From Stonewall to Palestine, RESISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED!

The Socialist Unity Party/Partido por el Socialismo Unido stands in solidarity with the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans/Queer/Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S) community, not only as we celebrate Pride Month, but also as queer people continue to fight back against the systemic oppression imposed on us by capitalism.

We are encouraged by the growing number of Pride marches around the country that are now demanding that police be allowed to participate due to continued arrests and harrassment of the queer community.

The clarion call to reclaim Pride has been heard in all corners of the country. It reminds people that Stonewall was a rebellion sparked by the frustration of repeated humiliations and violence by the New York Police Department. That three-day rebellion grew into a movement of resistance — not just against police terror, but one that opened up the fight for respect for the queer community. It demanded an end to discriminatory firings and being kicked out of apartments, as well as out of families. The movement worked hard to show the world that “Gay is Good.”

Over the past year, the queer community has come out in large numbers as part of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for justice for the many Black and Latinx people who have been murdered by police. There is a natural link between these communities, as both movements began as rebellions against police brutality and killings. It is well known that oppression breeds resistance.

This natural alliance defies the politics of the movement that began that summer night in 1969 — for many they may not have been aware. Those who have forgotten or are so young they may not have heard.

The appeal was answered forcefully in the Port of Oakland, Calif., site of the most successful labor action to date against the atrocities in Gaza. The Israel-based ZIM ship Volans left the Port of Oakland on June 5.
Indigenous peoples grieve after mass grave found at residential school

By M. Tshihul

On May 27, the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation said that preliminary findings from a survey of the grounds at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia uncovered the remains of 215 children. This news has been met by a massive outpouring of grief in Indigenous communities.

The families have held memorials to the children, with 215 pairs of children's shoes, toys and flowers appearing on the steps of government buildings, churches and residential school buildings across Canada. Statues of prominent Canadian historical figures who bear responsibility for the residential school system, such as John A. Macdonald and Egerton Ryerson, are being covered with red paint and pulled down.

The confirmation of the remains of the 215 children at Kamloops is only a beginning; there are many more unmarked gravesites to be found.

While hundreds of graves had already been identified, residential school survivors have said for years that additional children are buried in many different areas, and asked Canada for years to fund searches at all residential school properties. Thousands of families seek to know who their children are buried in what was an attempt at Kamloops, and what happened to their children.

Kamloops was one school from more than a century of government-sanctioned Indian residential schools in Canada. Abuse of every kind, and everything that went with it, was the norm at St. Anne's residential school in Ontario, survivors described whippings, beatings, widespread sexual abuse and punishment by shocks delivered in an on-site electric chair.

Medical experiments were permitted to be conducted on the children. Diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza swept through the schools, with the children's malnourished bodies often too weak to survive.

Some Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) children died from tuberculosis or malnutrition. Some died of a broken heart. Some died trying to run away and return home. Some died from beatings and some from suicide.

No one knows how many children died nationally in Canada, but estimates range from 6,000 to as high as 25,000.

The children had their hair cut, were beaten for speaking their mother tongue, were told that their families and spiritual beliefs were evil, were subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Isolated in a community where outside authorities such as priests and Mounties swoop in to grab your children and carry them off to a government-run school, you are told that you are not allowed even see your children unless you behave, or that you will not receive your meagre rations if your child does not go to the school. Imagine how quiet your community is after the children have been snatched away.

Your child may return home broken, or may never return at all.

Not ancient history

Catholic missionary residential schools began in “New France” (French colonies in North America). Residential schools became part of Canadian government and church policy from the 1830s on with the creation of Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist schools in Ontario.

These colonial experiments set the pattern for post-Confederation policies from 1867 on. Approximate 150,000 Indigenous children attended Canadian residential schools from 1830s to 1990s, with the last closing in 1996. This is not ancient history.

Some children also were forced to attend government-run day schools, where abuse and cultural genocide were also common. There are still many school survivors and even more families descended from those who suffered at the schools.

Indigenous people certainly never forgot about the residential schools. What occurred in these schools has also caused intergenerational trauma, impacting families for generations.

Chief Clarence Louie of the Syilx Okanagan Nation in British Columbia said that Indigenous people still feel the impact of the schools today.

“The level of inhumane and criminal treatment of First Nations children at the hands of colonial governments and organized religion is deeply disturbing,” he said in a statement.

“We are calling on the Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada to directly address these atrocities.”

Settlers in Canada are now paying more attention to the issue, yet some of them dare to deny that the residential schools were so horrific. This modern amnesia and denial by the oppressor nation ignores thousands of Indigenous people who participated in the painful six-year process of the national Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which issued reports in 2015 detailing many of the abuses at the residential schools with 94 Calls to Action.

The government has failed to respond to many of the calls, including refusing to fund the requests to identify missing children and their marked and unmarked burial sites. Often the schools and authorities failed to tell families what happened to the children at the schools and refused to return the bodies home because they did not want to pay for transportation or have the families know how abused the child had been.

This information was widely available and publicized, and multiple calls to action were included in the TRC report. Yet all too many settlers continued to profess ignorance or disbelief about residential schools even though information has long been available.

Canada’s white ruling class has benefited immensely from the destruction of Native families and communities. As Indigenous people were violently forced onto reserves and often denied the ability to hunt, farm and fish to support themselves, vast tracts of land were renamed, divided, and handed out by the Canadian government to railroads, settlers, logging and other interests.

Attacks not limited to Canada

In the U.S., an estimated 500 government-funded Indian boarding and day schools operated in the 19th and 20th centuries. NABS (National Native American Board School Healing Coalition) has identified 357 boarding schools alone.

The first federally-run Indian boarding school was the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, in operation from 1879 to 1918, which used harsh military discipline to force Native children from all over the U.S. to assimilate.

At many of the schools, unmarked graves exist and remains of children are still undergoing a process of re-patriation to the children’s tribes. Researchers say that most of the more than 350 U.S. Indian boarding schools have cemeteries associated with them.

The U.S. has never had an accurate accounting of the Indian boarding schools, the number of children who attended or those who died at the schools. By 1900, there were about 20,000 children in boarding schools; by 1925, that number had more than tripled.

Even with the closure of residential schools, the mistreatment and removal of Indigenous children continued. In all too many countries, foster care became the “new residential school” — meaning that many Indigenous children are put into care rather than their families receiving the support needed to be able to keep their children.

In Canada, Indigenous children comprise 77% of all children under age 14, but 55.2% of children in foster care.

Land-back beats reconciliation

The Canadian Parliament has now acted to designate Sept. 30 as a national day of truth and reconciliation to learn about and honor Indigenous people who attended residential schools, those who survived and those who never came home.

It is always important for the survivors and their families to be able to speak the truth about the harm they experienced that continues to reverberate through Indigenous communities. They have worked so hard to improve conditions for these communities. It’s important for settlers to commit to knowing the truth about residential schools.

But there can be no reconciliation without reparations, justice and the return of land to Indigenous nations. Apologies and holidays are useless if people from the oppressor nation are not taking immediate and decisive steps to undo the toxic settler-colonial systems and anti-Indigenous racism that continue to exist.

Read full article at tinyurl.com/y9pc3mz5.
June 14, 2021  Page 3

By John Parker

On June 19, 1865, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to end slavery there. It has become the symbolic date for the ending of slavery in the United States and after.

After the Emancipation Proclamation officially abolished legal slavery on Jan. 1, 1863, some African people were left to work as slaves until freedom was enforced by the U.S. government in those locations — two-and-a-half years, and in some cases up to six, years later.

Like all historical achievements regarding African people in this country, Juneteenth has two sides — one for celebration, and one that painfully shows how systemic racism endures in this capitalist and imperialist country. For those who want to change the world, it is always important to appreciate both sides of that coin, in order to remain realistic and optimistic in preparing other possible victories.

The other aspect of our historical achievements of freedom sometimes come too visible to ignore, the ruling class sends in its political lackeys to defang its most potent effects. President Joe Biden, who just sent a solid endorsement of white supremacy and genocide with his $735-million gift to the racist Israeli government, continues to echo his inaction and enabling of systemic racism here in this country, especially in regards to police and ICE entities to be abolished and replaced by the community.

We must defend the right of every person to a job or income. We must join the local tenant rights organizations fighting homelessness, and monopolies that run this country, and replace the police with organizations fighting homelessness, and monopolies that run this country, and replace the police with the power of the movements for liberation and social justice in general — and that’s a testament to our strength and determination.

Let’s get to it.

Let’s build on our unity and solidarity, so that the next time a white supremacist mob comes to a Black or Brown neighborhood, they will be met with a righteous wrath that spares not a one. Those capitalists and politicians who enable them and the system they protect must be dismantled through the building of a movement that cannot be ignored.

But there is something very powerful that we can do and have done. Black people have forced great achievements in the struggle for liberation and social justice in general — and that’s a testament to our strength and determination.

Those strides allowed us a greater ability to effect change. We must continue to do what works — build the power of the movements for liberation and self-determination that empower our working class, both here and abroad.

Defend the right of Black and Brown people and all oppressed peoples to live free from the terror of the police and ICE! Continue to call for those police and ICE entities to be abolished and replaced by the community.

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June 19: reparations and the legacy of Tulsa

The Tulsa Tribune’s racist role

That is a very different reality from that of the Jones family, the white owners of a conservative newspaper called the Tulsa Tribune, who claim today is its responsibility for setting off the 1921 riot by white terrorists.

The Tulsa Tribune headline and article that sparked the riot incorrectly stated that a 19-year-old Black youth had attacked and possibly raped a white woman. An editorial praised a group that was actively planning to take the youth from police custody and lynch him.

The white woman who was the alleged victim said she didn’t happen and was adamant in her denial of any wrongdoing by the youth. She refused to press any charges against him. But the paper’s owner, Richard Lloyd Jones, wasn’t interested in the truth. That lie helped continue the profitability of the paper and would be passed on down the line.

Richard Lloyd Jones passed on control of the newspaper to his sons, Richard Lloyd Jones Jr. and Jenkins Lloyd Jones Sr. In 1984, the Tribune’s corporate owner merged with Swab-Fox Companies Inc., a diversified energy and real estate firm, and the paper finally ceased publication in 1992. The initial wealth, compounded by its sale and diversification into real estate and energy, undoubtedly lined the family’s pockets for generations.

Not so for Olivia Hooker. Her father’s department store was destroyed, and her family never received a penny.

In fact, none of the victims, as of this writing, have ever received repayment of the wealth that was stripped from them and transferred to those responsible for the terrorism they survived. And, although they had insurance, the state of Oklahoma helped replace companies avoid paying out for the damage and loss of homes and businesses to the property owners.

Not one person was held accountable for this racist murder and terrorism. As Donald Glover’s Childish Gambino character says: “This is America.”

The case for reparations

Tulsa shines a light on the experience of African people and the arguments for reparations in general. After all, it was African slaves who created the foundation of wealth that U.S. capitalism rests upon.

As we commemorate Juneteenth, we should also understand that Tulsa provides an excellent example of the reality of imperialism and capitalism, its racist and violent nature, just as it exposes those who perpetuate that system.

Let’s commemorate Juneteenth by drawing the conclusion, if you haven’t already, that those good-for-nothing politicians from Biden on down, either Democrat or Republi- can, who enable systemic racism, legitimize inaction and actively block any real attempts at attacking the systemic causes, are an integral part of this anti-humanity.

They can’t be trusted to make any real change — that’s not what they were given millions of dollars in campaign funds by the corporations and monopolies that run this country to do.

But there is something very powerful that we can do and have done. Black people have forced great achievements in the struggle for liberation and social justice in general — and that’s a testament to our strength and determination.

Although it was more than a century ago, the Tulsa massacre still provides an excellent example of systemic racism and police violence.

Millions of dollars of property were destroyed or seized along with the Tulsa massacre. All were over 100 years old and desperately hoped to see some type of remedy for the victims’ descendants and the Black community of Tulsa, still affected by the massacre and stripping of their relatives’ wealth.

And they all witnessed how U.S. educational and financial institutions continue to deny the pursuit of life and liberty to Black families — something the reparations proposal they and many others advocate would address. Imagine their disappointment when Biden methodically avoided using the word.

Another victim from Tulsa, Olivia Hooker, who died in 2018 at the age of 103, was 99 when she shared her story with Al Jazeera.

Olivia witnessed the Tulsa massacre when she was just 6 years old. Her parents hid her white whips rampaged through her home and poured gas inside. She recalled seeing those same men set fire to dolls made for her by her mother as a testament to their hatred for Black children.

With her rich and successful life, Hooker spent much of her time fighting for reparations and hoped to see that happen before she died.

She rightly called the massacre a “catastrophe” — reminding us of another “race” massacre, when white Western colonists drove Arab people out of their homes to create the state of Israel. The Palestinian word for it is al-Nakba, and it continues today.

Like in Tulsa, aerial bombings are routine in Palestine today. With thugs and murderers all over the world, they will continue to use the evil by the Israelis to control of the newspaper to his sons, Richard Lloyd Jones Jr. and Jenkins Lloyd Jones Sr. In 1984, the Tribune’s corporate owner merged with Swab-Fox Companies Inc., a diversified energy and real estate firm, and the paper finally ceased publication in 1992. The initial wealth, compounded by its sale and diversification into real estate and energy, undoubtedly lined the family’s pockets for generations.

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Let’s get to it.

A truck filled with Black prisoners during the 1921 Tulsa massacre. An armed white man rides on the running board guarding the prisoners.
Unemployed Workers Union condemns halt of federal benefits

By Unemployed Workers Union

June 2 — We condemn Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s abrupt decision to curtail federal pandemic unemployment benefits early, giving the unemployed just one month’s notice. The Maryland Unemployment Claims and Benefits Administration (MUCBA), a contractor for the state Labor Department said that Maryland would not be joining states that returned federal benefits.

Closing the federal program is false rhetoric that “benefits are keeping people from taking jobs” as the facts. The April job losses were due to a deep recession. The Labor Department said that Maryland would not be joining states that returned federal benefits.

Outrage increased as the program shut down. The Peoples Power Assembly and Unemployed Workers Union held protests in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. against new “Deporter-In-Chief” Joe Biden.

To date, we have heard from no one who has received the state benefit. Instead, we have heard horror stories from people who have not received a dime of their benefits, despite applying a year ago.

To join us in Baltimore, call (410) 218-4835, zoom call, and text “UWU” to 81313.

Unemployed Workers Union is non-profit. We rely on the kindness of people like you to keep our clinic going. To donate, please visit unemployedworkers.org.

An open letter to President Joe Biden, as his broken promises pile up

By Greg Butterfield

Dear President Biden,

Your broken promises are piling up. I took office in just the last couple of weeks: “Joe Biden Surrenders On Federal Unemployment Benefits,” “Biden Drops Student Loan Forgiveness From Latest Budget,” “Biden offers to keep 2017 Trump tax cuts intact in infrastructure agreement with GOP.” “U.S. Says It Will Not Rejoin Open Skies Treaty With Russia.”

Whew! Your haste to screw over the people who voted for you is breathtaking. I’ll give you that. It seems like your Democratic White House hasn’t met a Trump policy it didn’t love

And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. You’ve continued deporting migrants and asylum seekers. You refuse to defund ICE; you’ve upped the Pentagon’s war budget yet again; you’re planning to give more money to Israel after it carried out its brutal May assault on the Palestinian people; and you decided to keep the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, where Trump moved it despite a traditional outcry — an added slap in the face to the Palestinians.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which you said you wanted to revive, has gone nowhere, since you refuse to drop the illegal sanctions on Iran. Nothing has been done to relieve Trump’s tightened blockade on Cuba. You’ve even picked up Trump’s bogus “Wuhan lab leak” story, blaming China for COVID-19, to further the new Cold War. No points for originality there.

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Bosss lie about ‘labor shortage’ to keep wages low

By Gary Wilson

The May unemployment report wasn’t much better than the April disaster.

Business news site CNBC summed it up: “Job creation disappointed again in May, with nonfarm payrolls up at a rate that would be considered a solid 559,000 but still short of lofty expectations, the Labor Department reported Friday. ... May’s level, other than that caused by natural disasters.

Unemployment plagues capitalism and has been a constant since the “reserve army of labor.” Prior to the capitalist era, structural unemployment on a mass scale never existed, other than that caused by natural disasters.

While the current high level of unemployment — 23.4% according to the Ludwig Institute’s True Rate of Unemployment — is in part the result of the pandemic response, the underlying reason remains the same: to protect profits.

The reserve army of labor

As Karl Marx detailed in “Capital,” capitalism constantly produces a pool of unemployed workers. Capitalists refer to this as “surplus population” or “useless people.” Marx called this a “reserve army of labor.”

Marx said that in the drive to increase profits, capitalists try to reduce their costs by increasing productivity through the replacement of human labor with machinery and new technology. This, in turn, creates an artificial surplus population of the unemployed.

“This reserve army of labor” influences wage rates. The larger the unemployed workforce grows, the more the forces drive down wages. On the other hand, if there is low unemployment and plenty of jobs available, this tends to raise the average level of wages, as workers are able to change jobs easily to get better pay.

In recent years, part of the reserve army of labor in the U.S. has been identified as “the precariat.” That is the growing number of temporary, contract and part-time workers (part of the so-called “gig economy”) with precarious status.

Precarious workers are part-time or full-time in temporary jobs, but don’t earn enough to live on. The Bureau of Labor Statistics does not count them as unemployed, but they do not receive a living wage.

Labor shortage?

In the media there have been claims that the depressing monthly employment reports are caused by a so-called “labor shortage.” This is political propaganda attacking unemployed workers, blaming the unemployed for the lack of available jobs. It’s being used to cut the meager federal supplemental unemployment benefits of $300 per week for those who lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

Twenty-five states are ending the $300 federal supplement and also the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for the self-employed and gig workers.

The PUA is a program that should never be cut, but rather should become a permanent program. A growing number of businesses like Uber and Lyft now call their workers “inde- pendent contractors.” These workers are not covered by traditional unemployment insurance. They are covered by the PUA, which is actually paying benefits to more jobless workers than the regular state unemployment programs.

As for so-called labor shortages, there is only one measure of labor shortage — wages. In a real labor shortage, wages are not rising. Capitalists who face a shortage of qualified workers respond by offering higher wages and/or benefits, while capitalists who risk losing workers will raise wages to retain workers.

But wages are not rising and, for some, are now lower than they were before the pandemic. If wages aren’t rising, it is certain that there is no labor shortage.

This was even admitted by Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, who dismissed claims of labor shortages, saying, “We don’t see wages moving up.” And presumably we would see that in a really tight labor market.

For the mass of unemployed — and a quarter of the workforce is out of work at the moment — the government should be doing everything possible to help the unemployed. It should be enacting job-creation programs.

For low-income workers with a job, pay has not been rising over the past year, but the consumer inflation rate has been steadily rising. In April, the consumer inflation rate reached 4.2%.

That’s a backhanded cut in wages, that workers are really getting paid less than they were a year ago.

Food, housing, jobs

Most significant has been the continuous inflationary rise of food prices, actually double the overall rate of inflation in 2021. For the unemployed and low-wage workers, more than a third of their income is being spent on food, leaving most of the remaining funds for housing or transportation.

This is the crisis for jobless workers. What is going to happen when the federal eviction moratorium ends on June 30? More than 10 million tenants are behind on their rent and face eviction once this moratorium is dropped.

A job is required in order to have housing, food and transportation. Everyone needs a job at a living wage to survive. It is a human right.

The right to a job is even backed up by federal law. The 1946 Employment Act and the 1978 Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act legally oblige the president and Congress to use all available means to achieve full employment.

Also adopted in 1946, the United Nations Charter on Human Rights declares, “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of occupation and protection against unemployment,” as well as the right to housing, education and health care.

Now more than ever, the government should be made to enforce these laws.

MARX: Capitalism produces unemployment

In “Capital,” Karl Marx wrote about the laws of capitalism and the ruthless capitalist competition for greater profits. In the drive to increase profits, capitalists try to reduce their costs by increasing productivity through the replacement of labor with machinery, new technology, robotics. This, in turn, creates an “artificial surplus population” of the unemployed:

“The fall in prices and the competitive struggle would have driven every capitalist to lower the individual value of his total product below its general value by means of new machines, new and improved working methods, new combinations, i.e., to increase the productivity of a given quantity of labor, to lower the proportion of variable to constant capital, and thereby to release some laborers, in short, to create an artificial overpopulation. ... The circumstances which increased the productiveness of labor, augmented the mass of produced commodities, expanded markets, accelerated accumulation of capital both in terms of its mass and its value, and lowered the rate of profit — these same circumstances have also created, and continuously create, a relative overpopulation, an overpopulation of laborers not employed by the surplus-capital owing to the low degree of exploitation at which alone they could be employed, or at least owing to the low rate of profit which they would yield at the given degree of exploitation.” (Capital, Fourth Volume, III, Chapter 15)

The technology itself does not lead to unemployment. Instead, as Marx indicates, it is the use of technology under capitalism, implemented in an anarchic and unplanned way for the sole purpose of increasing prof- it, that leads to mass unemployment and places pressure on those still working to accept lower wages, as competition for the remaining jobs increases.

— Gary Wilson
Los Angeles rally declares Black and Brown solidarity

By John Parker

Los Angeles — On May 22, Black August Locals and Pan-African organizations joined forces with the Palestinian movement across the world, demanding that Israel end the siege of Gaza and Sheikh Jarrah, an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and to all U.S. funding and arming of Israel.

Palestinian organizations, including Al-Awda: The Palestinian Right to Return Campaign and the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), which led massive demonstrations in the city a week prior, were invited to speak at the action.


The organizations, responding to Israel’s catastrophic war crimes, felt the need to highlight and activate the power coming from the fundamental role historically played by Black and Brown organizations in non-violent struggle for freedom and white supremacy, with an understanding of the potential power those battles can have in building solidarity with other victims of U.S. imperialism abroad.

Many in the Palestinian movement said that the current shift towards solidarity with the Palestinian people is partly a result of the recent struggles for Black lives here in the U.S., helping to build the consciousness necessary to emphasize that Palestinian lives and the lives of all oppressed peoples subject to racism and genocide matter.

Uplifting show of unity

At MacArthur Park in downtown Los Angeles, a crowd of community members predominantly made up of oppressed people of color — a large rally drew at least six television crews covering the event.

It began with many speakers addressing how we need to highlight the historic bond between Black organizations and the Palestinian right to self-determination, and their dedication to continue to call out and fight against racism and imperialism there and here. A gigantic ZIM ship left the Bay Area, unloaded with community picket lines coordinated by the Block the Boat Coalition, at times numbering over a thousand protestors. ZIM ships left the port unloaded after 16 days of picket lines.

“We are sending a strong message that profiteering from Israel’s apartheid and ongoing violence against the Palestinian people will not be welcome in the Bay Area,” said Lara Kiswani, executive director of AROC.

Hundreds of boat actions protesting various Israeli ZIM ships have been planned in numerous other cities, including Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, New York, Detroit and Philadelphia.

One labor statement at the end of May read, “The ILWU Northern California Local Council stands in solidarity with Palestine and Pan-African communities across the world who are fighting for justice.”

On June 6, in Elizabeth, N.J., hundreds defied heavy police pressure and joined a community picket and blocked the gate leading to the terminal where the ZIM ship Tarracona docked.

GLOBAL WORKER SOLIDARITY:
Unions mobilize to fight Israeli apartheid

Continued from page 1

unwork after reportedly “meandering in circles, outside of the port,” reports an Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) press release.

Workers’ organizations responded to the appeal of the Palestinian union federation as news of the horrendous Israeli massacre and courageous Palestinian defense circled the globe.

Protests took place in Italy, Greece, Ireland, Canada and South Africa. Over 100 labor and community organizations nationally and internationally endorsed #BlockTheBoat actions!

The International Dockworkers Council issued a statement strongly condemning the massacre of civilians and children in Palestine.

Recognizing apartheid in Israel, South African dockworkers heeded the PFGTU call and refused to offload a ZIM cargo.

Italian dockworkers in Livorno refused to load an arms shipment onto a ZIM ship.

The Doro-Chiba rail workers union of Japan wrote, “We full-heartedly salute Local 10 for refusing to handle the freight from the ZIM ship Volans.”

Local 10 and Black union leadership

Speaking on the Local 10 action, retired ILWU leader Clarence Thomas said, “We affect the global economy.”

He said, “It was the longest action taken against an Israeli vessel using community blockades at the Port of Oakland.

“The first Local 10 action was in response to the killing of unarmed people in international waters on board the ship Mavi Marmara, which was attempting to bring humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in 2010.”

In August 2018, an action to stop ZIM ships from unloading at the Port of Oakland was organized by Block the Boat for Gaza, a coalition of about 70 organizations led by AROC.

The action became a movement.

An information booth was organized at that time. Rank-and-file members of Local 10 honored community picket lines for four days. Other ports from Los Angeles to Tacoma joined the “Block the Boat Movement.”

At the June 4 mass picket in Oakland, Local 10 President Trent Willis discussed the historic call by ILWU Local 10 to “fight racism against the Palestinians as well as against African Americans.”

Call for the MWM

When it initiated the Million Worker March in March 2004, ILWU Local 10 called on rank-and-file members to “Mobilize in Our Own Name,” the title of Clarence Thomas’ new anthology.

African American union leaders from Local 10, joined by others in the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, organized the MWM with demands to fight racism, sexism, economic injustice and war.

They said that the only way workers can successfully struggle for their democratic rights is to organize independently from political organizations controlled by the bosses.

In 2004, the AFL-CIO leadership, in collusion with the Democratic Party, took national action to challenge the MWM by dishonestly claiming that it would interfere with union support for John Kerry’s presidential election campaign.

In July 2020, the country erupted with protests, labor strikes and shutdowns against the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and numerous others.

The AFL-CIO “Racial Justice Task Force” announced a plan for “taking concrete action to address the long history of racism and police violence against Black people.”

Last week the AFL-CIO quietly released its report, calling for police unions themselves to be the primary mechanism for reforming police practices. As spokespeople for the police unions often voice the loudest support for racist killer cops, the AFL-CIO report amounts to a hostile rejection of calls from progressive members for the federation to kick out the unions.

The progressive demand to exclude police organizations from the AFL-CIO rightfully asserts that workers’ unions must be organized independently from the bosses and the repressive forces of the state that represent them. After all, who decides what the police ‘do’ when they protest for a living wage?

The call to “Mobilize in Our Own Name” is the only way that workers can unite internationally against capitalist exploitation and U.S. imperialist aggression in support of the Palestinian people.

Block the Boat actions hit U.S./Israel interests at the “point ofproduction” and prove that workers can push for positive social and political change.

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Palestine solidarity spreads across New York metro area

By Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau

The long war between the native people of Palestine and the brutal Western colonial-settler project called Israel is more than a local battle. Like the Black Lives Matter uprising that swept the U.S. and the world after the murder of George Floyd, it is part of the global struggle between oppressor and oppressed, exploited and exploited, colonizer and colonized.

Pentagon brass routinely refer to the Israeli occupation regime as “our unsinkable aircraft carrier,” a term Israeli leaders embrace. To Wall Street bankers and their military and political servants, the Zionist state is a vital weapon in their long war to monopolize the world’s energy reserves and keep the world’s petrodollars flowing into their coffers. Control of the region they call the Middle East is key to their wealth and power.

While the corporate agents in Washington pour arms and money into the Israeli war machine, oppressed peoples around the world stand with the people of Palestine. That solidarity has been profound and clear in cities across the United States in the weeks since Israel’s latest assault on the imprisoned people of Gaza.

In the New York metropolitan area, tens of thousands have taken to the streets to show solidarity with and such neighboring cities as Paterson and Teaneck, N.J., and Yonkers and White Plains, N.Y., to support Palestinian resistance and demand an end to U.S. aid to the occupation regime.

“Why do we love Palestine, why do we fight for Palestine? When we are united in struggle we beat with the same fist and fight with the same fist. If we can free Palestine, we can free us all,” said Jackson.

“From Mandela to the Black Panther Party to Che Guevara — we are all revolutionary socialists dedicated to smashing imperialism and capitalism and liberating the world. None of us are free until we all are free,” she concluded.

Palestine solidarity spreads across New York metro area

Those who marched were overwhelmingly young. Many were Palestinian or from other Arab communities. But the crowds reflected the diversity of New York City’s working class and oppressed communities.

The December 12 Movement and other Black liberation organizations mobilized in solidarity. Flags of Bangladesh, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Yemen and the Black liberation flag were among those that flew alongside the red, black, green and white colors of Palestine.

On May 4 and May 11, protesters took over the streets of midtown Manhattan. On May 15, Nakba Day, 50,000 people packed the streets of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, home to New York’s largest Arab community. On May 20, young people confronted a Zionist hate rally in Times Square.

Palestine solidarity spreads across New York metro area

Police attacked and arrested several people when they defended themselves against anti-Arab bigots.

The following Saturday, May 22, 20,000 people shut down Queens Boulevard and marched for hours through the streets of the city’s second-largest borough, from Sunnyside through Astoria to Jackson Heights.

On May 29, thousands traveled to Washington, D.C., for a rally and march called by American Muslims for Palestine.

On Memorial Day, May 31, thousands marched through the streets of the Bronx. While cops in riot gear tried to intimidate the marchers, the people of the borough greeted the marchers with cheers and horns honked in solidarity. Black Liberation Army veteran and 33-year political prisoner Selous Ogida was among those who addressed the crowd.

Police arrested three young people for the “crime” of raising the Palestinian flag atop a railroad bridge. Cops later attacked a crowd that had gathered outside the 42nd precinct to halt their release and arrested and brutalized three more people.

Most of the protests were organized by NYCPalestine, a coalition comprising groups like NYC: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, Within Our Lifetime—United for Palestine, American Muslims for Palestine, Existence is Resistance, Jews for the Palestinian Right to Return, Labor for Palestine and Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

We reject these attempts to mislead and repress our transgender sisters. We assert that transwomen are women.

Capitalism has only misery to offer the queer community. It will take the socialist reorganization of society to ensure that LGBTQ2S people are able to live in dignity.

Stonewall still means fightback — for our liberation, and for the entire working class! 

Elizabeth, N.J., June 6.

On June 9, a WEL-led car caravan started at the ZIM shipping offices and drove across Staten Island.
The Million Worker March Movement in print

Mobilizing In Our Own Name: Million Worker March
An anthology by Clarence Thomas
DeClaré Publishing
MillionWorkerMarch.com
Available at most booksellers

By Cheryl LaBash

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” Clara DeCarle, labor historian and author — tells an amusing story of his conflicted reaction when he heard some Detroiter appropriated the Million Worker March (MWM) T-shirt design and made T-shirts!

That was me. Just weeks away 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? Why was I 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 wannabe-fascistic emperor Trump.

As a laborer, I worked closely with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. While South Africa took over Namibia following World War I, the Herrero and Nama inhabitants were forced to move to the western deserts. This was the key to winning the independence of Namibia, which the Germans had perfected in concentration camps.

The settler-colonial crimes against Africans in developing their genocide, politically criminal mistreatment of its indigenous peoples and women lead to the genocide which the Germans had perfected.

A harbinger of upsurge

I think we can say MWM’s independent voice was a harbinger of the upsurge reflected in the electoral arena through the wide, unexpected enthusiasm for Bernie Sanders’ apologetically socialist campaign in 2016. When the facade of U.S. democracy overrode the desire for progressive change, the imperialist buisiness-as-usual Democratic Party pro-war corporate candidates were rejected, saddling the world with wannabe-fascistic emperor Trump.

The striving for progressive change thwarted in 2016 was renewed in the unprecedented mass movement throughout pandemic summer 2020. Justice demanded for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more, but also deeper systemic justice. It burst through in over 2,000 cities and towns in all 50 states with as many as 26 million U.S. participants.

The 100th anniversary of the extermination of the Black community of Tulsa, Okla., on May Day 2015 with the ILWU that made the MWM possible. The other is the rank-and-file character of the ILWU. The ILWU showed us that while Black workers, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and workers lead the pivotal working-class social justice movements of our time. The BLM, July 9, 2020, and 2021.

Yesterday Black workers, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and workers lead the pivotal working-class social justice movements of our time.

Today Black workers, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and workers lead the pivotal working-class social justice movements of our time. Time.

Although this book is about one initiative, one time in history, it Continued on page 9

Germany must pay reparations to Africa

By Stephen Millies

May 31 — Members of the December 12th Movement held a news conference today in front of the German mission to the United Nations in New York City to demand reparations for Namibia.

“From 1904 to 1908, the German colonial army murdered 75,000 of the Herero and Nama inhabitants of what is present-day Namibia in South West Africa,” declared Roger Wareham, a member of the D12 International Secretariat.

“We are here today, as Malcolm X often said, ‘We must be the change.’ Germany must pay reparations.”

The people of Namibia fought for decades to win independence from the apartheid regime then existing in South Africa. The South West African People’s Organization — now known as the SWAPO Party — led this heroic struggle.

The late Pan-African teacher and organizer Elombe Brath, a co-founder of the December 12th Movement, worked closely with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma.

While South Africa took over Namibia following World War I, the German colonists remained. Some white shopkeepers in Namibia’s capital of Windhoek would close their stores on April 20, Hitler’s birthday.

One of the German colonial governors was Heinrich Göring, whose son Hermann Göring was the No. 2 Nazi and the No. 1 war criminal at the Nuremberg trials.

Roger Wareham, who as a lawyer has initiated several suits for reparations, pointed out the connection:

and MWM organizing and leadership in action against police brutality and murders foreshadowed this development, too.

In 2010, ILWU Local 10 shut down Bay Area ports for justice for Oscar Grant, and on May Day 2015 with the union action to stop police killings of Black and Brown people.

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 October 10, 1986, 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 workers at its militant core, and Local 10 where the Million Worker March was born.

Centrality of Black workers

The settler-colonial crimes underpinning the United States of America can no longer be denied.

The false concept of white supremacy is condemned publicly even from the presidential lectern.

The centrality of Black workers is one of two historical components of the ILWU that made the MWM possible. The other is the rank-and-file character of the ILWU. The ILWU showed us that in 2004.

Million Worker March’s influence

Although this book is about one initiative, one time in history, it

Continued on page 9
Free Alex Saab!

By Stephen Millies

For thousands of years human societies have protected diplomats from harm, even during wartime. That hasn’t stopped the U.S. capitalist government from trying to seize the Venezuelan envoy Alex Saab.

Million Worker March

Continued from page 8

has influenced or been part of all the major struggles in the nearly 20 years since MMW 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 love of work.

World mobilizes to send syringes to Cuba

By Alejandra Garcia

In March, social organizations, political leaders and solidarity movements launched a fundraising campaign to send syringes to Cuba. The world was expected to vaccinate the vaccination process of this small nation, which has done so much to fight COVID-19 beyond its own borders.

The campaign has gained momentum and size as the days have passed, and yesterday the initiative began in Europe, thanks to the solidarity of thousands of people from the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) and other universities in Cuba also joined the call, and are asking the Cuban community living in Honduras to collaborate in the fundraising effort.

"People have responded, even though the economic situation in Honduras is perverse because unemployment has increased and salary payments have been delayed due to the pandemic," explained Elena Flores, president of the Honduras-Cuba Association (AHC).

Given the lack of air connection from the Central American country to Havana, a situation that prevents the syringes from being sent to the island, the Honduran doctors opted to send the funds raised to Panama. There, several solidarity groups will buy and transfer the supplies to Cuba through Cuban Airlines.

Cubans living in Nicaragua are doing the same operation. According to Prensa Latina, up to 130,000 syringes have been collected in Managua. "We have already made two bank transfers to Panama for the amount of US$4,479," Rafael Ruíz of the Augusto C. Sandino Anti-imperialist Solidarity Network confirmed.

The solidarity campaign comes at a critical moment of the vaccine rollout, when Cuba needs it most. Health authorities have already begun immunizing residents in Havana, the country most impacted by the pandemic.

The government expects to vaccinate the country’s entire population as early as August. The donation of syringes will be essential for this purpose. Why? Because the over 200 restrictions imposed during the Trump era are threatening to squeeze the Cuban economy even harder.

The global shortage of syringes and rising prices, Cuba faces another equally complex challenge. The island can purchase health—and any other—supplies from a very short list of countries.

Due to the blockade, few nations are willing to sell products directly to Cuba because of the million-dollar fines the U.S. imposes on anyone who dares to do so. The island is forced to buy everything through third countries, which makes each product more expensive, causes delays in shipments and generates shortages.

Although Cuba has the best record in Latin America in controlling COVID-19, the disease is reaching its peak and vaccination is key to stopping it. As U.S. President Joe Biden looks on motionless at Cuba’s efforts to pull its economy forward and protect its people from the deadly virus, the rest of the world is rallying around this tiny island.

Cuba is not alone; it never was, it will never be.

Source: Resumen

Six million families were provided with food by Local Supply and Production Committees, which Alex Saab was trying to help.

The response of both Republican and Democratic presidents has been to impose sanctions on Venezuela, which strangled the country’s economy. These sanctions have cut Venezuela off from most of the world economy.

The United States has imposed its sanctions—"Mobilizing in Our Own Name"—to fight COVID-19 beyond its own borders.

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Cuba is not alone; it never was, it will never be.

Source: Resumen
Were new attacks on China created in a Trump lab?

By Scott Scheffer

By late May the level of attacks on China reached its highest point in history, with COVID-19 reaching 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 out and made “credible” by the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Fox News, the Associated Press, and others. Headlines across the internet refer to a previously discredited theory spurred 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 lies and 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 “quarter”[1] [kill] Black Lives Matter protesters — and others.

China, with four times the population of the U.S., held its death toll from the coronavirus to less than 5,000 through a “people’s war” against the virus that showcased the superiority of socialist planning over the anarchy of capitalism. Trump and his team used attacks on China to try to distract from the fact that his administration allowed the pandemic to take hundred 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-vived 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 in a secret research lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) laboratory and then leaked in an accident. In some versions it was used as a purposeful germ warfare attack.

No one in Wuhan lab had COVID

All of the recent hype is anchored on a “fact sheet” penned by Trump’s vile neo-Cold Warrior, former Secretary of State Pompeo. Pompeo referenced U.S. intelligence “information” that claimed WIV staff were sickened and hospitalized in November 2019, a month before the earliest known case of COVID-19.

The story isn’t substantiated in any way. All of the staff at the Wuhan Institute were tested and there was no presence of COVID antibodies in anyone. This simple fact shows the lab leak hypothesis to be a sham.

There have been two delegations sent to Wuhan by the World Health Organization (WHO) to research the origin of the virus. The first delegation, in the pandemic and the second was in March of this year. Both concluded that the virus likely jumped from bats to an intermediary animal and then to humans, and that the lab leak theory was “highly unlikely.”

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

This week the floodgates opened, and it was an all-out media assault on China. On May 27, Biden ordered further “investigation” into the origin of the virus — not by scientists but by the same spy 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 leads virus research globalists

The WIV lab has been a global leader in research on coronaviruses. Since the first SARS coronavirus outbreak in 2003, it has collected hundreds of viral samples from bats to further the study of how viruses might mutate and what mutations may create a higher possi- bility of transfer to hu-mans. This is what the research could help in the develop- ment of vaccines and allow scientis- ts to gain an edge in fighting fu-ture pandemics.

The lead scientist at the WIV is Zhengli Shi, famously known as the 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 critique in 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 coverup of a lab leak. He hangs his hat on the fact that the intermedi- ate animal that is crucial to the nat- ural origin hypothesis hasn’t been

Colombia’s blood on U.S. hands: National strike marches on

By Greg Butterfield

Jhon Erik Larrañahoe, 21, of Cali. Alison Meléndez, 17, of Popayán. Camilo Arango, 19, of Tuluá.

These are but a few of more than 60 victims claimed dead of government violence. Their hands and feet are buried, washed up on the banks of rivers and buried in hastily-dug mass graves.

Colombia is the Israel of Latin America, and like its counterpart in West Asia, the country’s brutal capitalist rulers openly serve their masters in Washington. Colombia is a member of the U.S.-domi- nated NATO military alliance — the only one in Latin America.

The elite Colombian Peace–Riot Coalition (ESMAD) of the Colombian National Police — established on the initia- tive of White House Chief of Staff Bill Clinton in 1999 to repress leftist movements — is carrying out murders, police brutality, sexual assaults, and, in the style of Israel Defense Force trainers, has blinded numerous pro- testers with shots to the eyes.

In Cali, the epicenter of state vi- oLENCE, a warehouse owned by the Exito Supermarket chain stands re- vealed as a bloody torture center. “When human rights organ- izations were finally able to enter to the violence that was going on, with drug cartels and the military all over, we discovered 30 bodies,” one official said.

They have seen their rulers’ bre- trayal of the 2016 Havana Peace Accords and subsequent slayings of hundreds of former guerrillas, activ- ists and community leaders by right-wing death squads. They see clearly the bloody hand of U.S. imper- ialism directing the ongoing 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.

Read full article at tinyurl.com/skbbvkww.

Colombia’s blood on U.S. hands: National strike marches on

PHOTO: MISSIÓN VERDAD

"Colombianeses but does not surrender."
Climate change and capitalism

By Scott Scheffer

As ice weighing more than 20 million Empire State Building rooftops is melting from Greenland during the 21st century — and even faster in the last 25 years — the redistribution of mass has caused the earth to drift off its axis.

The near future holds rising sea levels that threaten coastal cities and island nations. Droughts and destructive fires and superstorms are featured in the media so often they now seem almost commonplace.

Activists around the world are calling for serious action. Measures that the Biden administration is aiming for are designed to placate the growing anger, but everything proposed by the White House so far falls short of the dramatic changes needed even to limit the worst consequences of global warming.

In big capitalist countries, particularly the U.S., powerful corporations dominate policies no matter who gets elected. Imperialism — an inherent feature of late-stage capitalism — is the biggest cause of climate change and the greatest obstacle to solving it. U.S. military forces have killed millions of people in direct warfare. The Pentagon is also the biggest polluter on the planet, and brutally undermines the development world over, which exacerbates CO2 emissions.

As the U.S. reenters the Paris Climate Agreement, these leaders are setting goals to try to collectively limit the rise in global temperatures, that issue is not even part of the conversation.

Reversing Trump not enough

After an April international summit called for by the White House and a series of executive orders to try to undo the multitude of attacks on environmental policies from the Trump era, the U.S. media are happy praising President Joe Biden. As of the day Trump left office, about 100 laws that would have been reversed, Biden called for a series of actions that are by and large defensive measures against the attacks on environmental laws set in motion by Trump, but nothing that resembles the changes that are urgently needed to deal with the crisis.

Climate activists and scientists know that what Biden is calling for so far just isn’t enough. Even Biden’s U.S. Climate Envoy John Kerry is sounding the alarm over inaction.

There is another huge step that should be done first and foremost — abolish the Pentagon.

The U.S. military is spewing more CO2 and other contaminants into the air than all of the cars and trucks, the power plants, and the factories combined. The Pentagon is the single largest consumer of fuel in the world.

“Fathoms, if you can, the astromonomical fuel usage of USAF fighter planes: the F-4, Phantom Fighter burns more than 1,500 gallons of jet fuel per hour and peaks at 14,400 gallons per hour at supersonic speeds. The BF-52 Stratotruicer, with eight jet engines, guzzles 500 gallons per minute; ten minutes of flight uses as much fuel as the average driver does in one year of driving!”

A “quarter of the world’s jet fuel feeds the USAF fleet of flying killing machines; in 2006, they consumed as much fuel as U.S. planes did during the Second World War (1941-1945) — an astounding 2.6 billion gallons,” Hynes reported.

Since the first U.S. invasion of Iraq in 1990, the majority of U.S. military activity has been to control over oil markets. According to PressTV, U.S. troops are stationed in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

There is a huge U.S. base in Qatar, the Fifth Fleet is stationed in Bahrain, and there is a U.S. military airport in Oman. We can now add Al Udeid, the second-largest military base occupied by the U.S. There may also be secret and illegal bases in occupied Palestine.

There are currently 230 American military bases around the world, of the eleven U.S. aircraft carrier groups patrol oil supply routes used by China.

The U.S. military has killed over 500,000 people since the downfall of the USSR, destroyed access to clean water, bombed hospitals and infrastructure, and left behind huge areas so contaminated with depleted uranium as to be uninhabitable. This has all been done to maintain control of oil profits, by the single largest consumer of oil.

The fight to end capitalist exploitation, stop climate change and stop the imperialist wars are all the same struggle, and it is a race against time. Abolish the Pentagon and save the planet!
Puerto Rico unions close ranks against LUMA Energy

By Wilmariís Sánchez-romeu and Edwin ocasio feliciano

June 1 — Union organizations today warned Gov. Pedro Pierluisi and the Financial Oversight and Management Board that they will paralyze the country if the LUMA Energy contract that increases rates, allows the consortium to leave Puerto Rico if a hurricane strikes, and displaces thousands of workers, is not canceled.

“We are warning the advocate for the Financial Oversight and Management Board, Pedro Pierluisi, that there will be no peace in Puerto Rico if the contract is not repealed and they listen to the people who demand, not only a public and more efficient Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), but also one free from corruption,” said Edwin Ocasio Feliciano, coordinator of the Frente Amplio de Camioneros.

“This will be something temporary, we have lived through very difficult times, but we have also shown that the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico is our most effective tool; that the people will be the ones who will pay the consequences. To this must also be added the humiliating and abusive way in which they have treated the workers of the corporation, stripping them of their positions and rights and even the possibility of attending to the service needs of citizens. In the same way, we express our total and unconditional solidarity to the Alliance of Active Employees and Retirees, who have been bulldozed, abused, humiliated, and belittled by the government of Pedro Pierluisi and the dictatorship that governs the country,” she added.

The group reiterated its support and solidarity with the PREPA employees who have been transferred, to whom they advised to keep their calm.

“This will be something temporary. We have lived through very difficult times, but we have also shown that the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico is our most effective tool; if the people removed a governor, they may have the will to remove all the vultures that invade our country. We reiterate our support, solidarity and the commitment to make sure that LUMA’s days are numbered,” stated Antonio Cabán, president of the Federation Central de Trabajadores (Central Federation of Workers), Local 871/UFCW.

Union leaders maintained that they will fight alongside the Active Employees Alliance and the people to oust LUMA Energy from the country.

“The so-called rulers should have no doubt that they will have an ef