



Presidential campaign chaos

Workers still have no real choice

WW STATEMENT

Workers World has learned that President Joe Biden has dropped out of the race between him and former President Donald Trump. As of this writing it appears that Vice President Kamala Harris will run in Biden's place. This is being presented as an unprecedented development, because no presidential candidate has ever withdrawn after winning their party's nomination through the primary election process.

Whatever Biden's withdrawal leads to, it promises no meaningful change in the political positions of the Democratic Party. Even without "Genocide Joe" as the candidate, its support for the genocide in Palestine will continue—with Democratic and Republican support for continued military aid to the Zionist apartheid state. This will not change with the election of either Trump or Harris.

Workers World will oppose racism and misogyny whenever they raise their ugly heads, and that will happen if there is a possibility that Kamala Harris could be the first Black and South Asian woman president and the second president of color of the U.S.

But we have no illusions that the mere election of someone who is not Biden will lead to any change in policy in regards to ethnic cleansing in Palestine and the U.S-NATO proxy war against Russia. We don't expect any drop in the number of murders by racist police, who have by and large operated with impunity no matter who



sits in the Oval Office.

We don't expect companies like Starbucks, Amazon and Tesla to reverse their anti-union agenda. We also do not expect there to be a reversal to the 2022 reactionary U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade — a historic ruling won through mass struggle that legalized abortion in 1973.

Stopping these injustices will take a massive struggle, and we will do all we can to help this happen.

Both capitalist exploitation at home and imperialist

war abroad will continue to make life hell for the working-class, especially the most oppressed — as has happened under Biden.

Workers World understands the threat of fascism posed by Trump, J.D. Vance, Project 2025 and Agenda 47. Many workers are legitimately afraid.

But the only way to win, especially in this era of late-stage capitalism where class antagonisms are razor-sharp, is to build a united global movement of all working class and oppressed people. That movement must act in total solidarity with the valiant resistance fight for the liberation of Palestine and battle every step by the U.S. imperialist regime to drag the people into war.

Workers World supports wholeheartedly the mass protests for Palestine that will take place Aug. 19 and during the Democratic National Convention. The march is demanding "End U.S. aid to Israel," which convention delegates should be pressed to call for. Delegates representing "uncommitted" primary voters in a number of states are going into the convention to demand "Not one more bomb."

Unfortunately members of the "progressive" wing of the Democratic Party, including Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, shamefully gave Biden their endorsement shortly before his withdrawal.

We state this firmly: Capitulation and compromise on the issue of genocide is unacceptable. □



Protest at Boston Common July 20, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN



The day before Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to Congress, hundreds of Jewish Voice for Peace members occupy the U.S. Capitol rotunda, July 23, 2024.



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On the 71st anniversary of Moncada Hail Cuba's Revolution and internationalism with Workers World

Workers World/Mundo Obrero joins with the Cuban people in celebrating the 71st anniversary of an event which changed the course of history for their island nation. On July 26, 1953, Cuban revolutionaries boldly attacked the Moncada garrison in Santiago de Cuba and simultaneously conducted a siege of the army barracks in Bayamo.

These courageous acts were aimed to strike a blow against the brutal U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Although the revolutionaries' military goals were not achieved and the struggle suffered a temporary setback, the armed struggle had reached a new stage that continued until the dictatorship was overthrown on Jan. 1, 1959. As the guerrilla forces fought in the mountains, an underground movement spread across the country.

Cuba has not only developed in every sphere since the socialist revolution, this island nation has carried out acts of international solidarity to aid oppressed countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, whether with military might or medical brigades.

This assistance has been given generously, despite the horrific blockade implemented against Cuba by Washington for 62 years. Even during the pandemic, despite a dearth of medical supplies, Cuba sent medical teams and shared its COVID-19 vaccines with countries denied them by the imperialist West.

This June, in a strong show of solidarity with the besieged



Some of the heroes of Moncada as they were freed from prison by a people's campaign in 1955. Fidel Castro, front, center.

Palestinian people, Cuba joined the lawsuit filed by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice, against the Zionist state's genocidal war in Gaza. Palestinian leaders welcomed Cuba's intervention and thanked the country's leaders and people for their support. This includes student demonstrations.

International support of Cuba and its people is ever more important now due to the restrictions on travel, trade and financial transactions imposed by the Trump administration and continued by Biden's.

Cuba has deservedly won the support and respect of peoples around the globe. Workers World/Mundo Obrero has shown our unwavering solidarity with this socialist country on this newspaper's pages and in countless activities on the streets.

WW needs your participation!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print this socialist newspaper and later support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné and Indigenous people, women, workers, migrants, LGTBQIA2S+ and disabled individuals. The website is a resource for political activists.

While WW's staff is voluntary, the 12 printed (and mailed) issues each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Join the WW Supporter Program

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 a year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to online articles and, upon request, the book "What road to socialism?"

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email address to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001. □

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, LGBTQ2S+ 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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Nicaragua

Long live the Sandinista Revolution!

The following is from a statement on the 45th anniversary of the victory of the Sandinista Revolution from members of Workers World Party and the Bronx Anti-War Coalition on a solidarity delegation in Nicaragua this July 19.

We are honored to stand beside the Nicaraguan people on the anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Sandinista revolution, which liberated the Nicaraguan people from U.S. occupation and ended the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

For 200 years, the United States has been interfering in Nicaraguan affairs since the Monroe Doctrine, which asserts U.S. hegemony in the Western Hemisphere even today.

The brutal dictatorship of Somoza worked at the behest of U.S. capital, trampling on the dignity of Nicaraguans through the use of the U.S.-built Guardia Nacional. After a series of striking blows to the Somoza regime, the people's insurrection against U.S. imperialism through guerrilla tactics was solidified when Managua was liberated.

Following an 18-year armed struggle against the repressive regime that ended in 1979, the Sandinistas began to rebuild their nation from the ashes of the war while the dictator fled to Miami.

Over the following decades, the U.S. did all it could to crush the Sandinista revolution. From the 11-year terrorist campaign of the U.S.-funded Contras to the age of neoliberalism following the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in 1990 to the 2018 U.S.-backed attempted coup, these are not blips in time but continued imperialist transgressions against the sovereignty of Nicaraguans.

Despite these attempts, the revolution and its legacy have prevailed, which we had the honor of witnessing during our visits to the many beautiful corners of Nicaragua.

A society run by the people

Many comrades were moved to see a society truly run by the people and in which the well-being of the people is the top priority. The Nicaraguan people are politically conscious, active and powerful, exercising agency over all aspects of Nicaraguan society. Our delegation met with union deputies, health care professionals, churchgoers and other community members.

We connected with doctors and nurses in Nueva Vida and joined them in house visits. We saw how they offer holistic, accessible and free health care, ensuring nobody gets left behind or denied. We spoke with high school students who tended their school's garden and saw how

they practiced food sovereignty and taught others in their community to do the same.

We heard from the water safety committee and leaders of hydroponic projects in Ciudad Sandino who are able to supply their communities with food and water. We saw the uplifting of the Afro-descendant people on the Caribbean coast through cultural autonomy.

We witnessed martyrs being honored in church ceremonies in Managua and on placards throughout the streets of León. We noticed that the people constantly express gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives for the Sandinista revolution so that the Nicaraguan people could live a life of dignity and agency.



PHOTO: CESAR PEREZ

Members of U.S. delegation in Nicaragua to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the July 19, 1979, liberation of Nicaragua from the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship.

The Sandinista government's primary goal is poverty alleviation. The infrastructure development we saw — newly paved roads, new health clinics, new water treatment facilities and new electrical grids — significantly improved the quality of life, providing the dignity promised by the 1979 victory.

Every day, people recognize Russia, China and Iran as strong allies who have helped them secure food, medicine and building materials so that they can continue to develop their nation's infrastructure. This internationalist approach has been mutually beneficial for the well-being of the Sandinista struggle.

Despite the U.S. government's attempts to demonize these states, we were able to see the life-saving material support that these states have offered to Nicaragua. Whereas the U.S. has only ever played the role of killing and suffocating Nicaraguan life, Russia, China and Iran have been key international players in protecting Nicaraguan sovereignty and ensuring dignity.

It has been 45 years since the people liberated

themselves from U.S. occupation, and the success of preserving Nicaraguan sovereignty is a model to all. The people are proactively participating in determining priorities and addressing their own material needs while simultaneously asserting the right of self-determination for movements abroad, such as Palestinian liberation.

Palestine and Nicaragua

Nearly every person we spoke to saw the Palestinian struggle as their own. Palestinian flags can be seen everywhere, hanging alongside FSLN flags. We noticed many parallels between the two liberation movements, including but not limited to the role of armed struggle, the religious foundation of the revolutions and the honoring of martyrs. Because of their shared fight against Western imperialism, the people of Nicaragua have an intuitive understanding of the Palestinian struggle and the necessary means for national liberation.

Delegations such as our own are determined to return back to the belly of the beast and dispel the propaganda and myths about Nicaragua that are fed to us by the CIA/U.S. State Department. Through conversations with working people, we learned that our primary task as revolutionary anti-imperialists in the imperial core is to actively wage a struggle to lift the deadly U.S. sanctions on Nicaragua and demand a complete cessation of imperialist policies in the Western Hemisphere.

Connecting directly with migrant diasporas, who understand that forced migration is a product of imperialist military interventions and economic sanctions, is also an avenue to mobilize against the U.S. war machine.

The success of the Sandinista victory is a source of education and inspiration for our struggle in the imperialist United States. Major literacy campaigns in Nicaragua bolstered support for the revolution, teaching us that we should be involved in meeting the material needs of our community members.

We understand that education and raising class consciousness is fundamental to an anti-imperialist struggle. We must genuinely build trust and love the people, cultivating a culture of care that counters the individualism and opportunism that capitalism instills.

We want to thank the Nicaraguan people and the FSLN for welcoming us into your beautiful nation. We will continue to uplift the successes of the Sandinista revolutionary struggle, which is a model for those fighting for the liberation of all peoples from Western imperialism.

¡Viva la Revolución Sandinista! Long live the Sandinista Revolution! □

Software update glitch hits a billion people

By G. Dunkel

New code released by cybersecurity company CrowdStrike caused a super-glitch July 19 that disrupted everything from airline flights to credit card functioning to hospital surgeries, impacting the lives of a billion people. The catastrophic event exposed the fragility of the capitalist system and its drive to maximize profits.

CrowdStrike is a U.S.-based company which in 2023 had over \$2 billion in sales of untouchable stuff known as security software. Its customer base is around 29,000 distinct entities, including over half the companies in the Fortune 100, plus major institutions like government agencies, universities and insurance companies. It provides a large proportion of the security software installed by small- and medium-sized companies.

According to Microsoft, over 8 million computers running Microsoft's Windows have CrowdStrike software installed.

The way that CrowdStrike officials decided to update the system for detecting intrusions, which require updating frequently to repel threats from hackers, is to issue a configuration update that the software in the target system knows how to download. The bad update "triggered a logic error resulting in a system crash and blue screen (BSOD) on impacted systems." (crowdstrike blog, July 20)

Microsoft representatives said there was an earlier outage affecting U.S. users of Azure, its cloud service system. Some users may have been affected by both.

As of July 21, most of the systems disrupted by the

bad patch have been recovered, but CrowdStrike officials said that some systems might take weeks or months — probably those tied to a database that was damaged when the operating system came down hard.

Systems impacted

The first sign of the outage was in the airport in Sydney, Australia, around 3 p.m. Friday, July 19, local time, when the information screens started showing "the blue screen of death." The outages quickly spread to other major airports in Australia and New Zealand and then to major airports throughout the world.

Russian airports and computer systems were not affected, because CrowdStrike, following the sanctions placed on that country, ceased operating there in 2022. China has its own software, so almost all Chinese airports and airlines continued operating.

Financial institutions were also affected. Thousands of workers who get paid by having money transferred into their accounts or retirees who get their pensions the same way — very common in some countries — found that they couldn't get cash, since the transfers had not completed. Stock traders, brokers and insurance agents also had problems if the systems they used were based in Windows.

Hospitals couldn't display patients' information and histories, control medicines or record doctors' orders. Those which were affected only did emergency surgeries and closed their clinics. The 911 emergency system broke down.

Doctors and nurses in various countries had sporadic

problems opening doors, since their card keys were tied to Windows servers. Representatives of Kaiser Permanente, which cares for 12.6 million members, said all of its hospitals' systems were affected. It needed to switch to backup systems.

Railroads, subway systems and buses also had major problems with passenger and operational tasks that were automated by Windows software. Logistics companies like UPS and FedEx also reported disruptions.

Role of workers in the Internet

CrowdStrike designed its update system to operate without human, more precisely, worker oversight. There are a number of schemes and paradigms that would avoid a catastrophe but require workers to administer them.

Now, when a logical mistake in a few lines of code causes big social and economic upheavals in many countries in a few hours after it's published, it's hard to remember that the Internet is barely 40 years old, and the worldwide web only became widely used in 1993-1994.

The hundreds of billions of dollars that the big internet companies — Microsoft, Apple, Oracle, Amazon, Alphabet (better known as Google) — report as their profits testify to how much of their own labor force they have been able to replace. The need for computer-savvy labor in restoring the systems damaged in the CrowdStrike catastrophe makes it clear that workers are still required for the internet to function, just as workers in general are essential for the economy to function. □



Demand health care treatment for Leonard Peltier now!

The following statement was issued by the Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee on July 16, 2024. Go to www.freeleonardpeltiernow.org.

Dear friends,

Leonard Peltier was taken from the prison to the hospital and held for four days. He was released from the hospital today. Leonard has been and is being denied medical care. His health care is so far below medical professional standards that we filed an urgent appeal to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in January 2024.

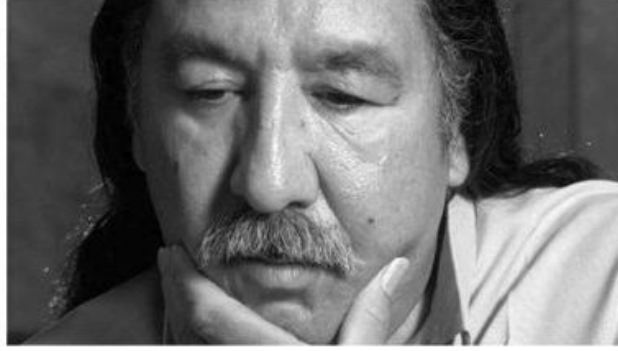
Another prisoner pointed out that Leonard's toe was purple. Leonard was not in pain then.

Diabetes is a condition that requires medical care. Now, Leonard is in pain. He has lost flesh from his toe. The [Federal] Bureau of Prisons not only deliberately ignores his medical needs, but at times, they withhold his insulin.

Leonard Peltier's current situation results from the Bureau of Prisons' failure to adhere to even its own health policies. The policy Leonard lives under is Deliberate Indifference, which violates the Eighth Amendment and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Leonard now lives with an open wound in conditions that would be illegal for livestock. Prisoners are locked down 24/7 and forced to live in filth, because they are

Free Leonard Peltier!



given no cleaning supplies.

For a person with diabetes, a foot wound is dangerous. An infection could quickly lead to amputation or death. That is how Leonard lost his father, Leo. One piece at a time.

Even with the best standard treatment, about 50% of patients do not entirely heal in 12 weeks. Leonard suffers from the opposite of the best standard treatment. He can expect an untreated foot wound in an 8 x 10 cell crawling with bacteria for quite some time. If we allow it.

The past 48 years of Leonard's life have consisted of one constitutional violation after another. This one may

very well end him. If we allow it. Retired guard Bruce Smith said, "The FBI calls the shots at the Bureau of Prisons in a clear abuse of power."

In denying parole, they tried to sentence Leonard to "Death by Incarceration." We will not allow it. Leonard's attorneys and medical team are working around the clock to ensure that he walks out of that door for good.

Leonard needs his supporters — all of us. The Senate Judiciary Committee is supposed to provide meaningful oversight to the FBI and BOP [Bureau of Prisons]. We must demand that they Do. Their. Job.

Please choose someone from their website, www.judiciary.senate.gov, and contact them. Relentlessly, if possible. Try to be polite but persistent. Tell them: Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, needs an emergency transfer to a medical facility.

Even the parole examiner suggested that the BOP evaluate Leonard for a medical transfer. As there is currently no meaningful oversight, it was merely a suggestion.

Leonard needs our help. We cannot let him down at this crucial time.

Thank you, every one of you, for your support.

The statement was lightly edited.

Letters from our incarcerated family

Compiling facts for prisons' Grey Owls

Hi, my name is Anthony. I am currently incarcerated at SCI Forest. A Pennsylvania State Prison. I am 59 years old. I am serving a Life Without Parole (LWOP) sentence and I am reaching out to you for assistance.

I have been here for nine years and being an elder with a sentence of death by incarceration (DBI). I'm in a unique position to see things from all sides and aspects. I am involved with an organization called "Hope For Change" (HFC) and I am the Treasurer sitting on the Executive Board. I am also the liaison for the Lifer's and Long Termers Committee of the HFC Organization.

I am currently trying to compile up-to-date information regarding the elderly in prison, lifers, and monetary incarceration costs for the elderly. I would appreciate it if you could send me any information along these lines to assist me in compiling this information.

I am in the process of trying to start a new committee within the Organization, which I plan to call the "Grey Owls." As Grey Owls, we would submit proposals to the Superintendent of this prison in an attempt to help our elderly population. As an example, we would request additional blankets, clothing items, gloves, long johns (thermal underwear), and different dietary/nutritional needs and concerns in regards to adequate food for the elderly since the DOC food menu serves less than the nutritional requirements, is served cold and is unpleasant at times.

We would discuss decades of inadequate healthcare

and work with other organizations in Pennsylvania who advocate for elderly lifers (men and women 50 years or older) who plea for Redemption/Compassion and Geriatric Parole. We would also work on beginning an elderly mentoring program where elders, like myself, would mentor younger inmates and new commitments in the DOC. We would also seek to enlist the assistance of the younger inmates in escorting the elderly to meals and different appointments.

The simplest day-to-day activities for an elderly inmate can be extremely challenging, even something as simple as cleaning their cells. We would ask that younger, willing inmates be allowed to assist elderly inmates in this task as well as others. The Grey OWLS would advocate for everything that an elder would need in prison as well as for their release from confinement.

If you would be able to send me dates, statistics, recidivism rates, monetary/medical costs of incarcerating elderly human beings, whatever you can do, we would be extremely grateful. I thank you very much for your help and time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Grateful,

Anthony Brown, Elderly Lifer
Grey Owls Founder
William "Cool Pop" Abbott
Grey Owls Co-Founder (Deceased)

Thank you, comrade, for sharing your organizing efforts on behalf of incarcerated elders. We were also very happy to receive several editions of the Grey Owls Committee Newsletter and encourage our readers at SCI Forest to seek out the newsletter for themselves and familiarize themselves with the work of The Lifers and Long Term Committee.

The publication includes guidance from elders for remaining healthy and fit behind enemy lines — from how to monitor your systolic blood pressure, recommendations on how to maintain a positive attitude and care for your mental health, and suggestions for how to use the commissary to supplement your diet. Each issue is accompanied by a bibliography of its sources.

The Grey Owls Committee Newsletter has also become a resource for the editors of Tear Down the Walls! as each edition contains informative research and statistics about the reality of Pennsylvania prison conditions, particularly regarding our incarcerated elders.

Red salute to the Grey Owls. Rest in power, Cool Pop.

Teddie Kelly, co-editor, Tear Down the Walls!

The following is an excerpt of a report written by Anthony Brown in 2020.

Many lifers in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) have developed health problems over the years due to inadequate health care and poor nutrition. Elderly Pennsylvania lifers often find it difficult to remember conversations they have shared with fellow inmates.

... Dementia, poor eyesight, and respiratory ailments are just some of the health problems elderly PA lifers are experiencing. A healthy PA lifer would build bridges to victim advocates if given a second chance and this is why elderly PA lifers should be considered for Redemption/Compassion Release. Making pleas for redemption/compassion are nothing more than a healing process between victims and lifers. It is proven that this process works. PA, unlike other states, does not have any type of Redemption Project.

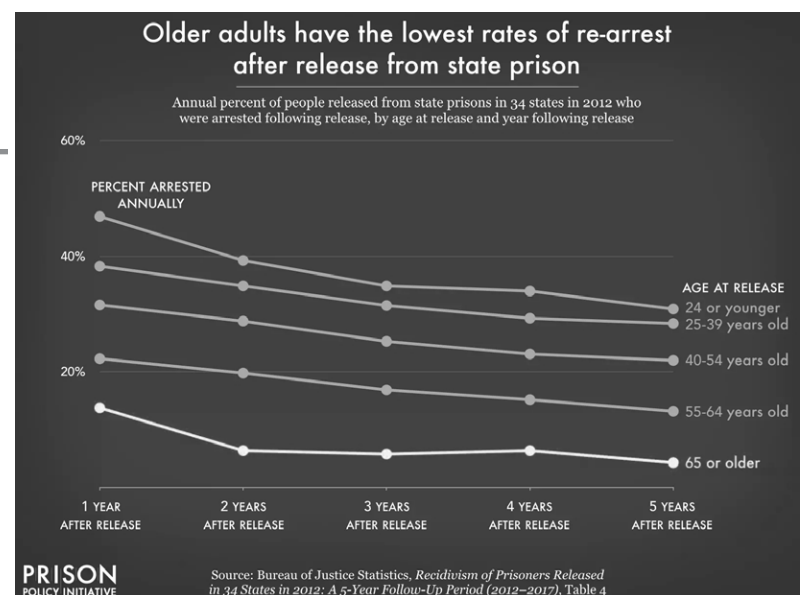
According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 130,000 of U.S. prisoners are elderly, a 400% increase between 1993 and 2013. Across the nation and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Correctional System, elderly prisoners experience a tortuous journey toward

the end of their lives without any sort of redemption or compassionate release.

While 25% of the PA DOC inmates are 50 years of age or older, 50% of the elderly PA lifers are 50 and over — 53% of the female lifers and 43% of the male. The actual numbers on elderly PA lifers are: 103 females and 2,139 males. On April 30, 2015, there were 162 lifers in PA age 70 years and older, 25 of those were 80 years or older.

In analyzing the cost of a life sentence, age is a major factor. The total cost to confine all PA inmates in fiscal year 2017 was \$2.356 billion or \$47,599 per inmate. In fiscal 2016, the total medication cost for those over age 50 was almost \$2.1 million, the same amount spent on the entire under 50 inmate population.

The goal of all elderly PA lifers is to educate and to raise the issue of the \$3.6 million cost per lifer for the length of their incarceration to the taxpayers of PA. The main question for the taxpayers is very simple — Do you want to continue spending \$2.3 billion annually to fund the PA DOC, particularly when the limited financial resources are



needed elsewhere?

Elderly PA lifers and lifers in general in the PA DOC would like to educate everyone, to let them know that the system is broken and in great need of Criminal Justice Reform. If this practice continues, the state and this country would be nothing more than a penal colony of the 15th Century.

Anthony Brown is serving a life sentence at State Correctional Facility Forest in Pennsylvania.

U.S. interferes in July 28 Venezuela election – once again

By **Teddie Kelly**

Venezuelans expect to go to the polls to determine the future of the country's government on July 28, but the long history of U.S. interference in Venezuela looms over the contentious election.

The history of U.S. interference in the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people dates back over a century. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland contested Britain's influence in the Western Hemisphere through invoking the Monroe Doctrine—a policy of U.S. imperialist dominion over all of the Americas and the Caribbean.

The peoples of Venezuela live atop an ocean of oil, which the U.S. has sought to control since the early 20th century. The administration of Howard Taft supported General Juan Vicente Gomez's seizure of power in 1908, the first of many U.S.-backed coups d'état. Gomez remained the country's de facto head of state for almost 30 years. Capitalists raked in profits by exploiting workers under the succession of destabilizing military takeovers in 1945, 1948 and 1958.

The threat of military force and economic sanctions compelled subsequent civilian governments to comply with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other global financial institutions. To put a stop to the wholesale theft of the country, Hugo Chavez, a progressive military colonel, made two attempts in 1992 to march soldiers into Caracas and overthrow the comprador government.

Famously, Chavez addressed the Venezuelan people on live television, saying, "Comrades: unfortunately, for now, we have not achieved our intended objectives in the capital. ... New possibilities will present themselves and the country will move decisively to a better future."

Hugo Chavez elected president in 1998

Six years later, Hugo Chavez would be elected president. His socialist-leaning government nationalized industries, and efforts were made to democratize the administration of state through the establishment of communal councils and a new popular constitution. Another coup attempt during the George W. Bush administration in 2002 was defeated by Chavez's government within 48 hours.

Venezuelans wrenched back control of domestic oil production to fund programs to increase literacy and access to food, health care and housing. After Chavez's death in 2013, the United Socialist Party of Venezuela has continued to struggle for the health and sovereignty of its peoples through the administration of former bus driver and union organizer Nicolás Maduro, now president.

Ten years and myriad imperialist attacks later, Maduro now faces a reelection challenge from an opposition that will attempt to sell the country back to the capitalists. Borrowing a page from the Trump playbook, for the last several months corporate media has tried to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the outcome should Maduro be reelected.



In the spring of 2019, Venezuelan people supported President Nicolás Maduro against a U.S.-manipulated coup attempt.

The New York Times on July 10 cited dubious claims about electoral fraud by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems; its chairperson is international real estate banker William C. Eacho, who was granted an ambassadorship by President Barack Obama after donating over \$500,000 to his 2008 campaign. The Times failed to disclose that Eacho was also a senior adviser for the Department of National Intelligence in 2015 when the Obama administration designated Venezuela as an "unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." This was, effectively, a declaration of hybrid war on the country.

According to the Times, supporters of regime change insinuate that the Maduro government is to blame for the low voter registration rate among the 640,000 Venezuelan nationals in the U.S., while ignoring the fact that many of them are poor, undocumented and live nowhere near a Venezuelan consulate.

Critics of the pro-socialist Venezuelan government claim refugees have fled "in search of the American dream," yet thousands are denied entry at the U.S. border in Tijuana. (CSIS.org, Nov. 27, 2023) Last September, more Venezuelans attempted to enter the U.S. than people from any other country. (voanews.com, March 31)

U.S. sanctions behind flood of Venezuelan refugees

The unbearable conditions of living under a U.S.-sanctioned regime caused thousands of people to seek

food, medical care, education and shelter abroad. The Center for Strategic & International Studies noted that of the half million migrants who crossed the treacherous Darién Gap on the border of Panama and Colombia in 2023, an estimated 60% were Venezuelan.

Thousands more refugees enter the U.S. by avoiding Customs and Border Patrol checkpoints, leaving them vulnerable to arrest, deportation and violence at the hands of police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The number of people attempting these so-called "illegal" crossings has halved in the last year because of the Biden administration's recent deportation orders that specifically target Venezuelans. On Oct. 18, 2023, ICE claimed that it deported 300,000 Venezuelans during the summer of 2023.

Those who are permitted to enter are placed on "parole," an arrangement which allows businesses to exploit their labor in exchange for paltry wages.

Threat of U.S. military intervention

The threat of another U.S. military intervention has loomed over Venezuela for decades. Sen. Marco Rubio, who represents a fervently pro-war and anti-communist constituency, has preemptively declared the upcoming election illegitimate. Rubio, himself a right-wing child of Cuban exiles, decried Venezuela's new laws cracking down on fascist agitation. As a ranking member of both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee, Rubio made a clear threat on April 8, in a FRC press release: "The United States and the international community must respond swiftly and hold the regime accountable."

In August 2018, Nicolás Maduro survived an assassination attempt which the Venezuelan government says was planned and financed by right-wing Venezuelans living in the U.S. According to CNN, at least one of the assassins later claimed to have met with officials from the U.S. State Department. (March 14, 2019)

Weeks later, Maduro defiantly traveled to New York City to attend a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, after which he made a surprise appearance at the Riverside Church in Harlem alongside Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel. He told the assembled crowd: "We have been the victim of enormous imperialist aggression. However, today on September 26, 2018, the Bolivarian revolution of Venezuela is on its feet, it is alive, and it is victorious." (tinyurl.com/3685jj6u) □

Workers ready to strike Boeing behemoth

By **Jim McMahan**
Seattle

Some 33,000 workers represented by the International Association of Machinists walked out of Boeing's Seattle and Portland plants on July 17 to demonstrate their will to strike. The workers have experienced cutbacks, layoffs, union-busting and all-around attacks on their standard of living throughout the 2000's.

After the walkout in Seattle, over 20,000 workers held a "stop-work meeting" at T-Mobile Park and voted for strike authorization, with 99% in favor. Speakers at the rally included IAM District 751 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Jackson and President Jon Holden, national AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and IAM International President Brian Bryant.

Workers said they have marched through the cavernous Boeing plants every Wednesday for weeks to gather support leading up to the strike vote and the contract expiration on Sept. 12.

The Machinists are demanding higher wages — starting pay is now only \$23.50 an hour for new-hire mechanics. They

want full, defined benefit pensions, which Boeing eliminated in 2014, converting everyone to a 401k plan. Workers want an end to mandatory overtime.

The union also wants a guarantee that future Boeing planes will continue to be built in Washington state.

The IAM was pressured by Boeing in 2009 after the company moved most of the production of the new 787 plane to a newly-built plant in North Charleston, South Carolina. IAM leaders thought if they didn't make contract concessions, Boeing would move away from the Northwest entirely to North Charleston or elsewhere.

The Machinists made two attempts to unionize the North Charleston plant, and there was good initiative from the workers there. But the organizing attempt was defeated by tens of millions of dollars of anti-union money from both Boeing and the South Carolina establishment.

Plane crashes tied to union busting

Boeing has been exposed by both whistleblower workers and consumers after two mass casualty MAX plane crashes and a huge number of hazardous defects found in many of its planes.



Boeing workers gather in T-Mobile Park to authorize strike by 99%.

The manufacturing problems can all be traced back to Boeing's anti-labor program. The defects are caused by speed-ups, thousands of layoffs and forced retirements of experienced workers, outsourcing to the lowest bidders and more.

Palestinian and student movements have demanded that Boeing quit selling bombs, F-15 bombers, Apache Helicopters and more to Israel for war against Palestinians. Boeing profits from genocidal war against Palestine at the same time that it is involved in vicious

union-busting attacks on its workers.

When this basic connection is made clear to Boeing workers, there will be a strong basis for unity among the multinational working class to attack the company for all its crimes.

Boeing made \$23.6 billion in profit last year and is predicted to be profitable again in 2024. Following the struggles of the UAW and a recharged labor movement, the workers are showing they are ready to fight back. □

J.D. Vance: ‘Populist’ or anti-working-class demagogue?

By Otis Grotewohl

The author was raised in the “Rust Belt” community of Youngstown, Ohio, and has been a union organizer in Appalachia for more than 15 years.

Donald Trump announced at the Republican National Convention July 15 that he chose J.D. Vance, junior U.S. senator from Ohio, as his presidential running mate. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022, the 39-year-old Vance has little political experience.

Why Trump chose Vance to run for vice president deserves examination, along with Vance’s own history. From the latter, one might easily conclude that he is not a “populist,” as much of the media call him, but more an opportunist, right-wing demagogue and servant of the superrich.

Vance became widely known after releasing a personal memoir in 2016 entitled “Hillbilly Elogy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis.” The book, later made into a movie, tells a story about growing up poor in the post-industrial Midwest—commonly referred to as the “Rust Belt”—and becoming a “venture capitalist.” This autobiography promotes the mythical “pull yourself up by the bootstraps” narrative that falsely argues people can somehow escape poverty and exploitation through “hard work.”

“Hillbilly Elogy” quickly became a New York Times bestseller. While receiving some rave reviews, it faced a fair share of criticism for its controversial and classist conclusions. Starting with the hokey title, “Hillbilly Elogy” reinforces negative stereotypes of workers residing in rural Midwestern and Appalachian communities.

Vance’s memoir was later made into a movie in 2020. Directed by Ron Howard, the film features award-winning actor Glenn Close as Vance’s grandmother, who he calls “Mamaw.” The movie focuses on the emotional storylines rather than the far-right political undertones of the memoir. Something removed from the movie is how Vance’s book punches down and blames poor people for their own suffering.

Rather than fault capitalism for unemployment and the opioid crisis, Vance contends that workers have only themselves to blame. He wrote, “There is a lack of agency here [in Middletown] — a feeling that you have little control over your life and a willingness to blame everyone but yourself.” (Politico, July 15)

Vance was born and raised in Middletown, Ohio, a small town located between Dayton and Cincinnati. Vance served in the Marines from 2003-2007 after graduating from high school. He spent six months in 2005 with U.S. occupying forces in Iraq. He then attended Ohio State University and eventually Yale Law School, where he received a degree in 2013.

In 2015, Vance became a business partner with Mithril Capital, a venture capital firm run by the Silicon Valley far-right tech billionaire Peter Thiel. Vance, Thiel and former Trump adviser Darren Blanton are all major investors in Rumble, a Canadian video platform.



PHOTO: BRAD SIGAL/SIGAL PHOTOS

Outside the Republican National Convention, July 2024.

Rumble is known for platforming racist and antisemitic conspiracy theories that are banned from YouTube. Thiel quickly took Vance under his wing and helped fund much of his 2022 senatorial race, reportedly donating \$10 million and making Vance his personal protégé.

Discrepancies and racist tropes

Vance’s hometown of Middletown is not located in the Appalachian Mountains. According to “Hillbilly Elogy,” Vance did spend some youthful summers in Eastern Kentucky. Vance was raised by his maternal grandparents, and they were originally from the Appalachian coal-mining community of Jackson, Kentucky. Like many of his grandparents’ peers, he wrote, they were pro-union and registered Democrats.

Although he spent most of his youth in the flatlands of Middletown and only a few summers in Appalachia, Vance uniquely chose to describe himself as a “hillbilly” in his memoir.

Vance’s faux Appalachian tale is also filled with racist tropes. Author and middle-school teacher Neema Avashia, the daughter of Indian immigrants who was born and raised in West Virginia, points out the following about Vance: “People like me and my family — immigrants who neighbor and labor alongside white working-class Appalachians — don’t exist in Vance’s narrative. Black folks don’t exist in his narrative. Queer folks don’t exist in his narrative.”

Avashia stresses: “And in his campaign rhetoric, we only exist as the root of Appalachia’s problems; never as one of its sources of strength.” (The Guardian, July 16)

For oppressed people and people of color like Avashia, who actually did grow up in Appalachia, Vance’s story is completely false.

In Vance’s Eurocentric version of Appalachia, everyone looks and acts a certain way, and nobody else exists. “Hillbilly Elogy” makes the misleading claim that everyone in Appalachia is of Scots-Irish heritage, which ignores people of Indigenous nations whose ancestors pre-date settler colonialism, as well as the historically multinational character of coal miners in the region.

In making an unscientific generalization about people in Appalachia, particularly Scots-Irish descendants, Vance writes, “We do not like outsiders or people who are different from us, whether the difference lies in how they look, how they act, or, most importantly, how they talk.” (Politico, July 15)

Vance’s description of Appalachia is the opposite of that of the late Kentucky native and “Afrilachian” activist bell hooks (born Gloria Jean Watkins), who authored much prose and poetry about the region. Among bell hooks’ books on the subject is “Appalachian Elogy: Poetry and Place,” a progressive alternative to Vance’s reactionary memoir.

From “never Trumper” to demagogic grifter

In 2016, Vance publicly positioned himself as an open critic of Trump’s then-presidential campaign. In addition to labeling himself a “never Trump guy” when interviewed by Charlie Rose that year, he called Trump “noxious” and said Trump was “leading the ‘white’ working class to a very dark place,” during an interview with National Public Radio. (Politico, July 15). It was also reported that Vance even called Trump “America’s Hitler,” around the same time. (Politico, July 15).

Just a few years later, Vance took a sharp turn to the

continued on page 7

Labor must break with both capitalist parties!

By Martha Grevatt

Many militant, left-wing trade unionists recognize the need for organized labor to break its subservience to the Democratic Party. However, few saw any glimmer of hope as they witnessed Teamsters President Sean O’Brien put on a disgusting display of brown-nosing, speaking positively of former President Donald Trump and his ultraright cronies at the Republican National Convention.

This was not the “independence” labor needs.

O’Brien complimented Trump, saying he “has proven to be one tough SOB.” He promoted Rep. Josh Hawley as “not willing to accept [the wealthy’s] pillaging of working people’s pocketbooks and individual rights” and even made a point about Trump’s running mate J.D. Vance supposedly being “among elected officials who care about working people.” (Newsweek, July 16)

O’Brien mixed anti-corporate rhetoric with fawning praise of these blatant white supremacists. By catering to the most chauvinistic, racist, xenophobic, misogynistic, anti-LGBTQIA2S+ “America First” elements, O’Brien exacerbates the divisions within the working class. This is not in any worker’s class interest. What the working class needs is militant, anti-racist unity — all the more so with the danger of fascism on the horizon.

Instead O’Brien offered the olive branch to the ultraright. This is a big step backwards, back toward the days when many unions were off-limits to workers of color and women.

When Trump took the podium at the RNC, he took the opportunity to attack United Auto Workers President

Shawn Fain. Without proof, Trump blamed Fain for supposedly allowing Chinese auto companies to build plants in Mexico and ship low-cost vehicles to the U.S. “The leader of the United Auto Workers should be fired immediately,” the ex-president proclaimed. (Detroit Free Press, July 19)

Fain fired back swiftly, calling Trump “a scab and a billionaire.” But Fain’s glowing endorsement of President Joe Biden — and now presumably Vice President Kamala Harris — still keeps the UAW within the confines of the capitalist two-party system. And what is Biden doing about the latest attack on the UAW by a monitor representing the federal government? Nothing!

Class struggle vs. relying on ‘lesser evil’

Not that long ago Fain, O’Brien and Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, were holding joint rallies calling for a countrywide general strike. With a combined membership of about 1.75 million workers — and more if union retirees are included — the three unions could have initiated an independent, class struggle-oriented movement away from both the Democrats and Republicans.

This would have been a big step in the right direction, even if it didn’t change much regarding November.

Now the presidents of the Teamsters and the UAW are divided over whether or not to support Democratic Party politicians — nearly all of whom are solidly behind the genocide being committed against Palestinians. O’Brien’s idea of “independence” means catering to union members



PHOTO: BRAD SIGAL/SIGAL PHOTOS

Demonstration protesting Republican National Convention, Milwaukee, July 15, 2024.

who have been duped by the ultraright, at the expense of the most oppressed workers and their communities.

Loyalty to the “lesser evil” party has been peddled to rank-and-file union members for decades, subordinating the interests of the working class to those of a section of the capitalist class. The only unions that didn’t throw their weight behind the Democrats were the ones who shamefully endorsed the Republicans.

Unfortunately, the union officialdom is by and large continuing this dead-end strategy.

Rank-and-file workers, with or without a union, will need to build the class struggle from below, regardless of who is elected president this year.

Martha Grevatt is a long-time UAW activist.

Fight Trump, not migrants!

Donald Trump's acceptance speech for the Republican presidential nomination was mostly his usual reactionary rant aimed at winning cheers and votes on the most vile, misogynist, racist and anti-immigrant basis.

In his record-length 90-minute speech, Trump rambled about a number of issues, including attaching amendments to the right to abortion access; calling for the firing of the president of the United Auto Workers, Shawn Fain; blaming China for COVID-19 and supporting the apartheid state of Israel.

Without a doubt, the one issue that especially whipped up Trump's MAGA right-wing supporters into a total frenzy was his attacks on immigrants, especially those he slandered as "illegal." These attacks were nothing new, harking back to his first election victory in 2016.

His vile disdain for immigrants, especially those undocumented workers and their families forced to cross the U.S.-Mexico border and confront the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and fascistic border patrol, has been Trump's calling card.

A new element arose, because just five days earlier, he had narrowly escaped an assassination attempt.

For the first 15 minutes, he worked on drumming up a lot of sympathy from the delegates about the shooting, saying: "I'm not supposed to be here tonight." He even paid homage to one of his supporters, Corey Comperatore, who was killed during the assassination attempt, by kissing the late firefighter's helmet on stage. Trump credited the Christian deity for his own narrow escape.

But after that 15-minute piety break, Trump picked up his usual trope of scapegoating migrants, falsely blaming our working-class comrades for taking away jobs from U.S.-born workers and accusing the new migrants of vile crimes, like rape or other sexual abuse — the latter a crime he was convicted of himself.

Like the Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels, Trump counts on his constant repetition of this Big Lie to win over U.S. workers whose jobs were lost, because their rich bosses found it more profitable to eliminate them.

When Trump uses the disgusting term

for migrants, he is referring to a majority of foreign-born workers, including those who are documented, refugees and temporary residents, including workers and students. He also accused migrants of taking away "Black jobs" in a disgusting effort to drive a wedge between Black workers and migrant workers, both of whom face racist discrimination as well as the exploitation all workers face.

Under capitalism, any loss or lack of jobs comes from the bosses who control economies, not from the workers, who have to sell their labor power to survive.

Attempt to divide and conquer

Of course, Trump's racist diatribe is not only about falsehoods. In reality his white nationalist rant is hate speech, potentially laying the basis for physical violence. Migrants are forced into low-wage jobs, with little to no benefits and terrible working conditions in restaurants and in the fields. These workers risk life and limb to come to the U.S., often because of the lack of jobs in their home countries due to imperialist plunder of Global South economies, often because imperialist wars have

wrecked their home countries.

Many migrants die desperately trying to cross the treacherous border either by foot or in overcrowded, overheated trucks, or they wind up in concentration camps called detention centers, painfully separated from their families.

Neither Trump nor the Democratic administration are friends to migrants, as the Biden administration has imposed more legal restrictions on migrants entering the U.S. The only difference between the two is the tone of their political rhetoric.

While Trump and Biden and their pro-capitalist parties seek to serve the interests of the billionaire ruling class with tactics to divide and conquer U.S.-born and foreign-born workers, the working class on a global scale must fight to build class solidarity with the most oppressed, especially migrants. This is the only way for the global working class to effectively unite to fight back against their oppressors to win the collective power they deserve.

If capitalist exploitation knows no borders, then worker internationalism must know no borders. □

Attempted assassination

Working class needs an independent struggle

By Monica Moorehead

The attempted assassination of presidential candidate Donald Trump during a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, has taken center stage regarding the 2024 elections, altering the political narrative. In the coming days and weeks, there will be much speculation about whether the Secret Service was derelict in its duty for allowing this shooting to take place.

Even before Trump was fired at, he tried to portray himself as a victim of the 34 criminal charges against him. Once he was convicted, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling, granted him immunity from prosecution for any "official acts" he carried out as president.

In light of the shooting, Trump is trying to portray himself as a martyr, saying, "I should be dead," in order to swing the elections even more in his favor. A certain sector of the U.S. ruling class, through the corporate media it owns, is not only promoting sympathy toward him but also placing the shooting within the broader context of the ongoing gun violence debate.

During his July 13 press conference in reaction to the shooting of Trump, President Joe Biden stated: "There is no place in America for this kind of violence or any violence ever, period. No exceptions. We can't allow this violence to be normalized." (The Hollywood Reporter, July 15)

Who is Biden trying to kid with false rhetoric? An estimated 43,000 people died in the U.S. in 2023 from guns, whether by murder, suicide or other motives. (independent.co.uk, July 15)



As the old saying goes, "Violence is as American as apple pie." And for Biden, also called "Genocide Joe," to decry gun violence is the height of utter hypocrisy.

Since Oct. 7, he has justified supplying the most terrifying weapons to apartheid Israel, especially a multitude of tons of bombs, to commit daily massacres of Palestinians

in Gaza, including tens of thousands of children.

Trump, who excoriated Biden during their first presidential debate last month for not "finishing the job" to exterminate the Palestinians, is just as violently pro-Israel.

At least 120 Palestinians were killed by U.S. bombs with hundreds more wounded on the day of the Trump shooting. Where was the outrage by the corporate mainstream media for this ongoing targeting of civilians? Utter silence.

What does this mean for the working class?

No matter how many millions of workers hate Trump, which is certainly justified, individual actions like the one taken by the gunman who targeted Trump, regardless of the motivation, are never a substitute for the workers mounting an independent class resistance to the program of all sectors of the ruling class.

Any nuanced differences between Trump and Biden do not disguise the fact that both are pro-ruling class and anti-working class, no matter their political affiliations.

If workers want to stop fascism, which Trump symbolizes, they have to look beyond the electoral arena. The decay of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad is the root cause of mass violence — whether it's state-sanctioned violence by the police or the Pentagon or random violence. Gun violence is a class issue, not a moral issue, and will not go away after the November election.

Workers may feel powerless right now to stop Trump, but the working class has the most power of any class — that is the power to stop production and to bring the capitalist system to a halt. □

J.D. Vance: 'Populist' or demagogue?

Continued from page 6

right as he ran for the U.S. Senate, taking reactionary and misogynist positions on social issues. CNN reported that "Vance quickly joined the New Right." Campaigning then, Vance announced, "I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally." (CNN, July 17)

At the same time, Vance inaccurately presents himself as a champion of blue-collar workers. On one rare occasion in October 2023, Vance visited a United Auto Workers picket line in Toledo, Ohio, for a photo-op. Labor activists considered Vance's appearance to be a misleading spectacle, since Vance also openly opposes and votes against pro-union legislation, such as the PRO-Act — which would make it easier for unions to organize.

Vance close to Heritage Foundation

In the Senate, Vance's right-wing drift led him to associate with the Heritage Foundation, a reactionary

think tank responsible for "Project 2025," a 922-page anti-worker and pro-business document listing far-right proposals that corporate and neo-fascist forces aim to implement following the presidential election.

Among some of its recommendations are the elimination of government agencies like the Department of Education and the privatization of Medicare and Social Security, cutting Medicaid, promoting, even indoctrinating children with a hard-right world view, banning abortions and restricting some contraceptives. Its program includes mass detentions, deportations and family separations of immigrants. Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts has called Vance a "leading voice for the conservative movement." (ABC, July 15)

During a 2021 podcast, Vance stated that if he could offer Trump one piece of advice, it would be to "Fire every single mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state, replace them with 'our' people." (Vox, July 18) One of Project 2025's most controversial

proposals is to fire and replace thousands of federal civil service workers with far-right "loyalists."

Since Project 2025 is unpopular among most voters, Trump has tried to distance himself from it on social media. But his pick for vice president epitomizes the project.

Peter Thiel is rumored to be the person who introduced Trump to Vance. According to various media reports, the three attended a \$300,000-a-person dinner of crypto-currency billionaires in San Francisco in May.

Vance is full of contradictions. While claiming to oppose funding to the ongoing proxy war in Ukraine on the one hand, he embraces the genocide in Palestine on the other. He criticizes Joe Biden for backing the U.S. occupation of Iraq — which is true — but omits that a Republican administration planned and executed the war.

Vance cannot be a genuine defender of one segment of the working class while attacking and degrading the rest of our class. In many ways, Vance is Trump's demagogic "mini me." □

China leads world in renewable energy

By Lyn Neeley

In 2023 China produced 60% of the world's electric vehicles, 98% of the world's electric buses and two-thirds of all the world's wind and solar projects. Its workers installed more solar panels than they had in the previous three years combined, nearly twice as much as the rest of the world combined.

These figures account for large solar farms that feed directly into the grid. Small solar farms, which make up 40% of China's solar capacity, make solar power production totals in China much higher. China's growth in wind power also increased in 2023, faster than in any country except the United States.

China's goal of peak carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060 may well be reached sooner than expected. The biggest driver of China's economic growth is innovation and clean energy technology, accounting for 40% of their gross domestic product expansion last year.

Electric vehicles

Chinese EVs now cost \$10,000-\$15,000 per car on the world market. A few reasons for the drastic price drop of 50% is that Chinese companies are producing their own lithium batteries, which they can produce 51% cheaper. Chinese government subsidies for EVs have risen from \$76.7 million in 2018 to \$809 million in 2023.

Capitalist industry based in the U.S. is unable to produce and sell EVs at such low prices, and its auto manufacturers are still heavily reliant on expensive cars that burn fossil fuels. The U.S. government is raising tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (now at 25%) to 100% starting Aug. 1. The European Union plans to increase tariffs up to 48% sometime this year.

China supplies 60% of global EV batteries and much of the lithium-ion cell components. "China's Batteries Are Now Cheap Enough to Power Huge Shifts," meaning the shift away from combustion engines, is the title of an article in the Bloomberg newsletter. ([tinyurl.com/yc74z7ua](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-07-24/china-batteries-are-now-cheap-enough-to-power-huge-shifts)) This year the U.S. government will increase the tariffs on Chinese batteries up to 25%. It plans to also



PHOTO: CHINA MERCHANTS NEW ENERGY/PANDA GREEN ENERGY

The panda solar farm in Datong, China.

impose stiff tariffs on semiconductors and raw materials used to make EV cars. ([tinyurl.com/7e2szfzv](https://www.tinyurl.com/7e2szfzv))

Chinese innovations: people before profit

Chinese workers and scientists have created the first seawater electrolysis system that produces hydrogen directly from ocean water using offshore wind power, a renewable energy source. Hydrogen is a clean, versatile fuel that traditionally could only be produced using an expensive high-energy process to first desalinate ocean water.

Chinese researchers have designed a material that reflects the sun's rays and can be welded together in planks. When attached to the outside surface of buildings, the planks reduce temperatures inside then, cutting down the need for air conditioning and reducing carbon emissions. The plank material is made of gelatin and DNA from organic matter, which can be made biodegradable and converts ultra-violet (UV) radiation into visible light. This plank technology opens the way for further innovative, sustainable cooling materials.

At the end of 2023, China had produced 1.27 million registered drones; these are huge pilot-free cargo planes that can carry a 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) load as far as 500 kilometers (310 miles) with a maximum range of 1,800 kilometers (1,118 miles). They can be used for transportation, fire and rescue teams and flood control and disaster relief work. They are 70% quicker and 30%

cheaper than conventional cross-sea transport.

U.S. corporations are threatened by all the Chinese innovations being developed and transforming the world. They know that when privately owned capitalist industries have monopoly control of an industry, their only goal is to maximize profits.

Land back now!

China just completed the largest floating solar farm in the world on top of an old coal plant! In contrast, U.S. industries trespass on sovereign Indigenous land to construct solar plants, wind farms, power transmission lines and copper mines for lithium extraction for electric batteries — without consulting with leaders of the Indigenous nations and tribes.

U.S.-based industries are still heavily reliant on profits from the fossil fuel economy. The U.S. government, while beginning to invest in renewable fuels, is moving in on Native reservations and sacred lands.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), which includes the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo Nations, is suing the Bureau of Land Management for constructing a solar plant on 4,000 acres of their ancestral homelands. They have been fighting the plans since 2006. The CRIT explained they are not against solar power, but they object to not being consulted — and because of the effects it will have on the ecosystem, cultural resources, groundwater and the Colorado River. ([tinyurl.com/5n8p32ta](https://www.tinyurl.com/5n8p32ta))

In February, members of the San Carlos Apache Nation in Arizona asked that work stop on the \$10 billion construction of a copper mine on the reservation's sacred territory. Tribal member Verlon Jose said, "We do not disagree with renewable energy, we are for renewable energy. You know what the fix to this issue is? They could have rerouted it. But they didn't listen." (Washington Post, March 4)

Native activist, ecologist and author Winona LaDuke added, "In the endless pursuit of energy, once again, Native people are in the eye of the storm." She calls mines and other projects that could imperil tribal sovereignty "the next Standing Rock." □

Rest in power, Bernice Reagon!

The following edited obituary is posted on the Facebook of famed singer Toshi Reagon on the death of her legendary mother.

Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, a multi-award-winning force and cultural voice for freedom, transitioned on July 16, 2024. As a scholar, singer, composer, organizer and activist, Dr. Reagon spent over half a century speaking out against racism and systemic inequities in the U.S. and globally.

Born in Dougherty County outside of Albany, Georgia, on the 4th of October 1942, she was field secretary of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) and a founding member of the original SNCC Freedom Singers, formed in 1962.

In 1966, she was a founding member of the Atlanta-based Harambee Singers. In



1973, while a graduate student of history at Howard University and vocal director of the D.C. Black Repertory Company, Dr. Reagon founded the internationally renowned African American women's a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey In The Rock, leading the group until her retirement in 2003.

Dylcia Noemí Pagán ¡Presente!

By Deborah Rodriguez

On June 30, Dylcia Noemí Pagán passed away in her homeland of Carolina, Puerto Rico, for which she fearlessly fought for independence until her last breath. She was 77 years old.

Dylcia was a mother, a Puerto Rican nationalist, political prisoner and member of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueña aka Puerto Rican Armed Forces for Liberation (FALN).

Born in the historic old Lincoln Memorial Hospital in the Bronx, New York, where she grew to become a dedicated community organizer, she was one of the founders of the Puerto Rican Student Union at Brooklyn College which later formed the Puerto Rican Studies department. She was a filmmaker, writer and producer and was the the editor for



the first bilingual newspaper in New York, El Tiempo.

In 1980, Dylcia was arrested on seditious conspiracy charges for fighting for the independence of Puerto Rico. She was sentenced in 1981 to 55 years in prison. Behind the walls Dylcia continued organizing educational programs, creating a theater company called "The Caged Bird Players" that presented eight theatrical presentations. She knew the significant role family and community played in the lives of the inmates, so she organized an annual Children's Day where those incarcerated spent time with their children and participated in planned activities.

Dylcia was a mother herself and decided to hide her son from the government prior to her incarceration.

On Sept. 10, 1999, Dylcia and other FALN members were released from prison after a long fought international campaign waged by several coalitions. President Bill Clinton was pressured by this campaign to grant her clemency.

Dylcia was a great artist and poet; her web page is filled with amazing works of art that reflect her love for Puerto Rico and its people.

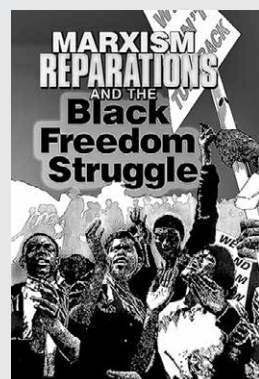
Rest in revolutionary peace Dylcia! □

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper
Edited by Monica Moorehead

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead • **Black Reconstruction: The unfinished revolution** Minnie Bruce Pratt • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad • **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal • **The U.S. role in Darfur Sudan** Sara Flounders • **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin • **Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee • **Africa needs reparations, not occupation and sanctions** Deirdre Griswold • **The May Day uprising of 2006** Larry Holmes

Available at workers.org/books and major online booksellers.



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

NATO vs. SCO – Two radically different summits

By Sara Flounders

Two major security alliances held summits in July. Each summit consisted of a bloc of major powers and nearby countries. Both alliances hold military exercises. Each summit meeting included guest and observer countries.

The two summits could not have been more different in tone and in purpose.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) met in Astana, Kazakhstan, on July 3-4, to discuss mutual cooperation.

A week later the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in Washington, D.C., on July 9-11 to celebrate 75 years of militarism. At the meeting, NATO dared to demand Russia, China, Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) sever ties with each other.

NATO has expanded from 12 original countries to 32 member states reflecting 12% of the world population and 16% of the world landmass.

Now with 10 member states and 14 dialogue partners, the SCO makes up 42% of the world population and covers 29% of the world landmass. The SCO has now incorporated India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus as its newest members.

The title of the SCO Summit was "Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue – Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity."

The title of the NATO Summit was "Ukraine and Transatlantic Security."

The two meetings represent two very different classes and historic experiences.

The final documents of the two alliances, released at the conclusion of their meetings, could not be starker in concept or in wording. It is worth reading both documents, for which we include links at the end of this article.

NATO Summit Declaration

The NATO Summit Declaration reads like a temper tantrum. It exposes the frustration of the U.S., Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy (the G-7) imperialist powers at their failing military efforts in Ukraine and their inability to impose economic destabilization and "regime change" in Russia. In the document and in the meetings, they blame this failure on China, Iran and the DPRK.

The NATO document brags about the alliance's grand military power while being full of insults, accusations and wild threats against those it names as its rivals. It sputters with indignation against countries that resist adhering to NATO's dictates. It avoids addressing the major problems facing the planet as a whole, including development and the environment.

It is stunning to read of NATO's arrogance, on display to the whole world, of demanding that China break what is normal trade relations with Russia. According to the declaration, China must "cease all material and political support ... including raw materials that serve as inputs for Russia's defense sector." And, it states, "the PRC continues to pose systemic challenges to Euro-Atlantic security." China, which the document labels an "enabler" ... "continues to challenge our interests, security and values."

The declaration also threatens Iran, the DPRK and Belarus for "fueling" and "providing direct military support to Russia, for war in Ukraine."

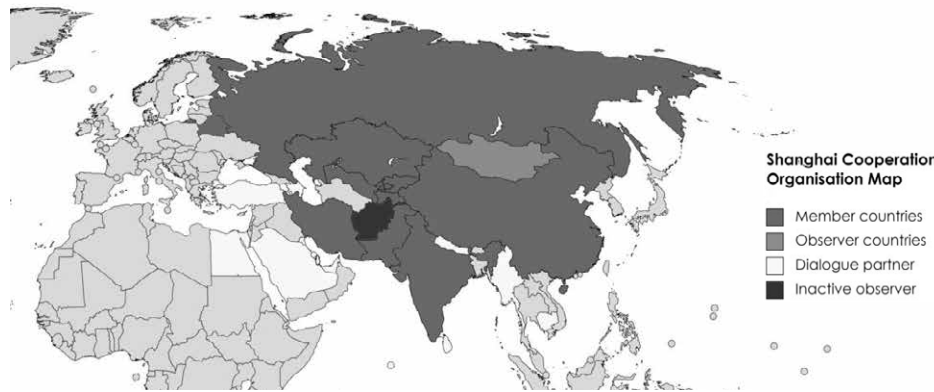
The NATO Declaration repeatedly pledges "long-term ... immediate and enduring support to Ukraine." It enumerates air defense systems, other military capabilities and an "irreversible path to ... NATO membership" for Ukraine:

"We affirm our determination to support Ukraine in building a force capable of defeating Russian aggression [sic] today and into the future."

The document pledges tens of billions of dollars in assistance to Ukraine. It publicly demands extra military spending by all members. "Ukraine's future is in NATO," it concludes.

NATO plans new nuclear weapons

NATO calls for "integration of space into our planning, exercises and multi-domain operations ... investing in our chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capabilities. ... Nuclear deterrence is the cornerstone of Alliance security ... including by modernizing its nuclear capabilities, strengthening its nuclear planning capability."



Iran and Belarus joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

The document boasts, with obvious pride, that "[D]efense expenditures have grown by 18% in 2024, the biggest increase in decades."

The arrogant, self-satisfied leaders at the NATO summit ignore the ruin their failed wars in the last 25 years have created, for example, in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Afghanistan. Nor is there mention of their many coups, assassinations and disappearances. This is just wreckage left behind.

Justifying plans for expanding to form a global NATO directly aimed at China and the DPRK, the declaration "welcomes the leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea, and the European Union to discuss common security challenges and areas of cooperation. ... The Indo-Pacific is important for NATO, given that developments in that region directly affect Euro-Atlantic security."

The NATO declaration omits its summits' usual empty promises to improve living standards, health, education or climate remediation. Clearly these enormous problems are not on the agenda of its powerful members, whose concerns are strategic power and profits.

Only threats – No solutions

This block of imperialist leaders are so used to arrogantly having their way that they seem unable to take stock of the deteriorating global position of the regimes and states they rule.

NATO's grand proclamation contains not a shred of examination of its leading members' failing economic and political standing in the world. Instead, it asserts that NATO remains the strongest alliance in history. They call it "unique, essential and indispensable."

It is in the profit-driven, class interests of privately owned U.S. and other imperialist corporations to keep formerly colonized countries of the Global South underdeveloped as a cheap source of raw materials and labor. Constant wars and occupations are a ruthless part of this destabilizing process.

Finding a way out of this dependency

is only possible with intense cooperation and common defense, even among countries with very different social systems, customs and history. The SCO and other emerging alliances of countries of the Global South are signs of this need for unity when facing imperialist demands and threats.

The Final Declaration of the SCO opens with a recognition of the enormous changes underway in the world: "Tectonic shifts are underway in global politics, economy and other spheres of international relations. A fairer multipolar world order is being born, with broader opportunities for national development and mutually beneficial and equal international cooperation. At the same time, we see broader use of force, regular violations of international law, growing geopolitical

U.S. imperialism used the Sept. 11, 2001, attack as a pretext to storm into the entire region, for what Washington called a "War on Terror." Suddenly U.S. and NATO member countries had stationed more than 100,000 U.S. troops, thousands of troops from other NATO countries and tens of thousands of mercenary contractors at 35 bases and military installations and countless forward operations centers in Afghanistan.

U.S. imperialism, with the entire NATO bloc of imperialist powers, exerted overwhelming pressure on the countries of the former Soviet Union, which as separate capitalist countries were isolated and relatively poor. The U.S. military gained access to former military bases of the USSR. Suddenly there were hundreds of U.S. troops, aircraft and vast warehouses at bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Washington planned to establish other bases and facilities in the region.

U.S. strategists planned to use its bases in Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia to assert U.S. corporate dominance over this resource-rich area. These bases would exert a continuous military threat against Russia, China and Iran.

On July 5, 2005, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, now with the inclusion of Uzbekistan, held a summit meeting in Kazakhstan. The SCO meeting called on the United States to set a deadline for the removal of its military bases from Central Asia. The SCO declared then that "common security concerns and economic partnership in priority areas of trade, sustainable development, and agriculture" was their goal.

Today the still developing SCO security alliance should be evaluated in the context of a whole series of other emerging alliances and trade agreements. This includes the BRICS+ (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and other countries) trade alliance on an international level.

The Belt and Road Initiative, a global development strategy, begun by China in 2013, now offers exciting infrastructure possibilities, including schools, medical centers, roads, ports, railroads, mines, refineries, new irrigation techniques, fertilizer production and food processing.

Because China has a socialist planned economy in all fundamental areas of development, China is in a position to share its technology globally. Over 150 countries have signed on to Belt and Road programs. These programs are a concrete alternative to subservience to imperialist financial enslavement.

Tying a country's economy to imperialism means that country is forced to buy billions of dollars in outdated military equipment from U.S. military contractors for endless war. It means signing imposed contracts with U.S. military bases. It means holding International Monetary Fund and World Bank loans with high interest and onerous conditions. The Belt and Road programs offer an exciting option that is shifting aspirations of all the formerly colonized countries.

These development projects along with a whole series of bilateral meetings and exchanges taking shape around the world cause the growing frustration of U.S. imperialism and the G-7 imperialist, formerly colonial powers.

- *NATO Washington Summit Declaration:*
[tinyurl.com/NATO-declaration-2024](https://www.nato.int/pr/doc/20240710-nato-declaration-2024.htm)
- *SCO Final Declaration:*
[tinyurl.com/SCO-declaration-2024](https://www.sco.int/doc/20240704-sco-declaration-2024.htm) □

Numbers prove that Israel's stated goals are an epic lie

By Susan Abulhawa

This article first appeared on Electronic Intifada at tinyurl.com/2a736esa, on June 27 and has been lightly edited.

When you're in Gaza and see the destruction firsthand, the clearest conclusion is that Israel's stated goals are an epic lie, on a par with "a people without a land for a land without a people," packaged and sold to the world.

The Israelis are not targeting Hamas, nor are they interested in returning their captives, who pose a tremendous liability upon their release, as they often have good things to say about their captors.

Math is useful to prove what I'm saying, so here are some numbers to start.

Destroyed buildings

As of April 2024, approximately 360,000 buildings have been destroyed, of which 405 are schools and universities, 700 hospitals and health facilities, 290 mosques and three churches. Given the estimation by the United Nations monitoring group OCHA [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] that 12 buildings are destroyed every hour in Gaza, the adjusted number to account for May and June is 377,280 buildings.

Direct fire causes death and injuries

The reported number of martyrs on Wednesday [June 26] this week was 37,718. It's important to note that this number only includes martyrs who have been identified by name and civil ID number through the beleaguered health ministry in Gaza.

Given the breakdown of reporting systems due to heavy destruction of infrastructure and personnel, this number, even with its limited parameters, is a gross underestimation.

Based on more accurate figures of approximately 370 people killed daily, multiplied by 264 days of genocide, the actual number is closer to 97,680 martyred. (Per OCHA estimate of 15 martyrs per hour: Over the course of 264 days, which amounts to 6,336 hours, this number would roughly be 95,040).

The adjusted estimate of martyrs is 260% more than the stagnant reported number. It is reasonable to adjust the number



Twelve buildings are destroyed every hour in Gaza.

of injured (currently 86,377) by the same percentage, bringing that value to 224,580. (Per OCHA estimate of 35 injured per hour, this number comes to 221,760.)

Death from lack of medications and chronic conditions

Importantly, the number above does not include the thousands of unidentified martyrs, some of whom were uncovered from mass graves; those who arrived headless or in impossible pieces; those who were buried by their loved ones without going through the hospital system; those who have died of starvation; those who have died from lack of access to critical medications; those who have died from infections or communicable diseases.

Taking into account 1,100 dialysis patients, 2,000 cancer patients and 341,000 individuals who depend on medication to manage chronic illnesses (45,000 people with cardiovascular disease, 71,000 diabetes, 225,000 hypertension), the extreme shortage of life-saving medication has and will continue to lead to deaths from Israel's withholding of supplies. If a very conservative estimate of 5% of these patients die as a result (if they have not already), that's an additional 17,050 people.

However, a more accurate all-cause

mortality rate for unmanaged diabetes is 13.6% (putting mortality at 9,869 people); 37% for uncontrolled hypertension (translating to 83,250 people). Untreated dialysis and cancer patients will have a high mortality rate. A conservative estimate for this group is 30% or 930 patients.

Taken together, this is 94,049 people. (I didn't consider cardiovascular disease alone, since patients tend to have co-morbidities and there would be natural overlap in these numbers.)

Dead or dying from starvation

According to a recent U.N.-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, approximately 495,000 Palestinians in Gaza are facing "catastrophic" hunger, which means they suffer extreme lack of food leading to acute malnutrition in young children, and imminent risk of starvation and death. If we make a conservative 5% estimate of death from starvation among this population, that's 24,750 people dead or dying from starvation.

Data-driven mortality for acute malnutrition is approximately 20%. However, the current classification has not yet reached full-blown famine levels, making the current estimate reasonable.

Missing, presumed dead or kidnapped

Approximately 21,000 children are missing and unaccounted for. Some are trapped under the rubble, some have been kidnapped by Israeli soldiers, while others are simply lost in the chaos. Given the relative equal ratio of adults to children in Gaza, it is safe to assume the same number of adults are likewise unaccounted for, doubling this number to 42,000 people missing overall.

Death from disease

Due to the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, coupled with restrictions on aid entering Gaza, Israel's assault has led to the spread of communicable and water-borne diseases such as acute jaundice (due mostly to hepatitis A), acute diarrhea (with bloody stool), scabies and lice, skin rashes, chicken pox and acute respiratory infections, which totaled over 1.44 million cases as of June 10. If only 1% of these patients succumb to these serious conditions, that's 14,408 people likewise killed indirectly by Israel's bombing and siege of Gaza.

Mortality for acute jaundice or hepatitis A is low (2.5% in adults and less than 1%

in children; thus a 1% percent mortality estimate is appropriate for this category, or 817 people); mortality for diarrhea ranges from 4.27% to 12% (20,722-58,238 people); smallpox mortality is 1% to 30%, depending on strain (854-2,561 people); mortality rates for acute respiratory disease range from 27% to 45% depending on severity (or 233,592-389,320 people). Taken together, adjusted for scientific data, the range for this category of martyrs is 255,985-450,936 people.

Estimate summaries

Based on these estimates, both conservative and data-driven, respectively, the actual figures are likely as follows:

- 377,280 buildings destroyed completely or partially
- 95,040 – 97,680 martyred
- 221,760 injured
- 24,750 dead or dying from starvation
- 42,000 missing (presumed dead, kidnapped by Israel's occupying forces or possibly trafficked).

The following ranges represent conservative estimate or lower range of data-driven population estimates:

- 17,050 – 94,049 with chronic illnesses dead from lack of medication
- 14,408 – 255,985 dead from epidemics resulting from Israel's assault

This means the actual number of dead is closer to 194,768 – 511,824 people, with 221,760 injured. And counting.

This does not include the thousands who have been kidnapped and are being tortured in Israel's prisons, at least three dozen of whom have been tortured to death or died from harsh conditions.

Some lives matter

The estimates here are reasonable, but on-the-ground studies must be conducted immediately. International institutions must urgently assess the actual all-cause mortality resulting directly and indirectly from Israel's assault on Gaza.

Thus far, of the 240 Israeli captives in Gaza, Israel has allegedly killed 50 of their own, both directly (shooting them) and indirectly (bombing the buildings they are in) and secured the release of 112 captives, 105 through negotiated agreements with Hamas, and seven via "rescue" missions.

The most recent direct "rescue" mission resulted in the release of four captives in Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza. A total of 274 Palestinians and several Israeli captives were killed in the same operation! At least one U.S. lawmaker believes sacrificing hundreds of Palestinians for four Israelis is worth it, because, it seems, only some lives matter.

I'll leave it to readers to do the math to see the level of death and destruction inflicted on Gaza per captive or per Hamas fighter.

There can be only one of two conclusions. Either the Israeli military is the most incompetent force to ever walk this planet — and has no reliable intelligence gathering capability — or Israel is a sadistic nation intent on genocide of the Indigenous population, much as all settler colonial projects have been throughout history.

Susan Abulhawa is a Palestinian writer and activist. Her most recent novel is "Against the Loveless World." (Washington Square Press, 2021).

Protesters demand Cuyahoga County divest from Israel

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

A spirited, youthful crowd marched and rallied on July 19, protesting the ongoing genocide against Palestinians and in particular, the massacre of over 300 people in the Al-Mawawi tent refugee camp in Khan Younis, a city in Gaza. The march through a neighborhood on Cleveland's West Side stopped at the home of Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne to protest the investment of \$16 million of county funds in Israel Bonds.

Demonstrators put mock bloody bundles representing children killed, photos



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Cleveland march in solidarity with Palestine, July 19, 2024.

of martyred Palestinian children and lawn signs targeting Ronayne in front of the county executive's home. Chants included "Chris Ronayne, you can't hide! We charge you with genocide!" □

Axis of Resistance expands solidarity with Palestine

The following statement on "Tel Aviv Operation and Expanding Hezbollah's Attacks: The First Signs of The New Program" was reported by Ibrahim Al-Amin on July 20, 2024, and carried by Resistance News Network.



In his first speech after the Al-Aqsa Flood, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated that the support front from Lebanon operates according to two criteria: one related to the scale of the enemy's attacks and the other concerning the support needed to prevent the breaking of the resistance in Gaza.

The leader of Ansarallah, Sayyed Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, was quick to announce that Yemen's involvement in the battle aims to stop the aggression and lift the siege on Gaza. Both parties, in all subsequent statements issued by their respective war media, emphasized key phrases: supporting Gaza, backing its resistance and striving to stop the aggression and lift the siege.

Later, Nasrallah and Al-Houthi devel-

oped their stance in several speeches, linked to various events, most importantly, the coordination between the forces of the Axis of Resistance, which took a different form and settled on mechanisms that included all fronts, including Gaza itself.

It won't be long before some of the daily operational coordination, both politically and on the ground, between the parties of the Axis is revealed, from the center in Iran, passing through Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and reaching Gaza and the rest of Palestine.

Over the past nine months, the resistance in Gaza has provided one proof after another of its steadfastness, patience and effectiveness, supplying allies with sufficient information about its conditions until the moment when the leaders of the Axis realized that the idea of crushing the resistance in Gaza was behind everyone.

The focus then shifted to the support mechanism that benefits the resistance in Gaza from two aspects: the first involves the attrition of the enemy and pushing it to stop the war, and the second

concerns the position of the resistance in the ongoing negotiations to stop the war, especially since the political pressures on the resistance are immense, involving Palestinians, Arabs and the U.S. and "Israeli" enemies.

The recent weeks have shown that Benjamin Netanyahu's government does not intend to proceed with a deal to end the war, and its head openly rejected a settlement he said achieves Hamas's goals. He then engaged in a new maneuver that became more tied to the event of the U.S. election, and his government members can no longer hide their bet on the fall of Joe Biden's administration, relying on Donald Trump's victory.

They are now acting on the basis of continuing the war until these elections, with "Israeli" Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir going so far as to reveal the big secret by stating that agreeing to the proposed deal would be a stab in Trump's back.

Alongside the constant question about the most beneficial form of support for Gaza and its resistance, regional and international items were added to the Axis of Resistance's agenda, including how to

deal with the U.S. [election] event.

Axis leaders are acting on the basis that there is no point in waiting for any change in the positions of the official Arab system, as Saudi Arabia and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] show readiness to take revenge on Yemen, while Jordan cooperates with the Ramallah [Palestinian] Authority and its Security Forces in plans to suppress the resistance in the West Bank. Everyone, under Egypt's patronage, is involved in searching for an alternative authority to Hamas in Gaza, despite all being aware that achieving this would lead to a Palestinian-Palestinian civil strife that the enemy wants to be the first line in the "Day After" program.

Hezbollah and Ansarallah were very frank when they said from the early days of the war that breaking the resistance in Gaza is forbidden. All this necessitated reconsidering the field programs of the resistance forces, imposing changes that can be implemented according to an arrangement that does not contradict the specificity of each party in the Axis of Resistance, without necessarily leading to a wide-scale war. □

The Yaffa drone strikes Yaffa ('Tel Aviv')

The following statement was published on July 19, 2024, by the Yemeni Armed Forces on Resistance News Network.

At dawn, a large drone bypassed all Zionist radar systems, flying undetected for 2,000 kilometers (1,243 miles), and making impact in the heart of the Zionist entity's center of "Tel Aviv."

The operation was claimed by the Yemeni Armed Forces, using a newly unveiled drone named after the city it was set to target. The Yemeni Armed Forces declared occupied Yaffa an unsafe zone, promising to expand their operations.

Ansarallah Political Bureau member

Hezam Al-Asad stated to Al-Mayadeen that "The 'Israeli' enemy should be on alert in all cities," adding that "The coming days will be harsher for the enemy as long as the aggression on Gaza continues."

He affirmed that the Yemeni Armed Forces have "entered a new strategic phase in operations" and affirmed continuous coordination between the Yemeni Armed Forces and the resistance in Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine.

An exclusive source reaffirmed Al-Asad's message to Al-Mayadeen, stating that the Yemeni army will continue to escalate until the end of the aggression of the siege on Gaza.

The source stated that the Yaffa drone was developed after Arab countries intercepted Yemeni weapons that targeted "Eilat," noting that it is locally made and travels 2,000 kilometers. The drone is equipped with advanced jamming and stealth systems.

The source noted that the stockpile of such weapons is very large and that the bank of targets in "Tel Aviv" is very diverse.

The Yemeni Armed Forces have vowed to persist in their operations, expanding them in scope and frequency, until their demands are met. If the enemy continues, "there will be actions that even Yemenis



themselves can't imagine, nor can the Americans."

This statement was lightly edited.

Hamas on ICJ decision denouncing Israeli settlements



The following statement was issued by Hamas on July 19, 2024, on Resistance News Network.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) welcomes the legal opinion issued by the International Court of Justice which affirmed the illegitimacy of the Zionist occupation and the need to end it. The opinion exposed the fascist settlement system and called for its termination, highlighting the extensive violations of international law committed by the occupation governments against our people and our Palestinian land.

This decision, and the Court's demand for the United Nations and the Security Council to consider measures to end the Zionist occupation, places the international community before the imperative to act immediately to end the occupation and translate the successive decisions issued by

the Court into serious steps on the ground.

This is especially crucial in light of the ongoing genocidal war against our people in the Gaza Strip, the dangerous settlement expansion in the West Bank and the frenzied judaization steps in Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Following the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice with a significant majority, we call on the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council to take the necessary

measures to end the occupation, particularly in light of the entity's rejection of the Court's decisions and its accusations of antisemitism.

The International Court of Justice has issued several decisions ordering a halt to actions leading to genocide in the Gaza Strip and the necessity of facilitating humanitarian aid access to all areas of the Strip. Additionally, it has called for the cessation of the ongoing criminal military operation in the city of Rafah.

These decisions have been blatantly ignored by the occupation government, with full support and cover from the U.S. administration. As Zionist positions continue to attack the Court and its decision today, we call on the international community to embrace these decisions, bypass the U.S. will and work to compel the fascist occupation to implement them and comply immediately.

This statement was lightly edited.

Apoyo al sionismo se derrumba

Continúa de página 12

han sido martirizados, pero el número real de personas masacradas por Israel podría ser muchas veces superior.

Solidaridad mundial: una parte de la resistencia

El colapso del apoyo sionista se extiende más allá del ejército israelí. En los seis primeros meses posteriores al 7 de octubre, unos 550.000 ciudadanos israelíes emigraron del país. La emigración a Israel ha disminuido.

En todo el mundo, el apoyo a Israel ha caído en picado. Trabajadores de diversos

países han obstruido la producción o bloqueado los envíos de armas destinadas al Estado del apartheid. La intifada estudiantil, iniciada con una acampada en la Universidad de Columbia, atrajo a estudiantes de todo Estados Unidos y de muchos otros países.

Incluso los sindicatos estadounidenses, algunos de los cuales han apoyado a Israel en el pasado, han pedido un alto el fuego en Gaza y están debatiendo la posibilidad de desinvertir en bonos israelíes. No es ni mucho menos lo que deberían estar haciendo, pero representa un cambio radical que amenaza claramente la hegemonía estadounidense e israelí en

Asia Occidental.

Si Israel fue alguna vez una "democracia" estable en la región, esos días han pasado. No hay vuelta atrás.

Juventud contra la Guerra y el Fascismo, que en su día fue el grupo juvenil del Partido Mundo Obrero, formó el Comité de Apoyo a la Liberación de Oriente Medio hacia 1969. Sus carteles y botones decían: "¡EE.UU. fuera de Oriente Medio! Palestina vencerá".

Hoy, no podríamos estar más orgullosos de la Resistencia Palestina por haber creado la posibilidad de que ese lema se haga realidad. □

MUNDO OBRERO



Protesta en Nairobi, Kenia, 27 de junio de 2024

Reparaciones para el pueblo de Kenia, ¡no deuda!

Declaración del Mundo Obrero

Mundo Obrero se solidariza plenamente con el pueblo de Kenia, que lleva a cabo una rebelión popular desde el 25 de junio. Protestan contra un proyecto de ley aprobado por el parlamento para aumentar los impuestos sobre las necesidades básicas de la vida, como los alimentos, el gas, la atención sanitaria y la educación. Los kenianos exigen un recorte del gasto, no mayores impuestos.

Miles de personas salieron a la calle el 25 de junio -tras las protestas contra la austeridad de la semana anterior- en los "7 días de rabia", después de que la policía matara a decenas de manifestantes desarmados e hiriera a cientos más. Parte del edificio del Parlamento fue incendiado.

¿Qué desencadenó esta revuelta? La respuesta: la creciente crisis de la deuda impuesta por el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial a Kenia y al resto de África. Antiguas colonias y ahora países en desarrollo, como Kenia, pagan un precio muy alto por miles de millones de dólares en préstamos que supuestamente sirven

para construir infraestructuras, pero que en realidad exigen el pago de elevados intereses que no pueden devolverse ni siquiera a lo largo de muchas vidas.

Para cubrir los pagos de intereses, los gobiernos locales se ven obligados a imponer devastadoras subidas de impuestos o de precios a las masas, que luchan a diario por tener comida en la mesa y un techo bajo el que cobijarse. Son los bancos imperialistas los que acaban destruyendo las economías locales, que se ven obligadas a sucumbir a la naturaleza despiadada, competitiva y ávida de beneficios del mercado mundial capitalista.

Según un informe de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo, la deuda pública interna y externa de Kenia asciende a la alucinante cifra de 80.000 millones de dólares, casi tres cuartas partes de toda la producción económica del país. Sólo el pago de intereses se come el 27% de los ingresos recaudados. Estas cifras se dan a pesar de que, según los informes, Kenia tiene la economía de más rápido crecimiento del continente africano. (tinyurl.com/42nc939p)

El heroico levantamiento ha impulsado al Presidente keniano, William Ruto, aliado de la administración del Presidente Joe Biden, a no firmar el polémico proyecto de ley, al menos de forma temporal. Muchos kenianos exigen ahora la dimisión de su presidente.

El Partido Comunista de Kenia declaró: "La sangre derramada en las calles de Kenia está directamente en manos del FMI, el Banco Mundial y sus marionetas locales dirigidas por el presidente Ruto en Nairobi. Ruto: dimite o serás derrocado". (communistpartyofkenya.org, 26 de junio)

Esta deuda inimaginable debe cancelarse de una vez por todas. Se deben reparaciones al pueblo de Kenia junto con todo el continente africano por cientos de años de recursos robados y mano de obra superexplotada, primero por parte de la clase dominante imperialista de Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania y otros países ricos europeos y actualmente por los bancos imperialistas dominados por Estados Unidos. □

Intento de asesinato

La clase obrera necesita una lucha independiente

Por Monica Moorehead

El intento de asesinato del candidato presidencial Donald Trump durante un mitin de campaña el 13 de julio en Butler, Pensilvania, ha pasado a ocupar el centro del escenario en relación con las elecciones de 2024, alterando la narrativa política. En los próximos días y semanas, se especulará mucho sobre si el Servicio Secreto incumplió su deber al permitir que se produjera este tiroteo.

Incluso antes de que Trump fuera tiroteado, intentó presentarse como víctima de los 34 cargos penales que pesaban sobre él. Una vez condenado, el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos, en una sentencia de 6-3, le concedió inmunidad judicial por cualquier "acto oficial" que llevara a cabo como presidente.

A la luz del tiroteo, Trump está tratando de presentarse como un mártir, diciendo: "Debería estar muerto", con el fin de inclinar las elecciones aún más a su favor. Cierta parte de la clase dominante estadounidense, a través de los medios de comunicación corporativos que posee, no sólo está promoviendo la simpatía hacia él, sino también situando el tiroteo en el contexto más amplio del actual debate sobre la violencia armada.

Durante su conferencia de prensa del 13 de julio en reacción al tiroteo de Trump, el presidente Joe Biden declaró: "No hay lugar en Estados Unidos para este tipo de violencia ni para ninguna violencia jamás, punto. Sin excepciones. No podemos permitir que se normalice esta violencia". (The Hollywood Reporter, 15 de julio)

¿A quién intenta engañar Biden con su falsa retórica?

Se calcula que 43.000 personas murieron en EE.UU. en 2023 a causa de las armas, ya fuera por asesinato, suicidio u otros motivos. (independent.co.uk, 15 de julio)

Como dice el viejo refrán: "La violencia es tan americana como la tarta de manzana". Y que Biden, también llamado "Joe, el genocida" (Genocide Joe), censure la violencia armada es el colmo de la hipocresía más absoluta.

Él ha justificado desde el 7 de octubre el suministro de las armas más terroríficas al apartheid israelí, especialmente multitud de toneladas de bombas, para cometer masacres diarias de palestinos en Gaza, incluyendo decenas de miles de niños.

Trump, que excorió a Biden durante su primer debate presidencial el mes pasado por no "terminar el trabajo" de exterminar a los palestinos, es igual de violentamente proisraelí.

Al menos 120 palestinos murieron por bombas estadounidenses y cientos más resultaron heridos el día del tiroteo de Trump. ¿Dónde estaba la indignación de los principales medios de comunicación corporativos por este continuo ataque contra civiles? Silencio absoluto.

¿Qué significa esto para la clase obrera?

No importa cuántos millones de trabajadores odian a Trump, lo que sin duda está justificado, las acciones individuales como la tomada por el pistolero que atacó a Trump, independientemente de la motivación, nunca son un sustituto de los trabajadores que montan una resistencia de clase independiente al programa de todos los sectores de la clase dominante.



"Interrumpimos este genocidio para decir cuánto aborrecemos la violencia."

Cualquier diferencia de matiz entre Trump y Biden no oculta el hecho de que ambos están a favor de la clase dominante y en contra de la clase obrera, independientemente de sus afiliaciones políticas.

Si los trabajadores quieren detener el fascismo, que Trump simboliza, tienen que mirar más allá de la arena electoral. La decadencia del imperialismo estadounidense en casa y en el extranjero es la causa fundamental de la violencia de masas, ya sea la violencia sancionada por el Estado por la policía o el Pentágono o la violencia al azar. La violencia armada es una cuestión de clase, no una cuestión moral, y no desaparecerá después de las elecciones de noviembre.

Los trabajadores pueden sentirse impotentes en este momento para detener a Trump, pero la clase obrera tiene el mayor poder de cualquier clase - que es el poder de detener la producción y poner fin al sistema capitalista. □

El apoyo al sionismo se derrumba en todos los frentes

La admisión del ministro de Defensa israelí, Yoav Gallant, el 1 de julio -que el ejército de su país necesitaba 10.000 soldados más de forma inmediata- podría haber conmocionado al mundo incluso hace un año. Pero desde que Hamás lanzó la operación

editorial Inundación de Al-Aqsa el 7 de octubre, el Estado sionista del apartheid se ha visto acosado por multitud de crisis. En los últimos nueve meses, unos 900 oficiales del ejército israelí "han solicitado revisar la liberación de sus contra-

tos". (PalestineChronicle.com, 1 de julio) Puede que no todos estos 900 oficiales estén motivados por la conciencia. Pero sea cual sea el motivo, estas cifras apuntan al hecho de que la moral militar israelí está bajo mínimos.

Para hacer frente a la necesidad de soldados, el Tribunal Supremo de Israel falló unánimemente en contra de la exención del reclutamiento de los judíos haredíes ultraortodoxos. Esta comunidad ultraortodoxa comprende alrededor del 13%

de la población. Ha sido una base de apoyo para el Primer Ministro Benjamin Netanyahu. Y quiere mantener su largo privilegio de estar libre del servicio militar obligatorio.

El régimen de Netanyahu ha reprimido toda expresión de disidencia, incluidas las protestas de los haredíes contra el servicio militar obligatorio. Incluye las manifestaciones de las familias de los rehenes del 7 de octubre exigiendo al primer ministro que acepte un alto el fuego y un acuerdo de intercambio de prisioneros

con Hamás. Incluye fuerzas dentro de Israel que expresan públicamente su oposición a la guerra.

Eso es lo que ocurre durante una guerra ilegal e imposible de ganar.

Por supuesto, la represión contra los ciudadanos israelíes palidece en comparación con el genocidio en curso en Gaza, que Netanyahu sigue insistiendo en que es necesario para "liberar" a los rehenes capturados por la Resistencia palestina el 7 de octubre. Al menos 38.000 palestinos

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