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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

Part-time jobs, no benefits: The real state of the working class

By Gary Wilson

In his March 6 State of the Union address, President Joe Biden declared, “We have the best economy in the world.” He said millions of new jobs had been created in the last three years and that unemployment was at record lows.

Fact-checking is not required for presidential speech writers, so exaggerations are acceptable. Biden was maybe speaking loosely. The morning after, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported a rise in unemployment in February, including a full percentage point increase for Black and Latinx workers.

But last month, Biden tried to back up his claims with a BLS report showing that over the 12 months ending in January 2024, average weekly wages increased by 3%, while the average price of consumer goods rose by 3.1%. So they are saying wages have almost, but not entirely, caught up with inflation.

Actually, the BLS report is like a trickster’s sleight of hand.

While the government reports a 3% wage increase, this figure is only for full-time workers, excluding a significant section of the workforce, such as part-time and contract workers. The full-time data includes “earnings” by management and corporate officers.

- ▶ Stock market mania
- ▶ ‘Let them eat flakes’
- ▶ Military spending and inflation

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On International Women’s Day, we salute Palestinian women and women worldwide struggling against U.S. imperialism and capitalist oppression.

It is imperative that we amplify the resistance of Palestinian women during the current genocide perpetuated by Israel and its puppet master, the U.S.

Their heroic resistance and sacrifice remains foremost in our hearts and minds this Int’l Women’s Day 2024.

▶ **PFLP on starvation massacre**

March for GAZA

- ▶ Los Angeles
- ▶ Michigan ▶ NYC
- ▶ Honor Aaron Bushnell!

- ▶ San Diego flood victims
- ▶ Bombs over babies
- ▶ ‘Exploring the Police State’
- ▶ Let’s GO to Cuba!
- ▶ Ukraine continues attacks on civilians



**Nex Benedict’s death:
a turning point in the
fight for trans lives!**

- ▶ A trans woman reflects on Int’l Women’s Day

The real state of the working class

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Typical CEO earnings of a million dollars or more skew the wage increase report upwards. Most workers did not experience a 3% wage increase. Minimum-wage workers saw a 0% increase last year.

Union workers won wage gains last year. BLS data shows that 458,900 workers were involved in 33 major strikes in 2023. However, only 11.2% of the workforce is in unions, which is not enough to raise the overall wage average.

Joining a union remains the most effective way to struggle for higher wages and better working conditions.

And while the consumer goods inflation rate is reported at 3.1%, that leaves out the services inflation rate, which was reported to be over 5% in January. Most of your daily costs are for services like rent or mortgage, transportation, health care, and so on.

‘Huge, huge plunge’

As for “strong employment gains,” the BLS reported that 353,000 jobs were added in January. That’s the employment gains.

In the Wall Street Journal, Charles Schwab’s chief investment strategist, Liz Ann Sonders, says:

“Even though on the surface it looked okay, the details under the surface were much more negative, including for that December report, a huge plunge in household employment.” Sonders refers to the BLS Household Survey, also known as the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is one of two monthly employment reports by the BLS.

Sonders continues: “Two months ago [there was] a huge, huge, almost 700,000 plunge in household employment. What we’ve seen in the Household Survey is that most of the gross gains have been in part-time employment. All the losses [overall] have been in full-time employment. You can also pick up things like people holding multiple jobs.”

So in January, the only rise was in part-time jobs.

Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank President Raphael Bostic said: “In recent months, job creation has been heavily concentrated in one comparatively small sector: health care and social assistance. Health care and social assistance account for only 14% of private-sector em-

ployment but have accounted for 60% of private employment growth over the past several months.”

Real unemployment rate is 8%

The unemployment rate is reported to be 3.7%. That’s the U-3 unemployment rate.

The BLS issues six different measures of unemployment each month, labeled as U-1 to U-6.

Investopedia explains that the U-3 unemployment rate is the one most commonly cited. However, the U-3 rate does not include all workers.

The BLS says that in January 2024, the workforce in the U.S. (nonmilitary) was 166.43 million. Some 36% to 40% percent of U.S. workers could be classified as gig and contract, freelance, or temporary. Around 28.1 million are part-time workers.

When you put them together with full-time workers, adding in all the contract and temp and part-time workers who want full-time jobs, you get the U-6 unemployment rate. And that rate was 8% in January.

Investopedia continues: “U-3 is often criticized ... because it actually excludes individuals who work part-time but want full-time work and discouraged workers. ...

“Many economists consider the U-6 rate, not the U-3 rate, to be the most complete measure of the real unemployment situation in the U.S.

“Unlike the U-3 rate, the U-6 unemployment rate includes a whole swath of unemployed people. It is seen by many as more in line with what it means to be unemployed.”

Investopedia adds, “Gallup, the data analytics firm, considers the U-6 rate to be ‘the real unemployment rate’ and maintains that the widely quoted U-3 rate does not accurately represent the reality of joblessness.”

So they are saying that the real unemployment rate is 8%.

Whatever new jobs were created were mainly part-time, primarily in the low-wage healthcare industry.

Good union jobs not available

Unemployed workers who could have found good union jobs in earlier generations can only find work in anti-union, low-paying service industries – when

they can find jobs.

In 1955, the largest employer in the U.S. was General Motors, followed by US Steel and General Electric. Most of those workers were unionized.

Today, Walmart is the largest employer, run by the wealthiest family in the U.S., with an estimated wealth of almost \$260 billion. Walmart’s 2.1 million workers, misnamed “associates” by the company, are not unionized and get poverty-level wages. Many rely on food pantries, SNAP benefits, WIC, Medicaid, and predatory loans just to get by. Some 40% of Walmart’s workforce is part-time.

The second largest employer is fiercely anti-union Amazon. The monopoly employs approximately 1.5 million full-time and part-time workers. National Employment Law Project reports that Amazon’s warehouse wages average 26% less than the average monthly earnings for all workers.

“Black and Latinx workers, whom Amazon disproportionately relies on, bear the greatest impact of Amazon’s low relative pay in the warehouse sector,” the report says.

“Amazon reports that 32% of its frontline workers are Black, and 27% are Hispanic. Notably, Black women represent the largest share of its frontline workers — roughly one out of six. These statistics suggest that Amazon’s pay policies may be reinforcing and perpetuating labor market inequities across the U.S.”

Many, maybe most, Amazon warehouse workers are part-time even after years on the job. Work schedules are erratic; sometimes there is a single four-hour shift in a week, and other times, it is up to 39 hours (not quite full-time). The schedule is unpredictable.

Part-time work has become the default at most big corporations — Home Depot, FedEx, Target, Kroger, UPS, Starbucks, and UnitedHealth (the third to the tenth largest employers in the Fortune 500).

Part-time means little to no benefits, no paid vacation, no holidays, no ... the list keeps going.

According to the Living Wage Calculator at MIT, a living wage (the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support themselves and/or their family, working full-time) for a single adult with no children would be \$20.42 in Detroit. The current minimum wage in Detroit is \$10.33.

There is no way for a part-time worker

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When it rains it pours: flood victims ask, 'Who's to blame?'

By Gloria Verdieu

San Diego — The community room at the Robinson YMCA on Feb. 26 was filled with local grassroots organizations and individuals who came together to develop effective strategies to deliver resources to help those in need. This was the Southeast San Diego Flood Relief Community Meeting.

I was aware that many communities were impacted by the unprecedented rains driven by climate change that struck Southern California. A house on my street flooded after rain poured down on the city on Jan. 21. A huge city truck with a big hose blocked a portion of the street, pumping water from my neighbor's backyard. The truck was there for two days.

I asked one of the city workers what's going on and he responded that the back of their house was flooded with sewage water and had to be drained. My response was, "Sewage water! How did that happen?" He said the drains were clogged with debris as the water flowed downhill.

San Diego saw the fourth wettest day on record in its entire history, according to NBC meteorologists. Six hours of rainfall on Jan. 21 matched the normal rainfall for a three-month period. City workers had their hands full pumping water in impacted communities.

It wasn't until a May Day organizing committee meeting recently that I became fully aware of the devastating impact that the flooding had on families in low-income, working-class communities.

Communities in Southeast San Diego — including Encanto, Logan Heights, Mountain View, and Southcrest — were severely affected by flooding.

Southeast San Diego is described as a vibrant, urbanized, ethnically diverse community that reflects a rich tapestry of cultures and histories in the most expensive city in the U.S.

Melody lives in Spring Valley, East San Diego. I spoke to her before I attended the meeting. She told me that her home and car were flooded, and she is currently staying in a hotel with no



SAN DIEGO

Record rainfall flooded San Diego neighborhoods in late January.

a state of emergency and notify the federal government; once the federal government got the okay, the FEMA team came the next day to begin assessing the damage.

transportation. She said she has no flood insurance, because her house was in a no-flood zone.

The water rose to about three feet in her home because she had an empty pool that captured a lot of sewage water. But many of her neighbors had water up to their waists. There is water damage throughout her street. Melody said the city is trying to blame it on homeless people clogging up the drains.

I told her about the meeting, which she knew nothing about. I told her not to worry, I would call her after and fill her in.

Short notice, short deadlines

I arrived at the meeting early. There were about 10 people present. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative approached, introduced himself and asked if I or anyone I knew was impacted by floods. When I answered yes, he gave me his card and began to tell me that anyone impacted must fill out the FEMA application first to see if they qualify for relief benefits.

This is important because it takes about two weeks to get results and they must collect the data because time is running out for those with hotel vouchers. FEMA has until mid-April to gather all the information, assess the damage and figure out the cost. The application is online.

My first question was, what took FEMA so long when the flooding was four weeks ago? He explained that the governor of California had to proclaim

More people began to arrive, and the monitor displayed people online for this hybrid meeting. I took the FEMA rep's card and went to take a seat; the meeting was about to start.

I sat next to a young woman who was affected. She told me her story. Ms. Walker was a student attending Mesa College who lives with her grandmother, sister and two-year-old nephew in a complex close to San Diego State University (SDSU).

"Early morning on Jan. 21, I heard something that sounded like faucet water running, and suddenly the pressure of the water broke the patio glass doors and came rushing into the apartment. The water rose up to my waist," she explained. "Luckily, my grandmother was upstairs. The force was so hard it knocked over appliances."

She showed me some pictures from her phone. Everything was floating. It was terrifying.

Ms. Walker said there was a fire truck across the street, but no one came, so she called for help. She called the Red Cross several times and spoke to a real person who was friendly and supportive; she gave her location and explained what was happening — most importantly, that her 80-year-old grandmother was stuck upstairs. They said help was on the way.

No one came.

The building maintenance person came to their rescue and helped her family out. When Ms. Walker got out, she saw that her car was flooded. She

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When it rains it pours in San Diego Who's to blame?

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had just purchased the car six months before; she called the dealer, who said that the insurance does not cover floods. She was worried about the \$36,000 note for the car that was totally damaged.

When the meeting started, Walker was the first to tell her story. It was hard for her to conceal tears when she spoke of her grandmother, who left all her possessions and is staying in a hotel far from her home.

Echoes of Katrina

There were many such stories. Another extended family lost a son/grandson to suicide. The trauma was too much. His mother and grandmother are staying in a hotel while grieving the loss of a loved one. Grandma is also having medical problems due to her exposure to mold and mildew.

Many people asked what to do since the 30-day deadline is nearly up. FEMA reps responded that "many will qualify for an extension" and urged them to file an application ASAP because it could take up to two weeks to find out if you qualify.

One flood victim whispered, "This reminds me of Katrina." I nodded in agreement as I recalled the 2021 winter snowstorm in Texas when there was no electricity, gas, or running water for a week. I was staying in an apartment there; no one knocked on my door to ask if I was okay. People died in their cars, charging cell phones and trying to keep warm, while temperatures dropped below freezing.

Several speakers addressed the need for volunteers to help clear up mildew and put up walls so that families can return to their homes as soon as possible.

One of the speakers from the Office of Disaster Relief Center spoke of low-interest loans to cover expenses that exceed the amount granted by FEMA. He said most homeowners would qualify for \$25,000, but any more will require some collateral. He emphasized that loans will not be forgiven and must be paid back.

A senior homeowner asked, "How am I supposed to qualify or even pay off a loan on a fixed income?"

There were many questions. Most responses were complicated and ended with "We need to get the data ... fill out

the FEMA application online to see if you qualify."

What about those who don't have a computer? "Call us and we will help." What if you can't get through? Will FEMA go door to door to check on people, especially elders who may still be in their homes, unable or unwilling to leave? How do people find out about FEMA when they are in hotel rooms and FEMA reps are in the lobby? Has FEMA contacted local officials to find out where the flood victims are so they can go to them instead of the other way around?

Rep. Juan Vargas was the only local official that sent a representative to the meeting to assure everyone that his office is doing all that can be done to find a solution.

It was sad, and hard to listen to the stories of those impacted who came to the meeting.

Grassroots organizations fill void

A good thing was the outpouring of grassroots, community, and nonprofit organizations that were present and ready to serve.

The Black Panther Party, Association of Raza Educators and many more volunteered to work together to clear out debris, remove mold and mildew, rebuild walls, and deliver food and clothing, even though they know beyond a doubt that this may have been avoided if the city cleaned out the drains, swept the streets, and did the jobs that their property taxes are supposed to pay for.

They know that this country's rulers continue to spend billions of dollars on imperialist wars and occupations while whining about there being no money to repair homes, provide housing, health care (mental and physical), means of releasing stress, transportation, and food vouchers for all at no cost.

It is not the people's fault, and certainly not the fault of the homeless.

The rain is not over. More rain is forecast soon.

What should be done by the state and federal government is being done as much as possible by ordinary people working together to help their neighbors.

This is another example of why we must abolish capitalism and fight for socialism. We must fight for a better world.

All power to the people! #

The real state of the working class

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getting only 20 hours a week to make a living wage.

Starbucks, the 8th largest employer with 391,000 workers, is nasty in its attempts to stop the workers from unionizing. Just ask Starbucks Workers United. Starbucks jobs are not regular full-time schedules. The company uses flexible "optimal scheduling." Workers must make themselves available for 70% of the total hours the store is open.

A store open 115 hours per week requires a barista to be available to work 80.5 hours each week. That can mean making yourself available from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays. Weekend requirements are even harsher. The work schedule is changed weekly.

When Biden says that the economy is excellent, he means for the corporate bosses, not for the workers.

Things look good for the billionaires.

Statista reports that corporations in the United States made profits totaling

\$3.3 trillion in the third quarter of 2023, an increase from the second quarter.

The profits of the so-called "Magnificent 7" U.S. tech monopolies — Apple, Amazon, Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla — now exceed almost every company globally.

CNBC reported Feb. 19: "The meteoric rise in the profits and market capitalizations of the Magnificent 7 U.S. tech behemoths outstrip those of all listed companies in almost every G20 country."

Wall Street is smiling. #

'War and Lenin in the 21st Century'

New book released on the 100th anniversary of Lenin's death

By Gary Wilson

Available in paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Bombs over babies: What about the children?

By Lallan Schoenstein

News reports show that funds for early childhood education and welfare are drying up at every level of the U.S. government. The cutback is raising issues about the continued maintenance of child care centers. Many are closing because families are unable to pay for them.

On average, families are forced to spend an unaffordable one-quarter of their income on child care fees. Urgent issues are being raised about the ability or inability of parents to continue to work, and about the jobs of child care workers – one of the lowest-paid jobs in the country. One issue that gets little attention is the economic stress caused by racism, which hits communities that are struggling the hardest.

The elephant in the room is the most important issue that is seldom addressed: the development and nurturing of small children, the future of all societies. What happens to three- and four-year-olds when they are locked in with angry older siblings while their parents desperately try to find subsistence? What happens when they are parked for hours in front of a TV or computer or allowed to feel that they are the cause of the stress destroying their families?

What happens when they are denied the advantage of learning numbers and the letters of the alphabet from skilled teachers, when they can't spend their days learning to socialize and make friends or going to a playground? Child care centers can provide nutritious food and medical attention and set up child-friendly environments.

In the U.S., unlike many countries, early childhood education is not part of the public education system. It is viewed as if it were a "babysitting problem." Education is a basic right that has been fought for since Emancipation. During the Civil Rights Movement, Black and Latinx families in New York City fought for commu-



After the loss of pandemic funds, about one-third of Texas child care closed down. The photo was taken at a May 2023 nationwide rally, 'Day Without Child Care.'

Photo: Leila Saidane/The Texas Tribune

2022, the child poverty rate more than doubled, rising to 12.4%. In wealthy cities like New York, that rate is soaring to over 16% in some areas.

Another threat to small children is the loss of Medicaid coverage. Since spring 2023, Medicaid has

dropped coverage for around 4 million children. Those without any insurance are denied routine care for conditions such as asthma and diabetes, not to mention vaccines.

Racist backlash hurts all kids

The racist backlash that eroded those gains has hurt all children. The results of a 2020 study by the U.S. Department of Education reflect the overall low position of public education. Roughly half of U.S. adults aged 16 to 74 — 54% or 130 million people — lack literacy proficiency. In a 2024 World Population review, the U.S. ranks 36th in literacy. The largest percentage of those with low literacy skills are white U.S.-born adults.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one in every five children in the U.S. is unsure where they will get their next meal. The report found that 44.2 million people lived in households with difficulty getting enough food to feed everyone in 2022, up from 33.8 million people the previous year. Those families include more than 13 million children experiencing food insecurity, a jump of nearly 45% from 2021.

Overall, households with children experienced food insecurity at significantly higher rates than the national average. The rates for Black and Latinx households were both more than double the national average.

The Census Bureau released data on the poverty rate in 2022. Due to economic relief during the pandemic, the child poverty rate dropped to 5.2% in 2021. By

The availability of free child care would go a long way to easing the myriad of crises currently facing families. Child care must be established as an intrinsic part of public education.

On Feb. 27, the New York Times reported, "Without Funding, the Business of Child Care is Back on the Brink." The Times reports that "during the pandemic there was temporary relief. The federal government spent \$24 billion dollars to keep the industry afloat." That relief funding, which is taxed, expired in September. Child care, like the prisons that are privatized for profit, is not viable without the support of government funds.

Like most Democratic Party administrations, Biden was unwilling to implement campaign promises on social spending, unlike the \$100 billion he has supplied to the military industry. The Republicans, despite their reverence for fetuses, do not support subsidized child care and universal pre-kindergarten.

The whole world has been outraged by the rain of U.S.-supplied bombs killing Palestinian children. The military industry is pocketing the profits of that inhuman massacre.

When the world's children come first, children in the U.S. will begin to thrive. #

Nex Benedict's death must be a turning point in the fight for trans lives!

By Coalition to Protect Trans Lives

Nex Benedict, a 16-year-old transgender Choctaw student, was brutally beaten in an Owasso, Oklahoma, high school bathroom on Feb. 7 and died the next day. The school did not call an ambulance for Nex even though he couldn't get up after the assault. (Earlier Nex was widely reported as being nonbinary, but those close to him say that he preferred he/him pronouns.)

We stand in solidarity with Nex's family and community, with Owasso students who walked out of their classes in protest on Feb. 26, and with those who have come out to vigils across the country to demand "Justice For Nex."

The murder of Nex Benedict comes nearly a year after the Oklahoma state legislature passed a ban on trans students and teachers using restrooms that align with their gender. It's a completely predictable result of the statewide and nationwide legislative assault that demonizes trans people, including children.

Besides bathroom bans, state legislatures have passed bans on gender-affirming health care, participation in sports, book bans, drag bans, "don't say gay or trans" laws, and more. Nex's death also reflects the centuries-long war of the racist state and federal governments against Indigenous peoples, which often includes suppressing traditions with a more diverse view of gender and sexuality.

Since the story of Nex's death made national news, local police have attempted a cover-up, implying that Nex's death was caused by drug use rather than the violence inflicted on him (exposed thanks to Nex's family and independent journalists). Oklahoma Republican state senators held a public forum where they labeled LGBTQ+ people "filth" and teachers "terrorists." Prominent corporate media outlets have given whitewashing interviews to bigoted Oklahoma Depart-

Right, Nex Benedict.
Below, students and community members walk out at Owasso High School, Feb. 26.



dress. These industries profit off of the destruction of the environment, super-exploitation of workers, raising the prices for medicine and hospital visits, and the overall misery and fear of the people. They need a scapegoat for

people's suffering, and they have chosen trans people as one of their primary targets. They know that if they make us hate each other, we cannot unite against them.

The Biden administration and the Democratic Party, most of whom are in the pockets of war profiteers and oil companies, demand the votes of LGBTQ+ people. But Biden has done nothing to protect trans youth through the last three years of legal and extralegal attacks. In fact, while thousands were coming out to remember Nex Benedict, Biden's Department of Veterans Affairs ruled that trans veterans would not be eligible for gender-affirming surgeries.

- 35 took money from energy or oil/gas companies
- 28 took money from the finance industry
- 22 took money from the health care industry

Trans people can no longer accept the argument that we must support the "lesser evil" Democratic administration when, with its silence and inaction, it is facilitating the Republicans' deadly attacks on trans lives.

Other major contributors include the agriculture and construction industries. Many others are "self-funded" through their own wealth – they're capitalists or executives themselves.

The deluge of anti-trans hate is meant to distract people from the deepening economic crisis, low wages, exorbitant rents, austerity measures, and genocidal wars that the politicians refuse to ad-

We call on all workers — transgender and cisgender — to stand against these attacks. We must not turn away from the

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A trans woman reflects on International Women's Day

By Melinda Butterfield

Two weeks ago, I had a gender-affirming surgery called an orchiectomy (google it if you're curious). It's rude and not a good idea for cisgender people to ask trans people, "Have you had x, y, or z surgery?" – you will probably get an answer along the lines of "Take a long walk off a short pier." But I'm choosing to talk about mine publicly to make a point.

Bodily autonomy is an issue that is core to all women, cis and trans, living under this patriarchal capitalist system. It's essential for all transgender people and to every person, really. It encompasses everything from gender-affirming care and reproductive freedom to piercings, tattoos, and hair styles. It's the simple, basic right to feel at home in the body you were saddled with at birth.

Until the end of 2022, I was undecided about whether I wanted any gender-affirming surgeries. The gender dysphoria (again, google it) I felt about certain body parts retreated a great deal after I started hormone replacement therapy and began living as my true self – as a woman. But the vicious attacks on trans rights, especially on trans health care, convinced me I should at least get this one operation – to eliminate my need for one of the medications I might soon be banned from acquiring legally and making forced detransition by the state somewhat more difficult.

So, in a very real sense, it wasn't my choice to get surgery. But I'm glad I still could take necessary preventive action to protect myself against genocidal transphobic laws.

If you've never had to think about having surgery to put a roadblock in front of politicians who want to rob you of your identity – well, this International Women's Day might be a good time to reflect on how that would feel. Similarly, you might consider how it feels to be a cis wom-

an, trans man, or nonbinary person who needs an abortion in the U.S. today.

Surviving while trans

I know that I'm lucky to have health insurance paid for by my employer, which allowed me to get my operation despite the exorbitant copays and deductibles that come out of my pocket. So many trans people have no insurance at all. And yet, my access to gender-affirming care is immediately threatened, even though I live in a so-called Blue State. In this case, I have lost access to my doctors and specialists as of Feb. 29.

Like many thousands of New Yorkers, trans and cis, I'm a casualty of a battle between two corporate giants: United-Health Group, the country's largest private insurer, and Mount Sinai Health System, one of the largest health care providers in New York City.

Last year, United and Mount Sinai couldn't agree on who should get a bigger cut of profits from obscene health care costs, and United declared all Mount Sinai-owned hospitals and affiliated doctors out of network. A New York State law requiring 60 days continuing coverage expired at the end of February. It's one of the largest mass expulsions of providers ever but has barely been reported by the corporate media.

Many affected New Yorkers who have Mount Sinai-affiliated providers may not even know what has happened until the next time they get sick and try to schedule an appointment.

This profit-driven attack has an outsized effect on trans New Yorkers. Mount Sinai's Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery is a national leader in trans medicine, and its doctors have a policy of "informed consent" for trans adult patients. This minimizes the gatekeeping that the medical industry has traditionally used to prevent trans people from getting gender-affirming care, which is still all too common.

It took more than a year of appointments, invasive questions, and scheduling headaches to arrange my orchiectomy. But then I had to fight tooth and nail to reschedule my surgery before the Feb. 29 drop-dead date, after which my insurance would no longer cover it.

Now, thousands of trans people who relied for our care on doctors affiliated with the Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery are unable to see our caregivers and will have to struggle to find gender-affirming care experts among the very limited pool of qualified providers available in the city.

New York State and City politicians brag about providing a safe haven for trans people. But state and local officials have done nothing to prevent

**THERE'S NO
LIBERATION
WITHOUT
TRANS LIBERATION.**

**WOMEN'S STRIKE
8TH MARCH
TRANS AND CIS WOMEN
STRIKING TOGETHER!**



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A trans woman reflects on International Women's Day

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or address this transphobic attack by two powerful capitalist monopolies.

Solidarity and revolution

Across the country, the health care system is in freefall, accelerated by the pandemic (which is still ongoing, despite what Genocide Joe and his CDC say). The rental and housing market across the U.S. is untenable. Food prices have driven millions more to already overwhelmed food banks while right-wing governors and Democratic mayors slash school lunch programs. Boeing's dangerous, underfunded, and outsourced aircraft are a symptom of the utter chaos that engulfs U.S. airports daily.

When my spouse and I ride the subway or walk home at night, we have to be alert and prepared to fight. Like all women, we face the threat of sexual violence; as trans women, we face the added threat of transphobic violence, which grows by the day, prodded by the hate-

ful rhetoric of politicians, social media "influencers," and the New York Times. Black trans women – always the majority of those we have to mourn on the annual Trans Day of Remembrance – face racist violence, too.

All of the infrastructure of daily life that workers depend on is one good push away from complete collapse. We all know it but are engulfed in trying to survive our own daily life-and-death crises. Likewise, the left and progressive movements are maxed out trying to oppose the genocide in Palestine. How do you fight on every front at once?

This International Women's Day, solidarity is more important than ever. Personal solidarity, woman to woman, cis to trans; of men toward women; of white people toward BIPOC communities; of all workers, against the bosses and politicians that seek to keep us divided.

There's the key word: revolution.

Solidarity isn't just mutual aid, though those efforts are critical for trans people

and other marginalized communities – for what the Black Panthers called "survival pending revolution."

Women need a revolution that overturns the capitalist social system and its political institutions. Trans people, immigrants, Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, people with disabilities and the homeless, youth – all workers – need a revolution.

To get it, we need not only a vision of a better world to fight for but also the crucial ingredient to actually make it happen: solidarity — in the streets, in our workplaces, in schools, in our communities and homes — the kind of solidarity that spurred students at Nex Benedict's school to walk out of classes in defiance of the far-right government of Oklahoma.

Stop the genocide in Gaza! No trans genocide in the U.S.!

Melinda Butterfield is a member of Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha, an organizer of the Coalition to Protect Trans Lives, and co-editor of Struggle-La Lucha.

Nex Benedict's death must be a turning point

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killing of Nex Benedict. This must be the moment when we stand together in opposition and resistance.

We have seen for decades now how anti-trans bills end up hurting everyone, whether it is cis women harassed in bathrooms for not appearing feminine enough, cis children harassed for being better at sports, cis parents under threat of losing their trans children, or intersex people who are harmed by these laws. If we do not unite against these attacks, the violence against trans youth and all trans people will snowball, and the attack against all workers will escalate as

well. The forces of hate and oppression will not stop with trans people — a unified movement is our only hope.

There is a direct line between the rise in anti-trans laws of the last decade and the escalation of violence against trans people. Last year saw more reported murders and violent deaths of trans people than ever; suicide rates among trans people, especially trans youth, are alarmingly high.

Last October, the Coalition to Protect Trans Lives organized a National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida, and participants joined a lawsuit against Florida's bathroom ban. We are

working to build an independent fight-back movement nationwide, in the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, the Stonewall Uprising, and 1980s AIDS activism, to link arms with Indigenous nations, Black and Palestinian people, migrants, and other communities resisting the far-right onslaught. As we prepare for bigger and bolder actions in 2024, we ask you to get involved.

The trans community doesn't need any more martyrs. We call on all who are outraged by the death of Nex Benedict to stand against the assault on trans lives across the U.S.

Rise up and organize for trans lives! #

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info@struggle-la-lucha.com

West Coast office

5278 W. Pico Blvd.,

Los Angeles,

CA 90019

Phone: 323-306-6240

East Coast office

2011 N. Charles St.,

Baltimore,

MD 21218-5927

Phone: 410-218-4835



Twin manias: AI frenzy and war boom inflate stock market

By Gary Wilson

Twin manias have gripped the stock market. The stock market has soared to record highs.

On March 1, CNBC reported that “the stock market wrapped up its fourth straight winning month ... The tech-heavy Nasdaq index was the last of the major U.S. stock benchmarks to reach a record close this year — when it achieved the milestone Thursday. This move has been fueled by enthusiasm over artificial intelligence, which has lifted mega-cap tech stocks — and the broader market — through 2023 and into this year.”

An Artificial Intelligence gold rush has fueled a meteoric rise in technology stock. Nvidia, which powers much of the AI boom, has become the poster child of this frenzy. Other tech titans are also having staggering stock climbs.

Paired with the AI mania is the war industry bubble.

The war industry is booming with the expectation that the gravy train of increasing military budgets and foreign arms sales will continue. Valuations of major weapons firms like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman have ballooned to near-all-time highs.

The major U.S. stock indexes like the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average have set new highs since the March 2020 COVID market plunge. However, the rise is isolated to a few mega tech and digital economy stocks like Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and Nvidia, as well as the war industry stocks of Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics.

Compared to the bond market, U.S. stocks are near their most expensive levels in over two decades. The last time stocks were this pricey relative to bonds was during the dot-com boom.

The dot-com bubble of internet-based company stocks in the late 1990s culminated in a market crash from 2000-2002. Today's intense concentration on the stock market in just a handful of tech behemoths and war industry monopolies

echoes the dot-com bubble. Most of the rest of the market is struggling.

Rises in the stock market don't mean gains for the working class — the rich guys at the top own stocks. So to say that the stock market is doing well is to say that the 1% is doing well.

You have to laugh when you see President Biden's response. On Feb. 10, Biden tweeted, “The stock market going strong is a sign of confidence in America's economy.”

‘Let them eat flakes’

Highest food costs in 30 years

Grocery bills are taking a bigger bite out of workers' paychecks than they have in decades. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the percentage of pay taken for food purchases last year — both at supermarkets and at fast food restaurants or pizzerias — is the highest since 1991, more than 30 years ago.

By the end of 2023, workers were paying more than 23% more for the same basket of groceries as they were in 2021.

In response, Kellogg's CEO Gary Pilnick suggested that poorer families eat breakfast cereal for dinner as a more affordable option. Kellogg's has launched an ad campaign suggesting you “give chicken the night off.”



Workers demand a raise in New York's minimum wage at state Capitol in Albany, N.Y.

Biden must be talking to the 1%, trying to convince them that he deserves another term. Workers don't want to hear about the financial gains of the wealthy class. #

Of course, as CEO Pilnick never has to buy cornflakes at the supermarket, or he might have noticed that Kellogg's cereal isn't so affordable.

The price of a box of flakes has gone up 24%. And while the size of the cardboard box is the same, the contents have shrunk. Kellogg's Corn Flakes “family size” of 24 ounces is now 18 ounces. They call that shrinkflation.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of store-bought food increased by 23.5% from February 2020 to May 2023. The average hourly wage for all workers in the private sector has risen 17.1%, not enough to keep up with inflation.

Production workers at Kellogg's start at about \$11 an hour. On strike at the end of 2021, one Kellogg's worker explained, “We feed all these families but I can't feed mine.” CEO Pilnick got over \$13 million last year (base pay+bonuses+stock options); he's never missed a chicken dinner.

Doesn't it remind you of the French monarch Marie Antoinette and her starving subjects: “Let them eat cornflakes?”

—by Gary Wilson

Striking Kellogg's worker, December 2021.

Housing, health care, and transportation Prices surge as military spending prolongs crisis

By Gary Wilson

You can believe the increase in your expenses. Inflation continues to ravage every day.

Workers are feeling the pinch of inflation more than ever, with core services experiencing their worst monthly jump in 22 years. Unlike headlines focused on “core goods” like TVs or gas, this inflation surge hits where it hurts – everyday necessities.

The price index for core personal consumption expenditures (PCE) skyrocketed to a 7.15% annualized rate in January. This represents the sharpest month-to-month increase in over two decades.

In simpler terms, you’re paying significantly more for essential services like rent, health care, transportation, child care, repair bills, cell phone plans, car insurance, and even haircuts. Housing costs are particularly distressing, with shelter prices rising 6% in January.

This inflation surge isn’t just a number on a chart – it’s impacting workers across the country.

“Housing costs are running hot,” the New York Times noted Feb. 26. “The cost of shelter was up 6% in January from a year earlier, and rose faster on a monthly basis than in December, according to the Labor Department.”

Rents are going up. And the Times adds, “For home buyers, the combination of rising prices and high interest rates has made housing increasingly unaffordable.” Mortgage rates have doubled from about 3% to almost 7%.

Overall, 30% of all U.S. households are spending more for housing, but among renters, this ratio goes up to 50%.

On health care, the Medical Economics newsletter reports that “prices are going



Protest outside Congress in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15.

up, with various costs in health care edging upward ... over the last 12 months, prices for all items rose by 3.1%.” Annual family premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance climbed 7% on average in 2023.

Food services purchased to be consumed away from home, like at restaurants, rose 5.1% in January.

Transportation services costs — including automobile maintenance and repair, parking fees, tolls, and public transportation — are at a record high and are up 9.5% from a year ago.

Cable and satellite TV, streaming, concerts, sports, and movies are up from a year ago. Prices have swelled 9.4% for everything from broadband and mobile phone bills to home repairs, education, lawyers’ fees, laundry, elderly care facilities, and even funerals.

One of the primary drivers of inflation is military spending. There were inflation crises during World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars. In 1983, following President Ronald Reagan’s stupendous military expenditures, inflation jumped 9.25%, and the national debt rose from \$997 billion to \$2.85 trillion.

Then in 2002, with the launch of wars on Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya (Pentagon propaganda name, “War on Terror”).

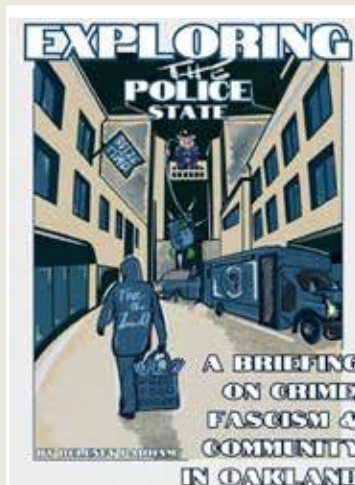
And again today, with the proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, the U.S.-armed and -funded war on Gaza and the increasing war buildup in Taiwan, a trillion dollar annual war budget, and a national debt of \$34.38 trillion. #

Read ‘Exploring the Police State’

By Lallan Schoenstein

Delency Parham, a resident of Oakland, California, with a family history deeply rooted in the community going back to the Great Migration, has written a powerful document titled “Exploring the Police State: A Briefing on Crime, Fascism, and Community in Oakland.”

This briefing takes us from the Black Lives Matter movement through the racist backlash that followed, up to the current crisis of police brutality, homelessness, mass incarceration, and the toxic environment.



Parham lays the groundwork with a history of the people’s struggle.

Parham’s vision for his town has an international scope, given that fighting racist oppression can’t only be done on our own turf.

The document rings with confidence in people’s ability to work together to fight for the just and equitable society that they deserve. It’s a well-resourced and

referenced guide that cuts through the capitalist propaganda that drives inequality and police occupation.

Read Parham’s work here: hellablackpod.com/exploring-the-police-state



New York City

SLL photo: Gary Wilson



Los Angeles

SLL photo: Scott Scheffer

Tens of thousands march in Los Angeles

By Scott Scheffer

As part of the March 2 Global Day of Action, Los Angeles saw tens of thousands take over a huge area of downtown. It was among the biggest – if not THE biggest – in Los Angeles since Israel began its genocidal assault on the people of Gaza.

The action was initiated and endorsed by the Palestinian Youth Movement, ANSWER Coalition, Jewish Voice for Peace, Labor for Palestine, Socialist Unity Party and many other groups. The size of the crowd made it difficult to walk through or advance from the back of the march to the front, much less determine its numbers.

The action included many young Palestinians, and signs and banners indicated that Jewish organizations and individuals, labor unions, LGBTQ+ people,

and Black, Brown and Asian people from the neighborhoods of L.A. all came out in solidarity.

The march was followed by a long car caravan. Between people on foot and cars and trucks decorated with signs, banners, and Palestinian flags, the protest covered an area of about 30 blocks of downtown.

Several events happened while the march was being organized and word was spreading, adding to its size and militancy. Aaron Bushnell burned himself to death in his Air Force uniform on Feb. 25 at the front gate of the Zionist consulate in Washington, D.C., shouting “Free Palestine” as he doused himself with gasoline and ignited it.

Just four days later, Zionist forces murdered more than 100 people and wound-

ed more than 700 who were waiting for food from aid trucks. And, in the weeks leading up to March 2, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced to the world that a ground invasion of the southern city of Rafah was imminent.

While the flow of arms from the U.S. continues, the White House has been calling for a temporary pause in the war against Gazans. The majority of humanity is demanding an immediate and permanent end to the genocide. No one in the Biden administration has even hinted that the supply of weapons and funds should stop.

The blood of more than 30,000 Palestinians is on Joe Biden’s hands. But the worldwide movement against genocide is growing in numbers and determination. Palestine will never die. #

Fifty thousand march in New York City

By Struggle-La Lucha
New York bureau

Heavy rain didn’t stop tens of thousands from coming to Manhattan’s Washington Square Park on March 2, to demand an end to the genocide in Gaza. Signs, banners and umbrellas filled the park.

The action was part of the Global Day of Action demanding “Hands Off Rafah! Ceasefire Now! Stop the Genocide!”

Zionist war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu and his enabler, Genocide Joe Biden, are starving the people of Gaza. People around the world saw how, on Feb. 29, Zionist troops killed 120 Palestinians who were lining up for food outside Gaza City.

Another 750 were wounded. Many of the dead had been killed by tanks run-



ning over them.

People crowded into Washington Square to listen to speeches. By 3 p.m. people were ready to march.

The UAW “Labor for Palestine” contingent led the way. Tens of thousands took over Sixth Avenue (Avenue of the Americas) and marched uptown.

The demonstration filled the street for at least a half-dozen blocks. People chanted slogans including, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!”

Towards the end of the peaceful march, it was attacked by police, who arrested several protesters. Two were held overnight.

The Shut It Down 4 Palestine Coalition called the New York City rally and march. Among the participating organizations

and endorsers were the Palestinian Youth Movement; The People’s Forum; Al-Awda NY; The Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Healthcare Workers for Palestine; December 12th Movement; and Black Alliance for Peace.

Also: DRUM NYC; For Our Liberation; Nodutdol for Korean Community Development; Anakbayan; PSL; South Asian Left; Black Men Build; No Tech for Apartheid; Audre Lorde Project; Ridgewood Tenants Union; Uptown 4 Palestine; Mamas 4 a Free Palestine; Jews Against White Supremacy; Defend Democracy in Brazil; NYC Dissenters, Columbia U. Students for Justice in Palestine; Columbia U. Apartheid Divest; CUMC for Palestine; UAW Labor for Palestine; Labor for Palestine; and NYC City Workers for Palestine.

Palestine will win! #

Honor Aaron Bushnell, free Palestine!

By John Parker

Statement of Peace and Freedom Party congressional candidate John Parker.

U.S. Air Force soldier Aaron Bushnell self-immolated on Feb. 25 in Washington, D.C., to protest the U.S.-Israeli war on Gaza. He did so in front of the embassy of the apartheid state that occupies Palestine. [SLL editor's note: It has been reported by some of Bushnell's friends that she was a trans woman named Lilly who used she/her pronouns within her community and online.]

"I wish someone as courageous, honorable and human as Aaron Bushnell did not have to die. The tragedy we're seeing in Gaza is a horror that is so painful for the world that many in solidarity will do all they can to make it stop," announced John Parker, socialist candidate in California's 37th Congressional district.

"Aaron Bushnell was so frustrated by this genocide that he felt the only way to make it stop was to take his own life while wearing his uniform, to make the

world pay attention to U.S. complicity in Israel's crimes. He felt so deeply about the more than 10,000 children murdered by U.S.-made bombs and shells," Parker explained.

"Joe Biden's \$14 billion assistance to further Israel's genocide increases his war crimes and the complicity of the United States, as was clarified in the International Court of Justice decision in the case brought by the South African government.

"That money adds on to the trillions already stolen from the wealth that we working people create, and leaves no room for basic necessities that we need here, leaving us with nothing but poverty, war and genocide. So Biden is not welcome here in South Central Los Angeles," said Parker.



"Aaron Bushnell's commitment to stop the killing in Palestine makes the upcoming March 2 demonstration at Los Angeles City Hall all the more important," said the socialist candidate. "Join me at City Hall starting at 1 p.m. to stop the U.S.-Israeli war on Gaza. Palestine will win!"

John Thompson Parker is a member of the Socialist Unity Party

who has helped organize many demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine. He's running on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket in the March 5 primary in the 37th Congressional district, which includes South Central Los Angeles and much of Culver City and Inglewood. Early voting has already begun. #

Michigan continues to demand 'ceasefire now!'

By Cheryl LaBash

Three Michigan cities – Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo – held ceasefire marches on March 2, answering the call for "Global Ceasefire, End Genocide" actions. On March 3, a car rally streamed through the streets of Detroit and neighboring Oak Park to block traffic on I-696.

In Detroit, Michigan's largest city, the ceasefire protest gathered at the riverfront Hart Plaza. There demonstrators topped the park flag pole with a Palestinian flag. Chanting loudly in the gentrifying downtown area, the protest clogged the full width of Woodward Avenue en route to a rally at Grand Circus Park, near sports arenas and music venues.

Lead banners from the Palestinian Youth Movement and Freedom Road Socialist Organization called out the themes of the action: End the genocide on Gaza now! From the river to the sea,



Palestine will be free! Hands off Rafah! Victory to the Palestinian resistance! Remember Aaron Bushnell!

These weekend actions continue the outpouring of local ceasefire resolutions across Michigan – in Ann Arbor



SLL photos: Cheryl LaBash



(City Council and School Board), Canton Township, Dearborn Heights, Dearborn, Detroit, Ferndale, Hamtramck, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Warren, Washtenaw County, Wayne County, Ypsilanti, to start.

The "Vote Uncommitted" wave begun by 101,000 votes in the Feb. 27 Michigan presidential primary spurred similar electoral expressions on Super Tuesday against the Biden administration's arming of Israel's genocide in Palestine. #

PFLP: Occupier lies about starvation massacre, international reaction a disgrace

On the morning of Feb. 29, over 70 Palestinians were martyred, and over 250 wounded, after the Israeli Occupation Forces opened fire on Palestinians waiting for the arrival of food aid on Al-Rashid Street in Gaza City, northern Gaza Strip.

March 1: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) confirmed that the international statements and reactions to the occupation's massacre of citizens, who were collectively executed after trying to reach food, do not rise to the level of the crime and represent one of the continuous attempts to cover up the brutal crimes of the occupation and the ongoing genocide campaign against our people.

The Front affirmed that this international complacency, which was limited to condemnation, "expressing concern," and calls for an independent investigation, amounts to a green light for the occupation to continue lying about one of the most brutal crimes in human his-



Aftermath of Israeli massacre of Palestinians awaiting food aid in Gaza City on Feb. 29.

Graphic: Resistance News Network

tory, committing more massacres, and proceeding with the genocidal war.

The Front stated that there is no point to continue talking about a temporary truce that represents a vacation for the killers and relieves pressure on their supporters. The whole world must immediately act to stop the genocide and punish the occupier war criminals.

The Front stressed that the international system, whose deceit and bias towards the occupier were exposed, should not expect our people to stand idly by in

the face of these massacres. Our people are capable of surpassing all imaginations about the limits of the Palestinian response.

The Front called on our people and our Arab nation to engage in all forms and tools of action to punish the criminals and the genocidal murderers, affirming that our people, our nation, and the supporters of Palestine and its oppressed people are the main front in confronting the criminal butcher Joe Biden and the genocide support coalition.

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
Central Media Department**

March 1, 2024

Source: Resistance News Network

Hundreds rally in Jackson Heights: 'Bangladesh stands with Palestine'

**By Struggle-La Lucha
New York bureau**

Hundreds of people rallied for Palestine in the Jackson Heights section of Queens, New York City, on Feb. 24. They gathered in Diversity Plaza, the center of a South Asian community.

"Honor Our Martyrs" was the event's title. It commemorated the freedom struggles of both the Palestinian and Bengali peoples.

The rally was called by the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAA AV) and Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress. Speakers included representatives from the Palestinian struggle; Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress; Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence Astoria Tenants Union; NY Taxi Workers Alliance; The People's Forum; and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

They denounced the U.S. paid-for murder of more than 30,000 people in Gaza. Several spoke of the struggle to defend the Bengali language in the 1950s.

Flags from both Bangladesh and Palestine were carried. One of the signs read, "Bangladesh stands with Palestine."

Both Palestine and Bangladesh had been British colonies. British aristocrats looted trillions from South Asia.

The Biden administration has sent aircraft carriers to attack Yemen and shore up Netanyahu's murderous assault on Gaza. Back in 1971, Nixon and Kissinger sent an aircraft carrier to try to intimidate the Bengali independence struggle.



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

The rally was also a mobilization against racist and bigoted violence. The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence was founded in response to the 1982 racist murder of Chinese American Vincent Chin.

Six-year-old Wadea al-Fayoume was stabbed 26 times by his landlord last October,

killing the Palestinian child.

A few blocks from the rally was where Julio Rivera was murdered by homophobic bigots in 1990. Jackson Heights is home every year to Queens Pride, the second largest Pride march in the New York City area.

From Bangladesh to Palestine, the people united will never be defeated! #

Ukraine continues attacks on civilians after capture of Avdeevka

By Nahia Sanzo

Feb. 21 — “The reality of Donetsk,” Alexander Kots, a correspondent for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, wrote yesterday in the city after his visit to the recently captured town of Avdeevka. “In cafes there are almost always free seats near the windows. The population prefers not to sit there. If there is a bombing, there is a risk of being hit by broken glass,” he explained, adding that “in general, it is better to go to places with a basement. Even in the city center.”

The false normality in which the capital of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) lived during the years of the Minsk agreements, in which Ukrainian bombings from the surroundings of towns such as Avdeevka, Peski or Marinka only reached the periphery, is already a vague memory of the past. Today the city lives in a dynamic of constant worry about where and when artillery shells will impact.

Although Russia has not been able to coherently present many of the objectives for which it began its special military operation, these are the objectives with regard to Donbass: reaching the administrative borders of the former regions of Donetsk and Lugansk. For this objective, it was essential for Russia to overcome Artyomovsk, in the same way it was to capture the Ukrainian forts on the first line of defense around Donetsk.

However, in this sector of the front, Moscow’s need to begin moving the front, and with it the firing positions, away from the Ukrainian troops has played a particularly important role. This is the reason for the local offensives against Peski, captured in the fall of 2022 after a tough battle; Marinka, from whose ruins Ukraine ended up withdrawing last December; and Avdeevka, taken this past weekend.

Russian sources, who have presented the capture of Avdeevka as an important step in the double objective of advancing towards the administrative limits of the Donetsk region and the attempt to improve the security of the population of its most populated area, have also insisted that the Ukrainian evacuation from the city was not going to be an automatic



Crater left by a Ukrainian missile attack outside the Nadezhda Krupskaya Library in Donetsk, Feb. 20.

solution. In the days since the confirmation of the Ukrainian withdrawal from Avdeevka, Ukraine has wanted to make clear both that it has the means to continue threatening Donetsk and that it persists in its intentions.

Donetsk library attacked again

A year ago, on Feb. 19, 2023, Ukrainian artillery attacked the center of Donetsk, specifically the regional library, located on Artyom Street, the city’s main avenue. Yesterday, Ukrainian troops again attacked the same place in the most central part of the capital of Donbass, causing material damage and injuring two women.

Shortly before, a bombing on the outskirts of the city had cost the life of a resident in one of the continuous Ukrainian bombings that never appear in the news unless they cause a high number of victims. However, their indiscriminate nature makes them the main danger for the population of Donetsk, whose security is not guaranteed at any time or in any place, without this situation having created any reaction among Ukraine’s partners, whose expressions of concern are limited to the Ukrainian civilian population residing on the “correct” side of the front.

Yesterday was not an indiscriminate bombing but a directed attack carried out with weapons much more precise than the 155mm artillery or the Grad of Soviet origin. According to local authorities, Ukraine used its U.S. HIMARS [multiple rocket launchers] to attack the most

central street of the most populated city in Donbass. Whether the identification of the weapon is correct or not, it is long-range heavy artillery, used on two occasions against a library building. One of the bombs, which exploded next to the building, created a huge crater deeper than a grown man. The second, in the backyard, destroyed all the windows in the building.

The library, which bears the name of [Soviet revolutionary] Nadezhda Krupskaya, perhaps one

more symbolic element that has made it a desirable target for the artillery of Ukraine trying to eliminate all traces of the Soviet past, is one of the cultural centers of Donetsk, where all types of events, meetings and events are held. Even in war, life and culture must continue, as long as the artillery allows it – despite those words of [former Ukrainian President] Petro Poroshenko in which he stated that Donbass children will sit in basements while the Ukrainians continue their lives and ended by stating that it would be like this because they do not know how to do anything.

Attacks on civilians continue

The bombings of recent days have a clear message: Ukraine not only continues to have positions close to the capital of Donbass, but it also has long-range ammunition for which it does not need to be at close range. Moving the front away from the city of Donetsk continues to be an objective necessity given the intentions demonstrated by yesterday’s bombings and those that have occurred since the weekend, when part of the Ukrainian troops were busy withdrawing from their main fort.

Ukraine has fiercely defended its positions in Avdeevka or Marinka, where fierce battles occurred even during the low-intensity war years of the Minsk ceasefire, because maintaining some control over the city of Donetsk depended on it.

The Ukrainian defeat in Avdeevka

Continued on page 16

Let's GO to Cuba – experience it for yourself

By Cheryl LaBash

International Workers Day, May 1, isn't officially celebrated in the U.S. – at least not yet. However, in Cuba and in countries around the world, working-class organizations honor the 1886 Chicago fight for the 8-hour workday and the Haymarket martyrs framed up by the cops during a general strike that began on May 1.

This May Day, come to Cuba, the internationalist nation that sends doctors and builders, not bombs and destroyers. Home of the globally recognized Latin American School of Medicine, where youth from around the world – including Palestine and even the U.S. – become doctors. You will be warmly welcomed.

The 2024 U.S. Contingent to the International May Day Work and Solidarity Brigade is waiting for you.

Work and live side-by-side with Cubans and delegations from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Visit workplaces, communities, historical sites, and learn about Cuba from Cubans, not from the U.S. corporate media.

Fly from U.S. airports on U.S. airlines to Jose Marti Airport in Havana; arrive on April 21 and return on May 4. The program, transportation inside Cuba, accommodations, meals, brigade t-shirt, plus Cuban visa, are included in the \$865 package price.

Joining it is easy. Take the first step by filling out this application: tinyurl.com/mayday24. But don't delay! Applications close March 20.

The International May Day Brigade provides a unique opportunity to meet and talk with Cuban workers, farmers and youth and to become better armed to return home and counter Washington's lies and attacks against the revolution.

Each year, the National Network on Cuba works with ICAP (Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) to lead the U.S. delegation of the International May Day Brigade.

Our brigadistas are of all different ages, backgrounds, and walks of life! We give scholarships to help working-class U.S. people travel to Cuba for the first time.



We see the reality of the Cuban Revolution beyond U.S. propaganda; build solidarity with mass organizations, unions, and the Cuban people; and truthfully bring back our Cuba experiences to our communities and organizations. Knowledge helps us to better fight against the illegal, inhumane U.S. blockade and to get Cuba off the especially punitive, unilateral U.S. "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list.

Find out about additional May Day 2024 delegations at nnoc.org/brigades, including specifically union-focused delegations with Building Relations with Cuban Labor and Los Angeles Hands Off Cuba, and other opportunities for respectful travel to Cuba throughout the year. Venceremos Brigade #52 will travel this summer. Applications are available now! #

SAVE the DATE

Sat. March 16th

Teach in on CUBA

In-person & LiveStream
Time: 12:00 PM (EST) / 9:00 AM (PST)
Doors Open/Registration: 11:00 AM

Featuring:
 A Delegation of dynamic Cuban speakers from the Federation of Cuban Workers (FCW), the National Union of Cuban Artists (UNCA), and the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples (ICAP) who are in NYC for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – CSW60 (2024) – from March 11 through March 21.

Location:
 Vanderbilt Hall at NYU Law Building
 40 Washington Square South in
 Manhattan, NYC

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT:
www.US-CubaNormalization.org

Las mujeres cubanas condenan genocidio palestino y bloqueo norteamericano

Por Daniela Cabrera Monzón

Herederas de las tradiciones heroicas del pueblo cubano, con la convicción antimperialista de defender la Patria y la satisfacción de haber concluido el XI Congreso de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, las delegadas ratificaron mantener vivo el compromiso contraído con el Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz y la eterna presidenta de la organización femenina, Vilma Espín, de seguir edificando la obra de la Revolución.

Osmayda Hernández Beleño, miembro del Secretariado Nacional de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC), en representación de las federadas proclamó la solidaridad con todas las mujeres que en el mundo luchan por el derecho a la tierra, a tener una vivienda digna, al empleo, a recibir igual salario.

La declaración que suscribieron exige un mundo de paz y condena el genocidio que comete el gobierno de Israel contra el hermano pueblo palestino en la Franja de Gaza que, desde octubre de 2023 ha causado la muerte a más de 30 000 personas, entre ellos 12 600 niños, 8 600 mujeres y ha dejado más de 69 000 heridos.

Es imperdonable, dijo Hernández Beleño, la impunidad con que actúa el



En la marcha masiva por Gaza en La Habana, Cuba, el 2 de marzo.

Foto: Dunia Álvarez

ciero impuesto por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y la inclusión de Cuba en la espuria lista de países que supuestamente patrocinan el terrorismo, «porque constituyen el principal obstáculo para el desarrollo de nuestro pueblo y una forma de violencia directa que impacta y entorpece el disfrute de los derechos fundamentales de las mujeres cubanas».

Asimismo, se sumaron a la desaprobación del narcotráfico, el crimen organizado, la

trata y tráfico de personas y todas las formas de discriminación y violencia hacia las mujeres

gobierno sionista, violando la orden emitida por la Corte Internacional de Justicia de adoptar medidas inmediatas y efectivas para proteger a la población palestina, asegurar la asistencia humanitaria y permitir los servicios básicos.

Rechazaron también las políticas hegemónicas y patriarcales de dominación imperialista y sus aliados que día a día ponen en peligro la supervivencia de la especie humana y el futuro de los pueblos.

Ponderaron el recrudecimiento del bloqueo económico comercial y finan-

Reafirmaron su solidaridad incondicional con las mujeres palestinas «que durante más de 75 años han sufrido los constantes ataques, bombardeos, persecuciones, destrucción de sus viviendas, de los hospitales e infraestructuras civiles; acciones que constituyen graves violaciones del derecho internacional humanitario».

Fuente: Granma

Ukraine continues attacks on civilians

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is not so much due to the loss of these privileged positions from which to condemn the population to eternal insecurity, but rather due to the demolition of the most important fort, with the weakening of the defenses that this implies. But in terms of attack, Ukraine now has ammunition and carte blanche to attack Donetsk and other cities located in its surroundings at will.

Removing Ukrainian troops from the urban points that they usually attack with the sole objective of punishing the

population for their disloyalty to the country that declared an anti-terrorist operation against them and denied them salaries, pensions and even bank accounts, is essential to prevent Kiev from using its most basic artillery, that which requires closeness in order to act.

So Ukraine will continue to have long-range artillery and guided systems with which to attack targets, although the higher cost and lower availability of this ammunition should significantly reduce

its use. However, Ukraine wanted to make it clear this week that, as long as it is materially possible, it will continue to use its weapons to shoot at civilian targets it deems appropriate, such as those named after historical figures linked to the Soviet Union.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield
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