

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 44 October 31, 2024



WW PHOTO: ELLEN CATALINOTTO

NYC: End the U.S. blockade of Cuba

Activists held a spirited rally at Grand Central Station in New York City on Oct. 27 to demand an end to the illegal U.S. blockade of Cuba imposed in 1960. Another demand was the removal of Cuba from the States Sponsors of Terrorism List.

The rally was one of many pro-Cuba events held around the country as the United Nations General Assembly is set to vote Oct. 30 on its annual resolution to end the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

This year will be the 32nd time the UNGA has voted on the resolution, which has consistently been supported by all but two countries, the U.S. and Israel. Last year representatives from 187 countries voted in favor and Ukraine abstained, and once again, the U.S. and Israel opposed it.

The organizing for this yearly

action was initiated by the New York/New Jersey Cuba Si Coalition which includes many other organizations and individuals.

Activists in attendance represented the Venceremos Brigade, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, December 12th Movement, Workers World Party, NYC Communist Party, Democratic Socialists of America, United National Anti-War Coalition, Bronx Anti-War Coalition, Struggle La Lucha, Party For Socialism and Liberation, and Partido Libre D19.

Cuba has been facing tremendous difficulties due to the failure of its electrical grid. This problem is directly related to the blockade which makes it close to impossible for Cuba to procure the materials needed to repair the aging electrical system.

– Report by Brenda Ryan



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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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 auster-
ity, racism and repression, attacks on
im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment 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, edu-
cation 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, mul-
tigender 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 guar-
antee basic human needs.

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

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Indigenous peoples tell Biden: 'Sorry is not enough'

WW EDITORIAL

President Joe Biden did something that no U.S. president has done. He offered a formal apology for the horrific, racist abuse suffered by Native American and Alaska Native children in so-called American Indian boarding schools. Biden apologized on Oct. 25 outside of Phoenix, Arizona, at the Gila River Indian Community, at a meeting which included tribal leaders, survivors and their families.

The timing and place of this apology raises eyebrows since it comes within two weeks of the Nov. 5 presidential election, and Native Americans make up 5% of the overall population of Arizona, which is a "swing state."

Beginning in 1819, thousands of Native American and Alaska Native children were kidnapped from their homes and sent away to schools (in reality, concentration camps), where they were denied the right to their cultures, languages, histories and spiritual beliefs. Their long hair was cut, and many of these children were mentally and physically tortured, scarring them for life.

At least 973 children died in Indian boarding schools operated or supported by the federal government, often from abuse and disease. (The number is likely much higher.) Their labor was superexploited in the schools and by white adults who adopted them or hired them out. Most large American Indian boarding schools closed in the 1980s and 1990s following years of activism, the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 and the Indian



A defaced Christopher Columbus statue.

Child Welfare Act of 1978.

Many of these schools were maintained by the Catholic Church, other Christian denominations and the Mormon Church.

This abominable treatment was an instrumental part of a centuries-long genocidal campaign waged against Indigenous peoples that began when the butcher Christopher Columbus seized Caribbean islands in 1492, claiming them for the Spanish monarchy.

While many who attended the Oct. 25 meeting were heartened to hear Biden's apology, others said that the apology wasn't nearly enough to reverse the long-lasting physical and psychological harm done to those forced to attend the schools and to the generations that followed.

Rosalie Whirlwind Soldier, a 79-year-old member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, who suffered severe mistreatment at a school in South Dakota that left her with a lifelong, painful limp, said, "Sorry is not enough. Nothing is enough when you damage a human being. A whole generation of people and our future was destroyed for us." She and others are asking what comes next after the apology. (Associated Press, Oct. 25)

United American Indians of New England (UAIN), the main organizer of the annual National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, stated on its Facebook page in anticipation of the president's Oct. 25 announcement: "Biden to issue apology, without reparations, for U.S. Indian boarding schools. Nothing pledged to help Native children and families now dealing with intergenerational trauma, disproportionate number of children in care and all the other effects of genocidal U.S. anti-family policies."

UAIN continued: "No increased support for Indigenous language revitalization. Not to mention the necessity of landback. Nor the fact that this is being done for votes by an administration actively committing genocide. And free Leonard Peltier!"

Any formal apology by a U.S. president to an oppressed people, such as one President Bill Clinton made in 1997 to African Americans regarding slavery and Biden made recently to Indigenous peoples, is certainly a concession. But these apologies for state-sanctioned atrocities are toothless, because their white supremacist legacies remain intact.

Workers World is in total solidarity with UAIN and other Indigenous peoples in demanding that reparations be put in place to make any kind of apology real for those who are still fighting for their right to basic human rights, sovereignty and self-determination.

Otherwise, these apologies amount to nothing but grandstanding. □



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING Thursday, November 28, 2024 12 Noon - Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Massachusetts

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

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world
From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a Crime!
While many supporters will attend in person, we will also [livestream the event from Plymouth.](#)

Masks are required.
No sit-down social, but box lunches will be available.

#NDOM2024 #NoThanksNoGiving



United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)
www.uaine.org facebook.com/groups/UAIN info@uaine.org
Bus info and more at Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/NDOM2024>

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The Global South, the BRICS+ Summit and Palestine

By Betsey Piette

The potential power of a united Global South was on full display at the United Nations in March 2022. Representatives of many countries that had experienced imperialist aggression at the hands of the U.S., France, Britain and other NATO members collectively denounced U.S. sanctions as acts of war, calling NATO the greatest threat to global peace.

Led by member states of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), these representatives spoke out against U.S./NATO aggression against Russia and U.S. efforts to seek U.N. sanctions against Russia.

While the sanctions the U.S. proposed passed in the U.N. General Assembly, an analysis of the votes demonstrated that countries with the majority populations around the world, especially in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean—the Global South—opposed the move.

By expanding sanctions that punish countries and their populations, U.S. officials have created a boomerang, fueling a rapid shift in global currency exchange and undermining the hegemony of the dollar. These latest U.S. sanctions aimed at Russia were a tipping point.

Because many countries would lose so much economically by obeying the sanctions, their governments refused to follow them. By seizing funds of countries invested in dollars held in imperialist banks, the U.S. forced their governments to rethink how to store their currency reserves.

An International Monetary Fund report on March 24, 2022, noted “a decline in the dollar share of international reserves since the turn of the century.” Over 46 central banks have increasingly diversified their holdings, moving away from the U.S. dollar.

Fast forward to the 16th BRICS+ Summit held in Kazan, Russia, from Oct. 22 to 24, where this push to further the move from dependence on the dollar was on full display. BRICS, established in 2006, originally included four

members — Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa joined in 2010, and Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became full members on Jan. 1, 2024.



In addition to the full members, over 20,000 delegates from 30 other countries participated in the Kazan summit focused on the theme of “strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security.” The countries at the gathering together represented 46% of the world’s total population and around 36% of the global Gross Domestic Product.

Kazan Declaration

While the sheer numbers are impressive, what stood out in particular was the passage of the Kazan Declaration on Oct. 23 by the BRICS countries. It included provisions denouncing Israel and calling for an immediate ceasefire of the “unprecedented escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as a result of the Israeli military offensive, which led to mass killings and injury of civilians, forced displacement and widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure.

“We stress the urgent need for an immediate, comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and detainees from both sides who are being illegally held captive and the unhindered, sustainable and at scale supply of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and cessation of all aggressive actions. We denounce the Israeli attacks against humanitarian operations, facilities, personnel and distribution points.”

With a political statement, the Kazan

Declaration also addressed Israel’s escalation of the conflict into a regional war, with the “loss of civilian lives and the immense damage to civilian infrastructure resulting from attacks by Israel in residential areas in Lebanon and call for immediate cessation of military acts.”

The Declaration also called for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the Security Council, to more adequately respond to global challenges while supporting the aspirations of emerging and developing countries. It called for BRICS countries to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the U.N.

Beyond the Declaration, what will be the significance of the Kazan Summit?

BRICS is a contradictory formation. Prior to the summit, BRICS+ issued a historic report proposing the creation of new infrastructures to trade and transfer money using national currencies other than the U.S. dollar, further prompting the global call for de-dollarization.

On one hand, it is challenging the oligarchs of the West and will lead to their further isolation. Yet, some of the countries involved in BRICS are dominated by reactionary regimes. On its own, BRICS will not change the class relations in these countries. Yet anything that further isolates the global imperialist camp, led by Washington, and undermines its use of the dollar as a weapon targeting countries the U.S. opposes, aids the struggle of nations oppressed by imperialism. □

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Elecciones 2024: Una situación perdedora para la clase trabajadora

A medida que se acercan el 5 de noviembre y las elecciones presidenciales estadounidenses de 2024, una cosa está clara como el agua. Independientemente de qué candidatos del partido capitalista e imperialista ganen -el republicano Donald Trump o la demócrata Kamala Harris-, los trabajadores y el pueblo oprimido no tienen nada que ganar con este fraude electoral ni con el imperio capitalista que lo perpetúa.

Ambos partidos representan a las grandes empresas, al militarismo y al afán por mantener la hegemonía mundial imperialista de Estados Unidos. Estos partidos gastan miles de millones de dólares en un año de elecciones presidenciales para promocionar a sus candidatos. La mayor parte de la publicidad no trata de programas políticos sino de mentiras, repetidas una y otra vez.

Ningún partido socialdemócrata estadounidense, y mucho menos los comunistas, pueden gastar ni siquiera el 1% de lo que gastan los demócratas y los republicanos para ser elegidos presidentes o incluso para el Congreso.

La organización no partidista y sin ánimo de lucro OpenSecrets calcula que las elecciones de 2024 serán las más caras de la historia de Estados Unidos, ya que se espera que el coste total de las elecciones federales -presidenciales y al Congreso- supere los 15.900 millones de dólares.

Gran parte del gasto lo realizan los super PAC (Comités de Acción Política) a los que se permite recaudar y gastar cantidades ilimitadas de dinero siempre que no se coordinen con los candidatos. No existe un límite máximo para la cantidad que los super PAC y sus patrocinadores multimillonarios pueden gastar con la esperanza de influir en el resultado de las elecciones.

Anuncios basados en mentiras

Gran parte del dinero de la campaña de este año sirve para pagar el diseño y la promoción de algunas de las propagandas más racistas, anti-LGBTQIA2S+, misóginas, xenófobas y antiobreras jamás vistas en unas elecciones importantes. Un anuncio tras otro contiene despiadadas mentiras sobre los inmigrantes con afirmaciones totalmente falsas que los relacionan con supuestas violaciones y oleadas de crímenes. Los dos principales partidos burgueses están redoblando la xenofobia y dando prioridad a la construcción del estado policial.

Otros anuncios y afirmaciones de campaña intentan echar la culpa de la economía y los problemas sociales a la gente de color, a la falta de suficiente vigilancia policial, etc. Esto recuerda a la plétora de anuncios a favor de la policía que inundaron los medios de comunicación durante la campaña de 2020, tras las masivas protestas antirracistas por el asesinato policial de George Floyd y las demandas de desfinanciación de la policía.

Con los super PAC, los políticos se han asegurado de que los anuncios de campaña estén protegidos del escrutinio sobre quién los financia. La televisión, las emisoras de radio y las plataformas de medios sociales que obtienen grandes beneficios de la difusión de la publicidad no están obligadas a comprobar los hechos de su contenido.

Mientras que las investigaciones independientes han desacreditado por completo las afirmaciones de los anuncios pro-Trump,



En el exterior de la Convención Nacional Demócrata, manifestantes denuncian a ambos partidos, 19 de agosto de 2024. FOTO: XINHUA NEWS

la campaña de Harris no ha difundido ni un solo anuncio que contrarreste las mentiras. Competir para ver quién es más duro con la inmigración se parece a campañas similares de partidos fascistas o ultra derechistas en Europa cuyas líneas son paralelas a las de Trump.

No se puede negar que Donald Trump es horriblemente vil, sexista, xenófobo, racista y peligroso. Las fuerzas fascistas que su campaña está movilizando serán un peligro tanto si gana como si pierde. Sin embargo, al no demostrar ninguna capacidad para contrarrestar la viciosa propaganda de Trump, la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris y los demócratas son de hecho cómplices e igual de peligrosos, pero con una falsa tapadera de diplomacia.

La elección no resuelve nada para los trabajadores

Al negarse repetidamente a desvincularse de las políticas del presidente Joe Biden, Harris no ofrece ninguna alternativa viable. Harris ha dejado claro que su administración seguiría armando y financiando la ocupación genocida de Palestina por parte de Israel y ampliando la guerra en Asia Occidental, al igual que haría Trump, al tiempo que ampliaría las amenazas bélicas de la OTAN en Europa y contra China, arriesgándose incluso a una guerra nuclear.

Harris hace promesas de programas sociales para la «clase media» pero aún no ha explicado cómo podrían financiarse los programas cuando la administración Biden/Harris ha dado prioridad a un gasto militar sin precedentes -decenas de miles de millones de dólares- mientras que los programas sociales existentes han tenido que luchar por cada céntimo que necesitan.

La «promesa» de Biden/Harris de obligar a Israel a establecer un plan para permitir la ayuda humanitaria en Gaza en un plazo de 30 días -o perder la financiación estadounidense- es todo una maniobra para retrasarlo hasta después de las elecciones. En estos momentos, miles de gazatíes se están muriendo de hambre.

Los demócratas advierten del peligro de que Trump encarcele a sus oponentes si es reeligido. Sin embargo, durante el último año, bajo la administración Biden/Harris, los opositores a la guerra de EE.UU./OTAN contra Rusia se enfrentan a la cárcel, y miles de estudiantes y profesores han sido encarcelados, despedidos o suspendidos por oponerse al genocidio de EE.UU./Israel en Gaza. Esta misma semana, Samidoun, que apoya a los presos palestinos, ha sido incluido en la lista de «terroristas» de Estados Unidos.

Ni la administración Biden/Harris ni Trump han cumplido nunca las promesas hechas para aliviar la vida de los trabajadores. Estas elecciones no resolverán ninguno de los problemas que acarrear un dolor generalizado para los trabajadores ni disminuirán el peligro de una guerra mundial cada vez mayor. □

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