



# U.S. escalates war against Russia

By Gary Wilson

The Pentagon has confirmed reports by the Associated Press and the Washington Post that the U.S. has boots on the ground in Ukraine. These troops are deployed to inspect and monitor U.S.-provided weapons in Ukraine, confirmed Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder in an official briefing on Nov. 1. The troops will be operating far from the U.S. Embassy in Kiev and are in no way involved with embassy security. Travis Tritten of military.com asked Ryder, “I’m wondering what the rules of engagement for those personnel are if they are fired on by the Russians or they are targeted by the Russians.”

In a long-winded reply, Ryder never answered Tritten’s question about what the U.S. would do if the Russians fired on any active-duty U.S. troops.

Tritten then said, “This [is] different because they would be working outside the embassy. I would just ask if people should read this as an escalation.”

The AP reported that a Pentagon official would not say where the military advisers are operating or how close to the battlefronts the U.S. troops are getting. The official said U.S. personnel are engaged in “inspections” where security conditions allow, not on the front lines.

On Feb. 24, when President Joe Biden announced sanctions on Rus-

sia, adding that the people of the U.S. must make a sacrifice and gas prices would rise, he said, “Our forces are not and will not be engaged in the conflict.”

Since that statement by Biden, the U.S. has intervened militarily in Ukraine with U.S. mercenaries (called contractors in media reports) engaged in the fighting. In addition, U.S. military advisers have been deployed to the Ukrainian military command, supplying military intelligence in real-time and engaging in planning and executing operations against Russian forces. Also, the U.S. has sent some \$70 billion in aid to Ukraine, including tens of billions of dollars worth of weapons and ammunition.

While the White House says there are no “combat” troops, this is how U.S. military escalations are launched. The U.S. military invasion of Vietnam began in May 1961 when President John Kennedy sent 500 military “advisers,” not combat troops, to Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City).

With U.S. troops inspecting Ukrainian arms and ammunition at Ukrainian military bases, this puts U.S. troops directly into a war zone, with the possibility of direct engagement with Russia. That makes it possible that the U.S. would engage in a direct shooting war with Russia.

This is definitely an escalation. The U.S./NATO “proxy war” against Russia may be shifting into direct conflict. 📌



Los Angeles

Photo: Walter Lippmann

## Demonstrations call for an end to U.S. blockade on Cuba

Large demonstrations on the East and West coasts of the U.S. took place Oct. 29 calling for the end of the blockade of Cuba just before the annual vote at the United Nations. Protests were held in New York; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Brunswick, Maine; Portland, Ore.; Duluth, Minn.; Laurel, Md.; and more than 20 other cities. 📌

# World stands with Cuba again!

By Alejandra Garcia

Once again, the United States has been left alone in its efforts to stifle Cuba. The General Assembly of the United Nations once again pronounced itself overwhelmingly against the economic blockade that Washington insists on maintaining against the island.

The UN member countries voted this Thursday on the Cuban resolution “Necessity of putting an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.” On this occasion, the document had 185 votes in favor, two against (the United States and its

unconditional ally Israel), and two abstentions (Jair Bolsonaro’s Brazil and Ukraine).

Today, the world is with Cuba, and it is no surprise. That U.S. policy is an outdated and ineffective measure that hasn’t achieved and will not achieve its objective and has ended up discrediting and isolating the United States itself.

It has already been 30 years of continuous defeats. Since 1992, the Caribbean island, besieged and on the verge of economic asphyxiation, has presented this resolution before the UN in New York. Today, not even U.S. citizens themselves support this policy of hatred. Proof of this is

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A U.S.-made Javelin missile on the frontline in Ukraine. U.S. troops will be ‘monitoring’ U.S.-made weapons in Ukraine.

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# Kroger-Albertsons merger means layoffs, higher food prices

By Scott Scheffer

A proposed deal between two of the biggest grocery chains in the U.S. — Kroger and Albertsons — has many thousands of workers worried about losing their jobs. It also raises the possibility of more food deserts and worsening food prices.

Grocery prices have already risen by nearly 12% in the latest capitalist inflation crisis. If the deal goes through, the new corporation will control 20% of the U.S. grocery market with 5,000 stores in the 48 contiguous states.

Corporate mergers are always followed by a period of consolidation of assets. That means closures of some stores and layoffs. Both Kroger and Albertsons have a history of disregarding workers' rights and turning their backs on the communities that have brought them billions of dollars.

Under the agreement, Kroger would buy Albertsons for nearly \$25 billion. It isn't by any stretch the largest dollar amount among corporate mergers. Others, among banks, telecommunications companies, and energy giants like Exxon Mobil, have been worth over 10 times that much.

It is the latest in a trend of retail mergers over the last 30 years. The emergence of big high-tech, warehouse-based corporations, Amazon, Walmart, and Costco, has set the wave of consolidations. By shrinking the workforce, they've taken over most grocery sales in the U.S.

In addition to combining with Albertsons, Kroger is looking to mimic the Amazon model by building giant high-tech warehouses at a dozen or more locations. This technology-based war among the retail giants is what underlies the proposed merger. At the same time, it has led to a heightened workers' struggle, including an energetic unionization campaign by tens of thousands of Amazon warehouse workers.

A consolidation deal in 2014 between Albertsons and Safeway illustrates how mergers wipe out jobs and how ineffective regulations have become. The Federal Trade Commission approved the deal with the condition that Albertsons sell 168 of their stores to a much smaller grocery chain, Haggen. Haggen only owned 18 stores at the time, and buying 168 more was a highly leveraged deal.

The obligation to sell to Haggen was supposed to ensure competition, but under-capitalized Haggen's failure was a foregone conclusion. Albertsons launched a competitive war against Haggen, forcing it into bankruptcy in just over a year. No federal regulator had the power to do anything about it.



Members of Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 rally outside Kroger's Mid-Atlantic Division headquarters in Roanoke, Va.

## Food Chain Workers Alliance

As corporations grow and control more of their market, capitalist regulations become proportionately weaker. Suzanne Adely, Co-Director of the Food Chain Workers Alliance, spoke with SLL about the merger and what capitalist consolidation can mean for workers, using the example of the meat and poultry industry.

"The industry is controlled by only a few big corporations. During COVID, the leverage they have meant that there was no transparency over health and safety. This led to a terrible number of Covid infections. It also means they have more control over the supply chain. For example, if they are a supplier for a government contract, maybe for school lunches, they can be chosen suppliers for the cheapest bid without regard for their health and safety record. Their sheer size diminishes transparency and lets them avoid any accountability."

Corporate mergers must be approved by one of the capitalist government's federal regulators. But the anti-trust system in the U.S. is weak by design. As a result, only rarely have similar mergers been blocked.

Capitalist competition leads to mergers. As a result, fewer and fewer corporations control larger market shares as time goes by under capitalism. This trend is part of the DNA of the capitalist economy and is explained by classical Marxism.

In the 19th century, most economists thought that the competitive era of capitalism was permanent. But Karl Marx recognized the inevitability of the concentration of capital and market share into the hands of fewer and larger corporations. In "Capital" he wrote, "The battle of competition is fought by the cheapening of commodities. The cheapness of commodities depends ... on the productiveness of labor, and this again on the scale of production. Therefore, the larger capitals beat the smaller."

Some Democratic politicians have spoken out against the merger, including Senators Bernie Sanders, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren. Their position against it may help to secure their base as the Democratic Party worries about the midterm elections. But corporate power rolls over liberal politicians all the time.

The only real challenge to corporate power is that of workers and the community. In 2019 Kroger closed five supermarkets in Los Angeles. The United Food and Commercial Workers union was joined by the LA chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, and a number of community organizations based in South LA in a fierce struggle to save workers' jobs and prevent another food desert in the Black community. This union and community alliance, along with the amazing union drive being conducted by Amazon workers, are examples of how to challenge capitalist corporations' attempts to maximize their profits and beat down the working class.

When we fight, we win! 🟩

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.



## NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING Thursday, November 24, 2022 12 Noon - Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Massachusetts

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

**Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!**  
**We welcome all our relations crossed by the US border & ICE.**

In 2022, while many supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event from Plymouth.

**United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)**  
**info@uaine.org \* www.uaine.org \* facebook.com/groups/Uaine**  
**Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/NDOM2022>**

**Donate: <https://bit.ly/DonateUaine2022>**

**Masks required! No social, but light box lunches may be available.**  
**#MasksUpMayflowersDown #NDOM2022 #NoThanksNoGiving**



Union labor donated!



# Demand buried evidence in Mumia's case be heard

By Lallan Schoenstein

Protesters rallied in Philadelphia at a Pennsylvania court on Oct. 26, demanding the release of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Protesters inside the court supported his lawyers, Judith Ritter and Samuel Spital.

The lawyers argued that six boxes, discovered in a storage room in the Philadelphia district attorney's office in December 2018, and disclosed to his lawyers the following month, contained evidence that their client's conviction was tainted. The discovery of this fresh "undisclosed evidence" provides the basis for a retrial.

The evidence buried in the Philadelphia district attorney's office since the original trial in 1982 documented that key witnesses were receiving promises of money for their testimony and evidence of favorable treatment in pending criminal cases. The lawyers also documented the abhorrent and unconstitutional practice of striking Black jurors during Mumia's original trial.

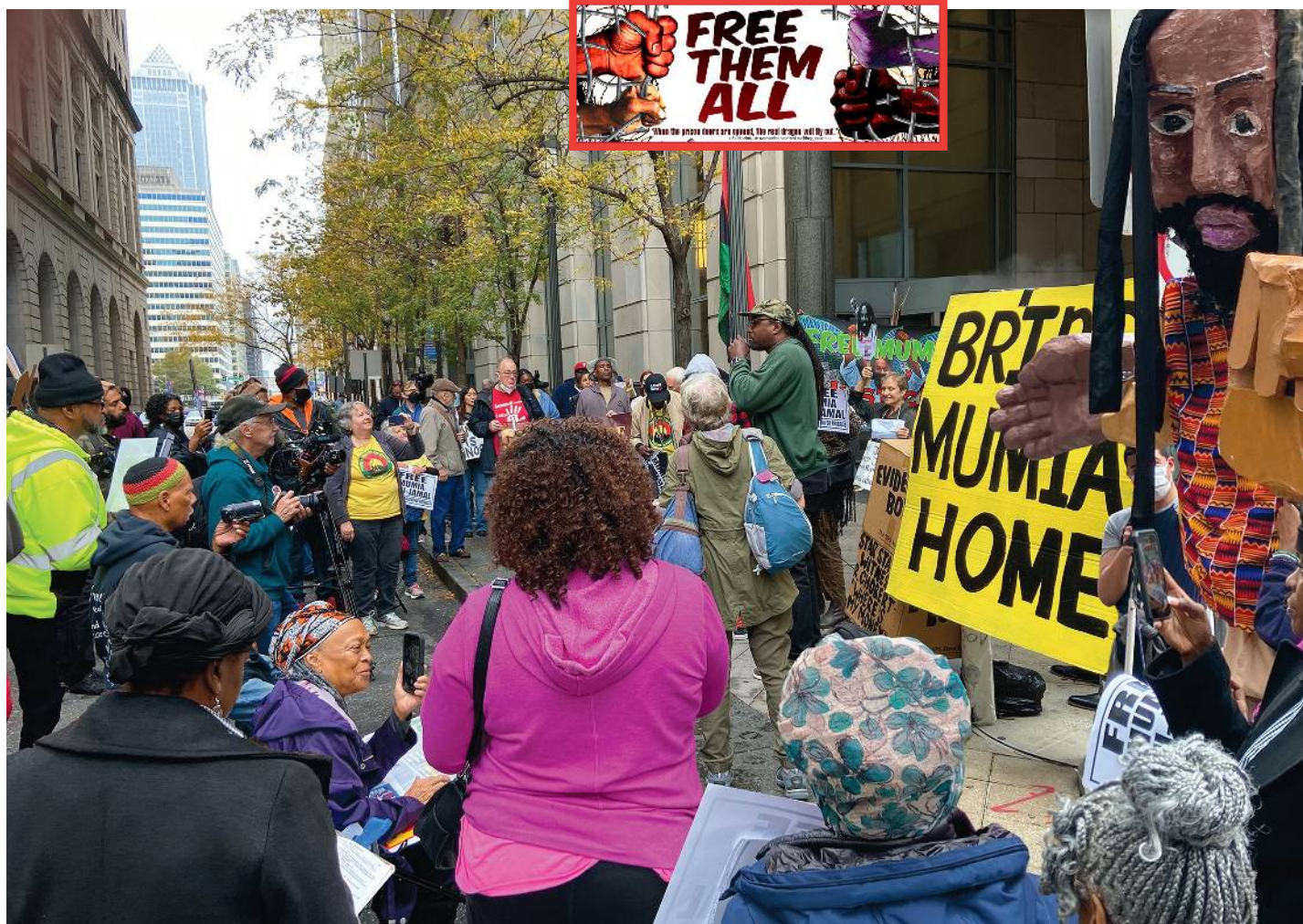
In the Common Pleas Court, Judge Lucretia Clemons proposed an order denying Mumia Abu-Jamal's constitutional claims of jury bias and suppressed evidence. Clemons adopted the prosecution's position that the defense had the opportunity to receive these notes by merely asking the district attorney for the files in prior court proceedings. This is a deliberate misreading of the record because Mumia's defense did not know about the evidence until December 2018. The DA had not previously revealed the presence of the documents to his lawyers.

In Judge Lucretia Clemons's oral statements from the bench, she adopted the Philadelphia District Attorney's positions meant to preserve Mumia's conviction. These arguments prevent the defense from putting on the record evidence of discrimination because the PCRA (Post Conviction Relief Act) allows the dismissal of critical evidence through procedural rules such as time bar, due diligence, waiver, and previously litigated, all to avoid a judicial review of the merits.

Mumia's lawyers have 20 days to reply, and the prosecution was given ten additional days to respond before the court's order dismissing Mumia's request for a new trial becomes final and appealable.

## All out on Dec. 16

The new court date for Mumia's case is Dec. 16. The Oct. 26 protests for Mumia took place from coast to coast, in Mexico City and abroad. Speakers at the rally on Oct. 26 said it was urgent now for supporters to spread the word and build a powerful response for the Dec. 16 court date. Demands for Mumia's freedom in the courtroom and on the street will bring to light the conduct of the court and DA.



Demonstration in Philadelphia at a Pennsylvania court on Oct. 26.

SLL photo: Gary Wilson

## Undisclosed evidence

Mumia was a young award-winning Black Panther journalist at the time of his incarceration. He was framed for the death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981. At age 68, he has spent 42 years in prison, now struggling with life-threatening health problems.

At around 4 a.m. on Dec. 9, 1981, Mumia's younger brother, William Cook, was stopped in his car by the Philadelphia police. Mumia, then working as a taxi driver, coincidentally passed them and came to his brother's assistance. Shots were fired. Mumia was shot in the stomach, and Faulkner was killed.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was put on trial in 1982, found guilty, and sentenced to death. Outrageous flaws and inconsistencies in the prosecution's case were revealed. His case came to represent the blatant racist injustice in the U.S. courts and prisons. The case generated an international movement. Protests grew in cities around the world. In the Port of Oakland, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Workers union shut down the port to save his life. After years of appeals and delays, Mumia was finally moved off death row in 2011. Since then, he has been held on life without parole.

Worldwide concern over his prolonged imprisonment led Amnesty International to investigate the case in 2000. They concluded that "numerous aspects of this case clearly failed to meet minimum international standards."

The Oct. 26 court petition was prompted by six filing boxes marked with Mumia's name found in a storage room in the Philadelphia district attorney's office in December 2018. The most egregious parts of the evidence in the boxes presented to the judge were the following:

► A handwritten letter sent from the state's star witness at trial, Robert Chobert, to the prosecutor, Joseph McGill. "I have been calling you to find out about the money own [sic] to me," Chobert writes. "Do you need me to sign anything. How long will it take to get it."

Chobert was one of only two witnesses at the trial who claimed to have seen Abu-Jamal shoot the police officer. No other evidence directly connected Mumia to the killing.

Mumia's lawyers argue that the letter indicates that Chobert "understood there to be some prior agreement or understanding between himself and the prosecution, such that the prosecution 'owed' him money for his testimony."

► The second witness who testified she had seen Mumia shoot Faulkner was Cynthia White, a prostitute with 38 previous arrests on her record. She was in prison in Massachusetts at the time of the trial and had five current criminal cases pending against her.

Among the documents in the boxes were letters from the DA's office to prosecutors involved in the five pending criminal cases against White. Mumia's lawyers argue that the letters "reveal a concerted effort by Mr. McGill and several Philadelphia DA unit chiefs to bring Ms. White back from Massachusetts, secure an early trial date in order to expedite her release, and ultimately allow her cases to be dismissed for lack of prosecution."

Such favorable treatment, they said, was designed to make "life easier for her in exchange for her testimony against Abu-Jamal."

► The issue of jury selection most clearly reveals the racism of the court. It is an issue that dominates the U.S. system of injustice. In Mumia's case, it couldn't be

more obvious. In the boxes were the handwritten notes that the prosecutor, Joseph McGill, kept as he filtered out possible jurors for the trial during jury selection.

The notes show that the prosecutor placed a large letter "B" next to any prospective juror who was black. During jury selection, McGill struck 15 people from the pool – 10 were Black.

The prosecutor blocked 71% of all potential Black jurors from sitting on the final jury. It is a violation of federal law to strike potential members from the jury on the grounds of race. His reasons for seating some white jurors and not seating non-white jurors were not on the record; they were in his notes.

## 'Voice of the Voiceless'

Mumia joined the Black liberation movement when he was a teen, in the late 1960s, after he came across the Black Panther party's newspaper. "A sister gave me a copy of the Black Panther newspaper, and I was dazzled. I made up my mind to become one of them," he told the Guardian in 2018.

"As part of his work with the Panthers, he was one of the first to visit the house in Chicago in December 1969, shortly after one of the movement's leaders, Fred Hampton, was shot and killed by police as he was sleeping in bed. 'We saw the bullet holes, which raked the walls. We saw the mattress swollen with Fred's blood. I was 15,' he told the Guardian."

Young Mumia was soon a leading Black journalist in Philadelphia. He was a prominent supporter of the Black liberation group MOVE. His courageous reports on the police persecution of MOVE are now historical. It is not a long stretch to imagine why his case has been so viciously

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# Elections: The empire strikes back

By Stephen Millies

Whatever happens in the midterm elections, a mudslide of racist and bigoted filth is pouring down from the heights of capitalist society. Teaching Black history is under attack by labeling it Critical Race Theory.

Using an increase in street crime — the result of a massive increase in poverty and homelessness — politicians are encouraging more police brutality and killings.

A special target has been transgender people, particularly transgender youth. Measures in Florida forbidding transgender youth from receiving gender-affirming care guarantee more deaths.

This wholesale hate campaign is the reaction of banksters and billionaires to the Black Lives Matter movement, the largest series of protests in U.S. history.

The 26 million people who took to the streets in 2020 forced the ruling class to discuss the deadly racist violence of the police. The conviction of the Minneapolis cops who killed George Floyd was one of the few actual concessions made to oppressed people.

It was only because of an uprising in Minneapolis that any justice was administered to these killers in uniform. It took a mobilization in Georgia to send the murderers of Ahmaud Arbery to jail.

Now, as reflected in the Wall Street Journal, most capitalists want to take back the primarily verbal concessions that were made concerning police violence.

They don't want their politicians to kneel in imitation of the courageous Colin Kaepernick. Billionaires

want their elected flunkies to kneel before them. None of the football clubs' super-rich owners are willing to hire Colin Kaepernick.

### Capitalists form public opinion

The tiny percentage of society that consists of the big capitalist families is dragging millions of others behind them, including many workers. There's nothing new in this.

Almost 180 years ago, Karl Marx wrote that "the ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch," meaning the time period, "the ruling ideas." The not-so-dead hand of slavery continues to brainwash millions of white people.

It takes an upsurge of millions for people to break with the lies of the master class. That's a reason why Black Lives Matter is so hated by the wealthy and powerful. It reached into small, largely white towns that had never seen a protest before.

That movement, like any upsurge, has receded for the time being. Voters are subjected to billions of dollars of TV ads. More selective are Facebook and other social media posts that attempt to target individual voters.

The effect of this media barrage can be seen in Wisconsin. The Trump campaign in 2020 flooded the state with racist ads attacking the demonstrations in Kenosha following the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Trump lost Wisconsin by only 20,000 votes.

Two years later, the Republican candidates for governor and U.S. senate are again flooding the state with racist ads attacking the Kenosha anti-racist uprising.



Protesters march down 5th Avenue in New York City in Black Lives Matter demonstration on June 10, 2020.

A special target has been the liberalized bail laws instituted in New York state and some other places. The eighth amendment to the U.S. Constitution declares that "excessive bail shall not be required."

Any bail that's unaffordable to poor people is excessive and amounts to ransom. In Arizona, 80% of jail inmates haven't been convicted of anything. Their real crime is being poor.

The Black youth Kalief Browder spent three years in New York City's Rikers Island prison because his family couldn't afford to bail him out.

He spent 700 days in solitary confinement before his charges were dropped. Then, on June 6, 2015, Kalief Browder hanged himself in his family home.

This tragedy doesn't prevent Lee Zeldin, the New York Republican candidate, from demanding the new bail laws be repealed.

### We must struggle

The capitalist offensive can also be seen in the union representation elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. The tremendous victory by the Amazon Labor Union at a Staten Island, New York,

warehouse in April took the establishment by surprise.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon's executive chair whose fortune exceeds \$120 billion, counter-attacked. Amazon is spending untold millions for union busting. The union victory in Staten Island has not yet been repeated.

Despite workers at over 200 Starbucks locations voting for union representation, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz

refuses to discuss a union contract.

Frederick Engels — the co-worker of Karl Marx — described capitalist elections as a barometer of the consciousness of the working class.

For millions of people, the 2020 elections represented a break with more than 40 years of reaction and increased racism. But President Biden has given little in the way of help to poor and working people.

The White House and Congress can find \$70 billion for the war against Russia, yet it can't house the homeless. Inflation is cutting families' income while corporations declare record profits. People line up at food banks.

Reactionary and bigoted politicians feed off this increased misery. The only way forward is more struggle in the streets and workplaces.

Capitalists want to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid while jacking up the retirement age to 70. We won't let them!

The future can be seen in thousands of railroad workers who've had enough and may go on strike. As dangerous as the election of Trump-supporting candidates are, the future is more struggle. ■

# Dockworkers fight for a decent contract

By Lallan Schoenstein

Early in the morning on Nov. 2, dockworkers, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Locals 10, 34, and 91, walked off the job in a one-day work stoppage, closing down the Port of Oakland. It was reported on KTVU Fox News that it will take a week to recover from the one-day work stoppage.

Keith Shanklin, past president of ILWU Local 34, said, "We've been trying since July 1 to negotiate a contract with the PMA. We've been faithfully working, even through the pandemic, without any stoppage." The workers are angry that the Pacific Maritime Association, representing the port's cargo ship carriers and terminal operators, is prolonging ill-faith contract negotiations with ILWU.

The militant "point of production" action occurred at the Port of Oakland. Dockworkers say that if all the ILWU locals on the West Coast were to call a strike, they would have the powerful leverage they need to settle contract negotiations with PMA.

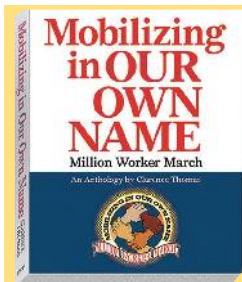
PMA is under additional seasonal pressure to unload the holiday merchandise currently in the port and still at sea. At the same time, a possible nationwide rail strike that was thought to have been settled looms again after two major unions rejected that contract proposal.

KTVU Fox News reported that a "West Coast port closure and a national rail strike would quickly return the entire U.S. to the bad old days of the supply chain crisis, perhaps even worse."

Keith Shanklin served as president of Local 34 during the pandemic. He and past president Trent Willis of Local 10 demonstrated strong leadership during the pandemic. Keith Shanklin, 'Shank', also served as the secretary-treasurer of the Million Worker March.



Keith Shanklin, past president of ILWU Local 34, was interviewed about the Port of Oakland Shut Down, protesting the lack of a contract after five months of negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).



### 'Mobilizing in Our Own Name, Million Worker March'

'This is a call to working people to unite and mobilize around our own agenda. We have been subject to an unrestrained corporate assault. This is the moment; this is the time for us to advance our own demands, our own needs and to proclaim a political agenda in our own vital interests.'

– Clarence Thomas. ILWU Local 10 retiree, Co-convenor of the MWMM  
Author of 'Mobilizing in Our Own Name' anthology





# How to not build unity

By John Parker

The U.S. has ramped up its push towards World War III with further provocations against China and Russia. Not only has Washington admitted to and committed to adding more troops outside of Kiev – to engage more closely with the Russian troops in Ukraine – but this year’s National Defense Strategy document basically declares war on China in particular. The reasoning is simply that China is a “competitor” of the U.S. economically and in terms of military readiness, even though currently China has not declared war on anyone or participated in any proxy war against anyone – China belongs to no military alliance threatening anyone.

Because of Washington’s escalations, it is absolutely critical that the anti-war, union, social justice, and liberation movements build even greater unity. We must organize to stop not only the U.S.-NATO trajectory of world war but the added danger of the rebuilding of fascist movements here and in Europe. Neo-Nazi groupings are being funded with billions of U.S. dollars in weapons and training in Ukraine.

Vladimir Lenin led the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia, which led to the formation of the Soviet Union. In facilitating the formation and cohesion of the Soviet Union, he was forced to grapple with the reality of disunity, stemming from a lack of trust among the non-Russian populations in much of the Soviet Union. He realized that the privileges given to and the racism used by the white Russian population caused a lack of trust among the non-Russian communities and territories. Indeed, Czarist Russia had been called the prison house of nations.

Lenin understood that to build unity, trust had to be built first. The formerly oppressed nations would not necessarily believe in the benefits of socialism or of becoming part of a country building socialism. Lenin could have lectured these nations about the benefits of socialism and demanded that their areas be incorporated into the Soviet Union. Instead, he advocated that people living in these areas be given the choice to become part of the Soviet Union, or enter as autonomous regions of the Soviet Union, where they would be encouraged to continue their own culture and language. They were to be provided with schools and medical facilities and all the benefits of the state, in hopes that this would first build trust and unity and thereby facilitate further incorporation into the Soviet Union.

### The Congress of Nationalities

The Soviets even established a Congress of Nationalities as a part of parliament. It was set up to ensure that the oppressed nations had a voice, equal in power to that of the Russian population.

The successful unity that was built in most of the life of the Soviet Union has been a model for building solidarity in working-class movements around the globe.

As we endeavor to rebuild the unity of our class here in this country, we must remember that trust built with the most oppressed communities of color in the U.S. is absolutely essential – and mandatory – if any progress toward real unity is to be made.

However, there has been another current in the anti-war movement negating these truths. This current mistakes the necessary unity amongst working people and their allies with a unity that includes even

the most racist sectors of the ruling class.

It’s very interesting that those in the anti-war movement who see promise in the right-wing forces like Trump and Tucker Carlson of Fox News and the Republicans, Libertarians, and LaRouchites do not seem to be from the oppressed communities of color.

### No collaboration with white supremacists

There’s an obvious reason for this. Black and Brown people (in general) have no interest in any collaboration with people who want to commit genocide against them.

They don’t want to associate with the Ku Klux Klan and any of the many manifestations of white supremacist groups like that, whether it be the Rise Above Movement responsible for the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, North Carolina, that killed anti-racist activist Heather Heyer, or the Proud Boys with their collaborator Kyle Rittenhouse who terrorized and killed anti-racist activists attending a march for Black lives in Wisconsin; or anyone who supports the genocide against Black and Brown people by former president Donald Trump.

Before, during and after his presidency, Trump encouraged the genocidal murders against Black and Brown people by the police and Bor-

der Patrol. This is the person who called the countries of our ethnic origins “\*thole countries and made immigration policies that corresponded with his racism while encouraging dangerous white supremacists who had killed or assaulted people in Charlottesville, North Carolina, as “some good people.” There’s more to say about Trump and his followers, but that is enough to get the point across – and that is this:

If the anti-war movement wants to build the necessary unity to combat this trajectory of World War III by the Biden administration or whoever gets in office next – don’t ask Black and Brown people to “just get over it,” or “move on” or any number of ways to negate the type of solidarity Lenin understood in unifying that prison house of nations. Speaking of another prison house of nations with the largest prison population in the world, the other thing Trump encouraged was putting more Black people in jail, from his calling for the death of the Central Park Five, framed for an attack they did not commit, to encouraging the prison-industrial-complex and its disproportionate makeup of Black and Brown people, following the lead of Joe Biden who helped write some of the bills making that possible.

Instead of building unity, that negation of solidarity will destroy it. [u]

## Demand buried evidence in Mumia’s case be heard

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targeted by the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police over the years.

The widow of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner became a spokesperson for FOP’s campaign against Mumia. Read the “Open Letter to Maureen Faulkner” from Julia Wright. ([tinyurl.com/3r23p9ns](https://tinyurl.com/3r23p9ns))

During his years in prison, Mumia Abu-Jamal has been outspoken on the side of other political prisoners like Leonard Peltier. He often realizes the needs of his oppressed sisters and brothers in and out of prison by writing and broadcasting their truths. Mumia has come to be known for speaking for “the voiceless.” When he was dangerously ill with hepatitis, he insisted that all the ill prisoners be treated with the life-saving medication they were denied before he was. You can listen to his brilliant commentaries and podcasts at [PrisonRadio.org](https://PrisonRadio.org).

“Mumia Abu-Jamal is a broadcast journalist and internationally



recognized author. Mr. Abu-Jamal is serving a life sentence at SCI Mahanoy in Pennsylvania. He is the author of 13 books, holds a Master’s degree in Comparative Literature, and is currently working on the requirements to complete a Ph.D. in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California Santa Cruz,” reported Prison Radio, Oct 27, 2022. [u]



<https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

### BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle. This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

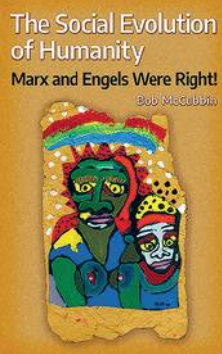
**Black August** celebrates legacy and accomplishments of Black women.

► The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom ► Contributions by Gloria Verdieu

► Carl Muhammad ► Zola Fish ► Mary Lou Finley ► Dennis Childs ► Eusi Kwayana

► Mumia Abu-Jamal ► Curtis Howard ► Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telafaro



Paperback or Kindle <https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

### The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, *‘Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.’*

McCubbin is the author of *‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’* Published in 1976, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.



# North Korea responds to massive, ‘reckless’ U.S.-led war games

By Gary Wilson

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has condemned the five days of U.S.-South Korea joint war drills that launched Nov. 1.

After a flurry of joint exercises held in April, August, September and October – some of which included Japan – a DPRK spokesperson said the Nov. 1 aerial drills were the “largest-ever” in history and showed that “the U.S. nuclear war script against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has entered the final stage.”

The north vowed to take “all necessary measures” to defend itself, saying that the joint aerial drills are in preparation for a nuclear strike on the DPRK.

A statement from a foreign ministry official cited in KCNA describes “an aggression-type war exercise with the basic purpose of hitting strategic targets of the Democratic



Photo: South Korea Defense Ministry

People’s Republic of Korea,” which presents the risk of “serious confrontation with great powers.”

“Nowhere in the world can we find a military exercise with an aggressive character like the joint military

exercise held by the United States and its followers in terms of duration, scale, content and density,” the foreign ministry official said. “The U.S. nuclear war script against the Democratic People’s Republic of Ko-

rea has entered the final stage.”

The drills include about 100 U.S. warplanes and 140 South Korean aircraft, with Australia also participating.

The DPRK foreign ministry official said, “We are ready to take all necessary measures to protect the sovereignty of the country, the safety of our people and our territorial integrity from external military threats,” adding that Washington will “pay an equal price if it attempts to use force against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”

The foreign ministry official reiterated that the DPRK’s nuclear arsenal is for defensive purposes only.

### Protests in South Korea

Massive protests are ongoing in South Korea, demanding the end of right-wing President Yoon Suk-yeol’s tenure and the U.S.-South Korea-Japan war exercises.

# Military intervention is not the answer to Haiti’s crisis

By Elson Concepción Pérez

History has shown that military interventions, generally against poor countries of the so-called Third World, far from being a solution to alleviate hunger and constitute stable governments, have been the cause of destabilization and mere formulas of colonization and neo-colonization.

Haiti, the most impoverished nation in the region, has suffered many military interventions which, if they had been translated into economic aid, would have contributed greatly to its development.

In recent days, the U.S. newspaper The Washington Post published an editorial on the situation in Haiti, in which it spoke of “forceful action on the part of external actors.”

Days later, the governments of the United States and Canada announced the dispatch of military aircraft to carry weapons for the country’s security services.

But the situation added a new component: on October 15, the United States submitted a draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for the “immediate deployment of a multinational rapid reaction force” to Haiti.

Earlier, at the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2022, Haitian Foreign Minister Jean Victor Genus admitted that his country faces a serious crisis which, he said, “can only be resolved with the effective support of our partners.”

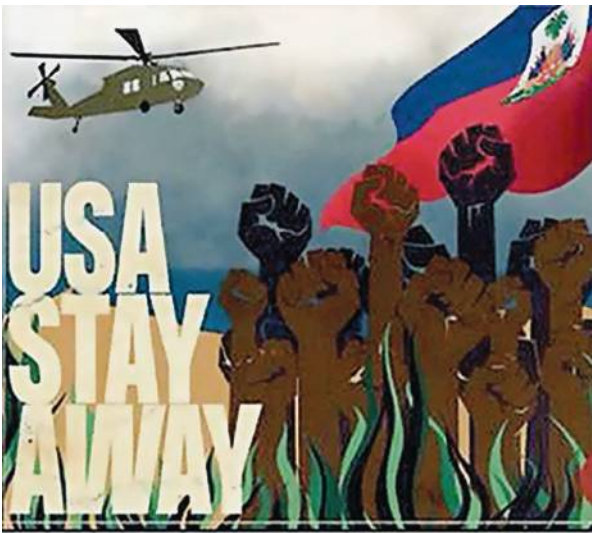
The lessons of history suggest that both the UN and the international community should bet on the formula – practical and supportive – of stimulating negotiations between the Government and some sectors, not only opponents, but also destabilizers, and – fundamentally – make contributions that facilitate work, investment, education and health plans, and the construction of a less violent society, more committed to

its present and future.

Haiti, the first colony to achieve its independence in the Caribbean region, has gone through, since that January 1, 1804, after a fierce armed struggle against the French metropolis, a thorny path in which adverse elements converge, such as colonization itself, the subsequent American presence in neocolonial style, misery and hunger, armed gangs and, if anything, the punishments of nature with earthquakes, times of drought and other adverse components.

It would be worthwhile a greater conjunction of external factors, that the word intervention be replaced by that of solidarity contribution. Haiti needs food, not weapons.

The food crisis, an inflation rate of 33%, and more than 40% of the population below poverty levels, with 4.7 million people suffering from



food insecurity – according to data from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) – cannot be solved with foreign military interventions.

In addition, in recent weeks a new outbreak of cholera has already claimed the lives of dozens of people, and there are many more confirmed cases.

Solidarity and the search for solutions that contribute to abolishing hunger and unhealthy conditions should not be left for later. Weapons and military interventions are not part of the formula for the Caribbean country.

Source: Granma, translation Resumen Latinoamericano – U.S.

# ‘Let’s get out of NATO’: Protests across Europe

Mass demonstrations continued across Europe in October. Primarily they were protests against skyrocketing energy prices and soaring inflation. They were also against war and the sanctions on Russia that are seen to be directly responsible for the cost of living crisis across Europe.

Tens of thousands of people have marched in cities in France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany. Most are fed up with sanctions on Russia that have sparked economic ruin. Also, support for the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine is falling.

– Gary Wilson



Dresden, Germany, October 30, 2022.



# Alexis Castillo (Alfonso), internationalist fighter in Donbass



By Communist Party of the Donetsk People’s Republic

An internationalist warrior from Colombia, a member of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People’s Republic (KPDPR), a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth of the DPR, Alexis Castillo (callsign Alfonso), died under shelling from shrapnel wounds. He fought off the offensive of the Ukrainian Nazis on the village of Peski. Alexis Castillo was born in Colombia and lived in Spain for a long time. Eight years ago, he came to defend the inhabitants of Donbass from Ukrainian Nazism.

Our deceased comrade was a convinced communist, a decent and modest man. Until the end of his life he remained faithful to his duty as an internationalist warrior. In Donetsk, Alexis is survived by his wife and son. We extend our condolences to his family and friends. Everlasting memory!

Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People’s Republic  
October 28, 2022  
Translated by Melinda Butterfield Source: Forward

# World stands with Cuba again!

Continued from page 1

that two nights ago, in the mythical Chrysler skyscraper in the Big Apple, a luminous sign caught the attention of the city dwellers and the world: “Down with the Blockade,” next to an image of the Cuban flag. At the top of the building, the messages “Sanctions are a violation of human rights,” “Biden, vote for peace and justice” were also read; images that have been on the front page of major international media in the last hours, prior to the vote. New York, the American people, and the world want peace, but the White House doesn’t want to listen to these demands. It is stuck in the past, and without an ounce of courage, Biden has followed

in the footsteps of previous administrations, Republican and Democrat alike, who adhere to the single notion of crushing Cuba and the example it projects to the world. During its first opportunity to pronounce itself, in 2021, the administration of Joseph Biden voted against the resolution, and today it rejected once again the document, which shows, among other painful facts, that during the first 14 months of the Biden administration, the damage to the Cuban economy is estimated at \$6.35 billion, equivalent to more than \$15 million per day. Cuban authorities have repeatedly denounced the blockade that has not only been in place for more than six decades but that it has intensified in

Voting Ended		03-Nov-22	12:04:52
Item 36 - Draft resolution A/77/L.5			
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against			
AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	FINLAND	KUWAIT
ALBANIA	CANADA	FRANCE	KYRGYZSTAN
ALGERIA	CENTRAL AFR REP...	GABON	LAO PDR
ANDORRA	CHAD	GAMBIA	LATVIA
ANGOLA	CHILE	GEORGIA	LEBANON
ANTIGUA-BARBUDA	CHINA	GERMANY	LESOTHO
ARGENTINA	COLOMBIA	GHANA	LIBERIA
ARMENIA	COMOROS	GREECE	LIBYA
AUSTRALIA	CONGO	GRENADA	LIECHTENSTEIN
AUSTRIA	COSTA RICA	GUATEMALA	LITHUANIA
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BAHAMAS	CROATIA	GUINEA-BISSAU	MADAGASCAR
BAHRAIN	CUBA	GUYANA	MALAWI
BANGLADESH	CYPRUS	HAITI	MALAYSIA
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BOLIVIA	DOMINICAN REP...	IRAQ	MEXICO
BOSNIA-HERZEGOV...	ECUADOR	IRELAND	MICRONESIA (FS)
BOSNIA-HERZEGOV...	EGYPT	ISRAEL	MONACO
BRAZIL	EL SALVADOR	ITALY	MONGOLIA
BRUNEI DARUSSAL...	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	JAMAICA	MONTENEGRO
BULGARIA	ERITREA	JAPAN	MOROCCO
BURKINA FASO	ESTONIA	JORDAN	MOZAMBIQUE
BURUNDI	ESWATINI	KAZAKHSTAN	MYANMAR
CABO VERDE	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	NAMIBIA
CAMBODIA	FUJI	KIRIBATI	NAURU
IN FAVOUR:185		AGAINST:2	
		ABSTENTION:2	

recent years. Besides, the unilateral and fraudulent designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism reinforces the impact of that policy of economic asphyxiation. Fidel’s words expressed 13 years ago came to life to me today: “The cynicism of U.S. policy hurts. It speaks of democracy while it includes Cuba on the list of terrorist countries, applies the murderous Cuban Adjustment Act exclusively to our nation, and blocks it economically.” According to Cuban journalist Elson Concepción, being blockaded continues to be the price paid by those of us who declare ourselves free and sovereign, a condition conquered during years of struggle against Spanish colonialism, first, and U.S. neocolonialism, later. “The blockade causes Cuban children to suffer the lack of some medicine, the implant of an organ, or the use of a reagent, for the ridiculous reason of having only 10% of U.S. components,” he added. During his election campaign,

Biden promised to change the U.S. policy path toward Cuba, but this has not happened. Meanwhile, Cuban families suffer when their children decide to emigrate in an unsafe way; they suffer from the lack of indispensable goods, such as food and medicine. They also suffer because they want their country to grow economically. After all, there’s no better place to live than where you were born and raised. For the thirtieth time, the world said “No” to the blockade and is anxiously waiting for this to be the year of definitive changes. The U.S. would be a better place for it, a fairer one. Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – U.S.



# Remembering Fatima Bernawi

Continued from page 8

One journalist who interviewed Bernawi recalled that she discussed a memorable interaction with Omar al-Qasim, the imprisoned leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine who is renowned for his role in sparking Palestinian armed resistance inside the occupied West Bank of Palestine as well as for his later leading role in the prisoners’ movement. Both she and al-Qasim were brought by occupation soldiers where several Palestinian resistance fighters were holding Zionist military trainees hostage, while prison guards demanded they use a megaphone to call on the fighters to let the soldiers go. Bernawi refused to speak through the megaphone at all, while al-Qasim took up the megaphone and instead called on the fighters to carry through with the orders of their leadership. Al-Qasim was beaten and dragged away by occupation forces; later, in 1989, he died in Israeli occupation prisons after lengthy medical neglect and follow-

ing weeks of appeals by his family for his freedom. Along with Dalal al-Mughrabi, Shadia Abu Ghazaleh, and Leila Khaled, Bernawi remained a symbol of Palestinian women’s steadfastness and commitment by all means to liberate their homeland from the river to the sea. In fact, Bernawi met Dalal al-Mughrabi before she led her commando operation to occupied Palestine, although she was not aware of the operation planned; al-Mughrabi told Bernawi, “I am going to the place you came from.” Bernawi understood the full meaning of al-Mughrabi’s words when she received news of the commando operation and her martyrdom. Fellow freed prisoner Aisha Odeh saluted Bernawi in a Facebook post: “Goodbye Fatima Bernawi, daughter of Jerusalem and great fighter, the first to seek freedom and dignity and refuse defeat...she became a beacon for us, guiding us to the path of struggle,” Odeh wrote. Source: Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network



# Situaciones indignantes por ser colonia

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia, Estos pasados días han sucedido particularmente dos situaciones que abonan a la indignación de ser un estado colonial.

Una tiene que ver con la energía y la otra con la migración hacia Puerto Rico. Pero ambas demuestran la impotencia que tenemos como pueblo para solucionar graves problemas que afectan miles de vidas humanas.

La privatización impuesta en nuestro país de la industria energética ha creado plantas de generación ajenas a la realidad que tenemos como isla caribeña donde tenemos sol la mayor parte del año. Plantas ultra tóxicas que queman carbón y otras a base de gas natural. Carbón que llega de Co-

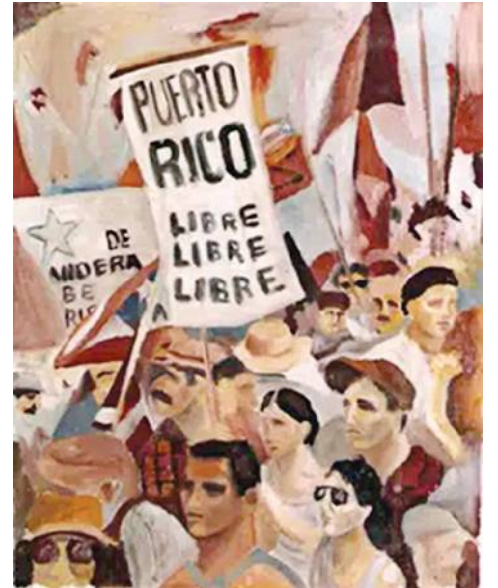
lombia y gas proveniente de los Estados Unidos.

Una de las plantas a base de gas se quedó sin suministro en medio de la crisis desatada por el Huracán Fiona, pero el cargamento llegó en un barco con bandera de las Islas Marshall. Por una Ley de Cabotaje impuesta a PR que obliga a que toda mercancía debe llegar en barco, tripulación y

bandera estadounidense, no se pudo descargar el gas, afectando la vida de miles de personas que quedaron sin luz. Tuvo que Biden proclamar una dispensa de 10 días para que el barco pudiera tocar tierra en PR.

La otra ignominia ha sido que más de cien refugiados de Haití, hermanos y hermanas caribeñas que llegaron aquí huyendo del terrible conflicto en su país, no puedan ser bienvenidos por el pueblo boricua para brindarles el apoyo que necesitan y que queremos darle. Porque es la Guardia Costanera y otras autoridades estadounidenses las que deciden quién entra a Puerto Rico. Porque es Estado Unidos quien controla nuestras fronteras aéreas y marítimas.

Una razón más para acelerar la lucha por la independencia. ¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!



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

## Remembering Fatima Bernawi

On Thursday, 3 November, Palestinian struggler and liberated prisoner, Fatima Bernawi, the first Palestinian woman prisoner of the modern Palestinian revolutionary era and a prominent Afro-Palestinian figure, passed away in the Palestine Hospital in Cairo, Egypt at the age of 83. Bernawi was renowned as a symbol of Palestinian women's participation and the participation of Palestinians of African descent in the armed struggle and the Palestinian prisoners' movement.

Bernawi was born in Jerusalem in 1939 to her Nigerian father and Palestinian mother. In 1948, she was forced to a refugee camp near Amman with her mother before returning to Jerusalem, where her father had remained, in 1960; they lived in the African quarter of Jerusalem. At the age of 9, Bernawi had earlier smuggled herself into Jerusalem to reunite with her father. Bernawi's father had been an active participant in the 1936-39 revolution in Palestine and in the defense of Palestine during al-Nakba, and she became an early member of the newly formed Fateh movement.

Bernawi worked as a UNRWA nurse in Qalqilya during the 1967 occupation and saw firsthand the impacts of the Zionist onslaught on the West Bank of Palestine. She would later declare that she undertook armed struggle "because you destroyed Qalqilya," in a statement



### REMEMBERING FATIMA BERNAWI

Palestinian freedom fighter, the first Palestinian woman prisoner of the contemporary Palestinian revolution

to the interrogators who held her.

She was one of the first women to plan an armed operation in Palestine, the attempted bombing of a cinema screening a film celebrating the occupation of 1967 in Jerusalem; she and a fellow woman freedom fighter left behind a handbag containing an explosive. Although it was found before being detonated, she was seized by occupation forces on 19 October 1967 and became the

first Palestinian woman political prisoner of the contemporary Palestinian revolution.

She was sentenced to 30 years in prison and was released on 11 November 1977 in a prisoner release agreement. She was exiled to Jordan and then Lebanon under the exchange terms, where she returned to the Palestinian revolution as a member of social organizations. She later returned to Gaza in 1994 and lived with her husband, fellow liberated prisoner Fawzi al-Nimr, who died last year. She and al-Nimr have lived in Cairo for the past sev-

eral years. Al-Nimr, who had been a fighter with the Akkawi group that targeted specific Zionist military installations, served over 15 years in occupation prisons with his comrades, and he was freed in an exchange with the Palestinian resistance in May 1985.

Her sister, Enaam Bernawi, was jailed for one year alongside her sister. During Fatima Bernawi's time in the occupation prisons, she was jailed with fellow Palestinian woman freedom fighter Zakia Shammout, who was pregnant and gave birth in her prison cell accompanied by her fellow women prisoners. As a trained nurse, Bernawi cut the umbilical cord and ensured the life and health of Shammout and her daughter, Nadia.

While Bernawi was the first Palestinian woman prisoner of the contemporary (post-1967) Palestinian revolution, she was always certain to cite fellow Palestinian women who had been jailed in the two decades of occupation prior, including many women detained, held in forced labor camps and subjected to harsh violence by occupation soldiers during the Nakba, as well as notable Palestinians like Ikhlas Ali, jailed for teaching children revolutionary songs in Palestine '48, and Nayfeh Akilah, a member of Al-Ard group — one of the first Palestinian revolutionary organizations formed following the Nakba — accused of sharing military information about Zionist forces with the Syrian army in 1956.

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Vol. 5, No. 21 Nov. 7, 2022

Vol. 5, Núm. 21 7 de noviembre de 2022