

5-WEEK PLAN TO DEFEAT COVID-19

Guarantee Income, Food, Housing, Healthcare

Put People Before Profits!

Nearly 300,000 people have died unnecessarily from COVID-19 in the U.S., including over 6,500 in Louisiana. Millions more have been sickened by the disease, some of whom have permanent scarring. This is nothing less than mass murder. The hands of the rich ruling class are stained with the blood of Indigenous, Black, and brown folks, of working class people, of elders and people with disabilities.

If the rich and their government lackeys get their way, hundreds of thousands more of us will be sacrificed so they can keep making profits off our backs.

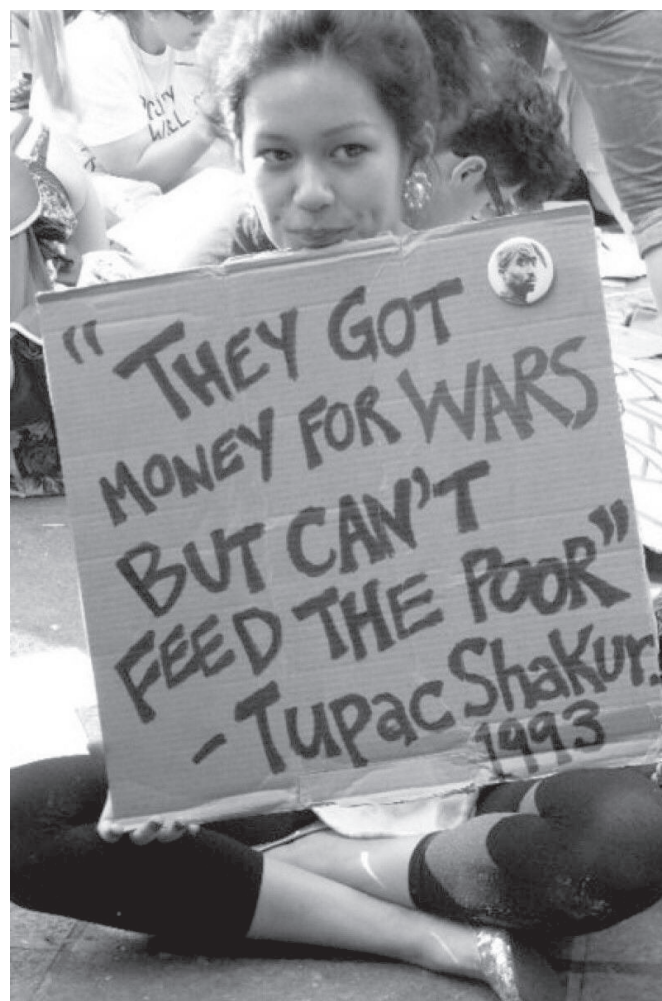
Governments around the world have shown

that COVID-19 can be stopped by enacting measures that put people before profits. Why haven't U.S. politicians come through with relief and a real plan to stop the spread? Because without us being forced back to work, the owners and bosses can't continue to make money off us. Politicians answer to the corporate bosses. It's time we say, "No more!"

Right wing defenders of "the freedom to die from COVID" who promote reckless and selfish behavior are the puppets for the profit masters. They are fools. At the same time, it is unreasonable to think we can do what is best for our health and the health of our communities unless many of bold governmental policies are enacted.

We have to put the people first to defeat COVID-19. We have a right to life and our health. Demand the emergency relief necessary to protect our communities!

There is Enough Money to Defeat COVID



The first bailout amounted to \$2.3 trillion. This included \$300 billion in stimulus checks, \$377 billion to small business (big corps took a lot of that), \$389 billion to state and local government, 100 billion to hospitals and \$454 billion went to a slush fund administered by Treasury secretary Mnuchin, former Goldman Sachs banker and the "Foreclosure King" in 2008. This slush fund is unspent and reserved for corporations.; this fund is projected to grow to a value of over \$4 trillion.

The Federal Reserve is used as a slush fund for Wall Street

The Federal Reserve bank has trillions of dollars of our money. Instead of working for the people, they have approved unlimited asset purchases, or "infinity" spending, to bail out the banks and Wall Street. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed is not going to run out of ammunition to keep stock prices high. Every week, they use millions to buy stocks in private companies. While we sink into debt, the rich are on their yachts,

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DECLARE WAR ON COVID, GIVE EMERGENCY RELIEF NOW

STEP ONE Get immediate relief to workers in two weeks' time:

- Insure all people get a guaranteed income. Stop withholding relief to force workers back to work while the rich stay home.
- Halt all evictions, foreclosures, and utility cutoffs.
- Equip medical personnel (including cleaning, laundry, cafeteria, clerical staff) and all essential workers (including truck drivers, postal workers, store workers, and deliverers) with highest level of PPE. Manufacturing of medical gear and PPE should be ordered to meet need without regard to private profits.
- Expand SNAP and food deliveries.

STEP TWO Shut it all down for 3 weeks & enact measures that make it possible for people to stay home and stop the spread:

- Make internet accessible and free to all.
- Secure free, quality childcare for essential workers.
- Set up free video and phone call access to loved ones for incarcerated people, nursing, and group home residents.
- Make PPE, neighborhood testing, and health care available at no cost. End racist disparity in access and treatment.
- Ban profits from vaccines, and outfit factories to produce vaccines quickly. Cooperate internationally to distribute vaccines. No one will be safe until everyone is safe.
- Enact emergency declaration that makes defeating COVID-19 the top priority for national security. Use military budget for the people not war profiteers.
- Forgive debts on student loans, credit cards, and loans taken out to survive.
- Release nonviolent prisoners.
- Include undocumented in all relief programs. They put food on the country's tables and so much more. Everyone must be included in the plan to stop the spread.
- Distribute aid to genuinely small business; stop big businesses from stealing those funds.

U.S. Billionaires Have Gained \$1 Trillion Since Pandemic Started

Letter to the Editor

Hands on Nola Distributes Unlabeled Mystery Food with a Letter from Donald Trump

From a cash poor senior:

Despite years of work, I am a senior who is poor like so many others. While we live in a country that produces more than enough food for everyone, corporate profiteering leaves much of this food out of reach. I often need supplemental food assistance even with SNAP.

TV and papers have praised Hands On New Orleans, a city project which

recently began delivering one box every week to seniors not eligible for FEMA meals because we get SNAP.

Now, I'm not picky at all. But I am outraged that 3 weeks in a row our box mainly consisted of 3 pounds of hot dogs with no expiration date or ingredients listed. Hands on Nola excused themselves by saying the mystery dogs are coming from the Dept. of Agriculture which obviously is buying tons

of unsellable, unhealthy mystery hot dogs (from one of Trump's friends?) Sodium, nitrates, food poisoning... Is the plan to kill even more seniors than COVID-19 and poverty already does?

To add insult to injury, the hot dogs came with a letter from criminal Donald Trump, a fan of seniors dying. He writes, "consider wearing a mask". Consider 280,000 dead, one quarter of them seniors. Keep your friends' hot

dogs, Trump, and we'll feed them to you in jail where you should be.

But the City and Hands on Nola also have a responsibility to not poison seniors while getting praised for good deeds. We must expand SNAP and raise the amount for seniors, and all people who need food. Then we can buy food with labels and not depend on charity.

Cantrell, NOPD Silence Black Musicians, Let Right-Wing Evangelicals Spread COVID-19

New Orleans Mayor Cantrell and the NOPD have shut down young Black musicians trying to survive by playing in the streets of the Quarter. The city fines residents \$500 for going maskless in the Quarter. But a mainly white, right-wing, illegal concert at Jackson Square is apparently not a problem. Anyone truly religious and caring for others does not encourage mass church or tight, maskless street gatherings which will spread COVID-19 and death. These "preachers" and "Christian" bands only want to get their money collections and fame.

DJ Soul Sister put it best: "HOW in the hell does this happen in New Orleans in the middle of a pandemic, not a mask nor social distanced space in sight? Who allows this kind of thing, and how, and WHY???? Also, last I was told, OUR New Orleans musicians, whose historic culture created the foundation for American popular music, are still not allowed to perform en masse (or even minimally) in OUR city...We can't do our New Orleans things. And we are following the rules so that we are in compliance in order to keep ourselves and others safe as we move towards ending the pandemic with science."



Cantrell's PAC Mimics Trump, Equates KKK with Anti-Racist Movement to Remove Monuments

The Gambit newspaper wrote an article that blasted the city for allowing this concert to take place. In response to the Gambit, Cantrell's Political Action Committee (PAC), Action New Orleans, wrote that the city allows other gatherings to happen. They

cite the Take 'Em Down protests to remove racist monuments which had "huge mobs of angry and volatile crowds on both sides," equating racists and anti-racists. This is what Trump said after KKK'ers, and Nazis invaded Charlottesville to praise slavery, assault townspeople, and murder Heather Heyer, who was marching against racism. There's a right side and a wrong side, Cantrell. Which side are you on?

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Call to Action:

Demand New Orleans DA Drop the False Charges Against Mickey Davis and Caleb Wassell

On Saturday, June 11, hundreds of people took down a statue of slaveowner John McDonogh in Duncan Plaza and threw it in the river, rejecting the racist monument and everything it stood for. NOPD singled out and falsely accused two people among the hundreds. Mickey Davis and Caleb Wassell were assaulted and arrested. In an act of openly racist retaliation, the city had members of the white supremacist Monumental Task Committee appraise the statue in order to inflate the value of it and charge Caleb with a felony that could come with a sentence of 10 years in prison.

The charges are a blatant attempt to intimidate the mass movement that arose this summer in response to police terror and racism. Six months later, the city is still pursuing these ridiculous charges, with no evidence that either Davis or Wassell was involved in the alleged “crime” of removing a racist eyesore from a public park.

"The charges are a blatant attempt to intimidate the mass movement that arose this summer in response to police terror and racism."



Hundreds of people removed a statue to slaveowner John McDonogh on June 11, 2020. Now, two are being falsely charged and face up to 10 years in prison.

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH MICKEY AND CALEB!

Contact the district attorney and the mayor and demand that ALL charges be dropped!

District Attorney's office: (504) 822-2414 or emurphy@orleansda.com

Mayor's office: (504) 658-4900 or mayor@nola.gov

Suggested message:

"I am contacting you to demand that the District Attorney's office drop all charges against Mickey Davis and Caleb Wassell. The city must respect the will of the people of New Orleans, who decided to remove from the public landscape a statue that venerated the slaveowner John McDonogh. It's time that New Orleans join the ranks of cities across the world who are taking the path of progress by disowning monuments to slavery, genocide, and racism. Drop the baseless and unjust charges against Davis and Wassell now."

GORDON PLAZA STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES



On November 11, 2020, Veterans Day, Residents of Gordon Plaza and the New Orleans Peoples Assembly held a rally and march. Beginning at the Veterans Administration Hospital and ending at the vacant Charity Hospital, nearly a dozen speakers wove connections between the struggles of military veterans duped into fighting unjust, imperialist wars and the struggles of working class Black people who the City of New Orleans knowingly scammed into buying houses on toxic land. Organizers demanded long-overdue justice, including a fully funded re-location for Gordon Plaza residents.

Trans Day of Remembrance

By Joseph Coco

Put on by the House of Tulip, New Orleans' Trans Day of Remembrance was a day of looking back at a year of extreme violence against the Trans community. Gathering near Bayou St. John, people sat on blankets eating food and enjoying the presence of their friends and chosen family. To paraphrase one of the leaders, "We will not be marching. We are here to acknowledge not only those who've been lost to us, but to celebrate our lives as well."

The main part of the event was a panel consisting

of Black Trans people of varying ages. Seeing Black trans elders able to tell their stories was critically important, since anti-Black transphobic violence often takes them away too soon. This was an intentional act on the part of leadership, one that many in the crowd appreciated.

The Black Trans community of New Orleans is one that is as powerful as it is still thriving. Being able to bear witness and experience joy and camaraderie in the face of a pandemic is just as important as doing political work. May we always be able to find a balance.

JUSTICE FOR QUAWAN CHARLES!

On November 28, dozens of people from across the state assembled at the gates of the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge to demand justice for Quawan Charles. Charles' family reported the 15-year old Quawan missing on October 30 yet Baldwin, LA police failed to investigate or issue a missing person's alert. Three days later, Quawan's mutilated body was found in a creek near a sugar cane field. Quawan's stepfather Jason Nelson spoke against the racist double standards at play and said that there should have been a "Quawan alert" since an "Amber alert" had not been issued. With the support of the community, Quawan's family promised to keep fighting for justice. "[The police] are going to just sit down behind their desk and wait, and wait, and wait and think we're going to forget," he said. "There's no statute of limitations on murder, so just like they've got forever to wait, we've got forever to keep fighting."



LABOR NEWS

Virginia Municipal Workers, Fight the Bosses, Win Right to Organize for Better Pay

Workers in Virginia— a long-time anti-union (“right to work”) state— won a major victory earlier this year with the passage of a state law that allows city employees to engage in collective bargaining beginning May 2021. Collective bargaining means that workers will actually have a say in their pay and working conditions, as opposed to the bosses making all these decisions. But Virginia Beach city workers aren’t waiting until May rolls around. In November, workers in Public Works, Public Utilities, and Parks and Recreation and Human Services rallied outside of the City

Council in Virginia Beach, VA demanding higher wages, hazard pay, an end to threats by their bosses, and democratically-elected worker leaders in each department.

City workers across the country—custodial workers, sanitation workers, firefighters, EMS, etc.—are facing wage cuts and layoffs during the pandemic. They are saving lives and making sure our cities are clean and running—all while facing high risks of infection—but bosses and politicians don’t want to give them a living wage or hazard pay and an end to threats by their bosses.



Vets and VA Workers Fight Trump's Anti-worker Attacks

Veterans and members of the American Federation of Government Employees have been rallying across the country to protest Trump’s attack on unions and VA workers’ rights. The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) represents about 260,000 VA workers across the country. They have been fighting for nearly a year to get a contract with the VA that preserves some of the rights and workplace protections that they’ve managed to win in previous negotiations. The VA, headed by secretary Robert Wilkie, has insisted on contract terms that would bar VA workers from negotiating shift changes and wages and make it harder to go after workplace abuse, discrimination, and unsafe conditions.

Trump has already limited VA workers’ access to union representation and membership. These attacks are part of a longstanding effort to get private profiteering corporations to take over the VA and other

government agencies which most veterans and workers oppose as it would result in a loss of benefits, lower wages, and worse care.

The most recent move by Trump and Wilkie has been to force negotiations to be decided by a panel stocked with Trump appointees. Predictably, the Federal Service Impasses Panel (FSIP) sided with Wilkie and Trump. Among other attacks, the FSIP removed all provisions regarding the pandemic including the requirement that employees be notified about safety protocols and that workers aren’t forced to use their leave time when they’re sent home because of a pandemic.

The union is fighting the decision in the courts. Outside of the courts, the struggle continues. Federal workers deserve our support as they fight back against the attacks of profit hungry vultures like Trump and his cronies.



Alabama Shipt Workers Fight Wage Theft

Shipt is an Uber-like app-based grocery company recently bought out by Target. Shipt workers have been risking their lives and the lives of their families to make sure people have access to food and other goods amid a deadly pandemic. On October 20, over 20 Shipt workers demonstrated outside the company’s headquarters in Birmingham, AL to protest pay cuts and tips-stealing by the company. Some workers have reported that they have been making less than minimum wage. This is common (and legal) among gig workers who are classified as “independent contractors” and is one of the main reasons that companies like Uber, Lyft, Instacart, etc. spend so

much money lobbying the government to make sure that these workers aren’t considered employees in the eyes of the law.

In August, Target reported that Shipt’s revenue had gone up by more than 300% percent since the pandemic began. But workers are having their wages cut and still don’t have access to healthcare, paid sick leave or other benefits. Clearly, the bosses don’t care if we live or die as long as they’re raking in profits from our labor, but these workers are standing up and fighting back. Solidarity with Shipt workers and all essential workers fighting to secure their long overdue rights!



Amazon Workers Strike Across the Globe

A global coalition of warehouse workers, unions, and climate activists organized protests on Black Friday calling out Amazon’s attacks on workers and the environment. Amazon workers were stripped of hazard pay in May and given a meager \$150-\$300 holiday bonus. According to the coalition, “Jeff Bezos could pay a \$105,000 bonus to every Amazon worker and still be as rich as he was at the start of the pandemic.” Ultra-billionaire Bezos’ wealth surpassed \$200 billion

in August, while Amazon workers here and around the world continue to risk their lives working during a pandemic without paid sick leave, hazard pay, or a living wage. Jeff Bezos is part of an elite class of billionaires who have seen their wealth increase by \$1 trillion since the beginning of the pandemic. Corporate bosses and politicians are working us to death so they can get rich. We must take to the streets and demand people over profits!

Remembering Vincent Chin

Auto Workers Fell for Bosses' Racist Lie, Lost Jobs Anyway!

By Gavrielle Gemma

In 1982 two white working-class men brutally murdered Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese worker in Detroit. For Vincent, this was his wedding day that was never to be.

In 1982 auto bosses and politicians were waving flags and spewing racism by saying it was Japan's fault that auto plants were closing. Japanese cars were burned on the street. The auto bosses laughed as they shifted the blame from the greedy company owners to innocent Asian people.

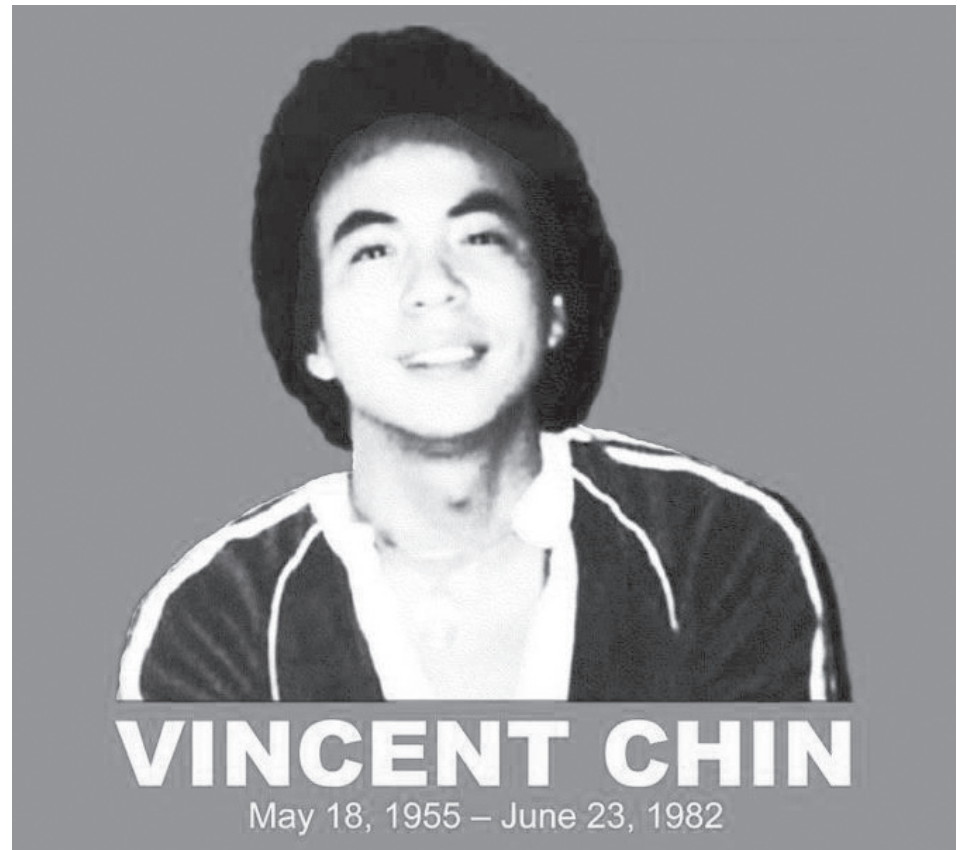
Auto Companies Used Profits to Speed Up and Move Plants Abroad

Layoffs were widespread in the auto industry because the auto companies took the millions in profit made from the labor of workers and sent their plants to other countries around the world to pay low wages. They also reinvested these profits in new technology that made more cars with fewer workers.

Workers should have fought for the profits produced by their labor to be used to benefit their communities instead of benefiting the company owners' pocketbooks. The U.S. auto unions should have and still should make solidarity with autoworkers around the world. This is the way to raise wages for all.

Today, both Trump and Biden are trying to get us to blame China for everything. They're trying to get workers to buy into their trade war and prepare for an out and out shooting war. But the Chinese government is not the one refusing to give us economic aid, evict us, or throw us in jail. They're not letting our children go hungry or killing us with COVID-19.

A tiny handful of disgustingly rich people have used their hoarded wealth to buy mansions and Ferraris while 40 million of us are unemployed. Trump's giant tax cuts for the rich weren't used to create jobs but to buy more mansions. A few hundred billionaires in the U.S.—OPP would comfortably house all of them—have increased



their wealth by \$1,000,000,000 since the beginning of the pandemic.

It's time we looked the problem in the face. Greedy capitalists and the politicians that protect them are at the root of our troubles. We need to organize for living wage jobs, to cancel

our debts, to stop evictions and foreclosures, and end hunger. We need to say no to anti-Asian racism, yes to unity. There are so many more of us than the tiny handful of capitalists. Let's flex our muscle and fight the real enemy.

Alabama Amazon Workers Vote for Dignity and Respect

Amazon workers have filed a notice to hold a unionization vote at a fulfillment center in Bessemer, Alabama. They're aiming to form a 1,500 worker strong bargaining unit with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

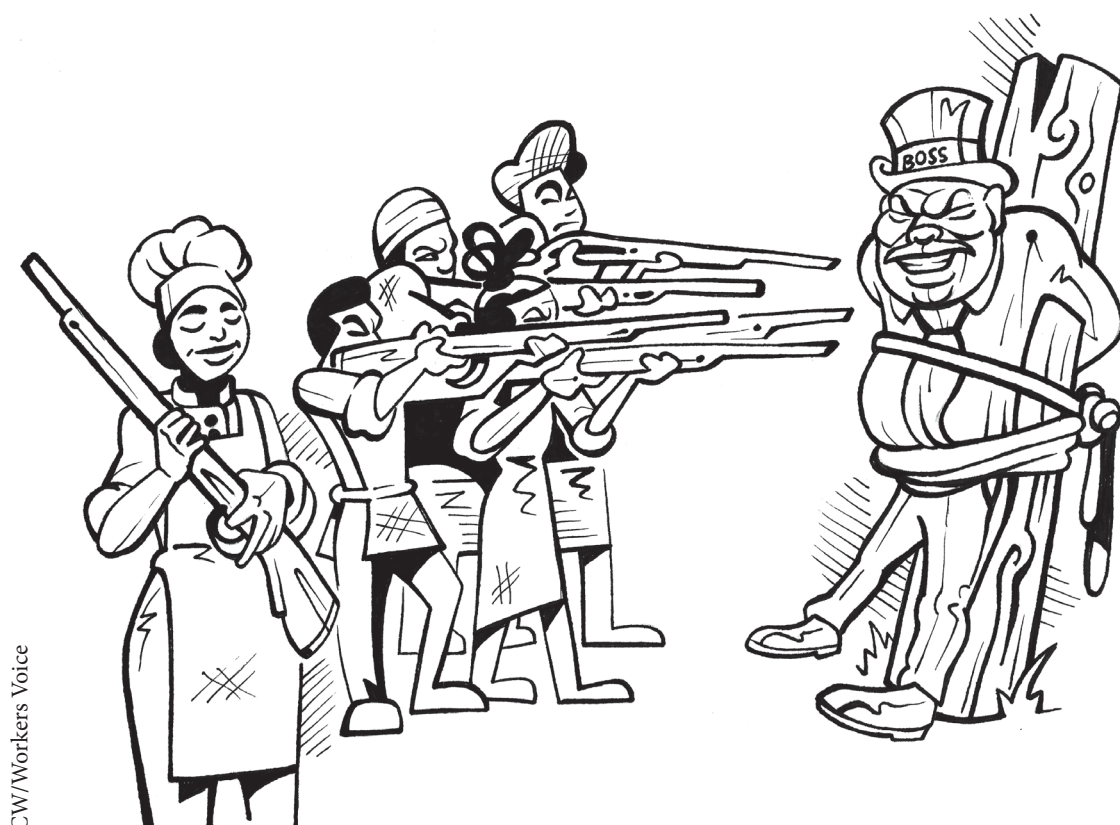
There are 400,000 Amazon warehouse workers in the United States. If the workers succeed in getting a majority vote for the union, they will be the first

of many warehouse workers who will finally have a say over safety standards, training, breaks, and pay at their workplace.

The union is focused on improving working conditions which have caused the deaths of 19 workers at Amazon facilities since 2013. RWDSU also aims to put an end to the "fire-at-will" policy currently in place for warehouse workers.

Amazon will no doubt carry out a ruthless cam-

paign against the union. An investigation by Vice News recently revealed that the company has long employed full-time spies to root out and crush organizing on the job. Company CEO Jeff Bezos doesn't want to share the \$70 billion he's made since March while 20,000 of 'his' workers have come down with COVID. But with courage and determination, the workers can carry the day.



"Workers fire at will."

The state of Louisiana gives employers the "right" to fire at will, on the spot, for any reason at all. For example, while it's technically illegal to fire someone out of sheer racism, the boss can claim another reason. Workers can always team up and shut down the bosses down or form a workplace committee to fight back. But getting a union is the most surefire way of opposing these firings.

Workers Voice believes that we should have the right to fire our bosses at will! Certainly we have the right to unionize. Unite, fight back, and win!

International Briefs

BOLIVIA

Bolivians Oust U.S.-backed Coup Government



Bolivians celebrate election of Luis Arce and ouster of right wing coup government.

In the fall of 2019, the U.S. backed a right-wing coup in Bolivia that ousted President Evo Morales, the only Indigenous head of state in the Americas and the leader of the Movement for Socialism (MAS). The white supremacist, anti-Indigenous, fascist government installed by the U.S. was met with resistance by the Bolivian working class, with a year of protests and fighting in the streets. Eventually the coup gov-

ernment was forced to hold elections. When the votes were counted in late October, MAS had won and the Bolivian people had elected Luis Arce as president. Within weeks, Evo Morales returned from exile. Though there is a great struggle ahead for the Bolivian people to hold onto their gains, this was a great victory for workers and Indigenous people the world around.

SOLIDARITY WITH NIGERIA

#ENDSARS Movement Against Police Terror Grows

On November 20, The End SARS solidarity network organized protests outside the Nigerian embassy in DC to demand justice for protesters in Nigeria who were massacred by the Nigerian Army on October 20, 2020. Nigerian police and military have brutally repressed protesters in the massive End SARS movement, which has seen tens of thousands of Nigerians in the streets demanding that

their government disband the U.S. trained Special-Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian army. This SARS forces maintain the rule of tiny class of rich elites who cater to U.S. and other transnational corporations at the expense of their people. Like the uprisings in the United States against racist police terror, the #ENDSARS movement has inspired thousands to fight back against the terrorism of the

capitalist state. The End SARS Solidarity Network demands that the Nigerian government take responsibility for the Lekki Massacre and the murder of civilians and protesters, end all harassment of protesters, and release all political prisoners and drop their charges. The U.S. government should do the same for all arrests and state murders of anti-racist activists here.



Members of Black Alliance for Peace and Pan-African Community Action demonstrate in front of the Nigerian Embassy on Nov. 20.



SOUTH AFRICA

Workers Strike for Higher Wages, Win



Oct. 7 general strike across South Africa.

On October 15, workers of Bombela Operating Company (BOC) ended a 10-day strike after winning a wage hike ranging from 10% for the lowest earner to 4.1% for the highest. The workers are represented by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) who had been in negotiations with BOC for months. When negotiations came to a standstill, 258 out of the 320 workers at BOC put down their tools. After 10 days of the

strike, BOC increased their wages. The BOC workers' strike was concurrent with a general strike across South Africa on October 7 called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and was joined by other large trade unions. Thousands of workers marched against government corruption, job losses, and the ruling African National Congress' (ANC) broken promises and anti-worker policies.

POLAND

Hundreds of Thousands March for Abortion, LGBTQ, Worker Rights



Protesters fill the streets of Poland against far-right government.

An anti-abortion court decision on October 22 has sparked massive marches, strikes, and road blockades across Poland. In the past few weeks hundreds of thousands of women and allies have taken to the streets to call for an end to the oppressive, anti-woman policies of the right wing government.

The court decision, which was pushed by far-right politicians and the reactionary leadership of the Catholic Church, would outlaw abortions in the event of fetal defects, which accounted for 98% of

legal abortions last year. Already abortions have been effectively illegal since 1993 (except in the rare cases that women can convince a judge that she's been the victim of rape or incest)

Represented by the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, the far right in Poland has been waging a brutal war on the rights of women, LGBTQ folks, and workers. They have also been organizing fascist militias to enforce their rule. This same government proposed the building of a "Fort Trump" in

honor of the U.S. fascist in chief. In August, the U.S. worked out a deal to deploy between 5,000 and 20,000 troops to Poland to threaten Russia.

In 2016 the PiS tried to ban abortions completely but tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets forcing the parliament to back down. This just goes to show that when the people mobilize to defend themselves, we can beat back against the harshest of attacks. Louisiana women, take note!

INDIA

Largest Strike in Human History is 250 Million People Strong

On November 26, the people of India carried out the largest organized strike in human history. Over 250 million people participated in the nationwide strike, organized by a coalition of workers and farmers including trade unions, women's rights groups, and students. Workers are fighting back against the repressive right-wing Modi government, demanding an end to anti-worker, anti-farmer policies, higher wages, food for families, pensions, and an end to privatization in the public sector. The police used batons,

teargas, and water cannons on protesters, but the people did not stop. They held sit-ins and marches, shutting down entire transport routes and cities. The US government is carrying out the same anti-worker policies here. Trump has frozen farmworkers' wages and millions of workers are suffering without food, housing, healthcare, or safe jobs. We should look to the example of our brothers and sisters in India and take to the streets. We will only win our rights through organized struggle.



Nov. 26: Indian workers, peasants, and farmers strike across India. A second general strike is called for Dec. 8.



Locations of some of the 400 U.S. Military bases—some armed with nukes—that encircle China. China has only one base outside of its borders and doesn't have a single military base in our hemisphere.

No Wall St. WWII Against China!

The U.S. wants to overthrow the Chinese government and take over the country. It wants to force China to bow to U.S. corporations. Trump's racist lies have led to a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes in the U.S. We have more in common with workers in China than racist U.S. bosses and politicians who want to destroy workers here and around the world for profit. Money for war is money that could be used to take care of our needs for housing, food, and healthcare during a global pandemic. We cannot buy into hateful racist lies to distract workers from the fact that the U.S. government is letting 40 million go unemployed, while 30 million face eviction. A war with China would only mean misery and death to the people of both countries—and all for the enrichment of a few billionaires. Say no to U.S. war on China!

Workers: Don't believe U.S. billionaires' lies! Say 'No!' to racist war on China!

By Jennifer Lin

LIE: China is a military threat to the U.S.

FACT: The U.S. military is the threat. The U.S. military has 800 foreign bases; China has one. 400 U.S. bases—some armed with nukes—encircle China. China doesn't have a single military base in our hemisphere. Though the U.S. population is only a third the size of China's, the \$1.2 trillion U.S. war budget is three times that of China. China has not fought a war in over 40 years and urges peace while the U.S. wages endless wars around the world.

LIE: China is taking our jobs.

FACT: China is made up of people just like us. They work to go to school, feed themselves and raise families. They are not the enemy. U.S. residents lose jobs when US corporations are free to run all over the earth to find the cheapest labor they can. Congress allows this and hands out huge subsidies to corporate owners who put their profits in tax-free offshore banks. Trump's tax cuts for millionaires did not create jobs, only more profits for the rich.

LIE: China is cheating on trade.

FACT: The U.S. government subsidizes U.S. corporations through tax exemptions, deductions, and grants. Trillions of dollars in tax money are handed over to banks and huge corporations. Many companies like the war profiteering General Electric pay no taxes at all. The U.S. is subsidizing drug companies to make vaccines, but they turn around and charge us high prices so they can make a profit. The U.S. forces other countries to trade in U.S. dollars, and has trade agreements that hurt all workers but make companies rich. China's "crime" is that they refuse to allow foreign companies to take over their state-owned enterprises, and resist demands to end state support for education, health care and pensions.

LIE: The coronavirus pandemic is China's fault.

FACT: The origins of COVID-19 remain unknown. Wuhan was the first place to report the virus, but this doesn't mean it's where the virus originated. Within two weeks of the first reported case, China notified the CDC and the world and shared the virus' genetic sequence with the World Health Organization. Vaccine research began immediately. Trump refused to admit it was even a problem.

This racist blame and refusal to protect residents has caused surging deaths in the U.S. China has sent medical assistance to over 150 countries and is developing a vaccine that will be distributed globally for free. The U.S. is letting hospitals overflow with COVID-19 patients.

LIE: China is persecuting Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang.

FACT: The U.S. funds and trains a far-right movement that recruits Chinese Uyghurs to join Al Qaeda and ISIS. China has brought education, poverty alleviation, and job training to Xinjiang. Accusations about concentration camps, genocide, torture, and cultural erasure come only from the U.S. and its allies, while nearly all the world's Muslim-majority countries have praised China's policies.

The U.S. government has bombed and persecuted Muslims for decades, killing millions in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and more. The U.S. still tortures Muslims imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay and anti-Muslim hate crimes remain all too common.

In Fight Against Covid-19, China Leads the Way

**COVID-19 deaths in China: 4,634,
COVID-19 deaths in U.S.: 300,000**

On March 19, China reported No Locally-Transmitted Cases in Mainland China. Small outbreaks since have been confined to a few hundred cases.

In the World Health Organization's February report after a visit to China, the team members wrote, "In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history."

How did China do this?

- **Free healthcare:** To contain the spread of the virus China immediately declared all treatment free.
- **Economic relief:** China expanded coverage and amount of economic relief for its residents. Already China dedicates 3 times as much of its national budget to social programs as the U.S. Much of the spending goes toward guaranteeing jobs for all.
- **Production for need not profit:** Across the country, thousands of factories were refitted to produce masks, respirators, and other needed

supplies. China was making 20 million masks a day before the coronavirus epidemic. Now it makes 100 million masks a day.

In just two weeks, two specialized hospitals were built and 16 exhibition halls and sports venues were converted into makeshift hospitals, opening up 60,000 beds for COVID-19 patients at the site of the outbreak in Hubei province.

- **Cracking down on price gouging and hoarding:** During the lockdown, the government guaranteed a steady supply of food and fuel at normal prices. State-owned enterprises increased their supply of basic foodstuffs like rice, flour, oil, meat and salt. From February 3 to April 8, the Ministry of Public Security investigated 3,158 cases of pandemic profiteering.
- **People's Power:** In Wuhan, thousands of civilian neighborhood committees went door-to-door to check temperatures, to deliver food (particularly to the elderly) and to deliver medical supplies. In other parts of China, the neighborhood committees set up temperature checkpoints at the entrance of the neighborhoods to monitor people who went in and out.

Quiz: Who is the real threat?

Questions

- Which is the only country in history to drop the atom bomb?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country has a secret agency that has carried out thousands of political assassinations around the world?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country organized a coup to overthrow the elected government of another country?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country supported the brutal dictatorship of the Shah (king) for 25 years?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country has 6,000 atom bombs and refuses to sign a no first strike treaty?
 - Iran
 - U.S.
- Which country has a war industry that profits from building nuclear weapons?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country opened its nuclear civilian facilities to international inspection?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which country pulled out of the "Iran nuclear deal"?
 - Iran
 - United States
- Which government threatens the security of the people of the U.S.?
 - Iran
 - United States

Answers

- The United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan after learning they were about to surrender. More than 200,000 people were killed. Thousands more were wounded and afflicted with disease for future generations.
- The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is the secret outlaw agency of the U.S. which sells drugs, corrupts, and assassinates politicians and overthrows governments.
- In 1954, with taxpayer money, the CIA and the British espionage agency MI6 overthrew the democratically elected Mossadegh government. His government had nationalized Iran's oil wealth which had previously belonged to the Anglo-Iranian oil company (now known as BP).
- The CIA then installed the Shah (king) of Iran who ruled by torture and fascism and close ties to the U.S. government, bankers, and oil companies. In 1979 the people rose up and ousted the Shah, who was brought by Chase Manhattan bank to the U.S. His son, the Crown Prince, now lives in Northern Virginia (ten minutes away from the CIA headquarters) on the dime of U.S. taxpayers.
- The U.S. has 6,000 atom bombs. Detonated, they would be enough to make Earth uninhabitable for more than half the world's population.
- The U.S. allowed war profiteering after WWII. They now loot the taxpayer's treasury by over \$1 trillion a year and get whopping profits. They then buy politicians. Both the Democratic Party and the Republican party vote to raise this budget at the expense of the people every year.
- Iran opened its nuclear facilities to U.N. inspections which verified Iran's full compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, an agreement reached by Iran and six countries including the United States.
- Only the U.S. pulled out of the nuclear treaty with Iran. All other countries stayed.
- The U.S. government wages endless wars to control resources and secure cheap wages around the world. This brings down workers wages here in the U.S. as they set up a competition between workers worldwide. The war budget is eating up money that should be used for healthcare, jobs, environmental protection, food and housing security, raising social security, infrastructure, and defeating COVID-19.

STOP THE ASSAULT ON IRAN! NO MORE BLOOD FOR OIL!

On November 27, a top Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was killed in a U.S./Israeli terrorist attack. Fakhrizadeh headed up a ministry of scientific research for national defense which produced Iran's first COVID-19 test kit and was working on a vaccine.

Fakhrizadeh's assassination is intended to draw Iran into a U.S. war for oil. This follows years of U.S. sanctions and assassinations. Only weeks ago Trump ordered his generals to look into bombing one of Iran's civilian nuclear facilities.

A war with Iran would bring misery and death to millions around the world, including here where workers will be denied healthcare, food, and housing in order to feed the Pentagon war machine.

Say it loud: No more endless wars for profit! No more blood for oil! U.S. out of the Middle East! Feed the people, not the Pentagon!



January: New Orleans Workers Group leads a demonstration against war with Iran.

Massive Prisoner Resistance During COVID-19

In the United States, the COVID-19 infection rate is 5.5 times higher for incarcerated people, and a new report shows that prisoners are organizing in record numbers to fight for survival. In just the first 90 days of the COVID-19 pandemic, 119 instances of resistance were documented by Perilous Chronicle. Nearly a dozen of these uprisings and protests took place in Louisiana, which saw the most of any state.

Since these early efforts, thousands continue rebellions across the country's jails, prisons, and especially in ICE concentration camps as adults and children bravely demand their rights to health and life. We must join this cause and also demand freedom: for non-violent people held in jails, prisons, and ICE concentration camps, we say #FreeThemAll!



Inmates at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago hold up signs asking for help during the coronavirus pandemic, April 20, 2020.

Prevent COVID-19 Spread With Freedom, No Solitary

Think back to the beginning of this year. A stay-at-home order has you trapped inside. Now imagine you have no phone, no computer, and no one to talk to. You are by yourself fourteen days in a row. This sort of prolonged isolation is a form of torture. It has been the daily life of thousands of incarcerated people since March.

In Orleans Parish jails, if you test positive for COVID-19, if you were in contact with someone who tested positive, if you are being treated for non-COVID-19 related illness, or medical staff simply deem it appropriate, you are forcibly subjected to

fourteen days of solitary confinement. This policy has not stopped infections. As of October 16, 10 inmates in OPP were listed as positive for COVID-19.

The best policy to stop the spread of COVID-19 is also the most humane: free all nonviolent inmates and detainees! This applies to all jails, prisons, and so called "detention centers". In the meantime, incarcerated people who have been denied visitations deserve a chance to video-conference with their families and communities. End the torture now!



Nurses rallied at the entrance to Rikers Island jail in Queens, New York, this year.

We Demand a Peoples Vaccine!

By Z Petrosian

Despite progress being made in the development of COVID-19 vaccines, corporate profiteering is preventing access to a safe vaccine for all. To prevent many more deaths, the people need to organize to challenge the power of these companies. Pharmaceutical executives should not be allowed to decide who lives and who dies of COVID-19.

Capitalism: companies hoard information and technology to maximize profits

After benefiting from billions in taxpayer money to develop COVID-19 vaccines, U.S. pharmaceutical companies plan to get rich by turning around and selling this life-saving medicine to the highest bidder. Pfizer and Moderna have already promised around 80% of doses to the richest governments, leaving working people around the world to die while waiting for the leftovers.

Worldwide, nearly 200 different vaccines are being developed independently of one another as capitalist companies compete for a marketable vaccine. In a reasonable society, scientists and other workers would share data, expertise, equipment, and distribution systems to make sure all of humanity has easy access to life-saving medical technology. If it is not attacked everywhere, COVID-19 will not be defeated.

Socialism: information and products are public resources for public good

In May, President Xi Jinping stated that China will treat a coronavirus vaccine as a "global public good." China currently has five vaccines in late stage trials and two vaccines that are candidates for inclusion in COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility, an effort led in part by the World Health Organization to make sure that any safe and effective vaccines quickly reach humanity in an equitable way.

In October, China, South Africa, India, and other developing countries called on the World Trade Organization to suspend patents on all COVID-19-related vaccines and treatments. "This is a race against time, and we cannot allow the pursuit of profit to triumph over human need," said Heidi Chow, of the advocacy group Global Justice Now. The U.S. government and the corporations it represents have opposed these efforts.

Any vaccine is a product of the collective labor of thousands of workers who have contributed to its development, production, and distribution. When a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is found, it should be made accessible at no cost, first to those who most need it, and then to the general population. We must demand a peoples vaccine, free and safe for all!

There is Enough Money to Defeat COVID-19

Continued from Front Page

making champagne toasts to new heights reached by Wall Street.

Welfare for war profiteers, nothing for those of us who do the real work

The Pentagon budget with all its offshoots is over \$1 trillion a year. This money comes from looting the taxpayers and using 65% of the federal budget. It goes in the hands of business owners who profit from endless war and never-ending bombs, jets, nuclear aircraft carriers, and more. This is why the U.S. keeps 800 bases and last year created a Space Force division in order to bring war to outer space, which is against international law.

Federal officials like to say there isn't enough money to support workers through a lockdown. But we know that's a lie. We have to demand they use the budget for the people instead of using it to terrorize the world and make arms dealers richer.

**NO WAR!
MAKE VACCINES, NOT BOMBS!
MONEY FOR THE PEOPLE
NOT WAR PROFITEERS!**

Trump Scams His Supporters

Raises \$170 Million to Pay for Golf Trips and Racist, Anti-Worker Organizing

Runs Bribery Schemes for Pardons While He Lets 2,200 Die from COVID-19 Every Day

Trump knows he lost the election. But he can't resist a good scam. So, he sat down with the equally corrupt Giuliani (the one who froths at the mouth while hair dye runs down his face) and started scheming. They decided to tell his duped loyal supporters that the election is rigged and call for donations to an election defense fund. The money goes into a personal PAC, "Save America" to use any way he wants. Give it to himself and his little darling children, host parties at Mar a Lago, or maybe buy another gold-plated toilet. This fund will also be used to organize racist, anti-worker attacks on the people by the likes of his "Proud Boys" and others, who are ultra-right-wing stooges for Wall Street.

He's also running a bidding scheme for payoffs, going now for over one million dollars a pardon for people who are war criminals, banker thieves, scammers of seniors, slum lords, and people who generally would like to see workers' wages dropped to \$1 an hour. Oh, and course, who'd like to legalize child labor and end public schools.

Throughout his term in office, Trump and his rotten children have all profited personally as has his rabid dog, Giuliani. Melania, famed for saying who cares about migrant children in cages, has fared well for the time being. But Trump will probably dump her when she gets a gray hair. Time for a new model.

**NO PARDON FOR
TRUMP THE MURDERER!**

Workers Can Organize to End Evictions



Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils leads anti-eviction march on Sept 8.

By Ashlee Pintos

While politicians and the big business media promise that a coming COVID-19 vaccine will magically fix the economic crisis, over 12 million renters around the country will owe an average of \$5,850 in back rent by January 1. In Orleans parish alone, some 30,000 households are vulnerable to evictions, and thousands more are on the brink of foreclosure. Even before COVID, working people have been struggling to make ends meet as rent prices and property taxes have skyrocketed as a result of gentrification. Now, millions of us are unemployed or have had our hours and wag-

es cut and we've received little to no help with our mounting debts.

This issue is shaking the core of the entire country, with thousands of households in almost every large city facing possible evictions. The Democratic and Republican parties can agree on a trillion dollar war budget, but they can't agree on relief for workers in some of our most desperate hours. Our only way out of this crisis is to organize ourselves, independent of the two parties of Wall Street and the Pentagon. This has taken a heavy toll on us workers but we must take heart at our massive numbers: would they dare to

evict us if we banded together?

The Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils is an effort to unite all working people, employed and unemployed, to demand that the state and federal government provide us with what we need to survive this crisis, using our tax dollars. Looking back on the history of social security, food stamps, and unemployment insurance, we know that it has always been the struggle of the masses that has forced those in power to concede to our demands.

Time and time again, government officials cry that their hands are tied, that they cannot call a moratorium on evictions or provide extended unemployment insurance. But we are organizing to push back against the State Legislature that has given over \$150 million in tax breaks to oil companies amid a pandemic. We're organizing to demand that the Mayor and local politicians, whose sights are set on making New Orleans "the number one city to do business," use their emergency powers to halt evictions and foreclosures. It is only our solidarity with one another that can keep us in our homes and win the relief we need.

Sackler Family Pleads Guilty to Deadly Crimes, Gets to Keep their Fortune and No Jail Time



**Drug Dealing Billionaires
Conspired to Sell More Oxycontin
Despite 450,000 Dead from
Opioid Overdoses**

While thousands go to prisons for long sentences for dealing petty amounts of drugs, the billionaire Sackler family got off with no jail time despite pleading guilty to criminal charges of conspiracy to push Oxycontin—especially to doctors prescribing large amounts. The Sacklers even gave payments to doctors whose "patients"

died. The Sacklers are celebrating what is really a win for them, as they siphoned off at least \$10 billion from the company which is now in offshore accounts. So, as they live it up, millions of family members mourn and workers at the company are left wondering whether they have jobs or pensions. This proves once again that prisons are mainly concentration camps for the poor and that the wealth of the rich buys them immunity for the crimes they commit.



Hunger is Soaring in LA, U.S., & World

*Beef Prices Up 25%,
Potatoes Up 13%,
Eggs Up 12%
— Roll 'Em Back!*

Rich politicians in Baton Rouge are passing tax cuts for profitable companies and Congress is allowing the Federal Reserve bank to give TRILLIONS of dollars to banks and giant industries. While nearly 50% of children and seniors lack sufficient food, Wall Street is cheering record profits.

United Nations Says There is Enough Food for the World, We Must Put People Before Profit

Farmworkers, truck drivers, meat packers and grocery clerks labor produce enough food for everyone. The problem is that food is produced for profit, not need and we lack income or a living wage. Around the world 280 million people are on the verge of dying from starvation.

We deserve better! Food is a right, organize to fight for it!

Message to Our Fellow Workers

By Joseph Coco, Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils

People over profits, the people of Louisiana are NO exception to this rule!

Louisiana has many wonderful components that add to its charm. Food, language, and culture that are informed and maintained by the diverse set of peoples within our region. Louisiana is also home to many types of inclement weather, ranging from hurricanes, flooding, and tornadoes. It is through the navigation of these disasters that we as a people continue to live and create ourselves. Many of us do this as members of the working class who, without us, the magic of our state wouldn't exist. We know that as working-class people we always have to be looking out for each other, as oftentimes no one else is coming to our protection.

So, what do you do when a new type of disaster rears its ugly head? One that has destabilized not only our economy, but has rained down death upon our communities and ways of life? A disaster that has allowed our leaders in government to use and abuse our budget as they see fit, handing out millions of dollars to companies and never to the people who not only make our state great, but who have suffered deeply from the economic fallout of this pandemic.

What do we do in the face of Coronavirus, and hard times?

We organize! We choose not to abandon the bonds that keep us strong as a community, since community is oftentimes all we have. The Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils is a manifestation of the resilience we have always shown in the face of adversity. By joining a worker's council, you are taking the power back into your hands, choosing to advocate for the betterment of not only yourself but YOUR community as well!

NEW MEXICO GIVES \$1,200 RELIEF CHECKS TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

On November 23 New Mexico lawmakers passed a coronavirus relief bill that will deliver a one-time \$1,200 check to all workers who had previously qualified for unemployment benefits through state or federal pandemic programs. The bill also provides smaller stimulus checks to undocumented immigrants and dependents, as well as additional funds for food banks, virus testing and contact tracing efforts. Much of the money came from \$319 million in unspent federal relief funds.

Workers in Louisiana should demand that money designated for pandemic relief actually go towards bailing out the people. The LA government got \$1.8 billion in federal funds as part of the CARE act. The state could easily give emergency aid to workers—including all of our undocumented siblings. We just need to fight for it.

Join the Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils and Tell the Louisiana Legislature:

\$1,200 HOLIDAY BONUS NOW!



Corporate tax exemptions cost Louisiana taxpayers \$15 billion over 10 years. Money like that would go a long way towards helping working people get through the pandemic. We've been laid off, had hours cut, faced health emergencies and deaths. Yet our bills and debts continue to pile up.

We've worked hard and paid our share of taxes. Make the rich pay theirs. We demand relief!

LOUISIANA MOVEMENT FOR WORKERS COUNCILS

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