Union victory for Amazon workers
A turning point for labor?

By Sharon Black

The first crack in the Amazon empire is officially opened!

It came on April 1, when the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) won its election to represent the 8,000 warehouse workers at the JF8K facility in Staten Island, New York.

We can’t help but think that bazillion-dollar boss Jeff Bezos – whose racist anti-union attorney had earlier declared in a leaked memo that Chris Smalls, the young Black rank-and-file leader of ALU, to be “not smart or articulate” – woke up with a giant headache that day.

On the other hand, news of the victory elated workers everywhere. It has given confidence to workers in Amazon warehouses and facilities across the country. Chris Smalls, interim Amazon Labor Union president, has stated that the ALU has already heard from 50 warehouses interested in organizing.

In Maryland, warehouse workers who have been building a committee made plans to launch the Maryland Amazon Workers Union, based on the example of the ALU. The group has been distributing flyers to workers at bus stops.

Bessemer, Alabama

The outcome of the Bessemer warehouse vote has been a giant headache that day.

Just 30 minutes away from the Bessemer warehouse, the mine workers from Warrior Met Coal have been on a strike now going into its second year. The mine workers have been heroically holding out in a battle that symbolizes not just 900 miners fighting for justice, but workers everywhere fighting against billion-dollar bosses who do not want to let go of even a crumb of their own profits.

Some of the miners have taken jobs at the Amazon warehouse and this tends to strengthen union consciousness. But there is contradictory pressure also. The fact that these workers have been fighting for so long, under dire economic conditions, compounds the fear Amazon bosses have spread.

In addition, the average wages in Alabama are far lower than Staten Island, which makes Amazon’s pay look attractive.

But the pay does not mitigate the grueling conditions inside Amazon or the lack of power workers have to decide what to do. The mine workers have without representation.

Some key lessons of Staten Island

Many of us who have been in the trenches looking for ways to organize will be evaluating what worked and what didn’t at the Staten Island warehouse.

One clear fact that stands out is that the initiative and organizing was built by the workers themselves inside the warehouse.

Equally important is that the core organizers who took on this battle were representative of younger activists influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement. They spent time in the streets fighting police terror and other struggles against capitalism, including the development of mutual aid groups. Some of these workers consciously choose to take jobs at Amazon to help with organizing.

One thing that struck those of us from Baltimore who attended an ALU rally outside the Staten Island facility on March 20 was the care that ALU organizers had for fellow workers, similar to many grassroots community groups and assemblies. The Amazon Labor Union assisted and worried about workers faced with health and family crises, memorialized and marked the deaths of workers, and took on successfully fighting sexual harassment in the adjoining LDJ5 warehouse.

It is the example of this solidarity that is necessary to win struggles. In terms of tactics, it is likely that there will not be a “one size fits all” solution to organizing Amazon.

Workers will have to experiment – win, lose, or draw – and embrace what’s considered the “mainstream” solution to organizing Amazon.

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Will U.S./NATO militarization bring peace to Ukraine?

From the Emergency Campaign to Stop the War Lies street meeting in New York City’s Herald Square April 2.

By Lallan Schoenstein

When I woke up this morning, I thought about the protest today and I asked myself: Why are we engaged in another war?

Do you recall the recent withdrawal of the U.S. military from Afghanistan? Are the Afghani people better off after years of a war that plundered their economy? If the U.S. occupation improved the lives of those people would the U.S. forces have been driven out?

Did the U.S. war in Afghanistan benefit us here? Only a very small percent benefited. The rich are richer and we are poorer than before.

The U.S. has one of the highest death rates in the world from COVID-19. That is no natural disaster. It is because the U.S., with all its wealth, does not provide for a national health care system.

Now the U.S. Congress has withdrawn funds for fighting COVID in order to spend another $13.6 billion for the U.S. war machine in the Ukraine. Inflation fueled by the U.S. war machine is cutting down our income. Prices of gas, food and rents are skyrocketing.

It is another U.S. war. The horrors on the evening news were conceived in the Pentagon. Leon Panetta, former head of the Pentagon and the CIA, has declared this a U.S. proxy war against Russia.

NATO is not a peacekeeping alliance. It is a war machine commanded by the Pentagon, spawned by the U.S. to threaten the Soviet Union during the Cold War. During the last 20 years NATO has expanded into most countries along the Russian border filling them with ever more lethal weapons.

The Russians have seen the U.S. and NATO invade Afghanistan and Iraq. They saw it demolish Libya and attempt the same operation in Syria. In Iraq alone, the war and the embargo has killed about 2 million people including half a million children.

Will the U.S./NATO military funds bring peace to Ukraine — and improve our lives as well? NO! It is dragging the Ukrainians into catastrophe and threatening the well-being of the entire world.

Fight racism, not war!
'Stop War Lies' protest gets positive response in New York

By Struggle-La Lucha

New York bureau

On April 2, about twenty dozen activists gathered in New York City’s Herald Square shopping district for an action called “Stop the War Lies.” The protesters raised signs declaring “No war on Russia and Donbass,” “Stop supporting neo-nazis in Ukraine,” “Money for jobs and schools — not NATO,” and “Roll back gas and food prices.”

Get Pentagon off our backs!

Andre Powell of the Socialist Unity Party emceed the speak-out.

“This weekend marks the anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968,” Powell reminded the crowd. “Just one year before his death, Dr. King spoke out strongly against the Vietnam War. Well-thought-out words, words that summoned his memory and his stance against wars around the world, to raise our voices in support of the people of the Donbass region — the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics.

‘Stop the War Lies’ action in New York, April 2.

‘U.S. corporations and banks don’t have the right to decide that the people of the Donbass region should not be independent of Ukraine. But since the Donbass region made its declaration, they have been continuously bombed by Ukraine. And you heard not one damn word in the U.S. media. None of them mention the eight years of killing in the Donbas region by the neo-Nazi Ukrainian government.

‘Now they’re crying crocodile tears because Russia intervened at the request of the Donbass people for help. Russia did not invade; it intervened to protect the Donbass people who were being slaughtered by the Ukrainian government.’

‘The U.S. has one of the highest death rates in the world from COVID-19,’ said Lallan Schoenstein, who were being slaughtered by Russia. ‘And yet, when you go to your food market, can you afford a war for Big Oil?’

For us, the most important thing is to reach the working class and oppressed communities. We want to see what our class is feeling, and figure out the best ways to reach them with an anti-war message. That means getting out into the streets with an anti-war message. That means getting out into the streets with an anti-war message. That means getting out into the streets with an anti-war message. That means getting out into the streets with an anti-war message. That means getting out into the streets with an anti-war message.
Voices from Donbass speak to U.S. anti-war movement

By Struggle-La Lucha

On March 27, the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper hosted a webinar called “Stop the War: Voices from Donbass.”

This was a unique opportunity for the U.S. anti-war movement to hear directly from people in the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics (DPR and LPR), whose voices are silenced by the Western mass media’s pro-Ukraine war propaganda.

As audience members learned that the Zoom video conferencing service had suddenly blocked users in the DPR and LPR. Efforts to work around the ban through other services were unsuccessful, but thanks to pre-recorded messages from three speakers, the webinar was held successfully. The webinar was chaired by John Parker, Socialist Unity Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California, and SLA co-editor Greg Butterfield. Messages of solidarity were delivered by Jacqueline Lugman of the Black Alliance for Peace and Carlos Martinez of the International Manifesto Group. Solidarity messages were also received from the Workers Voice of Michigan, Marxist Worker’s Union of America, Communist Workers League, International Action Center and others.

Special thanks to translators Jane Letova, a Russian solidarity activist from Moscow, and Leonid Ilderkin, a leader of the Union of Political Refugees and Political Prisoners of Ukraine. Following are transcripts of the speakers’ remarks.

Kristina Melnikova, journalist in Donetsk

Melnikova has covered Ukraine’s war on Donbass for several years.

Heavy shelling of the Donetsk People’s Republic continues. There are wounded people every day among civilians. There are civilian deaths. I think it’s very important that you get to hear about this, because this is something that is not covered in Western media.

The most civilian casualties are happening in the Donetsk Republic, not the LPR. The biggest is the nuclear plant near Zaporizhzhya. Several of these nuclear power stations are now secured by the alliance of the Ukrainian opposition and Russian military. There are still a few in Western Ukraine. But the rest are very secure right now.

Another important accomplishment was to uncover biological research laboratories created by foreign powers in Ukraine. Some say they are of U.S. origin, others that they are British. These biological laboratories, apparently for the creation of viral weapons, were discovered and documented by human rights organizations. There is evidence of what these laboratories did. There are about 15 of them throughout Ukraine. Some of them are already being used by the warring parties in the Donetsk crisis.

Kristina Melnikova

Alexey Albu, political refugee in Lugansk

Albu is a coordinator of the Marxist organization Borota (Struggle), banned in Ukraine. He is a survivor of the May 2, 2014 massacre at the Odessa House for Trade Unions.

I’m pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you, comrades.

In the Lugansk People’s Republic, which has changed a lot since the beginning of the joint military operation by Russia and the Donbass republics, the shelling of cities and towns has been stopped. Terrorist actions have been stopped.

I remember the days when the Ukrainian military was trying to place as many of its forces as possible near the LPR’s borders. And I also remember how, when that happened in January and February, the republic tried to bring it to the world’s attention that the Kiev regime was bringing more and more forces and weapons to the frontline. This situation existed until the point where the army and nazi regiments like Azov Battalion brought their reserves of artillery shells, explosive devices and tanks, and their military vehicles to the closest point to the LPR and Lugansk, the capital town. This was clearly preparation for a major assault. It was at this point that the people of the republic began to evacuate their families abroad, to safety.

By March 4, everyone who evacuated from the LPR could have returned safely. Life began to return to normal. Some say that the people of the Lugansk region were terror attacks by Kiev. In Donetsk, people were injured and died. There were many wounded, but people continued to die – from artillery shells, mines and even from snipers.

I’m asking the U.S. anti-war movement to hear the voices of the people in Donbass. The situation is not finished on either side. In my native city, Odessa, I must admit the situation is not certain.

Long live the struggle against imperialism! No pasarán!

Katya A., activist in Donetsk

Katya A. is leader of the Aurora Women’s Club and a feminist, socialist and internationalist organizer.

I have been living in Donetsk for most of my life. I lived through almost the entire war and the economic blockade.

For more than a month we have been living in a phase of active escalation of the conflict. But I want to note that the escalation of the conflict to one degree or another took place through all eight years of the war. Since 2017, the intensity of shelling has gradually decreased, but people continued to die – from artillery shelling, mines and even from snipers. I’m talking about the civilian population of Donbass.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) report says that in the “territories not controlled by Ukraine,” i.e. the DPR and LPR, since 2017, three times more civilians have suffered from the war than in the controlled ones. I do not take into account now the destruction of infrastructure, residential buildings and psychological harm.

According to official data, more than 1,600 residential buildings, more than 400 infrastructure facilities, including hospitals, schools, gas supply and water supply facilities...
Refuting lies about ‘Bucha atrocities’

**‘War of fakes’**

The war of fakes is being escalated. Regarding the alleged atrocities in Bucha, Kiev region: The Russians left Bucha on March 30. On March 31, Bucha’s mayor reported that the town is free. On April 2 Ukrainian police and nationalist detachments entered Bucha and there were no dead bodies on the streets. On April 3 there appear pictures of dead bodies on its streets. Why exactly Bucha but not Hostomel, Irpin or Makariv – neighboring towns which the Russians also left? Because the name of Bucha resonates for English-speaking people with the term “butchery.”

Our authorities have also been re-ceive messages about alleged Ukrainians’ atrocities. They are told via anonymous chats that exchanged Russian POWs were castrated and had their fingers cut off. The Russians especially checked the released POWs and did the same operations to – cause more real atrocities from both sides.

Dmitri Kovalievich (Borotba), Kiev, Ukraine

**Russia demands U.N. session over Bucha ‘atrocity’**

Russia on Monday will again demand the U.N. Security Council meet the situation places a heavy burden on the shoulders of women, who still do most of the housework.

The former Indian ambassador [to the USSR] M.K. Bhadrakumar calls it an outright fake. “An indignant Moscow has angrily demanded a United Nations Security Council meeting on Monday over the allegations of atrocities by Russian troops in areas around Kiev through the past month. Prima facie, this allegation is fake news but it can make misperceptions by the time it gets exposed as disinformation.

“Even more surprising is within minutes of the ‘breaking news,’ western leaders – heads of state, foreign ministers, former politicians – popped up with statements duly kept ready and only based on the videos, seconds-long videos and a clutch of photos, ready to cheaply and rashly conflate, in order to ensure the safety of decision-makers in the direction of Kiev. The Kremlin explained it was taking that step to ensure safety on the decision-makers in Kiev to expedite talks.

Fars News Agency, April 4

**The Bucha provocation**

The Bucha “Russian” atrocities propaganda onslaught may have worked well in the “west” but it lacks evidence the Russians had anything to do with it.

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**Footage staged for Western media**

Russia’s Defense Ministry reject- ed allegations promulgated by Kiev, claiming that Russian troops had killed civilians in the Ukrainian city of Bucha.

The ministry stated that the images and videos claiming to depict dead civilians on the streets of Bucha were staged photos and videos created specifically to distribute via the Western media, Sputnik reported.

“[These images are] yet another provocation. During the time this settlement was under the control of the Russian armed forces, not a single local resident was hurt […][This is] yet another example of providing staged material from the Kiev regime for the consumption of Western media, as it was the case with the Mariupol ma- tters. This time, not to mention other cities,” the ministry said.

The defense ministry stressed that Russian troops abandoned the city on March 30 and reminded the audience that the city’s mayor, Ana- toly Fedoruk, confirmed this fact the next day. Furthermore, the ministry never mentioned in his video mes- sage March 31 that any civilians had been shot in the street with their hands tied, as claimed by Kiev.

During the whole time – right up until Sunday – that the city was under the control of Russian troops, residents of Bucha could move freely and had access to cell networks, the defense ministry stressed.

The ministry further noted that the images of the bodies on the streets emerged four days after the Russian troops left the city and im- mediately after the Ukrainian Security Service and the Ukrainian me- dia arrived at the scene. The bodies which have been videoed and photo- graphed show no signs of rigor mos- tis or lividity, and the blood on the wounds is fresh.

Russian troops withdrew from Bucha after the last set of talks be- tween Russia and Ukraine, during which Moscow announced a military de-escalation, which includes dras- tic reduction of military activities in the direction of Kiev. The Kremlin explained it was taking that step to ensure safety on the decision-makers in Kiev to expedite talks.

Fars News Agency, April 4

**Continued from page 4**

TASS Russian News Agency, April 4

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**Voice from Donbas**

Continued from page 4

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Our authorities have also been evacuating people since Feb. 17. Many people decided to stay. Many residents of former POWs – and tell that it’s a fake, nothing of that kind hap- pened to former POWs. The messag- es evidently are distributed to in- spire more anger. The purpose of the agents arrived in the locality.

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By Stephen Millies

The corporate media claim that all Ukrainians support President Zelensky, who has been most political parties except his own and the far-right. These news outlets also whitewash the fascist gangs — integrated into the Ukrainian army — that engage in torture.

The real history of Ukraine includes a rich revolutionary tradition both in Europe and North America. Even the anti-communist “Encyclopedia of Ukraine” admits that 4.5 million Ukrainians were members of the Red Army that defeated Hitler. Around 17 million Ukrainians earned medals for bravery. Over a million died in combat or were murdered in concentration camps.

One of the many sheroes was Lyudmila Pavlichenko, who was born near Kiev. She was the most successful woman sniper in history with 309 confirmed kills. Among them were 36 enemy snipers.

Pavlichenko was decorated as a Hero of the Soviet Union and made a tour of the United States. She spoke of how the Red Army was made of many nationalities on the basis of equality.

In contrast, the Jim Crow U.S. Army was so racist that even the blood supply was segregated. The folk singer Woody Guthrie wrote a song about Pavlichenko.

Oleksiy Fedorov was born in a Ukrainian peasant family. Fedorov was an outstanding leader of the partisan units that fought behind Nazi lines.

By 1943 Fedorov led 12 guerrilla groups that included 5,462 fighters. They engaged in 158 major battles with the fascists, derailing 6,875 armored trains and blowing up 47 bridges.

Fedorov became a major-general and was one of only two partisan leaders to be awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union medal twice.

Another partisan leader who became a Hero of the Soviet Union was Pyotr Vershigora. He was a son of two Ukrainian teachers.

Ace fighter pilot Ivan Kozhedub shot down 62 Nazi aircraft. The son of Ukrainian parents, he was a Hero of the Soviet Union three times.

Kozhedub became the first Soviet pilot to shoot down a Nazi Me-262 jet fighter. He later commanded a Soviet Air Division along the China-Korea border during the Korean War.

The National Air Force University in Kharkov, Ukraine, is named after Kozhedub.

Millions of Ukrainians reverie these anti-fascist heroes. They want to put a stop to the fascist gangs that worship Nazi collaborators like Stepan Bandera.

Bandera’s thugs helped the Nazis kill more than a million Jewish Ukrainians as well as tens of thousands of Polish and Roma people.

We call for the defeat of U.S. imperialism, which instigated this war and is a combatant as surely as it is in Yemen or anywhere else Washington’s proxy wars are carried out. After this week’s NATO summit, the imperialists are moving closer to direct intervention, which could precipitate an unprecedented global war.

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle La Lucha newspaper call for the victory of the Donbass republics and Russia in their defensive joint military operation to de-aznify and demilitarize Ukraine.

This what really means is: to end the eight-year genocidal war against the people of Donbass; to remove the neo-Nazi bootheel from the neck of the Ukrainian people; to reverse Ukraine’s transformation into a NATO war base that poses a threat to Russia, and return it to the formally neutral status before the U.S.-backed coup of 2014.

We are the backbone of the communist movement in Western Canada, and we condemn Cana da’s first communist politician, Winnipeg alderman William Kolinsky, Ukrainian-Canadian communist historians who supported the Winnipeg’s council wall into the 1930s, much to the alarm of the Ukrainian-Canadian right.

Veterinarian Orest Martynowych notes that when one Ukrainian-Canadian alderman urged the city to assist Jewish refugees, he was ferociously attacked in the right-wing Ukrainian-Canadian press.

From the film ‘The Ukrainian Labour Temple: A Cultural and Political Movement from Winnipeg’s North End’ (2012), directed by Aaron Floresco.
Malvinas War: a challenge to imperialism

By Scott Scheffer

This week the people of Argentina are commemorating the 40th anniversary of the April 2, 1982, war to take back the Malvinas archipelago from imperialist Britain. In the English-speaking world, the imperialist media usually calls this Britain’s “Falklands War.”

Six hundred forty-nine Argentine soldiers lost their lives and ultimately the British military held onto their colonialist-era possession of the islands. Yet the military campaign—a fight against imperialism—is a great point of pride for the people of Argentina. Argentina’s military sank the HMS Sheffield and damaged other British warships with Exocet missiles that were sold to them by imperialist France. Anti-imperialist demonstrators filled the streets of Buenos Aires, calling for victory over Britain.

The fact that Argentina was ruled by a repressive, right-wing military junta didn’t garner the masses’ support for anti-imperialist action at all.

In fact, the momentum of the anti-imperialist struggle fueled a desire for justice that burned in the hearts of Argentine people. The war to recapture the Malvinas ignited a resurgent people’s movement that ended the junta’s rule over Argentina within months.

Possession of the Malvinas had been contested between Spain, France and Britain in the 19th century. The islands could serve as a naval asset—valuable to the colonialist mission of dominating South America.

After winning independence from Spain, the flag of Argentina was hoisted over the islands in 1825 but Britain invaded and stole the archipelago in 1833 and held it for nearly 150 years.

By April 1982, negotiations for possession of the islands had yielded nothing. The junta’s long hold on Argentina’s government was shaky. Runaway inflation and working-class anger by bloody repression led them to launch an invasion to take back the Malvinas as a distraction.

The fact that the war was launched by the Argentine side, and that it was launched by a right-wing government, confused much of the U.S. anti-war movement. The limitations of pacifism prevented them from looking at the world situation in the context of the imperialist epoch. Moreover, the hated Reagan administration initially sided with the Argentine junta and that muddied the waters even more.

Imperialist secret diplomacy

In a 1990 article written during the leadup to the U.S. attack on Iraq, Marxist-Leninist leader Sam Marcý used the example of the Malvinas War to try to strengthen the movement’s understanding of imperialism. He described a moment in the early days of the war when the fog lifted and the relationship between imperialist countries and against all challengers to imperialism was illuminated.

Marcý wrote: “When the Argentine military decided to take the plunge and retake the islands, this greatly upset the reactionary Thatcher regime in Britain, which decided to militarily challenge the Argentine takeover.

“This in turn upset General Alexander Haig, who at that time was secretary of state under the Reagan administration. They had such a chummy relationship with the Argentine fascist military that they forgot the secret agreement that when the British needed military support in the North or South Atlantic, and especially those islands, the U.S. was obligated to give not only the necessary intelligence, but also air reconnaissance, satellite photos and other material assistance as needed.”

“Haig’s efforts to persuade Thatcher not to challenge the Argentine military were thwarted when she threatened to break up the agreement altogether, unless Washington supported Britain and lived up to the secret agreement. The Reagan administration, seeing the better part of wisdom, lined up quick- ly with the Thatcher government against the Argentine military in order to save the alliance, which was far more important to them.”

“The imperialist powers side with each other to this day to defend their respective ‘spheres of influence.’ The fact that they each fight for their own interests at times doesn’t shake their alliance.

The U.S., the European imperialist powers and Japan have the world divided up amongst them. The clear example of how they guard their world dominance is that capitalist Russia, over more than three decades, has been unable to reach a stage in its economic development when it exports capital—a feature of the imperialist state of capitalism.

At this point in history, even capitalist countries have to either be an appendage or a proxy of imperialism or they will be starved and punished. The U.S. is the preeminent imperialist power and has a military far greater than all the others combined. Even when it goes against the short-term interests of other powerful imperialist countries, they’re pressured in one way or another by the U.S. to ratchet up the pressure against targeted countries.

Today, U.S.-led NATO is the most prominent expression of this circumstance. The confusion over Russia’s operation in Ukraine, and of Russia’s defense of the people of the Donbass region, is similar to the U.S. movement’s reaction to Argentina’s war against imperialist Britain. The political character of the military junta didn’t matter to the people of Argentina. They cheered the war as a rebellion against imperialism and dealt a death blow to the junta afterward.

Russia is not led by a fascist military, but in any case, Putin’s character, or the nature of the Russian state, are not the question today. NATO’s expansion strengthens imperialism—U.S. imperialism in particular—and the abolition of NATO should be the rallying cry of the U.S. anti-war movement.

Marxists look below surface

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The surface level of Putin’s domestic pronouncements, you could come to the conclusion that there’s little difference from Bolsonaro in Brazil or Modi in India, whose ruling classes are fundamentally subservient to the U.S. But the life-and-death struggle of Russia to not be disheartened and compelled by Western imperialism has pushed it into the camp of countries and movements resisting U.S. imperialism, including Venezuela, Cuba, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Zimbabwe, Syria, Yemen and Iran.

With our modest forces and resources, we are doing what we can to clarify the issues and bring a genuine anti-war position to the working class. We have launched a campaign called “Stop the War Lies,” aimed at exposing the U.S.-NATO role in Ukraine and imperialism’s cozy relationship with Ukrainian fascists, educating about the cause of Donbass, and explaining how Wall Street, Big Oil and the military industrial profit from the war at the expense of people here.

Groups have been getting out into communities with fact sheets, holding picket lines and speak-outs. Last night, our comrades in Baltimore held a rush hour banner drop and leafleting action. Today folks in New Orleans and San Diego are doing community outreach. Next weekend, on April 2, we are building protests in New York and Los Angeles.

On March 27, we will hold a webinar featuring speakers from the Donbass republics, to help inform the anti-war movement and the left about the reality of the U.S.-Ukraine war.

We invite the organizations here to join this effort. We are open to collaborating with groups here in the U.S. and internationally. This is the moment to overcome secondary differences and build a united front against imperialism and war that can lay the foundation for future revolutionary struggles.

Victory to the Donbass republics and their allies! U.S.-NATO out of Ukraine! ⚙️
Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La sustitución y el desplazamiento del pueblo boricua ha tomado un ritmo sumamente acelerado, particularmente luego de la destrucción que causaron los huracanes Irma y luego María, en el año 2017. Para entonces, ya hacía 5 años – en el 2012 – que se habían implantado las nefastas Leyes de incentivos fiscales 20 y 22. Las que yo llamaría Leyes de Paraíso Fiscal que han atraído cientos de millonarios extranjeros. Pero lo que supuestamente iba a ser una inversión para la economía en Puerto Rico, ha demostrado que su verdadero propósito era el de terminar – más bien exterminar – la población isleña y hacer de Puerto Rico un centro de vacaciones y residencias para millonarios.

Han estado comprando las mejores tierras en las costas y montañas, sacando residentes de viviendas de interés social para convertirlas en habitaciones de arrendamiento corto. Han destruido los mangles y los corales en las costas, rellenando con cemento y poniendo en riesgo las comunidades aledañas al ser más susceptibles de ser arrasadas por marejadas y tsunamis.

Y todo con el aval del gobierno y sus agencias.

Pero ante este gobierno fallido, hay un pueblo que no cesa de luchar en defensa de nuestra tierra, exponiendo estos crímenes constantemente por las redes sociales y en manifestaciones. Y esto quedó demostrado esta semana cuando por fin, después de que expusieran públicamente los crímenes contra la costa sur en una Reserva Natural en Salinas, el Tribunal de Justicia ha hecho acusaciones de crimen ambiental contra agencias del gobierno, lo que ha hecho renunciar al titular del Departamento de Recursos Naturales.

Ante un gobierno criminal y fallido, un pueblo se levanta y lidera. Y así seguimos hasta que logremos la independencia y nuestra soberanía.

But it cannot and will not be the ultimate answer. The dynamic force of younger, more militant workers, who reject capitalism and worn-out models, and the engagement of the rank and file, will have to play the key role in reviving class struggle in this country.

Will this mark a new stage of the labor movement?

We believe it will.

The pandemic has laid bare the deep and undeniable problems of capitalism. Bezos and his class of billionaire bosses and bankers have scored a windfall of profits on the backs of workers. These are the conditions that are propelling struggle. We cannot forget that the Staten Island victory actually began with the walk-out of Amazon workers, led by Chris Small, against the callous disregard of the company for the health and well-being of workers during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This stunning fightback proves that the huge multinational, multi-gendered, multi-generation, multi-abled working class is just beginning to be heard, both in the workplace and the community. Everyone’s task is to join in and strengthen this movement.

Sharon Black is a former Amazon worker and author of the pamphlet “Amazon Worker Tells All” available free to download.

Amazon workers’ rally in Staten Island, N.Y., March 20.