

The People Will Bury the Fascists with Mass Struggle

Pentagon & Capitalist Rulers Allowed the Storming of the Capitol

The only thing more disgusting than the fascists who stormed the Capitol is the big business media endlessly replaying and publicizing their victory. Corporations and politicians are given airtime to claim their opposition but they have been and still are the main source of funding and support for the fascists. The fascists are celebrating the endless replay of them entering and holding the Capitol for four hours while they paraded around their racist Nazi signs and slogans. This has emboldened them to undertake further actions which they are again openly planning, this time with more focus on the seats of state governments.

Let's be clear: this was allowed to happen not because a few Capitol police were sympathetic to the fascists (given a choice, the police will always side with the fascists). Evidence shows that the government and the Pentagon, at the highest levels, decided in advance to allow the scene at the Capitol to give the fascists a victory.

This violent assault was planned openly for weeks. They were allowed into D.C. and allowed to go to the Capitol. The Mayor had asked for troops and Trump and others were on the phone with the generals delaying. The Mayor certainly did not delay it. Even when a mere 340 National Guard troops were finally okayed, they stayed away from the Capitol until 5:15PM.

Whether this was meant to be a dress rehearsal or more, it was not an insurrection with millions rising up for them. But it certainly was a step forward in the building of a fascist movement.

Fascism is not just a bad set of policies, it's a bludgeon used to rescue capitalist profit

Fascism is not just a bad policy cured by "good" politicians. It is a



Demonstration against fascism and white supremacy in New York City. Hundreds of other mobilizations have taken place across the United States and around the world.

way to defend profits at a time when the capitalist system is in crisis. The German Nazi regime was a capitalist government dedicated to preventing workers' power in the face of a depression. It was used to crush workers' support for socialism.

In periods of relative stability, politicians take advantage of the low consciousness of workers to promote faith in capitalist democracy. But when deception fails, when they can no longer fool workers into believing that billionaires deserve private islands while millions of children starve, they will resort to open terrorism. This is what the history of fascism teaches us.

Independence from Democratic Party is urgent

It's important to fight any setback, especially against the fascists. We must defend every right that we've won through struggle. The issue is how. We cannot depend on the Democratic party because they ultimately answer to their capitalist backers. They fund liberal and fascist politicians, one more than the other depending on which way the political winds blow.

Even Biden admitted that Trump's white supremacist shock troops were treated with kid gloves while Black Lives Matter protesters were met with brutal repression. But his answer is to call for "equal treatment before the

law" as if Nazis and anti-racist activists are equal. Biden's plan to "Unite America" is just another way of saying that he can work with the right-wing forces as long as they don't give Wall Street the jitters.

Mass Mobilizations are more important than ever

The U.S. 'left' wasted four years waiting for the Democratic party until the tremendous Black Lives Matter protests broke out over the summer. As Workers Voice pointed out often, this was four years that Trump used to build his fascist movement. Anti-Trumpism was reduced to ridiculing the man himself, ignoring how effective Trump's ploys were among many backwards workers. We urged mass street mobilizations to oust Trump. Even if he were replaced by Pence, the balance of power in the class struggle would have propelled the movement forward.

There's no better time to hit the streets than now. Leave the parties of Wall Street and the Pentagon behind. The only force capable of defeating fascism is the collective power of working and oppressed people, united in motion. United, we can never be defeated.

Military Industrial Banking Complex Fosters Fascism

U.S. capitalism is in constant crisis, desperately striving by any means to sustain the profits of the ultra-rich. To do this, capitalists are driving us into the dust, reducing wages and social programs (social wages) here and around the world.

The capitalists' addiction to war profits clears the path for fascism.

Capitalism has reached a stage where a growing section of capitalists relies on government military spending for their profits. As a result, capitalist governments hand over larger and larger portions of their national budgets to war profiteering corporations at the expense of social programs. In the U.S., the military and financial sectors have come to dominate

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WALL STREET PROFITS SOAR DURING PANDEMIC

"Wall Street profits jumped 82% in the first half of this year [2020], a rare bright spot for the city and state's pandemic-ravaged budgets."

—Wall St. Journal

"Billionaires saw their net worth increase by a trillion dollars during the pandemic."

—Business Insider

"Defense stocks could soar again after massive defense spending jump." —CNBC

Louisiana lost \$11 billion in ten years because legislators gave tax breaks to companies making profits.

All wealth is produced by us, the workers! Stop the handouts to billionaires.

We demand:

- \$2,000 a month for workers
- Cancel the debts: erase rental, auto loan, credit card, mortgage, utilities, student loan debt
- Outlaw credit reports for jobs, housing, health care, education funding, car loans

Letter to the Editor

COVID-19 Vaccine Can Save Lives. End Racism in Access.

With great fanfare, as if announcing a miracle, the state proudly declared the vaccine was now available to those 70 and above and those with problems that put them at higher risk. It made a good photo-op for the politicians, who receive vaccines, have healthcare, fat pay checks and are allowed to take bribes and get rich at taxpayers' expense.

Monday, Jan 4, arrived with 7

pharmacies in New Orleans each getting 107 shots to give out. You had to have known about it and have internet access and time to sit waiting for the list to go online. After pharmacies were listed, the phones were instantly busy, and people spent all day calling, even though appointments were gone in minutes. Hundreds ran to pharmacies, desperate, only to be turned away without a future appointment. Three

hours after all appointments were gone, Mayor Cantrell's reelection PAC announced the vaccinations were available. Anything to look good, except for those who know better.

With only 749 shots available, a disgrace in itself, the most hard-hit Black seniors and at-risk people should have been offered it first. The vaccines should have been made available at community centers within walking

distance, not at far-flung pharmacies.

Once again, capitalist medicine has failed to provide real care, given huge profits to the rich, and resulted in lots of inequality. They probably want us to fight each other for the shot, but we won't; we'll fight the capitalists instead.

—At-risk senior in the Florida neighborhood

Corporate Campaign Bribes Pay Louisiana Legislators to Wage War on Workers

The minimum wage of \$7.25 has been around since 2009. It was too low then, and it is way too low now. The official inflation rate does not count rent, food, utilities, tuition, or healthcare. The real inflation rate is between 7% and 13% depending on where you live. Adjusting for real inflation would mean a minimum wage of \$12.60 to \$16.68. Even \$12.60 is not a living wage. We want \$15/hr.

The Louisiana Legislature is determined to totally impoverish workers even though most states have minimum wages higher than Louisiana's. In 28 states, minimum wages are from \$8.75 to \$14 in 2021. While we work for pennies, Louisiana legislators live in luxury and give tax exemptions, abatements, and outright subsidies every year to corporations in exchange for campaign contributions, which are really bribes.

Florida voters have won a minimum wage increase to \$15/hr over the next 4 years, despite millions spent to oppose their efforts. We want to vote for \$15 an hour. Let Louisiana workers vote!

City of New Orleans Promotes Tourism Amid Rising Pandemic Numbers

By Daniel Meinecke, musician

Musicians in New Orleans are outraged over the decision from the city to spend money on Dick Clark's 'New Year's Rockin' Eve' concert production. Initially Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser pushed for the state's involvement in the event to the tune of \$500,000 only if singer Lauren Daigle was to be the representative for Louisiana. This caused outrage amongst the community because Lauren Daigle was also partially responsible for the super spreader event in November that Sean Feucht hosted and the city police and leaders failed to shut down. Mayor Cantrell requested to the event promoters that they remove Daigle from the concert, which caused the outrage of Nungesser and the removal of state funds from the project. Mayor Cantrell should have used this opportunity to vilify Nungesser, who is more aligned with Daigle than the needs of the people of New Orleans. However, the Mayor was insistent on the event happening, so she funded the spot in the concert through the New Orleans Culture and Heritage Fund (NOTCF) and used it to keep the event in New Orleans, but with New Orleans artists PJ Morton and Big Freedia.

The funds were pulled from this account because the slot in the NYE production was to be an adver-

tisement for tourism to New Orleans. This is despite the current spike in COVID-19 cases. "New Orleans cannot market itself out of the situation it is in," said a representative of Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans.

City's misuse of Culture Fund benefits tourism companies, not artists

The biggest issue of the misuse of these funds is that the board of the NOTCF has been unable to pivot the use of these funds to help the community, but instead goes ahead with an advertisement to promote tourism. Even Kristin Palmer of the City Council who also sits on the NOTCF board said, "NOTCF is not in the business of promotion, but to invest in our people," according to meeting minutes from an NOTCF meeting on December 18th. Kristin Palmer was also the only dissenting vote on the measure to allow the use of the funds for the concert. The NOTCF is out of touch with the community and actively digging itself into a hole as it funds projects not related to helping the community through a pandemic that has left people out of work for 9 months.

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Calls to Action:

Tell Orleans DA Jason Williams:

"Time for Justice! Drop the False Charges Against Mickey Davis and Caleb Wassell!"

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH MICKEY AND CALEB!

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

District Attorney: (504) 822-2414
communications@orleansda.com

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."

Take Down All Symbols to White Supremacy

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.



Hundreds 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.

Support Incarcerated Workers' Strike in Alabama

By Jennifer Lin

On January 1, incarcerated people across Alabama's prison system went on a work strike and 11 people in isolation went on a hunger strike. Officially called the "30 Day Economic Blackout", the strike is being organized by the Free Alabama Movement, founded and led by imprisoned Black men fighting against mass incarceration and prison slavery. People in Alabama's prisons live in heinous conditions in overcrowded cells and are ten times more likely to die from homicide than in any other state. Incarcerated peoples' loved ones can no longer visit them in person; Alabama is only allowing virtual visits due to COVID-19, but the Free Alabama Movement claims this is a front to permanently end in-person visits to psychologically torture incarcerated people even more. These virtual visits are insanely profitable for tech companies that have contracts with prisons. The strike is calling on people to show solidarity by boycotting 5 corporations that profit from prisons and forced prison labor: Securus Technologies, JPay, Access Corrections, Union Supply Company, and Alabama Correctional Industries.

Prisons are a tool for the mass torture and dehumanization of pri-

marily Black and brown people and funnel huge profits to private corporations through forced labor. They are

designed to prop up capitalism and further the oppression of workers. Now incarcerated people are being

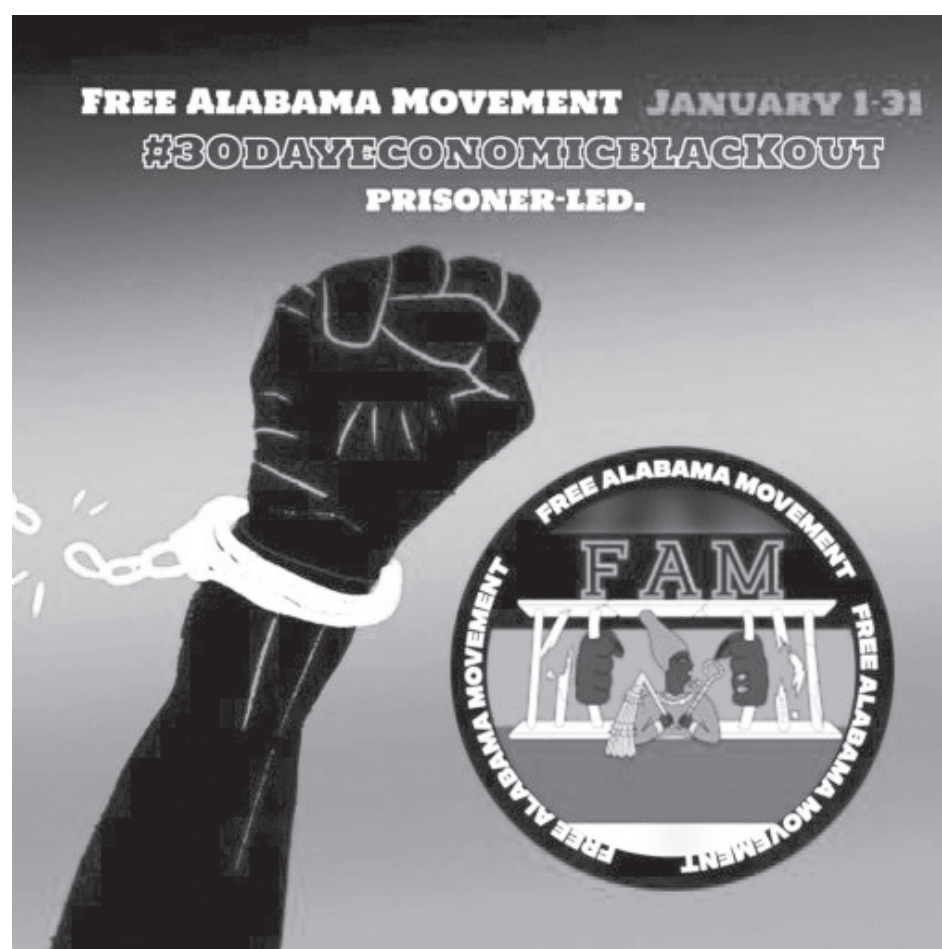
left to die in crowded and dirty cells without access to adequate medical care during COVID-19. These people are our friends, family, and community members. The Alabama strike is a tremendous act of resistance that we must support.

The people on hunger strike have been brutally repressed with beatings, mace, harassment, and threats. The Free Alabama Movement is asking everyone to engage in an email, phone, and twitter storm of support. Tell Dunn: "At Kilby Correctional Facility, Sgt. Williams and Officer Landrum jumped on and beat a prisoner who is participating in a hunger strike. Alabama DOC needs to intervene immediately by investigating this incident and firing both guards." -from the #Alabama11. Show your solidarity by joining this call!

Call, Email, Twitter the Alabama
Corrections Department
Alabama DOC Commissioner
Jeff Dunn:

334-353-3883

Jefferson.dunn@doc.Alabama.gov
Twitter @ADOCDDunn



In protest against the utterly inhumane conditions in Alabama DOC, the prisoner-led Free Alabama Movement's 30-Day Economic Blackout has stopped work from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31.

TRUMP'S NIGHTMARE SPACE WARS ENDORSED BY BIDEN

We need money to end COVID-19, poverty, unemployment, racism and debt, not space bombs.

By **Gavrielle Gemma**

Militarism and war are the biggest ways capitalist vampires are sucking the peoples' blood to amass huge profits. Trump may be on the way out, but Republicans and Democrats have endorsed his nightmarish space wars program – the U.S. Space Force, which was established in 2019. Both parties recently voted to give \$15.2 billion to the new Space Force as part of the military budget for 2021.

U.S. throws out international treaty

After the fascist shut-down of the Capitol, politicians proclaimed that the U.S. believes in the rule of law. But the only laws they believe in are laws protecting private profits. In 1967, the U.S. signed an international Outer Space Treaty banning nuclear weapons and military bases in outer space and prohibiting any nation from claiming

sovereignty over space. This treaty has been ignored.

New Space Force to threaten the world

Space Force is the Pentagon's "separate military branch for American supremacy in space." The Space Force is headed by General Jay Raymond, who wrote the "capstone war-fighting doctrine" for space, the plan for Space Force to encircle the globe with U.S. satellites to control global GPS and for many satellites to have missile firing capability.

The Pentagon, on behalf of private corporations, has for years been carrying out a U.S. cyber war. There has been a lot of media hype about how maybe Russia, maybe China, maybe Iran hacked into U.S. systems. These hysteric reports distract us from the failures of the U.S. with COVID-19 and growing poverty. Meanwhile, the U.S. openly bragged in 2019 that they have hacked Russian power grids, which has the potential to endanger the lives of millions of people.

Control of global GPS could be used for even more deadly ends around

the globe, as so many systems rely on this navigation system. Space Force would extend the already extensive hacking by the U.S. into countries' systems around the world, increasing the threat to lives of the world's people.

Biden signals he will continue Trump's investment in space war

Profiteering corporations—including fascist Tesla's Space X, Lockheed Martin, L3Harris, York Space System, Rand Corporations—are racing to feed at this new source of wealth stolen from the working people. Bill Gattle of L3Harris said, "The whole industry is moving from building a few satellites to building hundreds of them."

In September, Joe Biden told the Military Officers Association of America that, "We have to make smart investments in technologies and innovations — including in cyber, space, unmanned systems, and artificial intelligence [...] to meet the threats of the future." That Biden would be for extending Trump's Space Force project is not surprising. Biden's transition

team has many militarists, military corporations representatives, bankers, and Wall Street executives on it.

Space News, a publication for the profiteering space war industry, responded to questions regarding the Biden administration's support for Space Force. Velos, a military consulting firm, wrote "Space continues to be a bipartisan policy and Joe Biden's campaign has articulated their belief in the importance of the domain." Velos continued, "The Democratic Party national platform supports continuity with NASA and the Space Force."

The military section of the capitalist economy is growing ever larger. It represents the most racist and right-wing, pro-fascist elements of society. That is why the Pentagon, who has oversight of operations in D.C., openly delayed National Guard troops moving into D.C., allowing the fascists free reign on January 6.

All the money the government is giving to war profiteers belongs to the people. Their wars in space or on the ground are only to enrich the obscenely wealthy. A working-class anti-war movement can stop them, and we will.

Biden Installed Fascists in Ukraine in 2014



December 7, 2015. Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko welcomes Joe Biden to Kiev, Ukraine.

Trump's Gone – Good. Don't Count on Biden to Fight Fascism

On January 6, hours after the fascist storming of the Capitol, Biden was delivering a speech about this "unprecedented assault" on democracy. But Biden's actions the day before make a mockery of this statement. On January 5, Biden announced his pick of Victoria Nuland for the position of undersecretary of political affairs. Nuland was Asst. Secretary of State in the Obama/Biden/Clinton regime. In this role she was tasked with toppling the elected government of Ukraine because they refused to cut ties with Russia and because Ukraine had resisted the building up of NATO military bases in their country.

In 2014 the U.S. got the coup they were hoping for and Nuland along with Senator John McCain could be seen at right wing rallies, standing shoulder to shoulder with openly neo-Nazi groups celebrating the overturning of the Ukrainian government. A leaked 2014 phone conversation between Nuland and

U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt revealed that they'd planned the coup and had even hand-picked leaders who would serve U.S. business interests.

In order to carry out the coup, Nuland and her co-conspirators relied on fascist militias who took over government buildings and drove out the elected government by force. These were the same fascist forces that months later burned 39 people alive when they besieged and set fire to a union building in Odessa. They hoped this act of terrorism would crush



December 6, 2018. Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko poses for a picture with the members of the Ukrainian military who openly display the "Totenkopf" insignia of the Nazi SS.

workers' resistance to their newly installed regime. For more than 7 years they've waged a brutal war against antifascists in Eastern Ukraine. This war has been supported by U.S. military personnel and funded with more than \$1 billion worth of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Biden and the wealthy capitalists that he serves took advantage of the "business friendly" environment that the fascist government enforced. Formerly state companies were scooped up at fire-sale prices and Ukraine's rich farmland was raided by Monsanto.

Biden's son was put on the board of a formerly public owned gas company and paid \$50,000 a month, just like a member of the Trump Klan.

Mass layoffs followed the privatizing of state industries. Pensioners were cheated out of their retirements on the orders of the U.S. controlled International Monetary Fund (IMF). In a speech to the Ukrainian parliament Biden urged lawmakers to make the "difficult reforms" that the IMF demanded. Now fascist gangs patrol the streets of Ukraine to repress any resistance to these anti-worker attacks.

Last month a United Nations resolution to "combat the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance." 130 countries voted in favor of the resolution. The U.S. and Ukraine were the sole votes against. The Democratic Party did not object.



Jan. 6, 2021. Fascist inside the Capitol building wears a shirt that reads "Camp Auschwitz," a reference to the Nazi death camp where 1.1 million people were exterminated.

Military Industrial Banking Complex Fosters Fascism

Continued from Front Page

civilian production. In so doing, their political power has grown.

The military industrial banking complex is run by the most right-wing, racist sector of the capitalist class. More than any other sector, they determine U.S. domestic and foreign policy. The growth of the fascist movement can no longer be ignored. All those openly supporting the fascists should be ousted and jailed. But to snuff out fascism completely, we must go to the heart of the U.S. capitalist system.

Will the Democratic party stop the growth of fascism or fuel it?

Any change in government may sound good after Trump. And we may get a few urgently needed and long overdue relief bills. But the Democratic Party did nothing meaningful to challenge Trumpism other than carry out a sham impeachment that urged war on Russia at the behest of the CIA and the Pentagon.

In the middle of a pandemic and a world economic crisis, both Republicans and Democrats put aside their difference to pass a record military spending bill. Our money is stolen for more jets, nuclear weapons, and aircraft carriers while people have nothing. They have also co-conspired to conceal the fact that while we die and beg for relief, the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank is giving trillions to banks and private corporations.

Trumpism didn't spring from the head of a rotten politician. Trumpism is an outgrowth of the dominant capitalist sectors wanting to divide the people, push us down, and violently crush any nation that dares to jeopardize their profits by struggling for independence.

Is it possible to combat fascism at home and fund and arm it elsewhere? No.

It is deeply disturbing how some call themselves socialists yet side with U.S. capitalist regime change wars designed to re-impose the rule of the ultra-rich in Venezuela and Cuba. The U.S. funds and arms the fascist Columbian and Israeli governments and is responsible for genocide in Yemen and across Africa. How dare politicians say that the U.S. doesn't resolve differences with violence when the U.S. military carries out endless wars and coups on behalf of the super-rich? The U.S. drops a bomb once every 12 minutes somewhere in the world. How many children and families does that add up to?

We must cast aside illusions and mobilize the people.

We must go to workers of all nationalities and expose the truth: fascists are puppets of the super-rich who are paid to use racism and other means to divide the people so the rich can hold on to their wealth. Just like the Nazis, the job of the fascists is to turn the people away from the real enemy so that total war can be waged against the working class.

The Biden administration could easily go to war with China or Iran or drag us into some other war we have no stake in. More than ever we must practice international solidarity. We must oppose U.S. militarism which is a noose around the neck of the whole working class. We cannot be lulled into passivity by heeding politicians' calls to "heal" the country or defend the democracy of the few. These illusions only disarm the people when we ought to be organizing to defeat the fascists once and for all.

What is Antifa? It Means Anti-Fascist

It is we, the People—Black, white, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, workers and students, all genders, all ages, struggling for jobs, better wages, food on our tables, respect, equality, and peace. Antifa means to fight by any means to defend the people against racism and fascism and for workers' rights. Antifa are those who fought against slavery, workers who fought to defend their unions, mothers who stood up to the KKK, youth who bravely fought on the front lines in Portland against the same scum who rampaged in Washington D.C.

Millions of U.S. workers took up arms against the fascists in WWII. They were Antifa.

While the U.S. government entered the war to gain colonies and profits, and U.S. capitalists helped fund Hitler, millions of workers from the U.S. and around the world took up guns against the German Nazis during WWII. They lost their lives fighting to smash Nazi fascism. They were Antifa.

Who are fascists? Cowardly puppets whose strings are pulled by super rich right wing funders



who hate working people and use them to do their dirty work. Fascists are the cowards who are too afraid to fight the real enemies of the people. They want a government of billionaires, with stormtroopers terrorizing all. Trump is a racist, fascist in chief, and mass murderer of the people, who from his golden toilet, waited on by servants, tells his fascist tools what to do on behalf of his wealthy friends.

Trump has blamed violence in Washington D.C. on Antifa and Black Lives Matter protesters. Liberals put equal signs between

us and the fascists. Some say the fascists were just people with "complaints." This is dangerous. Fascists and white supremacists are people who are puppets for the ultra-rich capitalists they claim to hate. Donald Trump, whose father was a member of the KKK, is a slum lord and crook, surrounded by racist war mongering maniacs. He steals our taxes, hates, despises, and spits on working people. They will never win if we the working class unite to defeat them!

U.S. Capitol is Not a Temple of Democracy No to Fascist Occupation, Yes to Workers' Rights Occupation



Activist being removed during an occupation of the Capitol by disability rights advocates protesting Republicans' attempt to repeal Obamacare in 2017.

Politicians have taken every chance they can to publicly mourn the "desecration" of America's "temple of democracy", but let's get real. The U.S. Capitol is not a temple of democracy.

The U.S. Capitol is a monument to racist terrorism and capitalist profit, not democracy. Congress supported slavery, genocide, segregation, and attacks on women, LGTBQ people, workers, and unions. They support and fund murderous war after murderous war. It's only because of the progressive movement that we've won any laws that are of value to the people.

**UP WITH WORKERS' STRUGGLE,
DOWN WITH FASCIST TERROR**

The issue is not about taking the Capitol, but for what purpose: to promote slavery or liberation? In 2011 workers of all nationalities united and occupied the Wisconsin State Capitol to defend their right to organize. In the 1980's when auto plants laid off hundreds of thousands and destroyed communities, auto workers occupied the Michigan State Capitol to demand jobs. In 1965 the Mississippi Freedom Party refused to leave until they were seated in Congress. In New Orleans protesters chained the doors of the Eviction Court. In 1968 the heroic Black Panther Party entered the California State Capitol with arms to defend their communities against racist police terror.

These acts were right, justified, and democratic. They inspired millions of others to rise up and fight, even if the occupation was temporary, even if some were arrested, even if all demands were not met. Movements grow by mobilizing and mounting militant action.

If 20,000 workers marched on the Capitol to demand COVID relief, or protesters occupied the Capitol to demand an end to racist police terror, we would be cheering them on and rushing to gather support.

Let 20,000 workers of all nationalities and genders march on the Capitol to stand up against the fascists. This is what we need.

International Briefs

INDIGENOUS LAND

Water Protectors Fight Pipeline Construction



Jan. 9: Water protectors fight the construction site for an oil pipeline near Palisade, MN.

Hundreds of water protectors have been braving the harsh Minnesota winter to defend the territorial rights of Indigenous nations against Enbridge, a multi-billion-dollar pipeline company headquartered in Canada. Dozens of Indigenous activists and allies have been arrested as Enbridge attempts to push through construc-

tion of a tar sands oil pipeline, which would expose hundreds of miles of Indigenous land to toxic spills and would have a carbon cost equal to 50 coal power plants.

Enbridge has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire Minnesota state police as private goons to protect their pipeline and their profits. Oil and gas compa-

nies, with the help of the American Legislative Action Council (ALEC), are also using their money to sponsor a Minnesota law to make protesting a pipeline a federal offense. The oil tycoon Koch brothers run ALEC which funds anti-worker, anti-LGBTQ, anti-abortion laws in multiple states, and was behind a similar anti-protest law in Louisiana. They practically own the Louisiana legislature.

On January 14, 3 activists halted construction on the Line 3 pipeline by locking themselves together inside a pipe segment. They demand that U.S. and Canadian governments recognize the treaty rights of Indigenous nations and immediately halt the construction of KeystoneXL, Line 3, and DAPL fossil fuel pipeline projects. Through militant action, these and other activists are standing up for us all.

VENEZUELA

In Rebuke to U.S. Coup Attempts, Venezuelan People Put Chavistas in Power

In elections on December 6, the Venezuelan people took to the polls to elect parliamentary representatives. In the highly watched elections, voters were able to choose candidates from 117 parties, including more than 70 parties in opposition to President Nicolás Maduro's United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) party. Overwhelmingly, Venezuelans elected representatives of the PSUV and other progressive, Chavista forces who now occupy 257 of the 277 seats in the National Assembly after being

sworn in on January 5.

For the past five years, National Assembly had been dominated by right wing parties and was used as a tool the United States and Venezuelan capitalists in their violent and criminal attempts to oust the democratically elected President Maduro. The election of the new National Assembly is a testament to the Venezuelan people's refusal to submit to U.S. imperialism and will to fight for their national independence and right to pursue the path of socialism.

ARGENTINA

Argentines Win Right to Free, Safe, Legal Abortion

On December 30, the Argentinian Senate passed the Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy bill, legalizing abortion for any pregnant person. This victory follows decades of struggle led by Argentina's women's movement, LGBTQ community, and labor unions. As the bill was being debated, thousands of militant demonstrators filled the streets surrounding the National Congress to show support, erupting in cheers once the law passed. "We won it in the streets. We'll see you again in the streets," said Gostine Bete, and abortion rights activist with the Movimiento Popular por Dignidad.

Argentina's new law guarantees free, safe, and legal abortions to women and people of any



After decades of struggle and massive street mobilizations, Argentines win abortion rights.

gender who become pregnant and request an abortion within the first 14 weeks with extensions in cases of rape, risk of life or health of pregnant person, or risk of still birth. Along with the right to

abortion, a 1000-day Plan bill was passed to strengthen healthcare service and nutrition for mothers and newborns from pregnancy until the child's second birthday.



On 2nd Anniversary Sudanese Push Back



Sudanese take to the streets in December 2020 to demand the

On December 19, tens of thousands took to the streets in Sudan's capital of Khartoum and nearby city Umm Durman on the second anniversary of the Sudan's December 2018 Revolution, which resulted in the removal and criminal prosecution of the Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019. Less than a week later, the streets were filled again following the murder of yet another young activist at the hands of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a militia backed by the transitional government. Following this latest assassination, the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), a trade union coalition, launched the "Know Your Right" campaign to demand the dissolution of the RSF.

FRANCE

Following Massive Protests, France Withdraws 'Security' Bill



Thousands of French people protest pro-police, fascist 'security' bill in Paris.

More than half a million people across France took to the streets to protest of the so-called Global Security Bill, which was passed in late November. The bill would have forbidden the publication of images where a police officer can be identified and expanded the ability of the "security forces" to film ordinary citizens without their consent using bodycams

and drones. Although the bill has been withdrawn as of December, right wing lawmakers say they will return with a new version.

Images of police brutality particularly against Muslims, Black people, and migrants in France have galvanized opposition to President Macron's repressive, racist, and anti-worker policies. In addition to the 'security' bill,

Macron has promoted a bill called Supporting Republican Principles. This bill seeks further restrictions of Muslim life by banning home-schooling, expanding surveillance of Muslims, and subjecting publicly funded organizations to tests of their French nationalism. Protesters must stay in the streets to ensure this racist bill is also withdrawn.



SUDAN

Anniversary of People's Uprising, Against Government Betrayals



end of the Rapid Support Forces, a murderous militia backed by the transitional government.

The right wing and the military have formed an alliance in opposition to leftist, union, and people's forces. Demonstrators want power to be returned to civilian forces and are calling out the slow pace of change following the Revolution and the ruling government's betrayals. On January 6, the transitional government signed the Zionist "Abraham Accords," which are debt-forgiveness bribes by the U.S. and World Bank in exchange for Sudan 'normalizing' relations with apartheid Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people. Progressive activists as well as political parties within Sudan mobilized to reject the government's position.

INDIA

Indian Farmers Surround Delhi in Protest of Pro-Corporate Laws

On November 26, over 500 farmer's organizations cutting across religion and caste came together to begin a nationwide struggle against the right wing BJP government's anti-farmer, pro-corporate Farm Acts. These laws would condemn millions in India to poverty and hunger by allowing domestic and foreign corporations total control over Indian agricultural production as well as the ability to hoard and sell essential food stuffs on the black market to maximize corporate profits.

More than sixty percent of Indians are agricultural workers. Their struggle has been joined by labor unions, students, women, youth, workers, and peas-

ants. Recently, on December 30, the Center of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) held a countrywide strike at over 100,000 workplaces.

This is the longest and most powerful farmers' protest in India's history. This militant struggle has been brutally repressed by government forces who have already killed more than 60 people. But the farmers are steadfast. Thousands have camped out for weeks on the outskirts of Delhi and plan to hold a parade into Delhi on January 26 if the government does not address their demands, including the total withdrawal of the Farm Acts and provision of pandemic relief.



Hundreds of thousands of Indian farmers plan a tractor parade into Delhi on Jan. 26 if the anti-people, anti-farmer Farm Acts aren't withdrawn.

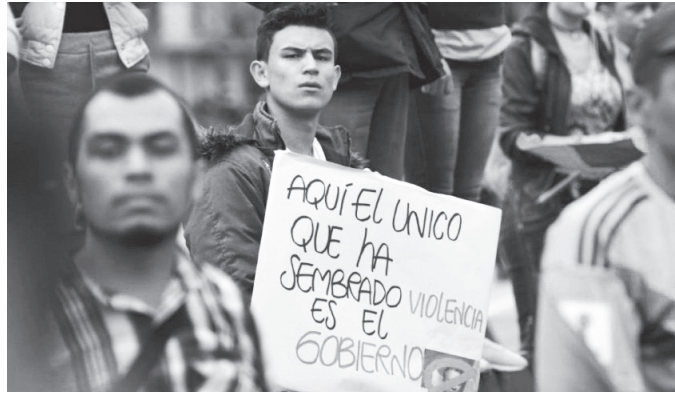
COLOMBIAN PEOPLE CHARGE U.S. PUPPET GOVERNMENT WITH MASS MURDER

By Adam Pedesclaux

On September 9, 2020, the Colombian police brutally murdered father and engineer Javier Ordóñez on the street for violating a coronavirus curfew. They tased and beat him with clubs as he lay pinned on the ground, begging them to stop. At the hospital, Javier was pronounced dead.

Like the protests that erupted after the death of George Floyd, the people of Colombia had had enough. While the people were on the streets denouncing the fascist government of Ivan Duque Marquez, the police shot live rounds into the crowds, injuring many and killing several. The police continued to terrorize citizens throughout the month, shooting people down in the street, even going as far as to throw bombs at people and into open windows. At one point, the military killed a trans woman in a moving car, ignoring her lover begging for an explanation as to why they would do such a monstrous thing.

As dead protesters were being



Sign reads: "Here the only one who has sown violence is the government."

buried, spineless coward Ivan Duque commended the police for their work and even visited the police station.

For those unfamiliar with Colombia, such a story that parallels that of our own in America may come as a surprise. Being an Amerikkkan puppet state comes with all the racism, misogyny and homophobia that the U.S. has. The two governments work hand in hand to run the dehumanizing capitalist machine that has run people into the ground for short term gain for the wealthy in both countries, from

massacring over a thousand striking banana harvesters to stealing land from working class people and having one of the largest disparities in land ownership between the rich and the poor. It only makes sense then that the people who get tired of the bullshit pick up rifles and fight against the enemy that kills them. Therefore, the people created guerrilla militias such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), which would survive in the jungles while fighting the state.

After many years of fighting a desperate war against the state, the guerrillas were promised peace in a deal brokered by Hugo Chavez and Cuba. In 2016, the deal came with agreements for certain requirements to be met,

such as honoring the victims of the war between factions as well as reparations. One of the major factors of the agreement, however, was the disarming of FARC. With this came an agreement of peace in Colombia and the promise of no more violence that both sides were supposed to adhere to.

Fast forward four years and the Colombian state is still enacting violence against working people. Thousands of former FARC members and activists, trade unionists, women's and community group members have been killed by the government and government sponsored paramilitaries while the capitalist machine goes on. The recent rampage by the police left dozens of people dead.

It is up to the Colombian people to drive their struggle forward, but it is up to us in the U.S. to stop the boot that crushes all in its wake. As working people, we must stand up to all oppression if the death and despair is to stop.

End the U.S./Saudi Genocide of the Yemeni People

World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis Must be Stopped

The people of Yemen are suffering the worst humanitarian crisis in the world because of U.S. imperialism. Since 2015, the U.S. has backed a Saudi led war against Yemen by supplying weapons and bombs that have killed hundreds of thousands of Yemeni people and destroyed the country's cities and agriculture. 20.5 million of the 29 million people living in Yemen lack access to clean water and sanitation, and over 60% of the people are starving. Half of the country's healthcare facilities have been destroyed. Every day children are dying from starvation and preventable illnesses.

U.S. uses "terror" designation to starve more children through sanctions and blockades.

Now international organizations are withdrawing aid from Yemen because the U.S. is calling Houthis in Yemen "terrorists." This designation goes into full effect on January 19. The Houthis are an Indigenous people that have long resisted U.S. imperialism, overthrowing the authoritarian U.S.-backed regime in 2014 and establishing a government in the north of Yemen, while the south is ruled by a U.S. puppet government. The U.S. has no right to determine the national destiny of the Yemeni people.

Not only is the U.S. spreading vicious lies about the Houthis, they are recruiting members of al-Qaeda to help Saudi-backed militias overthrow the Houthi

government. The U.S. capitalist ruling class doesn't care if millions more Yemeni people die so long as they can crush any opposition to U.S. imperialism.

Workers around the world must unite to demand an end to the U.S./Saudi war on Yemen. As workers

living in the most powerful and violent imperialist country on Earth, we have a special duty to stand with the people of Yemen and demand that not one more of our tax dollars go towards aiding, supplying, or abetting the Saudis in this genocidal war.

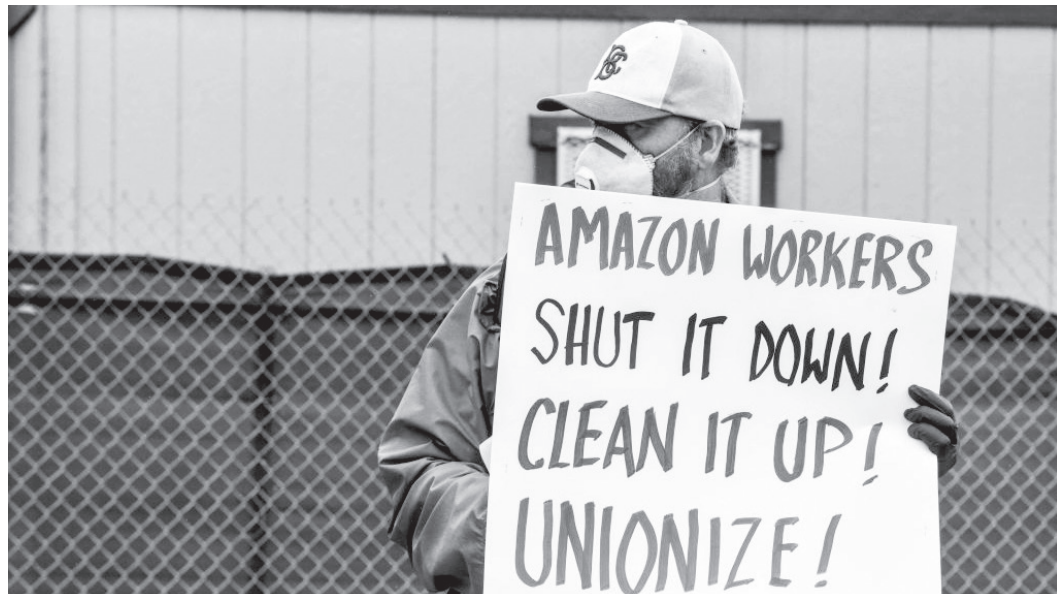


Stop the War Coalition has called for a global day of action on Monday, January 25. Join the Workers Voice Socialist Movement as we stand in solidarity with workers and oppressed people all over the world to say:

No War on Yemen!
12 Noon, January 25 at Duncan Plaza
Loyola Ave at Gravier St, New Orleans

Labor Briefs

Alabama Amazon Workers Build Towards Union



Amazon warehouse workers in Bessemer, AL are organizing for union representation with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). This is a historic step towards organizing the first union ever in Amazon, at a time when hundreds of Amazon workers around the globe have gone on strike. While CEO Jeff Bezos' fortune has surpassed \$200 billion, Amazon workers continue to fight for benefits, a living wage, hazard pay, and safe working conditions

during a global pandemic. But Amazon is already trying to sabotage workers in Bessemer by delaying the union election and will likely spend millions of dollars on union-busting campaigns. Nevertheless the struggle in Bessemer is a tremendous example to other Amazon workers around the world whose labor reaps huge profits for corporations but almost nothing for the workers themselves. A win for Amazon workers would be a win for us all!

NYC Fast Food Workers Win Just Cause Protections

On December 17, fast food workers in New York City became the first in the country to win protections against arbitrary layoffs and reduced hours. NYC passed two "just cause" bills that prevent bosses from firing a worker or cutting their hours without giving a valid reason, either economic or related to job performance. This is a historic win

for fast food workers who have been declared essential during COVID-19 but are treated as disposable, forced to work without healthcare, a living wage, hazard pay, and paid sick leave. They are often fired without warning or reason. Like many other essential work forces, the majority of fast food workers are Black and Brown people

and women, who have suffered the most from COVID-19 and bear the brunt of the exploitation and lack of job security in the fast food industry. But fast food workers have fought back valiantly. They were the first to hold rallies for a \$15 minimum wage and have been rallying and striking across the country demanding safety protections

and higher wages since the pandemic. We should celebrate every victory for workers, anywhere and everywhere and never forget that it is our collective power that will help us win our long overdue rights.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry:

- ✘ Enemy of Working People
- ✘ Friend of Fascists & White Supremacists
- ✘ Servant of Oil Companies

Here are just a few of Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry's Crimes Against the People. Landry has overstepped his authority by actions not authorized by the people of Louisiana.

- As head of the Republican Attorneys General, Landry organized a robocall for people to march on the Capitol. Landry refused to sign letters from other attorneys general to condemn the fascist violence in D.C. Instead he attacked Black Lives Matter protesters and said Antifa was responsible. Landry is not representing the people but a small group of racist thugs. He should lose his office for using his position to encourage them.
- Despite 400,000 dead in the U.S. from Covid including 8,000 so far in LA, Landry sued to end safety measures in LA. Landry has opposed all workers' safety measures against COVID, including hazard pay and universal healthcare.
- Landry gets funding from billionaires like Charles Koch and ALEC, the ultra-right wing corporate lobby that funds most of the state legislators, and writes the laws they submit. When they say jump, he says "How high?"
- Landry sued to get rid of Medicaid and deprive nearly 700,000 adults and children of healthcare. The people did not authorize him to do this as the State attorney general.
- Landry wants to kick 810,000 Louisianans off of Food Stamps.
- Landry opposes raising the minimum wage.
- Landry opposed workers getting paid sick time off.
- Landry is for increased fossil fuel production but not for guaranteeing jobs for oil workers.

**REMOVE LANDRY FROM OFFICE AND
THROW HIM IN JAIL FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE!**



Jeff Landry

Put an End to Gender Violence—Get Organized!

By Lauren Gutierrez

With consistent attacks to dominate our bodies, control our lives and degrade our worth, the U.S. government and many other countries around the world still fail to acknowledge women or femmes as whole and autonomous human beings. Instead, we are left to persistently fight for our human rights along with the day-to-day struggle of living in this over-burdening capitalist world.

Women or femmes are disposable property within their own homes. According to a new study, one in three women murdered worldwide are killed by an intimate partner, which may actually be a higher number due to lack of data or missing information. From the pathetic criminal justice response to reported rapes and domestic violence to a broken healthcare system, society and government continue to fail women and femmes, leaving us to depend on our partners support, even if they are toxic and abusive. Meanwhile hundreds of women are in jail for defending themselves.

The U.S. has taken it upon itself to remove women's body parts. Doctors have been removing the uteruses of migrant women in ICE concentration camps built under the Obama administration and utilized in Trump's America. Some of the most vulnerable women



July 18, 2020: Demonstrators at a BLM rally for Black women led by New Orleans Workers Group.

are those from a foreign country caged and dependent on their captors to provide food and healthcare. Our government has seen this as an opportunity to mutilate and torture mostly black and brown migrant women.

There is an epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in the U.S. and Canada where 4 in 5 Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetime, which includes human trafficking. In many cases, missing Indigenous femmes are misclassified as Hispanic, and missing adults don't show up in the law enforcement database. These crimes aren't even reported

on or resolved within the public eye, so they basically remain invisible to society.

Since 2015, police have murdered 48 Black women. How many of them can you name? The most noted young woman of them all, Breonna Taylor, has yet to see any justice after police took her innocent life.

The life expectancy of a Black transgender woman is 35 years. At least 350 transgender and gender non-conforming people have been killed globally in 2020. 98 percent were trans women or trans feminine. 79 percent were people of color. This doesn't include

those deaths that were unreported or misreported, either by deadnaming or misgendering the victims.

The majority of Louisiana voters have chosen to add oppressive language to the Louisiana Declaration of Rights, weakening the protection of and funding for abortion access. The addition begins with the words, "To protect human life" as it utterly disregards the human life of the woman herself. But just as has been done in Argentina, Ireland, and Poland, we will turn this around in Louisiana. Massive, women-led struggles around the world demand abortion rights, an end to violence against women, and rights to food, wages, and housing. We need to get busier here.

In a capitalist patriarchal society, it is okay to oppress or dominate women or femmes. We are still seen as property within our homes and the government still fights to control our bodies and decisions on family planning. Our lives are valued less than a masculine person and even seen as a commodity for sex or slavery. Women and femmes are treated as less than human—as an object. In my opinion, people and the government seek to control what they fear. If dominance over femmes is a badge of honor, then being a femme in control of oneself must be the "holy grail." Onward.

WORKERS MAKE THE WORLD RUN.



**WORKERS SHOULD
RUN THE WORLD.**

THIS RACIST, CAPITALIST SYSTEM HAS GOT TO GO!

Black Lives Matter Protesters Arrested in Washington, D.C.: 806
Fascists arrested violently storming Capitol on January 6: 52

Black activists and anti-fascists are called domestic terrorists
Fascists are called misguided patriots

46,000 opioid deaths, hundreds of thousands of overdoses
Sackler family, Purdue Pharma execs plead guilty to deaths and get no jail time

Iowa City: White driver speeds in BLM protest and injuring many is given 3 years of probation, no fines

15 BLM protesters are currently charged with felonies for demonstrating for liberation

3 Workers Die at Hard Rock, 2 at Louisiana salt mine;
5,333 die on the job every year in U.S.

No criminal charges for owners, ever

203 meat plant workers have died of COVID-19

Plant owners Smithfield and JBS combined fine of \$29,000, or \$143 dollars per dead worker

In the U.S., the difference in arrests, charges, and jail time for workers of color and low income folks vs. rich white men is obvious. This is capitalism at its most rotten, ripe for revolution.

RACISM IN HEALTHCARE: A DISEASE WE MUST ERADICATE!

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane.”

—*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

By Z Petrosian

In the U.S., COVID-19 has infected Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian people at rates higher than whites, and the disparity is even greater when it comes to the severity of illness and death from COVID-19. Centuries of racism in the U.S. healthcare system are to blame. We don't need more studies. We need action to demand expanded access to healthcare for all, especially people of color and very poor people, through national Medicaid for all. We must also create independent community-based boards that have the power to accept complaints, implement changes, and review materials and practices.

Centuries of racist abuses call for reparations

Racism in healthcare can be traced to the foundations of the U.S., which is based on the genocide of Native peoples and chattel enslavement of Africans. For centuries, non-white, particularly Black, people were treated as less than human, only to be kept healthy enough to work or to be experimented on without consent, as in the case of gynecological experimentation carried out by James Marion Sims on enslaved Black women. This abuse and experimentation continued long after slavery was abolished, most infamously in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study wherein Black men were deliberately infected with syphilis and denied treatment.

This abuse is not just in the past but continues to exist in healthcare, particularly in the lack of equal access to quality medical care. Studies show that, overall, Blacks who report medical problems receive less timely and lower quality treatment than whites; illness and disease is more likely to be found and addressed later in its course, resulting in worse outcomes and preventable deaths.

Dr. Susan Moore, 52, dies of COVID-19 while fighting for equal care

The quality of care routinely given to rich whites and politicians is denied to the working class and people of color. Recently Susan Moore, a dedicated Black family medicine doctor, called out racism at the hands of a white doctor and staff who were treating her for COVID-19 at a hospital in suburban Indianapolis. Being a medical professional, Dr. Moore was able to make detailed demands about the specific treatments she knew she needed even as her reported symptoms went unheeded.

Despite her objections, Dr. Moore was sent home prematurely while her condition deteriorated. “This is how Black people get killed, when you send them home and they don't know how to fight for themselves,” Dr. Moore said. Just hours later, she was transported in an ambulance to another hospital where she died from COVID-19.

This most horrible outcome was compounded by a lifetime of unequal access to medicine due to the racism of the system. Income, housing access, geography, and education all play a major role in the health outcomes of U.S. residents. But Black people are sicker and die younger even when their education levels and incomes are the same as whites. Racism kills.

Affected communities should have the final say on care and equal access to medical education, research, & healthcare delivery

One way to address racism in healthcare is to guarantee free medical coverage and high-quality care to everyone through national improved Medicaid for all. There should be no red tape and no medical bills; this system should cover all necessary medical care for every person in the U.S. for their entire lifetime.

Socialist countries, such as Cuba, provide excellent healthcare at no cost to patients, keeping their populations healthy through a focus on equal access to both prevention and treatment. We can also look here at home to the Veterans Administration (VA) health system to see evidence that guaranteeing health coverage improves health outcomes, especially for Black people. The VA is a health system in need of improvements—long demanded by veterans—still, while Black people in the general population have higher rates of heart disease and death than whites, a study of three million people guaranteed care through the VA showed Blacks were 37% less likely than white men to develop heart disease and had a 24% lower death rate than white patients.

Calls for improved Medicaid for all are urgent during pandemic

It should not have taken a global pandemic for racism to be more broadly recognized as a pervasive and insidious public health issue affecting all aspects of U.S. society, including the healthcare system. However, the current crises give urgency to demands for consistent, free, and equal access to healthcare.

All medical knowledge, treatments, medicines, and therapies are produced by the global working class. It is wrong to allow governments and corporations—including pharmaceutical, insurance, and hospital corporations—to hoard healthcare for the privileged few and make profits. We must take up the fight for Medicaid for all. Equal, quality healthcare is a right!



Dr. Susan Moore died from COVID-19 as racism deprived her of care. Top: A still from a video she shared to expose the treatment. Below: An image with her son.

Pandemic Relief Showered on Anti-LGBTQ Orgs

By Sally Jane Black

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) gave \$4.3 million to anti-LGBTQ and anti-abortion organizations, including American College of Pediatricians, American Family Association, Center for Family and Human Rights, Church Militant/St. Michael's Media, Liberty Counsel, Pacific Justice Institute and Ruth Institute.

The American Family Association, which targets not only LGBTQ people, but also women and non-Christians, received \$1.4 million alone. They have 200 radio stations across the country that tout their violent and divisive ideology. The Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, which received over \$600,000, was founded and named after a demagogue who promotes child abuse.

These organizations are funded by the same capitalists, such as the Koch Brothers and the DeVos family, that are behind the anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ laws that have swept through state legislatures in the last few years. Their goal is to pit people in the working class against one another, misusing religious freedom to make religious workers and LGBTQ people blame each other for their oppression instead of the capitalists. The use of PPP loans to fund these hate groups during the pandemic while millions of workers have lost their jobs is not an accident, but the priorities of the super-rich.

These right-wing organizations should be shut down and their leaders jailed, not funded by money that should be spent supporting workers during these crises.

Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils Tells Louisiana Legislature: Bail Out the People!

On December 18 members of the Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils (LMWC) held a press conference at the Louisiana state Capitol to demand that state legislators use the tens of millions of unspent federal relief dollars to bail out workers suffering hardship because of the COVID pandemic.

The state of Louisiana received \$1.8 billion in federal relief (CARES Act) funds to supposedly cope with the fallout from the pandemic. Around \$525 million of those funds were used to reimburse local governments for “pandemic related expenses.” Yet many of the poorest parishes were excluded from relief because they couldn’t afford the expenses in the first place.

Tens of millions of dollars were used to pay off sheriff’s departments instead of going to food, housing assistance, health services, or economic relief.

Of the \$50 million dollars set aside for (pitifully low) \$250 pay-



Members of the Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils held a press conference at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on December 18 before a hearing on CARES Act money the State has withheld from workers.

ments to essential workers, \$11 million never made it into the hands of workers.

\$362 million in CARES Act funds are simply unaccounted for.

LMWC demands that these funds go directly to low income households who are bearing the brunt of the crisis. 200,000 Louisianans are jobless. At least 1 in 6 Louisiana households is struggling

to put food on the table. Around 30,000 households are on the verge of eviction in Orleans Parish alone.

We refuse to go hungry and die as our tax dollars are used to bail out big corporations or buy arms for the police. We need jobs, income, housing, and healthcare. The LMWC is prepared to fight to get what we deserve. Join us!

A Worker Goes to the State Capitol

By Caleb Wassell

On December 18th, I visited the Louisiana state capitol building in Baton Rouge for the first time. The visit was equal parts nauseating and unsettling.

There are about a million steps that lead up to the face of a jutting tower. Carved into the stone walls of the Capitol building are tributes to Louisiana’s most depraved genocidal maniacs and defenders of white supremacy: DeSoto, Claiborne, Bienville, Iberville, Jackson, and E D White. Inside it’s all marble and shiny wood with gold handrails and giant chandeliers. In these gold encrusted chambers, politicians have been quietly defunding the people for decades.

Incarcerated people are the only ones doing any real work in the building. “CORRECTIONS” is boldly marked across the shoulders of the workers’ gray jumpsuits. They’re forced to serve food and clean up after politicians and corporate lobbyists who meet over lunch to scheme against the people of Louisiana.

I learned that you are safer from COVID exposure in your average Walmart than on the floor of the state capitol, as there is no mask mandate. A Black lawmaker wearing a mask and face shield told us as much after the session adjourned. She lost her husband to the disease this year. Another representative that was with her told us that her district suffers “repercussions” when she raises objections or asks too many questions.

The language of the day’s proceedings is boring and legalistic. It’s hard to track what’s really going on through all the jargon. This is by design. I watched millions of dollars of our money get moved around in minutes. Incredibly, public comment was not allowed until the end of session, after the agenda items were already voted on. Online there was an email address to submit comments for those who can’t make the meeting in person. These comments were never read or mentioned. At the seat of our state’s “democratic” government, the people’s voice can barely be heard.



Join the Louisiana Movement for Workers Councils!

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FB: laworkerscouncils • IG: la_workers_councils

Thousands of us have lost our jobs and are racking up massive debts. Thousands of us face evictions or are returning to workplaces with our hours and wages cut. But if thousands of us get organized and united, we can use our collective power to win the rights that we deserve.

Join the Workers Councils! It’s time we get organized!

YOU HAVE A FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO RECEIVE THIS PAPER

We’ve been pushed off food lines and threatened with arrest to bring you the Workers Voice. We will not be intimidated! Workers have a right to organize and share information!