



Mass strike rocks Colombia

General strike on Nov. 21, Bogotá.

By Martha Grevatt

A historic general strike took place in Colombia on Nov. 21, paralyzing the entire country. Half of Colombia's population of over 50 million people is estimated to have participated, with millions staying home from work and hundreds of thousands demonstrating in the streets. At least 500 separate actions took place, from the capital, Bogotá, to remote rural areas.

Strikers blocked major streets, ports and airport entrances. The Central Union of Workers (CUT) accused the government of "brutal repression" in Bogotá, where police fired tear gas on peaceful protesters. Fights with police broke out in other parts of the country. The mayor of Cali declared a 7 p.m. curfew.

The CUT called the strike to protest the U.S.-backed right-wing government's plans to impose labor and pension "reform" — reducing retiree pensions and lowering the minimum wage. While President Iván Duque Márquez denies any intention to cut pensions or wages, the leader of his party, former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez, has advocated exactly that.

The message and scope of the strike became much larger as Indigenous, Afrodescendant,

student and peasant organizations joined forces with striking workers. The government has committed numerous massacres against Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, including the killing of five Indigenous activists on Oct. 29.

Students understand that undermining the minimum wage will particularly hurt young workers.

There is also widespread anger with President Duque for his failure to implement the terms of the 2016 peace agreement negotiated between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government. A section of the FARC made the difficult decision to resume the armed struggle earlier this year. The National Liberation Army (ELN) is also engaged in armed guerrilla warfare against the brutal government.

Strike part of a continental uprising

This unprecedented outpouring of the masses broadens the upsurge engulfing Latin America. Other countries' influence could be seen. The flag of Andean Indigenous peoples, frequently held in Bolivian marches opposing the recent U.S.-orchestrated coup there, was carried boldly during

the strike. A theme of the mass protests in Chile — that the oppressors have taken everything from the people, including their fear — was expressed all over Colombia on Nov. 21.

The courage of the masses has emerged in a country deemed the most dangerous in the world for union leaders — with an assassination rate the highest anywhere. Community and human rights activists are also frequent targets of right-wing paramilitary death squads with ties to the military and police. Since the signing of the 2016 peace accords, more than 777 activists, including 137 former FARC combatants, have reportedly been murdered in just the past year. (teleSUR, Nov. 22)

Strike Solidarity demonstrations took place in a number of cities worldwide, including London. The AFL-CIO issued a statement backing the national strike.

"Colombia won on this historic day of citizen mobilization," reads the Declaration of the National Strike Committee issued Nov. 21. Signed by over 40 unions and other organizations, the declaration says the strike "has been the expression of a new Colombia, of another possible Colombia." (cut.org.co) □



FIRST NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
HELD IN PLYMOUTH
NOVEMBER 26, 1970

50th Annual Day of Mourning Workers World Party honors Indigenous peoples

November 28 marks the 50th National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass., when Indigenous peoples pay homage to their ancestors and relate their history as the original inhabitants of this country, while they expose the myths about the "benevolent" Pilgrims. In fact, European colonialists committed massive crimes against Native peoples, stealing their lands and food, obliterating their culture and engaging in genocide.

This year's event will honor ailing Native political prisoner, Leonard Peltier, age 75, who has been unjustly imprisoned for 43 years, currently in Florida, separated by thousands of miles from his family and nation in North Dakota.

It is a day to applaud Indigenous peoples worldwide who fight oppression and lead the struggles to save lands, forests and rivers from capitalist destruction. This is a time to pay tribute to all Native water protectors and land defenders, including those murdered for daring to oppose corporate profiteers, such as Honduran Berta Cáceres, a Lenca leader.

Workers World Party hails Evo Morales, Indigenous president of Bolivia, who was ousted in an illegal coup by wealthy right-wingers, in league with Washington. Courageous Indigenous peoples there have demonstrated against the brutal, racist coup-makers, despite horrific repression. We honor Indigenous peoples, workers and youth participating in anti-government demonstrations in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador.

WWP expresses our solidarity with all im/migrants and refugees being held hostage by Immigration and Customs Enforcement on orders from the White House and those deported and denied entry. We condemn the Border Patrol for separating migrant families at the U.S./Mexico border,

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Syracuse, N.Y.

PHOTO: THE DAILY ORANGE

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Burgerville union fights for first contract

By Johnnie Lewis
Portland, Ore.



PHOTO: BURGERVILLE WORKERS UNION
Members of the Burgerville Workers Union.

During Oct. 23-27, Burgerville Workers Union, based in Vancouver, Wash., and an affiliate of the Industrial Workers of the World, struck four Burgerville stores for four days, forcing the company to return to the bargaining table. BVWU is the first-ever fast food workers union in the U.S.

This was the second BVWU strike since 2017 when the union forced the company, through a three-day strike, to recognize it.

During recent contract talks, Burgerville refused to negotiate an across-the-board wage increase for all workers after saying it would. The company had claimed it had allocated \$3 million for the wage increase, but in reality this claim was only made to comply with Oregon's state minimum wage law.

Because of the company's bad faith in negotiations, on Nov. 11 BVWU called for a boycott of all 41 company stores in the Pacific Northwest. The union's main demand is an across-the-board increase of \$5-an-hour for all workers. The average take-home pay of a Burgerville worker is \$900 a month, regardless of the size of the family, while the poverty level is \$1,200 for a family of one.

Other issues that the BVWU wants changed are the company's racism, anti-immigrant policies, unfair labor practices, health and safety violations, and scheduling. The all-white management at the Portland Convention Center store, in a move considered by BVWU as not only racist, but union busting, fired three workers of color who are all pro-union.

The company also refuses to opt out of E-Verify, a federal spy program to check workers' im/migrant status. In the last year alone, the union has filed 36 labor violations against the company, and there are many Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other U.S. Department of Labor violations. Meanwhile, the average worker's hours are precarious—only 30 hours a week with erratic scheduling.

BVWU states on its website that, though the boycott has

wide support, it aims to build worker solidarity among the 4 million low-wage workers in the fast food industry, and also among all workers in the U.S. and globally. (tinyurl.com/yx2q37sj/)

The boycott is supported by the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, Portland Association of Teachers, and dozens of local affiliates of international unions, including American Federation of Government Employees, American Postal Workers, National Association of Letter Carriers, Amalgamated Transit Union representing Greyhound drivers and Portland transit workers, and more.

Members of the Laborers, Iron Workers and Carpenters unions came to a recent BVWU strike picket line with a charcoal grill, offering to make "Burgers for Boycotters." Union supporters also include the Service Employees local whose 10,000 members recently threatened a strike and forced significant concessions from health company giant Kaiser-Permanente, and the Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) local that represents 25,000 grocery workers, who recently won significant contract gains by threatening to strike.

In fact, inspired by the BVWU, organizing among fast food workers has increased in the Portland/Vancouver metro area, including workers at Little Big Burger, a fast food chain with stores in Oregon and North Carolina. In March those workers announced the formation of the Little Big Union, and their first demand was a \$5- an-hour raise.

At Grand Central Bakery, a Northwest Pacific restaurant chain, 400 workers joined the Bakery and Confectionery Workers (BCTGM) and have petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for recognition. Restaurant workers at the Oregon Zoo have joined the Laborers union. In September, with help from the IWW, 13 workers at Scotties Pizza petitioned the NLRB to have their union, Scotties Pizza Workers Union, recognized.

Lewis is a retired member of Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400.

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WORKERS WORLD

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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National Day of Mourning

The truth about the Pilgrims' invasion and 400+ years of genocide that followed

By Stephanie Tromblay

This article is based on lightly edited excerpts from a talk given at the Nov. 2 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

We meet on stolen Lenni-Lenape homelands — the Lenapehoking. Workers World Party looks forward to the day when all Indigenous nations' land claims are paid in full — from the Wampanoag lands on the Cape to the Ohlone lands in the San Francisco Bay Area and from the Appalachians to the Rockies.

November is National Native Heritage Month, and this November will mark the 50th National Day of Mourning. In 1970, an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, Wamsutta Frank James, who had been asked to speak at a fancy Commonwealth of Massachusetts banquet celebrating the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, was told by a representative of the Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development that he wouldn't be allowed to give his speech.

Wamsutta used one of the Pilgrims' own history books as a basis for his talk — an account of their first year on Turtle Island. The book told of their opening his ancestors' graves, stealing the Wampanoag villagers' food supplies and selling his ancestors as slaves for 220 shillings each. What? The descendants of the Pilgrims didn't want the truth?

There is a reason the U.S. has a national holiday for Plymouth and not for Jamestown colony. Jamestown's settler history is far too ugly and well-known. The ruling class cannot make the slave block something for school children to celebrate. And those first white settlers in Jamestown actually turned to cannibalism to survive.

Myths about the Pilgrims exposed

Let's go over the general myths: The Pilgrims did not find empty lands here. Every square inch of this land is Indigenous. The Puritans did not come here seeking religious freedom. They had that in Holland. No, they came in a commercial venture to make themselves rich.

One of the very first things the Pilgrims did when they arrived on Cape Cod was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of the Native villagers' winter provisions of corn and beans as they were able to carry. And what did the Pilgrims bring to these shores with them? Pilgrim settlers introduced racism, jails, class society, capitalism, patriarchy, anti-lesbian and gay bigotry, and repression of two-spirits to this continent. They carried out deforestation and over-hunted the wildlife here, not for food, but for profits — beginning capitalism's devastation of the environment and biosphere.

And they did not even land at Plymouth Rock! That little rock was cleared from the land for farming and made into a monument to racism and oppression. National Day of Mourning demonstrators have buried it twice.

The Mayflower ship was boarded in past demonstrations. One year protesters tore the Union Jack from its mast and replaced it with a flag that was flown over liberated Alcatraz Island [in San Francisco Bay, held by Indigenous people for 19 months from 1969 to 1971]. The roots of Day of Mourning have always been firmly embedded in the soil of militant protest.

About the only truth in the whole

mythology is that the pitiful, filthy unbathed, grabbing Pilgrim thieves would not have survived their first several years on land which they arrogantly named "New England" without the aid of Wampanoag people. What the Wampanoags got in return for this help was genocide, theft of their lands and never-ending repression.

First National Day of Mourning

Back in 1970, the organizers of the fancy state banquet told Wamsutta they would only let him speak if he agreed to deliver a speech that they would write. Instead, Wamsutta and hundreds of Indigenous people and their supporters gathered in Plymouth and observed the first National Day of Mourning. Only Indigenous people spoke at the Day of Mourning observance, and that is true to this day.

Wamsutta and the United American Indians of New England continued this work of telling the truth about the Puritans. UAINE has returned to Plymouth every year since 1970 to demonstrate against the Pilgrim mythology, which is still taught in schools. It is even on the goddamn citizenship test.

But the first actual "Thanksgiving" dinner was proclaimed in 1637 by Gov. John Winthrop to celebrate the safe return of men from Massachusetts colony who had gone to Mystic [Conn.], to massacre over 700 Pequot women, children and men. They celebrated with the foods that Indigenous peoples grew and ate for thousands of years, foods familiar to you today as the traditional Native harvest feast dishes that they commodified for profits. The thieves never stopped taking.

In the struggle in Plymouth in 1997, cops assaulted the Day of Mourning marchers when the march crossed the path of the annual Pilgrims' procession. By the way, when the Pilgrim descendants recreate their landing, the rich men walk first, followed by their wives, then the servants come last carrying the bags.

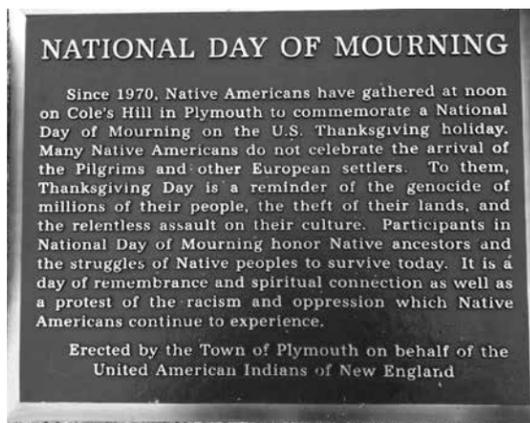
In 1997, police attacked the Native marchers, maced grandmothers and children, and arrested 25 people. Court dates were split up to make it hard for supporters to travel repeatedly from Boston to Plymouth to testify as witnesses or to pack the courtrooms.

Workers World Party responded to UAINE's call to gear up for increased repression at the march in 1998. During that struggle, there was a surprising response from European tourists who threatened to boycott. The town of Plymouth then dropped all charges against those arrested, conceded that UAINE has the right to march every Day of Mourning without a permit and paid some small reparations.

Stop attacks on Indian Child Welfare Act!

You all saw the attacks at Standing Rock. Attacks on Native peoples always turn deadly. This administration is attacking the Indian Child Welfare Act, an important law meant to keep Native children with their families and their Native nations, as many are removed from their Native families and adopted out through far-right, white Christian adoption networks.

Stealing children has a long history in this country. During the slave trade, children were torn from their mothers' arms at auctions. Plymouth sold Native women



UAINE sued Plymouth over the 1997 arrests. The settlement included installation of this plaque.

and children into slavery. Since the end of the Indian Wars — those wars across the Great Plains to the Rockies to steal the vastness of the continent, leaving the survivors on reservations, some far from their homes — thousands of Native children have been stolen from the Lakota and Dakota Nations alone. This is an incredibly important struggle throughout Native nations and communities. It's an open wound.

Most of you remember that one of Trump's first acts was to come down hard on the Standing Rock water protectors and go all-out in support of all fossil fuel extraction — damn the consequences to clean water and air and the lands! The Indian Wars have never ended; "manifest destiny" is the imperialists' mantra to take over our Mother Earth.

Native nations fight for sacred Bears Ears

Then, to continue their assault on the lands, Trump's Department of Interior head [Ryan] Zinke led the attack on Bears Ears, which are sacred ancestral lands to Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Ute Nations. These five nations united and won monument status for 1.3 million acres in Utah with unprecedented Indigenous oversight. Trump stripped control from these Native nations over uranium, oil and gas deposits and their own cultural heritage on their ancient ruins. Puebloan ancestral ruins in that area are thousands of years old. There are also ancient and unique dinosaur remains of scientific interest. This fight is not over yet!

Zinke and the right-wing descendants of settlers in Utah rode [all-terrain vehicles] roughshod through those fragile environments during a political rally to demonstrate their disregard for the lands and waters, the people and the fragile life in the environment. They want uranium mining to start up again. When you mine uranium, you have in effect declared those lands a sacrifice zone. This is not about energy; they want to make more nuclear bombs.

After the U.S. military bombed Japan, U.S. companies mined 30 million tons of uranium on the Navajo reservation in the Four Corners area of the Southwest. The Diné Nation still bears the brunt of the mining of radioactive uranium ore. There have long been clusters of birth defects and stillbirths in Diné children in the Shiprock, N.M., mining area.

The National Institutes of Health reported in 1992 that over 320 types of congenital conditions had been detected in Indian Health Service hospital records from Shiprock. University of New Mexico researchers even found uranium in the blood of Diné infants. Some 85 percent of Diné households are affected.

The imperialists wanted to ditch the nuclear treaties (more treaties to break,

by the way), and they support Trump on this. The nuclear arms race began with Washington's intention to conduct a first-strike attack against the USSR. The U.S. has more nuclear weapons than all other countries combined and surrounds the Korean peninsula with nuclear bombs. Trump has said he wanted to use them.

The U.S. military even uses left-over depleted uranium. The U.S. military left parts of Iraq poisoned with DU to the extent that Iraqi women in Fallujah have been warned not to get pregnant because their babies are born without limbs. That war crime was uncovered and publicized in the Iraq War Crimes Tribunal in the 1990s organized by the International Action Center and our WWP comrades.

States ban anti-pipeline protests

As a consequence of the mighty struggles at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline, which is now carrying oil — threatening spills into the nation's largest supply of clean water — and the on-again struggle against the Keystone XL Pipeline, states have passed legislation criminalizing First Amendment rights to protest fossil fuel infrastructure.

Also, North Dakota passed legislation to prevent Native people at Standing Rock, Fort Berthold, Spirit Lake, Turtle Mountain and Lake Traverse reservations from voting by requiring IDs with a street address. Most members of these Native nations have post office box addresses, which is not uncommon in many rural areas which lack residential postal delivery.

Fighting ruling-class lies means raising awareness that Indigenous peoples are not dead and gone. We live among you, despite smallpox, genocide and constant warfare from coast to coast. Indigenous peoples have a vast heritage — even if you consider only Native-originated foodstuffs: Over half of the world's foods by species and tonnage are native to this hemisphere and were created and grown for thousands of years before we were invaded.

Native peoples are referred to when there is a hot struggle like Standing Rock, and even then it's a hard fight to get media coverage. But we are forgotten in much of the progressive movement the rest of the time. The struggles to protect Mauna Kea in Hawai'i and to stop the Keystone XL pipeline are ongoing. Every single struggle in this country connects back to the genocide of Native nations.

There are two long-running annual Indigenous events against the November holiday: the 50th National Day of Mourning at Plymouth and this year marks the 50th Unthanksgiving Indigenous Peoples' Sunrise Ceremony at Alcatraz Island.

Solidarity!

U.S. history is full of lies meant to erase the Indigenous nations and millions of people who lived here for untold millennia before the European invasion. That's why Workers World Party joins UAINE every year for National Day of Mourning at Plymouth.

In solidarity with the Wampanoags, Narragansett, Massachusetts and other colonized Indigenous Nations of the Cape region, we remember the words of Wamsutta: "We are not vanishing. We are not conquered. We are as strong as ever."

End Native erasure! Water is life! Fight for Mother Earth!

Tromblay is Huron nonstatus and of mixed Southeast Indigenous heritage.

Syracuse University students resist white supremacy

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Nov. 22 — After three weeks of organized sit-ins and protests, students at Syracuse University have succeeded in getting the school administration to admit it must take measures to end a recent flood of white supremacist graffiti, vandalism and threats on campus.

Students at SU have been actively organizing since 2014 against both structural discrimination and individual acts of bigotry. Most recently, they formed a coalition, with African-American leadership, under the slogan #NotAgainSU, to protest white supremacist actions on campus that began in early November.

A flood of racism — and protest

From Nov. 7 through Nov. 21, multiple instances of racist graffiti aimed at Black, Asian and Indigenous people appeared in dormitories and classroom buildings, along with violent vandalism linked to the slurs. Nazi swastikas were placed at on- and off-campus student housing, while an SU professor received an anti-Semitic threat referencing Holocaust death camps. At a campus bus stop, a large group of students yelled the N-word at a Black female student waiting there. Eighteen separate incidents were reported during those three weeks, with others possibly unreported.

Chancellor Kent Syverud and the SU administration did not alert the campus until four days after the first threats and continued to delay responding—for instance, failing to acknowledge the threat to the professor who felt she had to leave campus for her safety. According to the independent campus newspaper, *The Daily Orange*, Syverud denied that the reason the university had covered up initial reports of racist graffiti was because SU was launching a \$1.5 billion fundraising campaign.

The incidents continued, and at one point word spread that student computers had been “air-dropped” with the Islamophobic manifesto of a shooter who had massacred 51 people at two mosques in New Zealand. (Air-dropping is a social media technique that only works if the sender is in close physical proximity.) Some students and faculty, alarmed for their safety, began to leave campus.

Other students, incensed at administration foot-dragging at these clear indications of danger, began to take action. In addition to multiple protests, #NotAgainSU began a sit-in at Barnes Center at The Arch Nov. 14. Students posted 18 short- and long-term demands for public discussion.

The demands included expulsion of students responsible for the graffiti; requiring faculty and staff to undergo



SU's men's basketball team wear #NotAgainSU T-shirts during national anthem in solidarity with student protest Nov. 20.

diversity training; establishing a housing portal where students can pick roommates based on mutual interests and identities; allocating \$1 million for a curriculum to educate about diversity issues, specifically anti-racism; and the resignation of Chancellor Syverud if the demands were not met. One demand — that racist language and action be made punishable under the Student Code — had been refused by Syverud in 2014, along with other similar student demands.

The demands posted at the Barnes Center ended with a blank line and an arrow pointing to where Syverud's signature was expected.

Strong support for student mobilization

Across the campus, statements of support for the students were issued by a range of academic departments and organizations, from a letter by the Sociology Graduate Student Association, published in the local Syracuse newspaper, to a campuswide call issued by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Students from SU's College of Law and SUNY-Upstate Medical School marched on campus in support.

Every member of the men's basketball team wore #NotAgainSU warm-up shirts before their Nov. 20 game, keeping the shirts on until after the national anthem. Star Elijah Hughes said: “[As a team] we want to let [our fellow students] know we recognize them, and we're supporting them. Being a man of color in this country, in this world, whether it's on a campus or in a big city, it's hard. It's just hard. There's no other way to say it.” (syracuse.com)

Action came to a head on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, when over a thousand angry people crowded Hendricks Chapel at a community forum to demand Syverud meet the demands. Women students of the local Onondaga Nation — whose land the university occupies — opened the forum in their language with a statement of full

solidarity with the organizing efforts. African-American leaders summarized the last four years of student organizing against bigotry and discrimination and repeated the #NotAgainSU demands.

Syverud took the podium and began some tentative remarks. When a student questioner then called out, “Will you sign?” he replied he would not sign without some modifications.

Outrage erupted, and a mass student walkout exited the chapel, chanting “Sign or resign!” Students then marched to the chancellor's house, protesting there for several hours.

By the morning of Thursday, Nov. 21, Syverud had signed the demands, with three “technical” modifications. He did so without meeting further with student leaders, who voiced their disagreement with that “resolution.”

A #NotAgainSU twitter statement posted on Nov. 22 announced: “Despite Chancellor Syverud signing 16 out of [our] 19 demands, #NotAgainSU will be continuing our call for the resignation of Syverud, [Department of Public Safety] Chief Bobby Maldonado, DPS Associate Chief John Sardino, and Senior Vice President for Enrollment and the Student Experience Dolan Evanovich.”

Years of resistance at SU

But the struggle at SU against racism — and against a range of discriminatory acts against women, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and others — has been going on for a long time. Before Colin Kaepernick, the “Syracuse 8” — African-American members of the school's football team — boycotted their 1970 season because of racist discrimination at SU.

In 2014 a student coalition organized as The General Body occupied the school's administration building for 18 days, after Chancellor Syverud closed an advocacy center for students who had been raped or assaulted in domestic relationships and cut funding for low-income students. (For more on this history, see thegeneralbody.org.)

In 2018 the Recognize Us coalition was formed after the leaked release of incidents at Theta Tau fraternity that involved members miming the sexual assault of a person with disabilities; swearing an oath to hate Black, Latinx and Jewish people; and mocking LGBTQ+ people. (For a list of the coalition's demands, see tinyurl.com/uuarsn2/.)

The #NotAgainSU demands repeat many of those made in these previous struggles.

Student organizers are passing strategy and goals along to each other and vowing to fight on. The resistance continues at Syracuse University. □

Colin Kaepernick refuses again to bow down to NFL

By Monica Moorehead

Colin Kaepernick, a Black quarterback, has not played in the National Football League for almost three years since he started to kneel during the playing of the national anthem to protest racist police brutality and racial inequality.

He sued the NFL's 32 majority-white multimillionaire and billionaire owners in a class action lawsuit for collusion by essentially “blackballing” him from re-signing with another team after he was waived by the San Francisco 49ers at the end of the 2017 season. Kaepernick and the owners came to an undisclosed agreement and settlement in February.

No NFL team has sought out Kaepernick to become either a starting or back-up quarterback for two-and-a-half years. So why did the NFL set up an unexpected workout for Kaepernick on Nov. 16 to perform before 32 teams to see if he could still play? Kaepernick has continually let it be known that he wants to play again.

The “workout” proved to be shady from the very start. First, the NFL gave Kaepernick a two-hour ultimatum to agree to the workout scheduled for a Saturday when most teams are either traveling to or hosting a Sunday game. Most trial workouts are reserved for a Tuesday. The NFL also wanted Kaepernick to sign

an unusual waiver heavily loaded against him. According to his lawyers, to recommend that he sign would have been “malpractice” on their part.

A provision in the waiver stated that “in consideration for the opportunity to participate in the workout, the player [releases the NFL from all liability] arising out of, occurring during, or related directly or indirectly to the workout.” (*Newsweek*, Nov. 19)

In other words, signing the waiver would remove Kaepernick's right to pursue a legal claim against the NFL if the owners want to permanently keep him from playing.

Howard Bryant, a Black ESPN reporter, stated, “When you are talking about this waiver, you are asking Colin Kaepernick to give up everything, and I think that when you go into a negotiation you are not expected to give up all your rights.” (*Newsweek*, Nov. 19)

In addition, if Kaepernick had agreed to the terms of the NFL's workout at the Atlanta Falcons training facility, the NFL would have exclusive rights to the video of the workout, with the possibility of biased editing of the footage; and the media would be excluded from the workout. The NFL would be calling all the shots, including choosing Kaepernick's receivers.

Many sports critics viewed this workout as a complete sham, especially since

none of the 32 teams had shown the slightest interest in Kaepernick because he used the football field as a platform for protest.

Kaepernick turns the tables

Two hours before the workout was to take place, Kaepernick and his team decided to switch locations to Charles Drew High School, an hour away from Atlanta to call his own workout. (Drew was the Black surgeon who discovered different methods of storing blood plasma especially for casualties during World War II.) Over 100 supporters of Kaepernick gathered near the football field to watch the workout and cheer him on.

Kaepernick wore a Kunta Kinte shirt with a red, black and green emblem, signifying the Black Liberation colors. Kinte was a main character in Alex Haley's groundbreaking novel, “*Roots*,” that followed the journey of kidnapped and enslaved African people until they won their freedom after the U.S. Civil War. Kinte was a rebellious enslaved person whom Kaepernick identifies with.

Out of an estimated 25 NFL team representatives supposedly committed to



Colin Kaepernick at his workout on Nov. 17.

view Kaepernick's workout, only eight showed up once the venue was changed. Kaepernick went through a one-hour workout with his handpicked receivers and showed he is still an elite quarterback.

Some sports commentators criticized Kaepernick for not bowing down to the NFL and abiding by their

rules for the workout. But Kaepernick is aware that there is no equal situation between him as an individual player and the NFL hierarchy representing the interests of the super-rich owners.

After the workout, Kaepernick held an impromptu press conference, stating, “I've been ready for three years. I've been denied for three years. We all know why. We're waiting for the 32 owners, the 32 teams, Roger Goodell, all of them to stop running. Stop running from the truth, stop running from the people.” (theundefeated.com, Nov. 18)

Howard Bryant stated, on the Nov. 19 ESPN show “*First Take*,” that if the NFL does not allow Kaepernick to be the character he is, then the NFL is more concerned with demanding “Black obedience” than in judging Kaepernick on his ability to play. □

Death, destitution and activism in SCI Frackville

By Ted Kelly
Frackville, Pa.

More than 60 men at Frackville State Correctional Institution here joined together to say goodbye to Cleveland Butler. Over half of them came forward to speak about their fellow inmate, Cleve, who died of pancreatic cancer in October. One inmate sang a touching rendition of the Boyz II Men song, "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye." The prison chaplain who presided over the memorial, Rev. Samuel Anyanwu, was overwhelmed and said he'd "never seen anything like this."

But apart from Anyanwu and staff members Goodson S. Gomonda and Lisa Valinski who worked alongside Butler in the prison library, no one from the Frackville administration showed up at Butler's memorial. Frackville issued no statement to the men who had gathered to memorialize their friend and fellow inmate. They made no public announcement of his death.

Frackville inmate and activist behind bars Bryant Arroyo, who spoke at Butler's memorial, thought of his father's own battle with cancer. Serving a life sentence for a crime he did not commit, Arroyo last saw his father in the prison visiting room: "I recall my Dad saying how painful it was. He had his barf bag. He was maxed out on morphine, still in pain. I've been through those things. Those are my scars. I live in honor of him."

Arroyo expressed a common feeling among the inmates that the prison administration's lack of respect by not even sending out a memo commenting on Butler's death was a slap in the face to every person incarcerated at Frackville. This was a man in their custody for years, who was a fixture of the law library and who helped countless men work on their cases by providing

resources and advice. Butler provided hope to prisoners fighting for their freedom.

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. That's what Cleve wanted everybody to know," Arroyo said. "In principle, he served. And that is the most remarkable quality of leadership."

Butler was scheduled to be transferred for treatment to another Pennsylvania state prison that had adequate medical facilities. He died a week before the transfer.

New ways to profit off prisoners

What is behind the callous silence on the part of the administration? "This is a business," Arroyo said. Prisons in the United States are concentration camps for the poor, where mostly Black and Brown workers are kept in cages as a retainer labor pool. Corporations like Aramark, Smart Communications and GEO Group make billions off of operation of these toxic facilities.

Arroyo echoed the words of recently released MOVE 9 member Eddie Africa, speaking at a Nov. 12 event hosted by the Philadelphia Workers' Solidarity Network, who said: "Prisons are companies. It's as simple as that."

For months now Frackville has been engaged in what appears to be an active campaign to discourage visits to prisoners. On Oct. 30, the prison held a graduation ceremony for prisoners who had completed the Certified Peer Specialist training, GED, and Pell Grant programs. Inmate Pete Span's daughter, Bianca Livingston, and friend, Ann Cohen, were turned away because their bra hooks and belt buckles set off the metal detector. Linda James, mother of Tyrone James, was also denied entry when trying to visit for the same ceremony.

Arroyo has spoken before on how this pretext is not only a direct violation of

the state Department of Corrections's own visitation policies (31B1 in the code of conduct), which states that metal clothing fixtures are not grounds to deny a visit once they are identified, but it constitutes sexual harassment, especially when it polices women's undergarments.

Arroyo pointed out: "Under the guise of security, they are turning visits into punishments. All we want to do is have an enjoyable visit like [DOC] says we're supposed to have in their little book."

The crackdown on visitations is also about profit, like the new prison mailing system that funnels all letters and postage through a third-party corporation in Florida, Smart Communications, in exchange for a multimillion-dollar contract. Now prisons across the state have been contracting for two-way video conferencing stations so prisoners can have "virtual visits." By putting family members and friends through hell in the visiting room, the DOC aims to discourage outsiders from coming to the facility at all.

"One of the reasons is to replace visits with totally noncontact, virtual visits," says Arroyo. "The video calls last less than one hour, 52 minutes. Then [the DOC doesn't] have to deal with any visitors to the actual facility. And [companies] get another huge contract for the tech."

Targeting prisoner activism

Arroyo is an outspoken critic of the prison industry and his activism has made him a target for retaliation. When Arroyo tried to send out legal mail, a sergeant Purcell, "in an officious and punitive manner," refused to process his cash slips so he could put stamps on the letters. This directly blocked Arroyo's communication with his lawyers.

Likewise, Arroyo's J-Pay account has been locked for months without



PHOTO: JUSTIN ELLIS

Ted Kelly (left) and Bryant Arroyo

explanation. J-Pay is another mass incarceration profiteer and the way that family and friends send funds to inmates so they can buy food and clothing, send letters and make phone calls. Frackville administrators claim they have not locked the account and it's a "technical issue," while J-Pay claims that their system is working fine and that Arroyo's account should be active.

Between the crackdown on in-person visits and the freezing of Arroyo's account, it seems clear that an attempt is being made to silence this outspoken critic of the prison system, and keep him from contact with the outside world.

But Bryant Arroyo is undeterred, just like the many prisoners he stands alongside and struggles with: "If you don't hold on to truth and you let it go to curry favor with the ones who have captured you, your mental state is enslaved. The truth, no matter how difficult it may be, may be the only thing you have."

Workers World is proud to continue to elevate the voices of these freedom fighters in the belly of the beast for whom the enemy — white-supremacist, capitalist domination — is ever-present.

"These corporate raiders are like vampires," Arroyo says. "You can try mirrors; you can try the stake. But the best weapon is to put the sun on their ass. Expose them." □

On fifth anniversary of his killing Tamir Rice remembered

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Hundreds gathered here on Nov. 20 to remember Tamir Rice.

Cleveland cops had brutally shot and killed the 12-year-old boy on Nov. 22 five years ago. It happened just seconds after officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback pulled up to see the youngster playing with a BB gun. When Tamir's siblings arrived on the scene, they were handcuffed and put in the back of a police vehicle. His mother, Samaria Rice, was not allowed near her son. She was told he was "evidence."

Neither of the cops was charged or even fired for killing Tamir. Loehmann was fired much later — not for murder, but for lying on his job application about his past employment record.

Samaria Rice is a tower of strength in the ongoing fight for justice — not only for her son but for every parent's child who has been the victim of racist police brutality. She has kept Tamir's memory alive over the past five years.

This week, Rice worked with local and national artists and activists to present a powerful event, "Art, Activism and the Legacy of Tamir



Rice," at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Many artists, moved by the tragic death of Tamir, have created works of art in response. Artists who spoke about and shared their work included filmmakers Korstiaan Vandiver and Danielle Lee; visual artists Theaster Gates, Sheila Pree Bright, Michael Rakowitz and Amanda D. King; installation and performance artist EJ Hill; poet Kisha Nicole Foster; dancer Lexy Lattimore; and spoken word artist Jasiri X.

Black Lives Matter co-founder Opal Tometi emceed the program. Other speakers included the Rev. Dr. Jawanza K. Colvin, Fred Hampton Jr., Bakari Kitwana and Samaria Rice. Rice announced plans to build the Tamir Rice Afrocentric Cultural Center on Cleveland's East Side. Some \$50,000 has already been raised or pledged for the center.

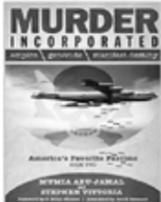
Tamir Rice is not forgotten. □

YOUTH RISE-UP

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Behind the impeachment hearings

“Things are seldom what they seem, skim milk masquerades as cream,” goes the old Gilbert and Sullivan song.

The current impeachment hearings conducted by Congress may seem like an effort to get rid of Trump and his reactionary policies. In fact, they have no progressive content and conceal more than they reveal.

Yes, Trump is a crook — and not a very artful one. He clumsily tried to get the Ukrainian government to investigate the son of his political rival, Joe Biden, and threatened to withhold military funding for “security” if they didn’t.

That has given his political opponents in both capitalist parties a lot of ammunition against him. But this does nothing to combat all the horrible things Trump has done in his domestic policy — his deadly attacks on immigrants, especially from Latin America, the Middle East and Africa; his instigation and promotion of racism and patriarchal bigotry; his absurd denial of the climate crisis in order to curry favor with energy corporations; his right-wing and anti-worker cabinet appointments, etc.

And a closer look at those in the state apparatus moving against him reveals a

rogues’ gallery of war hawks.

What’s being concealed

Fiona Hill, the former National Security Council senior director for Europe and Russia, was an effective witness against Trump in the hearings. Hill has been a deputy to John Bolton and was assigned to Ukraine. Until he resigned in September, Bolton was Trump’s National Security Adviser.

Bolton is a notorious foreign policy hawk. Prior to his resignation, Bolton was calling for a “tougher line” against Iran, Venezuela and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (north Korea). He is credited with having torpedoed the talks between Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un held in Vietnam last February.

In August, before resigning, Bolton got Trump to freeze Venezuela’s assets. “This is the first time in 30 years that we are imposing an asset freeze against a government in this hemisphere,” said Bolton. “It worked in Panama, it worked once in Nicaragua, and it’s going to work there again, and it’s going to work in Venezuela and Cuba.”

In fact, it hasn’t worked. Venezuela and Cuba have more than survived and won’t

bow down to Washington’s dictates.

What the impeachment hearings are concealing is an effort — by the military, the “intelligence community” and the imperialist ruling class they serve — to push for an even more aggressive foreign policy — with or without Trump.

These forces didn’t like the fact that Trump wouldn’t OK an all-out attack on Syria and eventually pulled out U.S. troops. That he held back from waging war against Iran. That he wants to be seen as a peacemaker.

That is not to say that Trump is some kind of pacifist. He has overseen enormous increases in the Pentagon budget. But his “America first,” flag-waving pseudo-protectionism has not given the war hawks the go-ahead they want.

Ukraine and the real crimes

Ukraine used to be part of the Soviet Union. It became an “independent” country within the U.S. orbit with the downfall of the USSR. For years, Washington has given military aid to Ukraine, and not just to integrate it into an alliance against Russia.

U.S. military aid has provided arms

for Ukraine’s war against people in eastern Ukraine — the Donbass — who have opted to secede from Ukraine and be part of Russia. They speak Russian and were historically part of Russian territory. The U.S. government calls this history “Russian aggression.”

And U.S. aid is also used to prosecute a war against progressive elements inside Ukraine who have stood up to actual fascists in the government. On May 2, 2014, fascist gangs in Ukraine killed 48 people when they burned down the House of Trade Unions in Odessa. (For more on this, see workers.org.)

The U.S. government had no problem with this massacre of workers and kept the weapons coming. The hearings against Trump are glorifying the war criminals like Bolton who are behind these policies.

The impeachment hearings are concealing the real crime: that both the Democratic and Republican parties serve the interests of the super-rich and have extracted trillions of dollars from the workers in the U.S. to pay for a war machine designed to safeguard corporate interests above all else. □

50th National Day of Mourning

Workers World Party honors Indigenous peoples

Continued from page 1

caging and mistreating children.

Regarding family separation, reactionary forces are mobilizing to overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act, meant to keep Indigenous children with their families and nations, instead of adopted out by right-wing networks. This campaign is a deliberate effort to suppress Indigenous culture and undermine legal protection gained by Native communities.

Shocking data from 71 cities tells of 506 murdered or missing Native women and girls; that is a vast undercount. There has been little follow-up or media coverage. Federal legislation on this is inching along only because of public pressure.

Another problem facing Native people is the underfunded, inadequate and unreliable Indian Health Service, which leaves many Indigenous families with little to no medical care.

Indigenous peoples lead resistance to corporate polluters

A militant struggle was waged to stop construction of the Dakota Access

Pipeline in the Dakotas, designed to transport oil across several states at great risk. An oil spill would poison the precious water sources relied on by millions of people and contaminate Native land and sacred sites.

Led by the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, with other Native nations and joined by environmentalists and other supporters, water protectors heroically occupied the land, defying brutal state and private security repression. Hundreds of people were arrested and detained under inhumane conditions — including in cages.

Some Native fighters were sentenced to federal prison terms. North Dakota arrested hundreds and prosecuted many. Currently, DAPL owner Energy Transfer Partners seeks to double its oil flow in North Dakota. The Standing Rock Sioux are fighting this expansion in court.

Meanwhile, 9,120 barrels of oil spilled on Oct. 28 from the Keystone XL Pipeline — which carries tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to Texas — contaminating North Dakota wetlands. A KXL pipeline leak of 210,000 gallons

of oil in South Dakota set off protests of thousands of people in 2017. Despite these disasters, TC Energy, KXL’s owner, plans to expand the pipeline, which Native groups and environmentalists are challenging.

No surprise: Polluter in chief Donald Trump issued an executive order allowing KXL’s construction, regardless of environmental and health dangers, violation of Indigenous land rights or mass opposition.

The greedy companies that profit from these pipelines have successfully pressured many states to prohibit anti-pipeline activism, denying the basic right to demonstrate. These pro-corporate laws designed to stifle the movement must be opposed!

The racist Trump administration shows contempt for Indigenous peoples’ sovereignty, seizing their lands and trampling on their rights and culture: Big Oil’s friend in the White House ordered that Bears Ears, ancestral land for five Native nations in Utah, be opened up to corporate fracking, drilling and mining.

Years of struggle won national monument status for Bears Ears; now these Native nations are fighting this land grab to regain oversight of their sacred site and protect it.

Indigenous people in Hawai’i have been occupying Mauna Kea, the world’s tallest mountain when measured from sea bed to top, to prevent installation of the multimillion-dollar Thirty Meter Telescope. It is a sacred place, a conservation site and the watershed for the Big Island.

A successful struggle is winning commemoration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day in cities and states around the country, as more people reject the Columbus myth and want to honor Native people, not a colonizer.

On the 50th National Day of Mourning, Workers World extends our utmost solidarity to Indigenous peoples worldwide — and gives our wholehearted support to all the struggles against environmental racism and imperialist oppression and for the preservation of the planet and all forms of life on it. □

New York workers demand wage theft protection



Workers held a powerful rally in front of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s office in midtown Manhattan on Nov. 20 to demand that he sign the SWEAT, Securing Wages Earned Against Theft, Bill, A486/S2844. Passed by both houses of the New York State Legislature in June, it would give workers and the New York Department of Labor the tools to recover stolen wages, including the ability to put a lien on an employer’s

business or property until the conclusion of a court case or investigation.

Many workers do not receive minimum wage or overtime pay; some are not paid at all. One speaker noted that he was paid \$3 a day, \$15 a week working at a bakery. Another worker said he was paid \$1 an hour. When workers take action to recover their stolen wages, employers often close up shop and then reopen under a different name. The NYDOL estimates that up to \$1 billion is stolen from workers in New York state every year.

Around two dozen worker and community organizations sponsored the action, including the Laundry Workers Center.

— Report and photos by Brenda Ryan

New York City: 1,000 march to stop police brutality



More than 1,000 people marched through Harlem on Nov. 22 in the second emergency action against the escalation of violence against Black and Brown people by the New York Police Department and the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police. On Nov. 8, police arrested a woman selling churros, a Mexican sweet, in a Brooklyn subway station. In

other instances, videos show the NYPD tackling and punching children at the Jay Street Metrotech stop and pulling a gun on a 19-year-old riding a subway train.

In response to this militant protest of police brutality, NYPD cops brutally arrested 58 people, targeting them as the demonstration began. Chanting, “No justice, no peace, f— k these racist police” and “Whose streets? Our streets,” protesters took over the streets. Decolonize This Place, NYC Shut It Down and the People’s Power Assemblies/NYC were among the many groups there.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan

Resistance continues as Coup regime murders 30 in Bolivia

By John Catalinotto

Nov. 23 — Since a U.S.-backed military coup aided by fascist gangs overthrew the elected government of Evo Morales in Bolivia on Nov. 10, police and military forces using live gunfire have killed at least 30 people protesting the new coup regime.

These criminal acts have been directed at the large Indigenous population that supports the Morales government. State forces backing the coup fired on marches, mainly in the cities of Cochabamba and La Paz and on Nov. 19 by helicopter gunfire in El Alto.

Some deaths may be unreported as the coup regime has censored news, expelling foreign journalists and threatening to kill Bolivian journalists if they report the truth. On Nov. 21, the coup regime closed down the TeleSUR network's news coverage in Bolivia, one of the few media that would give fair coverage to Morales supporters.

To guarantee that the military commanders would fire on Indigenous demonstrators, the coup regime transferred \$4.8 billion to the armed forces and issued a decree on Nov. 15 that the armed forces and police personnel have impunity. This means they cannot be prosecuted for crimes against humanity for firing on unarmed people.

Despite the risks, many of Bolivia's 11.6 million mostly Indigenous people have continued to mobilize across this country, which is larger than Texas and New

Mexico combined. They have blocked the streets of the capital, La Paz, and prevented deliveries of gasoline and food.

The marchers demand the resignation of self-appointed president Jeanine Áñez and the expulsion of ultra-conservative head of security Arturo Murillo, coup leader Luis Fernando Camacho, reactionary politician Carlos Mesa and other coup figures.

Other prominent enemies of the people include the Armed Forces generals who were trained at the U.S.-run School of the Americas in Georgia and have led the military's actions during the coup. (greyzone.com, Nov. 13)

Both Washington and its puppet group for colonial action in Latin America — the Organization of American States — have to figure out how to back up their false claim that the new regime is democratic or admit that they are aiding a coup.

The coup leaders have a problem because two-thirds of the parliament were elected from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party, and MAS has refused to recognize Áñez. To eliminate MAS electoral leaders, Murillo talks of "hunting" the leaders and has accused MAS's leading members of parliament of "sedition" and "subversion."

The coup regime continues to bring military and police pressure against the remaining MAS leaders. Without the agreement of the MAS legislative majority, constitutional elections with a new Supreme Electoral Tribunal cannot be held. Donald Trump, OAS head Luis

Almagro and the European Union have said they back the new regime "because it is democratic."

Elections during state of siege

Though it might seem ridiculous to promise to hold "free and democratic" elections when the entire country is in a virtual state of siege, that's the coup leaders' scenario. And they plan to do this without allowing Evo Morales or his vice president to reenter the country, let alone participate in the election. Morales and Vice President Álvaro García Linera are currently in Mexico, where they have been granted asylum. Morales has said that the coup leaders have tried to kill him.

According to Marco Teruggi's Nov. 23 article in pagina12.org.ar, while "the persecution is deepening, [and] police and military repression has killed more than 30 people, the pain and anger is growing. Faced with this repression, the people remain in the streets advancing together with those in the legislature, although not necessarily in a coordinated manner. MAS has already announced that it is working to achieve an electoral way forward under the least unfavorable conditions possible. But can it?"

Even as they fight it out in the impeachment hearings, the Trump administration and the leading Democrats are giving



People march with the Wiphala, the Indigenous flag, in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

bipartisan backing to the coup-makers and vilifying and slandering the Morales government. The same is true for the corporate media: Both pro- and anti-Trump media attack Morales and refuse to call the coup a coup.

Only a few Democratic Party politicians — Congresswomen Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar and Senator Bernie Sanders, for example — have criticized the coup and called it a coup.

Anti-imperialist forces in the U.S. can expose the lies of the imperialists and their media, defend Bolivia's democratically elected MAS government, and continue to call a coup a coup. That is a minimum. To the extent possible, they can also support and encourage the continued growth of the resistance in Bolivia, whatever form it takes, in the face of criminal repression by imperialism and its local lackeys. □

Israeli colonization, Palestinian resistance

By G. Dunkel

In the midst of a political stalemate in Israel, the government is continuing with its annexation of the West Bank, a move recently endorsed by the U.S. Israel also continues its murderous campaign against Gaza and air strikes against Syria.

After two elections, in April and September, Israeli politicians are still deadlocked. Likud, the party of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister for the last 10 years, has basically tied twice with the Blue and White party of Benny Gantz, a more centrist alliance put together to try to defeat Netanyahu. As a result, neither has been able to form a government.

The Joint List, a political coalition uniting a number of Palestinian parties, is the third largest block in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Netanyahu's campaign terror-baited the Joint List and tried to link it to the Blue and White.

U.S. support for Israel's colonization

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Nov. 18 that the United States does not consider Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land to be illegal.

This statement reverses 40 years of U.S. policy, but didn't come out of the blue. David M. Friedman, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, made it clear that he supported Israel's so-called right to annex the occupied West Bank at his nomination hearing in 2016. (New York Times, Dec. 15, 2016)

The latest gift by U.S. President Donald Trump to his ally Netanyahu has no obvious rationale, but certainly bolstered Netanyahu's political position within Israel.

In response, Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee and an elected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said: "Pompeo's reckless announcement threatens to normalize and encourage Israeli war crimes and expansionism." (Washington Post, Nov. 20)

She went on to say: "The issue of settlements is not some abstract or theoretical legal argument. Israel's illegal settlement regime has had dire consequences on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Palestinians."

She added: "Today, roughly 700,000 Israeli settlers live illegally on occupied Palestinian land in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in more than

200 settlements. [Israeli] settlements are strategically located to isolate Palestinian cities, towns and villages, sever East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, and take control of vital natural resources, including water."

Israel's campaign against Gaza

Israel claimed Nov. 12 that it had assassinated Baha Abu Al-Ata, the top commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and his spouse Asma Abu Al-Ata, at their home in Gaza. Israel boasted that this assassination was "surgical," but one of its final strikes also destroyed the home of another family, killing eight, including five children. Palestinian medical officials reported 34 casualties. (Washington Post, Nov. 16)

In response, beginning Nov. 13, Islamic Jihad sent a barrage of hundreds of rockets into southern Israel. After a couple of days, Israel attacked some Hamas facilities, claiming rockets were coming from there.

Israel has imposed a state of siege on Gaza for the past 12 years. Israel has limited or completely cut off food, water, electricity and medical supplies, leaving the Palestinian people there in hunger, thirst and danger.

Netanyahu's indictment

On Nov. 21, Avichai Mandelblit, Israel's attorney general, released a 63-page indictment of Netanyahu, who had appointed him 4 years earlier. Netanyahu was charged with bribery, fraud and breach of trust. These charges are similar to charges now being developed in the impeachment investigation against his ally Trump.

Netanyahu's response to the indictment was aggressive. He charged it was a "witch hunt," "an attempted coup," and is refusing to step down. He is not legally obliged to do so, but significantly he had called for a previous prime minister, Ehud Olmert, to step down after a similar indictment.

It is not clear how this latest development will affect the situation in Israel and Palestine. The Blue and White head, Benny Gantz, implied he could no longer negotiate with Likud while it was headed by Netanyahu. Political splits in the Israeli public are growing sharper. European media called for Netanyahu to step down.

The head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, said the developments were a sign "of more steadfastness" for the Palestinians and that this meant more "resistance, both popular and armed." (AP, Nov. 23) □



PHOTO: STUDENTS FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

U.S. hands off Bolivia!

A dozen people demonstrated Nov. 19 against the U.S.-backed coup in Bolivia on the campus of West Liberty University near Wheeling, W. Va. Members of Students for Democracy and Socialism, Ohio Valley Peace, Industrial Workers of the World, Serve the People and Workers World Party participated in the events.

Activists from the various organizations shared a literature table, distributing material regarding

the recent coup in Bolivia against President Evo Morales to WLU students inside the College Union building. Afterward, people marched around campus, carrying pro-Morales signs, and concluded with a silent vigil. Outside the student center a member of Serve the People gave a passionate speech denouncing the crimes of U.S. imperialism.

— Report by Otis Grotewohl



FOTO: CUT COLOMBIA TWITTER

Paro nacional Nov. 21 en Colombia; aquí, departamento de Boyacá.

¡La juventud obrera quiere el socialismo!

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

Según una encuesta realizada por YouGov en septiembre de 2019, el 70 por ciento de los millennials, personas entre 23 y 38 años, votarían por un socialista. Un tercio ve el comunismo favorablemente en comparación con el capitalismo. Lo que esta encuesta implica es que los jóvenes en los Estados Unidos creen cada vez más en un futuro socialista para la humanidad y el planeta.

La confianza en las instituciones básicas y la mitología fundadora de los Estados Unidos se está desmoronando. Solo el 57 por ciento de los millennials estaba a favor de la Declaración de Independencia de los Estados Unidos sobre el Manifiesto Comunista como un documento que “garantizaría la libertad”. Eso se compara con el 94 por ciento de las personas mayores de 74 años que eligen la Declaración sobre el Manifiesto.

La popularidad del comunismo entre los millennials está creciendo rápidamente, y su apoyo aumentó en un 8 por ciento en el último año. Mientras tanto, el 35 por ciento de los millennials ve el marxismo favorablemente. Uno de cada cinco cree que el mundo estaría mejor si se aboliera la propiedad privada. Cuando se trata de reformas, la universidad totalmente gratuita tiene un 45 por ciento de apoyo, y un 50 por ciento cree que el gobierno debería garantizarles a todos un trabajo.

¿Cuáles son las condiciones y experiencias que crearon todos estos “millennials rojos”?

Esta es la generación que ocupó Wall Street, que lideró Black Lives Matter, que está en huelga por la justicia climática, que vota por Bernie Sanders y los candidatos más a la izquierda, y que continúa luchando contra todos los ataques racistas y fascistas de Trump.



La juventud de la clase obrera en lucha contra los grandes capitalistas.

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Esta es una generación pro-sindicato, pro-im/migrante, pro-LGBTQ2+ y pro-igualdad de género, así como contra la guerra y contra el racismo.

Esta es también una generación que está subempleada, enfrenta billones de dólares en deudas estudiantiles y no puede pagar sus tarjetas de crédito o facturas médicas. Los hijos de los millennials, los nacidos hoy, enfrentan una esperanza de vida más baja que sus padres. Esta estadística aplastante es una acusación del sistema criminal capitalista que causó el declive, una acusación al capitalismo en un callejón sin salida.

A pesar de la aniquilación de los niveles de vida por parte del capitalismo, el impacto de la propaganda anticomunista en el siglo pasado, una respuesta del capital a la victoriosa revolución bolchevique, sigue siendo una realidad. Por ejemplo, el 61 por ciento de las personas encuestadas consideró que la palabra “comunista” era un insulto. Sin embargo, significativamente, solo el 37 por ciento de todas las personas encontraron insultante la palabra “socialista”.

La mayoría de los encuestados consideraba a Donald Trump como la mayor amenaza para la paz mundial. Continúa la clásica cruzada anticomunista, llamando a Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez y otros funcionarios electos progresistas

“comunistas” y “anti-estadounidenses”.

Mientras tanto, el liderazgo del Partido Demócrata enfrenta un desafío de los “socialistas democráticos” dentro de su partido, creando una división sobre si continúan siendo el partido sin complejos del imperialismo neoliberal o ceden terreno a aquellos que impulsan una agenda más progresista. Los líderes del Partido Demócrático de la Vieja Guardia, como la presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi, continúan defendiendo las perspectivas capitalistas orientadas al mercado.

Mientras los demócratas se tambalean, los partidos socialistas y comunistas en los Estados Unidos están creciendo a medida que el mundo entero se enfrenta a la desaparición del capitalismo.

Capitalistas celebran la caída del muro de Berlín, pero el socialismo avanza

Cuando el Muro de Berlín cayó hace 30 años, marcó el comienzo de una contrarrevolución global y el colapso de la Unión Soviética. Los apologistas capitalistas proclamaron el fin de la historia, declarando que el capitalismo es el sistema económico permanente del mundo.

Sin embargo, después de tres décadas de capitalismo en la ex República Democrática Alemana, Europa del Este y la ex URSS, las

encuestas muestran que la mayoría de esos países prefieren la vida que tenían bajo el socialismo. Han experimentado el contraste entre un sistema que garantizaba empleos, viviendas económicas, cuidado infantil universal, atención médica gratuita y de calidad, contra los males del capitalismo: desempleo, falta de vivienda, robo de salarios, bajos salarios, analfabetismo, nacionalismo de derecha, falta de apoyo para la salud mental, por nombrar algunos.

Hoy en China, cientos de millones de personas han salido de la pobreza y se están tomando medidas serias para abordar la emergencia climática. El pueblo de Cuba vive más que las personas en los Estados Unidos.

La realidad va en contra de toda la propaganda capitalista de que “el socialismo es una buena idea, pero no puede funcionar” o que Estados Unidos “salvó al mundo” de la “esclavitud” y la “dictadura” comunista.

Los gobiernos pro-socialistas en países como Venezuela y Bolivia, actualmente sitiados por las fuerzas derechistas respaldadas por Estados Unidos, han logrado enormes ganancias para el pueblo y han construido movimientos de base después de ganar las elecciones burguesas.

Sin embargo, la pregunta principal sigue siendo: ¿qué clase controlará los bancos, las principales industrias, los medios y la sociedad civil, junto con el aparato estatal? Esta pregunta será decisiva para la supervivencia de la humanidad y toda la vida en el planeta.

La revolución socialista es, de hecho, la única alternativa real al sistema capitalista de explotación y al creciente peligro del fascismo.

Desde nuestra fundación hace 60 años, el Partido Mundial de los Trabajadores ha defendido firmemente el campo socialista y sus esfuerzos por transformar el mundo. ¡Esperamos que muchos jóvenes comunistas milenarios se unan a nuestras filas y luchen en las calles para construir un mundo de trabajadores! □

Los coreanos dicen no a Trump

Por Deirdre Griswold

La República Democrática Popular de Corea ha rechazado la última propuesta de la administración Trump para una reunión cumbre.

El 18 de noviembre, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la RDPC dijo en un comunicado: “Tres rondas de reuniones y conversaciones entre la RDPC y EE.UU. se han llevado a cabo desde junio del año pasado, pero no se han logrado mejoras particulares en las relaciones entre estos dos países. Y Estados Unidos solo busca ganar tiempo, pretendiendo que ha progresado en la solución del problema de la península de Corea.

“Ya no nos interesan esas conversaciones que no nos aportan nada. Como no hemos recibido nada a cambio, ya no le regalaremos al presidente de los Estados Unidos algo de lo que pueda jactarse. Si Estados Unidos realmente quiere mantener un diálogo con la RDPC, será mejor que tome una decisión audaz de

abandonar su política hostil hacia la RDPC”.

Cuando Donald Trump se reunió con Kim Jong Un, líder de la RDPC, en Singapur en junio de 2018, pareció ser un gran avance en las relaciones entre los dos países. Ciertamente, Trump usó la reunión para ganar tribuna, proyectando una imagen de un líder valiente listo para romper con el pasado y resolver problemas difíciles.

Repitió el gesto en febrero y se encontró con Kim en Vietnam. Y en junio, Trump fue a la zona desmilitarizada que divide el

norte y el sur de Corea, poniendo su pie en la línea de demarcación.

Pero todo fue por espectáculo. Desde entonces, Estados Unidos no ha hecho nada para reducir su amenaza real de guerra en la península.

La cumbre de febrero en Vietnam se interrumpió cuando Trump y su agresivo “asesor de seguridad”, John Bolton, le entregaron a Kim un documento que pedía “desmantelar completamente la infraestructura nuclear, el programa de guerra química y biológica de Corea del Norte y las capacidades relacionadas de



A la izquierda, Pyongyang, la capital de la RPDC, arrasada por las bombas estadounidenses durante la Guerra de Corea; a la derecha, Pyongyang hoy día.



doble uso; y misiles balísticos, lanzadores e instalaciones asociadas”, según la agencia de noticias británica Reuters.

¡Imagínese la indignación en el establecimiento militar/diplomático imperialista de EE.UU. Si el escenario se hubiera revertido, si Kim le hubiera entregado a Trump un documento exigiendo que EE.UU. desmonte sus armas del fin del mundo que se utilizan para amenazar al mundo entero!

La RDPC no tiene bases en el extranjero. No participa en guerras extranjeras. Sus armas son puramente defensivas, una necesidad absoluta en un país que sabe lo que es ser atacado por Estados Unidos. Desde 1950 hasta 1953, cada edificio de más de un piso fue bombardeado por Estados Unidos en una de las guerras más desiguales de la historia humana.

La RDPC sobrevivió debido a la firme determinación del pueblo de defender su sistema socialista. Eso es lo que el imperialismo estadounidense no puede entender, o derrotar. □