PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM
U.S. funds occupation and murder

By Bill Dores

May 22 — Israel’s generals call it “mowing the grass.” Joe Biden calls it “self-defense.” For 11 terrible days and nights, Israel’s made-in-the-USA air force rained the latest weapons of mass destruction on 2 million Palestinians imprisoned in the Gaza Strip. The targets were apartment blocks and refugee camps and everything people need to live. They were hit with high explosives, white phosphorous, dense inert metal explosives, vacuum bombs and types of bombs never used before.

U.S.-Israel bombs and missiles “wrecked sewage systems and water pipes, damaged at least 17 hospitals and morgues, destroyed or destroyed about 1,000 buildings and suspended operations at Gaza’s only coronavirus testing laboratory,” the New York Times reported May 21.

Israel destroyed 66 schools, Gaza’s largest bookstore, a factory making water tanko, and 20 media offices. Roads leading to hospitals were bombed deliberately. At least 120,000 people lost their homes.

Entire families massacred

Seventy-five children are among at least 243 people murdered by Israel’s U.S.-made F-16s and F-35s. The youngest, Omar Hamdi, was 5 months old. He died with his mother and three siblings. Only his father survived.

The eldest may have been Amin Muhammad al-Ghaliqat. At age 90 he was older than the Israeli state. He died with three generations of his family when their home was obliterated by U.S.-Israel bombs.

Dozens of families were wiped out as Israel’s U.S.-trained and -paid pilots targeted homes in the middle of the night. Doctors Aymaan and Raja ‘Ouff died with 12 members of their family when four Israeli missiles targeted their house. Dr. Moeen al-Alool, 66, and journalist Yusuf Abu Hassan were also murdered when missiles hit their homes.

Israeli troops gun down unarmed protesters


When he was 15, Obaida Jawabra was interviewed in an award-winn-

ing short film about imprisoned Palestinian children. He had been detained three times. On May 17, he was shot to death by Israeli soldiers while protesting near the Arub refugee camp, where he lived.

Muhammad Qiyan, 17, was one of two people from the city of Um el Fahm, occupied in 1948, shot to death by undercover cops sitting in their cars. U.S. and Israeli police have joint training programs.

Palestine’s blood on U.S. hands

The slaughter had the full support of the Biden administration and the U.S. political, military and corporate establishment. Biden spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu almost daily, allegedly urging “deescalation.” But the U.S. repeatedly blocked efforts by the U.N. Security Council to meet and call for a ceasefire.

In public, Biden and other U.S. officials justified the massacre with the lie that “Israel has a right to defend itself.” In truth, under international law, Palestinians and all occupied people have a right to resist occupation. Occupiers have no right to “self defense.”

Hamas was elected!

While the U.S. supplies an endless flow of arms to the terrorists in Tel Aviv, Biden, like Republican and Democratic presidents before him, calls Hamas a “terrorist organization.” Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, is in fact a political party that was chosen democratically by Palestinians in Gaza.

Ever since it was first elected, in 2006, Israel has imposed a brutal blockade on the people of Gaza, punishing them for exercising their democratic rights.

Hamas is working together with Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other resistance organizations to defend the people of Gaza against siege and genocide.

When blood flows, money flows

On May 17, at the height of the massacre, Biden approved a $739-million gift of new missile guidance systems to the racist Israeli state. Israeli occupation forces also have free access to weapons the Pentagon stockpiles in occupied Palestine.

Once the ceasefire was declared, Biden pledged to replenish Isra-
el’s U.S.-financed Iron Dome rocket system. Each Iron Dome interceptor launched by Israel costs the U.S. $50,000. When the blood flows, the money flows. Netanyahu and other Zionist politicians know that the more they bomb and kill, the more money they will get from Washington.

Palestine has a right to exist and defend itself

Washington and the occupation regime in Tel Aviv share a common goal: to crush the Palestinian Resistance. They want to terrorize the Palestinian people into giving up their own right to exist, to accept a Western colonial settler state occupying their land.

But 73 years of murder and terror have not achieved that goal. They did not succeed this time either. Indeed, the Palestinian people’s resistance, from Gaza’s homemade rockets and mortars to mass protests and a general strike across all of Palestine, forced Israel’s cabinet of U.S. generals to call it “mowing the grass.”

Palestine resistance supporters rally

By Sharon Black

Hundreds of Palestinian supporters filled the streets in downtown Baltimore following a rally at City Hall on May 22. Marching against traffic, the group blocked intersections to read the names of Palestinian martyrs who died in the recent attacks by Israel.

Rev. Annie Chambers kicked off the rally with a spirited message of support for the Palestinian struggle. Chambers is a public housing organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly.

The protest was initiated by the Palestinian Youth Movement and endorsed by groups including the Peoples Power Assembly and Youth Against War and Racism.

In WASHINGTON • In DEARBORN

World Federation of Trade Unions solidarity

In Our Own Name
U.S. passenger trains
CHINA and COVID-19
BELARUS
Pablo Hasel on freedom

Baltimore

COLOMBIA
Jesus Santrich ¡Presente!

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COLOMBIA
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Were new attacks on China created in a Trump lab?

By Scott Scheffer

May 29 — This week the level of attacks on China regarding its success against COVID-19 has been elevated to a fever pitch. The Biden administration has all the major U.S. media in tow.

A pack of Cold War-style lies targeting a laboratory in Wuhan, China, has been pieced up and made “credible” by the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, National Public Radio and others. Headlines in the internet refer to a previously discredited theory conjured up by the Trump administration as having “gone mainstream.”

When viewed in the context of the growing U.S. military presence near China’s territorial waters, the ratcheting up of propaganda is ominous. Until recently, the anti-China slanders about the Wuhan lab and other attacks have been kept alive by an exclusively right-wing cast of characters led by Trump’s Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and including the likes of Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas — who had also called for sending in troops to put down and “quarantin[e]” [ill] Black Lives Matter protesters — and others.

China, with four times the population of the U.S., has held its death toll from the coronavirus to less than 5,000 through a “people’s war” against the virus that showcased the Chinese people’s spirit, discipline and planning over the anarchy of capitalism. Trump and his team used attacks on the Wuhan lab to divert attention from the fact that the U.S. had lost control of the pandemic to take hundreds of thousands of lives in the U.S.

The conspiratorial “lab leak” theory that became a central part of Trump’s narrative has now been re-visited with the support of Joe Biden’s White House. The theory goes that the origin of the virus that causes COVID-19 was not natural but created by researchers in the Wuhan Institute for Virology (WIV) laboratory and then leaked in an accident. In some versions it was unleashed in a purposeful germ warfare attack.

No one in Wuhan lab had COVID

All of the recent hype is anchored in a “fact sheet” prepared by Trump’s 2019 election campaign that lists WIV scientists as members of an “elite Chinese genetic research team” that would be capable of unleashing a laboratory-acquired bioweapon. It claims the lab leak theory to be a “serious scientific origin tracing.”

The lead scientist at the WIV is a respected virologist, and the famous front line doctor who treated patients in the Wuhan area was just announced as anditor for Virology (WIV) laboratory. The first was ear-

It wasn’t just jet planes and the inter-continental ballistic missiles that killed passengers. The ruling class didn’t need them anymore.

Workers couldn’t afford the fare on the overnight sleeper cars like the New York Central’s “20th Century Limited” or the Pennsylvania’s “Broadway Limited.” It was the prosperous few who rode these palaces on wheels with delicious meals prepared in the dining cars by Black chefs.

Capitalists dumped these trains. What did they need Pullmans for when they could jet around the world and stay in 5-star hotels? The super-rich also went from owning private railroad cars to having their own jets.

Ending passenger service went hand-in-hand with cutting railroad employment from 1.4 million workers in 1947 to around 200,000 today. At least 50,000 miles of track have been abandoned.

For decades the Association of American Railroads and its allies have lobbied with congressional Republicans to cut regulations, claiming workers were being coddled. The AAR bosses called these “absolutely necessary regulations” “featherbeds.”

Crew sizes were cut in both the U.S. and Canada. An inevitable result was 47 people killed in the 2021 train crash near the Hudson River.

It wasn’t just a group of茕茕孑立 trying to give credibility to the lab leak theory. All of the scientists are from imperialist countries or other countries that had already been taking part in the U.S.-led hostility toward China.

The Chinese Embassy in Washing-ton, D.C., responded to Biden’s call for investigation that said: “Some political forces have been fixated on political manipulation and the blame game.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokes-person Zhao Lijian has demanded an investigation into the work conduct ed at the U.S. biolab in Ft. Detrick, Md., which is surrounded by secrecy. Zhao said that Biden’s order showed the U.S. “requests facts and truth, nor is it interested in serious scientific origin tracing.”

What happened to U.S. passenger trains?

By Stephen Millies

People around the world celebrate May Day as the international worker s’ holiday. This past May 1st was also the 50th anniversary of Amtrak, the government’s passenger train system.

Until the coronavirus pandemic, Amtrak carried almost 32 million passengers annually. The railroad’s Northeast Corrie dor between Boston and Washing- ton, D.C., and a few other lines offer frequent service.

For most people in the United States passenger trains are just a memory.

That’s a shame and a special bur den for elderly and disabled people. Although airline and other transport workers try to be as helpful as possible, passenger trains have more room than either planes or cars. They’re wheelchair-accessible.

Of the big capitalist countries, only Canada has a similar lack of passenger trains. Although the Japanese and Chinese rail systems are renowned for frequent and fast trains, India’s railroads carry 12 million passen- gers daily.

Then there’s the socialist People’s Republic of China, which has more miles of high-speed train lines than the rest of the world combined.

President Richard Nixon signed the crooked Enron utility empire went under in 2001. Penn Central’s bankruptcy threatened to tank Railroad Presidents, Harm- ans Sachs and many other banks.

Amtrak was saved from Penn Central by losing millions by operating the line, and then to humans, and that the lab leak theory was “highly unlikely.”

During the Trump administration, major media had to some extent been dismissive of the slanderous attacks and had treated its propagators as peddlers of a precarious conspiracy theory. But the tone began to change as Biden’s new Secretary of State Antony Blinken signaled that the diplomatic assaults on China would continue unchanged from the previ- ous Trump administration.

This week the floodgates opened, and it was an all-out media assault on China. On May 27, Biden ordered a further “investigation” into the or- igin of the virus — not by scientists but by the same agencies that fabricated the infamous “weapons of mass destruction” story used to justify the horrible U.S. war against Iraq in the George W. Bush era.

Wuhan lab leading virus research globally

The WIV lab has been a global leader in research on coronavirus- es. Since the first SARS coronavirus outbreak in 2003, it has collected hundreds of viral samples from bats to further understand the study how viruses mutate and what mutations may help a higher percentage of viruses transmit to humans. The hope is that the research could help in the develop- ment of vaccines and allow new scient-ists to gain an edge in fighting fu- ture pandemics.

The lead scientist at the WIV is a fellow Chinese who named his lab Bat Woman for her devotion to this field of study.

The New York Times’ contribution to the slander includes an excep- tionally long article written by its disgraced former science reporter Nicholas Wade. Wade was the subject of an anti-racist outcry over his 2014 book that drew on the white-su-

premacist Bell Curve theory. That hasn’t stopped the Times from trott- ing him out from time to time, and they tapped him to help push the current attacks on China.

Wade accuses National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Anthony Fauci of helping China in a supposed cover- up of a lab leak. Here he’s just plain on the fact that the intermediate animal that is crucial to the natural origin hypothesis hasn’t been found, citing the success of the lab leak theory in case the SARS and MERS outbreaks, even though it took much longer to trace that pathway and identify the inter- medary animal in many other viral outbreaks.

In his claim that WIV re- searchers created the virus, he at- tributes scientific abilities to the re- searchers that just don’t exist.

The Journal Science published a letter by a group of scientists also trying to give credibility to the lab leak theory. All of the scientists are from imperialist countries or other countries that had already been taking part in the U.S.-led hostility toward China.

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At last! The Million Worker March Movement in print

By Cheryl LaBash

Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March
An anthology by Clarence Thomas
DeCare Publishing
MillionWorkerMarch.com
Available at most bookstores

Although I began to write a review of this remarkable anthology as a literary and historical assessment, it is much more than that to me. It is personal.

Clarence Thomas — the “real” Clarence Thomas, labor leader and author — tells an amusing story of his conflicted reaction when he heard some Detroiters appropriated the Million Worker March (MWM) T-shirt design and made T-shirts! That was just part of a harbing of upsurge from the Million Worker March on Oct. 17, 2004, the Detroit Labor Day Parade and Labor Fest gathered hundreds of workers — our audience — in one place. But the official T-shirts couldn’t get here in time to deck out the distribution team. In the spirit of MWM, we forged ahead. No T-shirts, no problem — we made a few to wear for the day.

What drew me so intensely to the MWM? Only when I was present at the Lincoln Memorial on that day did I understand. It was the only time since my first national march in Washington, D.C. — against the Vietnam War in 1967 — that the hard-hats, overalls and work boots I wore meant something more than a way to earn a paycheck, to pay the bills so I could do political organizing.

Being a worker counted; our independent voice, unfettered through capitalist party politicians, counted in the Million Worker March Movement. Looking through these pages, pictures and documents, the MWM was our movement’s equivalent of a Midwestern spring crocus pushing through the snow of the remnants of the Cold War, McCarthy red-scare and post-9/11 Patriot Act.

A harbinger of upsurge

I think we can say MWM’s independent voice was a harbinger of the upsurge reflected in the electoral arena throughout the wide, unexpected enthusiasm for Bernie Sanders’ and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s 2020 campaign. When the facade of U.S. unapologetically socialist campaign was lent of a Midwestern spring crocus pushing through the snow of the remnants of the Cold War, McCarthy red-scare and post-9/11 Patriot Act. Being a worker counted; our independent voice, unfettered through capitalist party politicians, counted in the Million Worker March Movement. Looking through these pages, pictures and documents, the MWM was our movement’s equivalent of a Midwestern spring crocus pushing through the snow of the remnants of the Cold War, McCarthy red-scare and post-9/11 Patriot Act.

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For me, the example of ILWU founder and leader Harry Bridges uniting with the San Francisco Black community to take control of the waterfront jobs echoes Oct. 10, 1868, in Cuba, when Carlos Manuel de Céspedes freed enslaved Black workers, asking them to join in the fight for Cuban independence. More than a winning strategy, it is fundamental.

This was the key to winning the 1934 San Francisco General Strike, forging the ILWU with Black waterfront jobs as the vanguard, to solidarity with the San Francisco shoreman and his family; the ILWU that made the MWM possible. The other is the rank-and-file character of the ILWU. The ILWU survived the McCarthy era, refused anti-communism and the Taft-Hartley “loyalty” oaths to capitalism.

Today Black workers, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and women lead the pivotal working-class social justice movements of our time. The Bessemer, Ala., organizing drive at Amazon; fast food workers fighting for $15 and a union; nurses and health-care workers demanding COVID-19 personal protective equipment and safe staffing; challenging the corporate sickness-for-profit health industry.

Workers and social movements are pressing against systemic boundaries as the MWM showed us in 2004.

Million Worker March’s influence

Although this book is about one initiative, one time in history, it has influenced, or been part of all the major struggles in the nearly 20 years since MWM organizing began: from advances in understanding gender, to migrant and immigrant struggles, to solidarity with Palestine, international solidarity against war from Venezuela to Iraq, to the pandemic. “Mobilizing in Our Own Name” is the story of the Million Worker March, but it is also very much the reflection of the life of a third-generation longshoreman and his family, that is intertwined with the struggles, social fabric and political history of Oakland, Calif., and the Black freedom movement.

We thank the REAL Clarence Thomas for sharing with new and old generations this remarkable history and labor of love.
Palestinian people fight for freedom
U.S. funds occupation and murder

Continued from page 1 to declare a ceasefire.

Resistance defeated occupation
While Israel’s precision-guided missiles targeted Palestinian families, Gaza’s improvised weapons paralyzed the occupation regime’s economy. “Tel Aviv, Israel’s Bristling Financial Hub, is Shaken as Rockets Rain Down,” the New York Times reported on May 16. Palestinian rockets set Israel’s El-lat to Ashkelon Pipeline ablaze. The pipeline is key to a U.S.-Israel plan to transport Arabian oil to the Mediterranean Sea across occupied Palestine land.

Rocket fire closed Israel’s main airport and made commercial air lines cancel flights to occupied Palestine. “Violence Raises Questions Over Israel’s Tourism Plans,” U.S. News & World Report wrote May 21. It will also take a toll on Tel Aviv’s real estate boom.

U.S. military personnel stationed in Palestine were evacuated to Cyprus. The U.S. pays for all of Israel’s bombs and weapons. Yet the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronoth said the fighting cost the Zionist state’s economy $37 million a day.

Palestinian workers shut racist state down
Perhaps most powerful of all, Palestinian workers, including those inside the 1948 borders, launched a massive general strike May 18.

“The Israel Builders Association said Palestinian workers had observed the strike, with only 150 of the 65,000 Palestinian construction workers coming to work in Israel,” Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported. “This paralyzed building sites, causing losses estimated at 130 million shekels (nearly $40 million).”

“But even before the strike, since the beginning of the operation in Gaza, only 6,000 to 8,000 Palestinians were coming to work every day. According to Yehuda Katav, vice president of the builder’s association, construction has slowed to a snail’s pace. ‘We cannot build without them,’ he said.”

The Israeli state is also increasingly isolated, as pro-Palestine protests swept the world. In Italy and South Africa, dockworkers refused to unload Israeli cargo.

Gaza’s Palestinians have a right to go home
Who are the people of Gaza that they are so hated by the Israeli occupation regime and its financiers in Washington? The majority are the children and grandchildren of Palestinians who once lived a few miles to the north, in cities and villages that are now called “Israel.” They were forced from their homes at gunpoint in 1948 to make room for settlers from Europe. When Gaza was under direct Israeli occupation, from 1967 to 2005, their labor built the luxury hotels and condos that line the Mediterranean coast, many of which are now second homes for settlers from the United States.

Like all Palestinians, the people of Gaza want the right to live in peace and freedom on their own land. This is a “crime” in the eyes of the Israeli occupation regime and its paymasters in Washington.

Wall Street profits off Palestine’s blood
The paid corporate agents in Washington fund the war against Palestine for the same reason they bombed and invaded Iraq, Libya and Syria and support Saudi mass murder in Yemen: profit.

The Pentagon brass routinely refer to the settler state in Palestine as their “unsinkable aircraft carrier,” a phrase repeated by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and other Zionist leaders. They see Israel as an “asset” in their endless war to control the world’s energy reserves and keep the region’s petrodollars flowing to U.S. banks and corporations. It is their forward base to attack Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Iran and other countries that don’t pay tribute to Wall Street.

U.S. energy giant Chevron corporation steals natural gas from the waters off occupied Palestine. ExxonMobil is also exploring Palestine’s waters. Citigroup loans the occupation regime money to buy arms until the next U.S. aid package comes through. The bank is a major investor in occupied Palestine.

Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and the rest of the U.S. military-industrial complex see the war machine called Israel as their best advertisement. Their stocks soar when the bombs fall.

We must fight for an end to the endless flow of U.S. arms and dollars to the Israeli war machine! End the $11-million-a-day in military aid, the loan guarantees, the tax exemptions, the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement and the other myriad ways with which the U.S. corporate ruling class props up the Israeli occupation regime.

We need money to build homes, schools and hospitals, not destroy them.
Dearborn greets Biden — NOT

By Cheryl LaBash

Detroit, May 18 — When President Joe Biden’s schedulers agreed to have him visit Ford’s new electric F-150 pickup truck production line just ahead of its public unveiling, it must have seemed like a home run for the administration’s infrastructure plan. But today’s news here was about Palestine.

Biden’s visit coincided with a Palestinian Day of Action and general strike in Israel and the occupied territories against the murderous Israeli bombing of Gaza, the racist anti-Arab gangs fully supported by Biden and his administration, complete with a $735-million proposed weapons sale to the apartheid state.

And his speech was at a factory in the middle of the largest concentration of Arab people in the U.S. The only Palestinian member of Congress represents the district just two blocks away from the venue. Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Debbie Dingell even met Biden at the airport to personally discuss U.S. Palestine policy.

A few thousand demonstrators chanting “Free Palestine!” gathered across the street from Ford Motors World Headquarters in Dearborn, Mich., at 1 p.m. today, timed to coincide with Biden’s speech at the historic Ford Rouge F-150 factory. The day’s unity of Iraqis, Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinians, Kashmiris, Yemenis and many other nationalities was recognized from the stage, as well as a chant that “Black lives matter.”

But this was only one action. Just blocks from Ford’s “green” plant venue for Biden’s speech, a 10 a.m. news conference was held in the neighborhood mosque. Later, demonstrators rallied and marched in the working-class Arab community bordering Detroit.

Banners were dropped over the I-94 freeway. They read, “Sanction Israel Now” and “Biden: End U.S. Aid to Israel & Invest in Communities — $3.8 Billion/Yr.”

More demonstrations are planned. See more details and photos at Arab-American News.

World Federation of Trade Unions affirms Solidarity with Palestinian people

By Lev Koufax

On May 18, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) held an emergency international zoom conference in support of the Palestinian people. Present on this call were progressive labor activists from over 150 countries, including Venezuela, South Africa, Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Greece and Palestine itself.

The call opened with WFTU President Mzwandile Michael Mavrikos of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union of South Africa. President Mavrikos emphasized the importance of global labor unions standing in unflinching solidarity with Palestine against Israeli apartheid and genocide.

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George Mavrikos, WFTU General Secretary, gave the keynote address. Mavrikos made clear that not only does WFTU denounce the current Israeli occupation and bombing campaign in Palestine, but also condemn’s the Israeli’s existence.

The message of the inspiring WFTU call was clear: All unionists and workers must fight to liberate Palestine now!

Pablo Hasél: Repentance is not freedom

By Pablo Hasél

In February, Spain’s Supreme Court sentenced leftist Catalan musician Pablo Hasél to 2 years and 9 months in prison for his outspoken activism against the monarchy, fascist movements and police terror. Later, the court added 16 months to his sentence for non-payment of a fine. Read more about Pablo Hasél’s case at tinyurl.com/y3hv9y4m.

As soon as they imposed the additional 16-month sentence for telling proven facts about the monarchy and police brutality, the prison psychologist came to offer me a treatment program to be able to access the third degree permits that they give to the majority of prisoners (once a quarter of the sentence has been served). These permits consist of leaving the prison for a few hours, then a few days, and thus progressively shortening the sentence. But they are not in exchange for nothing, especially in the case of political prisoners for whom “reintegration” means jumping through hoops by denying the just and necessary struggle for which we were kidnapped.

The psychologist, extorting me with a long stay in prison if I did not accept, intended to strip me of my principles by making me accept this insulting program based on “reviewing my expressions and emotions” to “empathize with the victims” of armed self-defense — a dishonest regret that from the first day I made very clear that I will never assume.

Therefore, I replied that I was being disrespected and that if I am incarcerated, it is precisely because I have great empathy with the real victims of the oppressors’ terrorism. They do not hesitate to impose all kinds of criminal policies, misery, exploitation and lack of freedoms with armed force. My response was

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Belarus detains neo-Nazi and imperialists howl

By Greg Butterfield

On May 23, Roman Protasevich was detained by authorities in the eastern European country Belarus after the plane he was riding made an emergency landing in Minsk. Protasevich's detention set off howls of protest from governments and corporate media in the U.S. and European Union, as well as threats of sanctions and a ban on air travel to or from Belarus.

The arrest of Protasevich, who was earlier declared a terrorist threat by the Belarus government, is being presented as “Exhibit A” of President Alexander Lukashenko’s abuse of human rights, and in favor of regime change. The Western media narrative is headlined by Svetlana Tikhaiokovskaya.

The EU has announced a $3-billion “bailout” plan for Belarus if the opposition takes power. The Western narrative is that “wanted” NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden might be aboard the plane. That “wanted” imperialist leaders by showing their repression seeks, than in feeling love for the oppressed.

The EU narrative is that “bailout” plan for Belarus if the opposition takes power. The Western narrative is that “wanted” NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden might be aboard the plane. That “wanted” imperialist leaders by showing their repression seeks, than in feeling love for the oppressed.

Belarus anti-fascists protest at the Latvian Embassy in Minsk, May 24.

Who gets to divert flights?

First, the diversion of flights and detention of air passengers is hardly unprecedented. Recall, for example, that a plane from Moscow carrying Bolivian President Evo Morales over EU airspace in 2013 was refused the right to refuel, threatening the life of Morales and other passengers, and was then grounded in a U.S. orders in Vienna, where the plane was searched by Austrian authorities. Morales — a head of state — was detained for 16 hours.

Supposedly Washington thought that “wanted” NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden might be aboard the plane. That “wanted” imperialist leaders by showing their repression seeks, than in feeling love for the oppressed.

Logically, I am the first one who wants to see myself out of jail, but not in any way or at any cost.

Pablo Hasél: Repentance is not freedom

Continued from page 5

to go to them and speak about the error of their ways, to repent, for them. They imprison you for solidarity and above all they want you to pretend to empathize with those who oppress you! Wanting to con

who oppress you! Wanting to con

the.u.s. government.

capable of revenge, because of the power of the people of the former Soviet republics respected 

But after the failure of protests dominated by far-right and pro-Western forces last year, and as the West continued to pressure the Belarus government with sanctions and a ban on air travel to or from Belarus. The West argues you have to worry about yourself and take care of yourself, meaning that this is the only possible if I agree to spend less time in prison to avoid being executed for. As if I could care for myself and take care of myself without caring about the people around me, which is the most valuable thing I possess! They don’t understand that we revolutionaries are not driven by individualistic interests. We would not feel much worse out on the street, having given them the repentance they seek. The demand for total amnesty includes: freedom of all political prisoners without any surrender.

Belarus has not privatized fast enough to keep their country from being turned into another weapon for U.S. imperialism.
Colombia’s blood on U.S. hands: National strike marches on

By Greg Butterfield

May 27 — Jhon Erik Larrañondo, 21, of Cali. Alison Meléndez, 17, of Popayán. Carlos Alberto, 29, of Medellin. 

These are but a few of more than 60 victims confirmed dead of government terrorism against protesters in Colombia. 

Colombia is one of the last countries in the West Asia, the country’s brutal capitalist rulers likewise serve their masters in Washington, D.C. Colombia is a member of the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance — the only one in Latin America. The U.S. anti-riot squad (ESMAD) of the Colombian National Police — established on the initiative of U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1999 to repress leftist movements — is carrying out murders, police brutality, sexual assaults, and, in the style of its Israeli Defense Force trainers, has blindered numerous protest- ers with shots to the eyes. 

In Cali, the epicenter of state violence, a warehouse owned by the Exito Supermarket chain stands revealed as a bloody torture center. “When human rights organizations were finally able to enter to do oversight, they found pools of blood in the underground parking lots, blood even on electrical appli-iances in the warehouse, a nauseating smell. And they were totally prevented from visiting one of the floors of the parking lot,” according to reports compiled by Resumen Latinoamericano.

“Two days, live protesters were brought to this shopping center, families and the community defended in anguish, shots were heard, repressive forces and garbage trucks circulated incessantly.” As of May 22, more than 200 people have disappeared in Cali alone. 

In a statement demanding an end to the disappearances, the Legal and Humanitarian Team of the Inter- Church Justice and Peace Commission reported: “Since May 14, the first reports of the existence of mass graves were known in the rural area of the municipalities of Buga and Yumbo, where the [police] would take the bodies to a clandestine cemetery.” “Since the start of the strike, the Colombian State has kidnapped and disappeared more than 600 people,” Resumen reported. “Some of them have appeared floating in the Cauca River, others buried. In recent days there have been sporadic reports of forced disappearances taking away protesters who then do not reappear.” 

Duque, assassin! 

President Duque and the media-label protesters “terrorists,” even while his government draws out talks with some groups in the leader- ship of the national strike move- ment, including the National Unemployment Committee (CNP) and Central Union of Workers (CUT). Duque & Co. accuse Cuba and Ven- ezuela, the FARC-EP and ELN guerillas, even faraway Russia, of caus- ing the uprising — anything, anyone but their own greedy, repressive policies that have left 42.5 percent of the people in poverty and a quarter unable to eat three meals a day, according to Colombia Informa.

The government decries protest roadblocks as an attack on business rights, even as its armed goons at- tack Indigenous groups working with protesters to ensure that food, fuel and medical supplies needed by the people can get through. Even as his government assassi- nates the blind grandpa of Command- er Jesús Santrich in neighboring Venezuela, in violation of interna- tional law, as a warning to those youth and workers who might move from rebellion to resistance, and take the path of social revolution.

Even as his government carries out crimes against humanity like those of Chile’s dictator Augusto Pinochet, installed by the U.S. in 1973. According to Resumen, human-rights groups are advising protest- ers: “It is very important that de- tainees try to shout their names and surnames and that people in the neighborhood film the events, to try to prevent those kidnapped by the police from being victims of the state crime of enforced disappearance.” And yet, amidst the terror, the people fight on.

Victories won in the streets

What began April 28 as a protest against the president’s proposed tax hike on the populace, despite wide- spread unemployment caused by the pandemic and the global capitalist crisis, has mushroomed in the past four weeks into a national uprising that has left no city, town or village in this diverse country untouched.

The government is acting as if the government to withdraw its “tax reform.” Then, on May 19, it forced Congress to vote down a plan to fur- ther privatize the health care sys- tem. Now the national strike move- ment demands the firing of Defense Minister Diego Molano, who com- mands the National Police.

A congressional debate on Mola- no’s removal was broken up by the police on May 25. Officials in Washington and Bo- gotá are betting on exhausting the people with merciless repression. But so far the protesters show no signs of slowing down, only drawing more and more layers of the popu- lace into the streets.

In a development paralleling last year’s Black Lives Matter uprising in the U.S., a group called the Front Line Mothers has taken to the streets of the capital with shields to defend youthful protest- ers from repressive agents. Whatever happens next, it’s clear that a new generation of activists has taken the stage in Colombia. Many of them are not content with piecemeal reforms, but want to see Duque’s government — and those pulling the strings — toppled for good.

They’ve even been their rulers’ be- trayal of the 2016 Havana Peace Ac- cords and subsequent slayings of hundreds of former guerrillas, activ- ists and community leaders by right-wing death squads. They see clearly the bloody hands of U.S. imperi- ialism on a so-called protest and fi- nancing their oppressors.

They are learning invaluable les- sons, and many of those who survive will bring fresh energy and hard- won experience to Colombia’s revo- lutionary struggle for national lib- eration and socialism.

The assassination of Colombian revolutionary Jesús Santrich

By Greg Butterfield

When a respected revolutionary dies, the impact reverberates around the world. Or, as Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong said, “To die for the workers is heavier than Mount Tai,” but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather.

Commander Jesús Santrich, a communist and member of the National Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and Colombia’s People’s Army (FARC-EP), Second Marquetalia, died for the people in poverty and a quarter without their own greedy, repressive policies that have left 42.5 percent of the people in poverty and a quarter unable to eat three meals a day, according to Colombia Informa.

The assassination, carried out on another country’s territory in blatant violation of international law, was reminiscent of a similar opera- tion in 2008, when Colombian troops killed FARC Commander Raúl Reyes in Ecuador.

It came just four days after the Colombian Supreme Court ruled in favor of Santrich’s extradition to the United States. His fellow FARC Comandante Manuel Doníz is being held incommunicado since his extradition to the U.S. at the end of 2004. Political prisoner Trinidad is currently serving a 60-year sentence in a Colorado supermax prison.

“The court carries out the orders of the gringos,” Santrich said in a statement released the day before his death.

It’s no coincidence that the court ruling and assassination took place during Colombia’s unprecedented month-long popular uprising against the right-wing regime of President Iván Duque. It was meant as a warning to those fighting in the streets who might consider taking the movement to a higher level, from rebellion to sustained resistance.

Such a high-level hit could not have taken place without the approval and involvement of the Pen- tagon and the White House. All are guilty of Santrich’s murder.

A fighter for the people

Jesús Santrich was one of the most renowned revolutionaries in Lat- in America, a popular and influen- tial spokesperson for revolution- ary Marxism and the path of armed struggle.

He was a leader of the Bolivarian Continental Movement (MCB), an alliance of revolutionary parties and movements in South America. An internationalist to the core, Santrich was usually seen wearing a kaffiyeh as a symbol of solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Israeli apartheid regime plays a big role in training and steering Colomb- ia’s repressors, as directed by the United States, and Santrich felt the connection with Palestine’s struggle deeply.

Santrich was legally blind from a young age and walked with the aid of a cane. But his disability was no match for his revolutionary deter- mination. After joining the FARC in the early 1990s, he quickly proved himself a capable organizer and strategist, and gained the rank of commander.

His closest friends and comrades, who called him Trichi, spoke of his...
No existe barrera que pueda detener la marcha de las Mujeres del Mundo

Por Samantha Sánchez

Con la participación de más de 50 países, se llevó a cabo la Convención Mundial de Mujeres este 24 de mayo, donde la delegación bolivariana, dirigida por la diputada Gladys Requena, participó con el documento del Foro de Sao Paulo.

Gladys Requena, integrante de la Comisión Nacional del Congreso Bicentenario de los Pueblos del Mundo, explicó que el tema del documentó es de gran importancia para construir una sociedad justa y equitativa.

"El documento contiene 13 puntos de visión, que deberán proteger al pueblo y velar por la garantía de sus necesidades, como hermanos, como iguales, y así mismo se hizo un llamado a la solidaridad, en el entendimiento y al cese del uso de la fuerza bruta."

Tras la marcha, las delegaciones continúan trabajando en el documento, que será presentado el próximo mes en la Convención Mundial de Mujeres.

Mujeres de los 5 continentes presentaron los acuerdos alcanzados rumbo al Congreso Bicentenario de los Pueblos del Mundo.

The assassination of Colombian revolutionary Jesus Santrich

Continued from page 7

humor, thirst for knowledge and wide-ranging interests. Santrich played the saxophone, composed poetry, and painted despite his visu- al impairment.

He was also a prolific author. At the time of his death, Santrich was writing a series of articles on the relationship between Marxism and Bolivarianism, the national-libera- tion outlook uniting peoples across Latin America.

U.S.-Colombia betrayal peace acords

Santrich was a member of the team that negotiated the 2016 Havana Peace Accords between the govern- ment of Colombia and the FARC-EP. During several years in Cuba on the peace agreement, Santrich met and befriended many visiting activists and revolutionaries from around the world.

As the negotiations dragged on and pressure for a resolution grew, Santrich began to discuss the defectors. Márquez warned that the FARC should not agree to disarm before the Colombian regime met its obli- gations. However, they were over- rule.

When Santrich returned to Col- ombia, it quickly became apparent to him that Duque’s government and its Washington masters had no in- tention of honoring the Havana Ac- cords, using them only as an excuse to disarm and divide the guerrilla movement.

Santrich himself, though guaran- teed a seat in Congress and legal im- munity under the agreement, was thrown into prison on false “drug trafficking” charges. He was held in torturous, life-threatening condi- tions.

A mass movement fought for and won his release. In the threat of ex- tra-judicial killing or extradition to the U.S. still loomed.

Santrich went underground. In August 2019, Santrich, Márquez and others announced the formation of the FARC-EP, Second Marquetalia, an initiative to rebuild the revolu- tionary guerrilla movement following the betrayal of the peace agree- ment by Bogota and Washington.

“Either a slow death in a maxi- mum security prison in some hot desert in the U.S., 30 meters under- ground, without any human rights, like his youthful friend, his fellow from Caribe Simón Trinidad, or shot down in a confrontation,” wrote Al- berto Pinzón Sánchez.

With this perspective ... he re- turned to arms — this time a little more “symbolically,” in order to ac- company with his knowledge, ideas and far-seeing vision, a group of former comrades who shared with him the idea that it was better to die fighting counterinsurgent fascism than kneel before the perfidy and deceptions of the regime.”

Death squads kill former guerrillas

Between the signing of the Havana Accords in 2016 and April 2021, at least 271 former FARC guerrillas were murdered by right-wing death squads, along with hundreds of community activists, student lead- ers, trade unionists, journalists and representatives of the Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

Santrich had seen it before. As a student activist in the late 1980s and early 1990s, young Seux-is Pausias participated in organiz- ing the Patriotic Union movement, an earlier attempt to transform the decades-long civil war and build a powerful social-justice alternative to the political parties dominated by Colombia’s oligarchy and U.S. impe- rialism.

Then, too, the response of Colom- bia’s ruling class, big landlords and U.S. backers was to unleash death squads to exterminate their political opponen- ts.

In fact, Seuxis Pausias’s close friend, a student leader, was one of those executed in 1991. He took the name of his slain friend — Jesus Santrich — in tribute, and left the movement.

“Was it necessary to execute a blind revolutionary militant?” asked Argentinian revolutionary Néstor Kohan. “Were the U.S. Pentagon, the Israeli Army and the Colombi- an Armed Forces so afraid of a blind person who walked with a cane? "Yes, they were afraid of him. And now that he's dead ... they are going to be even more afraid, be- cause the example of this communist revolutionary will surely take on other dimensions, as happened in their time with Cami- lo Celi, Che Guevara and with so many other revolutionaries of Our America.”

In his honor, the Bolivarian Conti- nental Movement has declared May 17 the “International Day of Global Insurgency Against Decadent and Criminal Imperialism.”

¡Comandante Jesús Santrich, presente!”