperialism and its exploitation of people abroad and at home. Today Democratic Party leaders may posture as opponents of fascist and white supremacist groups in the U.S. But they are only too willing to make use of them abroad when it suits the interests of Wall Street.

Workers in the U.S., like those fighting for a union in Bessemer, Ala., have more in common with the workers in Donbass threatened by bombs and blockade and workers in Ukraine fighting austerity than they do with the occupants of the White House, whatever their differences of geography, language and culture.

And we have a responsibility to demand: No war in Donbass! U.S. out of Ukraine! 🇺🇸

Organizaciones de base desafían al gobierno

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Podríamos decir que en Puerto Rico se están formando las bases que podrían 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 lo 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 lo que aquí tenemos de sobra, el sol. Recientemente anunciaron este trabajo que incluye el instalar 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 empecina en desmantelar la agencia nacional de energía y regalarla a una compañía privada extranjera que prolongaría el uso de energía no renovable.

Pero no le será fácil porque se han convocado múltiples acciones estos días para frenar este asalto del gobierno.

Desde PR para Radio Clarin 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 estatus 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.



Don Pedro Albizu Campos

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 insatisfacción del pueblo con el gobierno y sus instituciones.

Y en este clima surge un proyecto de Ley para la Autodeterminación de Puerto Rico en el Congreso EU propulsado por las congresistas boricuas Nydia Velázquez y Alexandra Ocasio que crearía una Asamblea Constitucional de Estatus.

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

Desde PR para Radio Clarin 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 channel, in coordination 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 denunciation 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 Mesagna, coordinators of the platform, told Prensa Latina.

They also assured that this first global caravan is only the beginning of activities 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 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 Varailas and the leaders of the French Communist Party Laurent Péréa 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.

“Thank you compatriots abroad, friends of all nationalities. The fight for what is right unites us,” he added.

“This weekend, in half a hundred 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 just unites us. #TogetherXCuba #NoMoreBlockade”

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, motorcycles, bicycles, walks, marches and acts in public spaces.

The editor-in-chief of Diario Latinoamericano and administrator of the NoBloqueoCuba.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 island’s Foreign Ministry, the YouTube channel Europe for Cuba will launch calls in some 40 nations around the world to participate in this weekend’s mobilizations.

“The days of solidarity will extend to Asia, Oceania, Africa, America and Europe,” Cubaminrex points out.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry stresses that the blockade constitutes the greatest obstacle to national development and a viola-

tion of human rights.

“The accumulated damages in six decades amount to 14.4 billion 413 million dollars, and between April 2019 and March 2020, the action caused losses in excess of five billion dollars, a record figure for one year,” it emphasizes.

As part of the actions in Russia of the International Caravan against the U.S. blockade on Cuba, the Comandante 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 Cuban ambassador to this country, Julio Garmendía; the president of the Russian Society of Friendship with Cuba, Aleksei Lavrov; and the head of the Russian Committee for the Elimination of the Blockade against Cuba, Lena Loshkina, among other friends of the island.

Source: tinyurl.com/z653maem