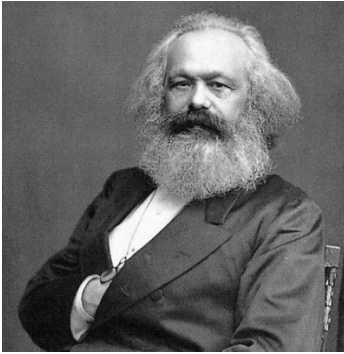


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



A Journal of Discussion and Debate



Vol. 1, No. 3
September, 2019

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To see the reasoning for publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’” in the first issue on the web-site below.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU is scheduled for the second half of November, so material should be sent in by early November. I expect to have some material dealing with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CP USA (although this was in September).

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Please send cash, or check or money order in the name of George Gruenthal (Red Star Publishers still has no bank account). Please note that Red Star is still a one-person operation, and I will be away until late October, so I will not be able to fulfill orders before then.

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From **Struggle for Socialism / Lucha por el Socialismo**

<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2019/08/17/mississippi-raids-at-poultry-plants-calculated-pay-back-to-break-movement-to-organize-the-south/>

August 17, 2019 Sharon Black

Mississippi raids at poultry plants calculated pay back to break movement to organize the South



The writer is a former food processing plant worker and union activist

Aug. 8 — While the El Paso, Texas, community was still in mourning, deeply shaken and suffering from the racist mass murder, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched the largest single-state raid in U.S. history in Mississippi on seven poultry processing plants. Six hundred and eighty workers were rounded up and arrested.

This raid was timed to come on the first day of the school year, so that many children had to walk home, only to find their loved ones, their mothers and fathers missing. If anyone has any question of whether or not this is an act of war and terror, listen to the CNN news video or the aftermath.

What is key for all workers to understand is that this raid was calculated payback for workers organizing, and it was aimed at the heart of the movement to unionize the South, which has historically been a cheap source of labor.

Two of the chicken processing plants operated by Koch Foods are organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Union. This same company

recently paid out a \$3.75 million settlement as a result of a class action suit that charged Koch Foods with sexual harassment, discrimination based national origin and race, and retaliation against Latinx workers.

The lawsuit, filed by workers at the Morton plant, said that supervisors touched and/or made sexually suggestive comments to Latinx women workers, hit workers and charged money for normal everyday work activities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration charged Koch Foods \$88,000 in penalties for safety violations that resulted in severe injuries at the Mississippi plant.

Koch Foods also exploited Black farmers in Mississippi. See the ProPublica article: The shadow of slavery, sharecropping and Jim Crow has left black farmers in an especially precarious position.

Peco Foods is another company that runs five Mississippi plants. Three — in Canton, Bay Springs and Sebastopol — were targeted by ICE agents.

Workers at the Peco Foods Sebastopol and Canton plants had filed safety complaints, which resulted in OSHA penalties. Peco settled a \$9,550 penalty in 2015 and then was investigated five more times. Workers suffered amputations and fractures.

Peco was also charged with violating the Fair Labor Standards Act by “requiring workers to perform ‘off the clock’ work” and denying overtime.

It took unbelievable courage for workers to stand up to these brutal conditions and the ICE raid was aimed at breaking their will and determination.

UFCW spokesperson Abraham White said: “Workers across this country are too scared to stand up for their rights and to report wage theft, dangerous work conditions, and other workplace issues. We must act now to end this dangerous climate of fear.”

Meatpacking still remains one of the most dangerous jobs, which has gotten worse with speedups introduced through increased automation. It’s hard to describe the work environment to anyone who has never worked

inside a food processing plant. Temperatures are cold or freezing depending on what is being produced; water and animal fat frequently make floors slippery and dangerous. Workers risk amputations and machine related injuries that leave lifetime scars.

Koch Foods hires about 13,000 workers in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee. The company headquarters is in Park Ridge, Ill. It supplies chicken to Walmart, Burger King, Kroger and Aldi markets.

According to the Jackson, Miss., Free Press: “Executives at PECO Foods and Koch Foods have donated at least \$170,000 to the National Chicken Council Political Action Committee, or NCCC, which in turn gives money mostly to Republican politicians. In 2018, the NCCC gave \$190,000 to U.S. House Republicans, and just \$23,000 to House Democrats.”

To date, there have been no reports of penalties against these companies. Forbes lists the owner of Koch Foods, Joseph C. Grendy, as being worth \$3.3 billion.

https://ucommblog.com/section/community/unions-picket-ice-operations?fbclid=IwAR1jk_bU9RSbfubtC8rh88dclFf5GvZDv6z9QLoxhwYaIKX800SvSb6BffA

Unions to Picket ICE Operations

Hotel union UNITE HERE promises to picket hotels where detainees are kept

by Kris LaGrange on July 12, 2019



This week, Trump announced that his long-delayed ICE raids would begin this weekend. These raids are not only meant to detain and deport thousands of immigrants, but they are also meant to strike fear into immigrant workers.

At Netroots Nation, the yearly gathering of liberal and progressive activists, union leaders Sara Nelson, President of the flight attendants union, and D. Taylor, President of UNITE HERE hosted a panel titled “Is It Time for a General Strike?” During the panel, both addressed the upcoming raids. Taylor, who represents hotel and hospitality workers and has a large immigrant population within his union's ranks, blasted Trump’s decision. He referred to Trump’s plan as evil and said that this is a moment of truth for the labor movement. “If I see a press release on that and not direct action, what the hell are we talking about?” he said. “We’re not just gonna send a letter. We’ve gotta do action at every one of those hotels. We’ve gotta turn up the heat.” Taylor vowed that his union will take action against hotels that enter into contracts with ICE to house detainees. He also promised that UNITE HERE will not only be taking action in union strongholds like New York, California, Las Vegas and the border but rather they will take action across the entire country.

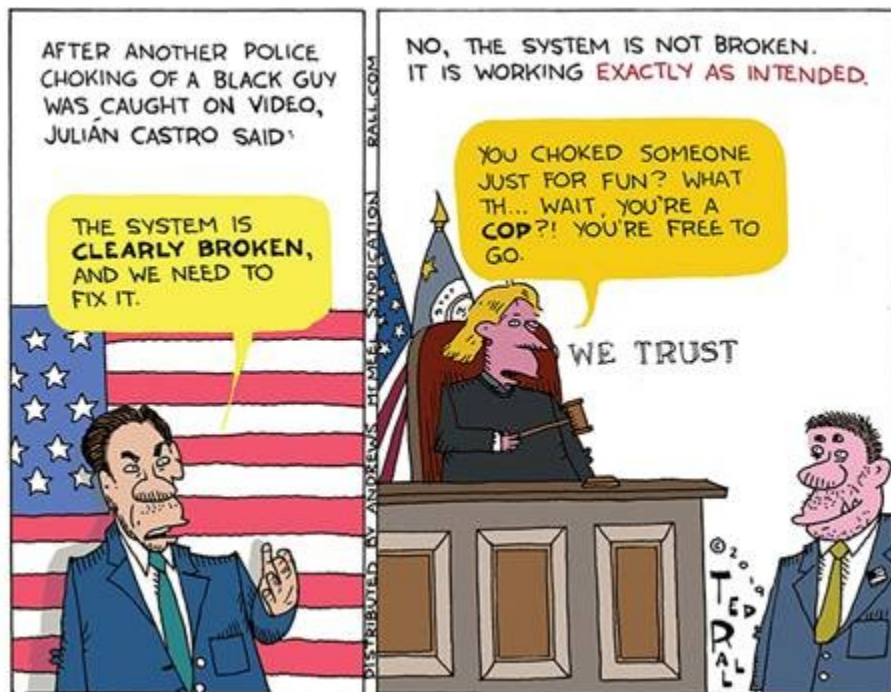
Nelson, whose call for a general strike during the government shutdown forced Congress to agree on a deal to re-open the government, emphasized that

immigration is a union issue. She recalled Trump’s Muslim ban and how some of her flight attendants were detained and unable to work because of the ban.

Nelson and Taylor’s comments come as more unions are realizing that immigration is a union issue. “Announcing raids on immigrant communities is a clear and present danger to the workforces in the cities they are planned and support the tactics of the low wage employers in these areas,” said John Durso, the President of the 350,000 member Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

Rallies and vigils are planned for the next few days to oppose Trump’s policy and some organizations have put out guidelines on your legal rights when dealing with ICE, whether you are undocumented yourself, with an undocumented person, or the employer of an undocumented worker. Below is video from the American Federation of Teachers rally outside of the Customs and Border Patrol office in Washington D.C.

“Raids are projected to begin this Sunday, July 14th in 10 cities, including NY. This threat has sent a chill through immigrant communities on Long Island, with many fearing leaving their homes. Long Island Jobs with Justice is preparing and mobilizing their faith leaders and community advocates to respond to the immediate needs of immigrant workers and their families as they navigate this frightening time.” said Anita Halasz, Executive Director of Long Island’s Jobs with Justice.



Some Preliminary Thoughts on the Question of the United Front and the Party

George Gruenthal with assistance from other comrades

As should be clear to anyone who considers themselves a revolutionary (and even to those who do not but have some sort of understanding of the political situation in the U.S. today), the left, interpreted broadly, is very small. Yes, there have been many demonstrations against Trump. And in New York City, where Trump got only 18% of the vote in 2016¹, some of these demonstrations have been very large. The situation in many other large cities is similar. But these demonstrations have been largely made up of petty-bourgeois elements, and under the ideological (and often organizational) leadership of the Democratic Party. Even the more “left” of the two rallies on Women’s Day in New York City has as one of its principal speakers Chirlane McCray, the wife of liberal Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio.

This is not to say that most people are apathetic (although many are) about the political situation in the country; they just feel that there is little they can do about it – except to elect a Democrat in 2020. (This is not the same as apathy, where people don’t even care what happens.

This is a change from even a decade or so ago. On May Day, 2006, some half a million people, mostly immigrants but also U.S.-born workers, demonstrated in New York (and other parts of the country) and defeated the reactionary Sensenbrenner Bill. That bill would have made it a crime to be in the U.S. without legal papers. Also, on February 15, 2003, on one of the coldest days of the year, another half-million people marched towards the UN (most never got there because the streets were packed) as part of world-wide protests against G.W. Bush’s planned invasion of Iraq. Many thought that if there were enough people on the street, the government couldn’t start a war. Of course, just over a month later, on March 20, 2003 Bush carried out the invasion, increasing the feeling that these demonstrations didn’t matter.

Overwhelmed by the military interventions, under the disguise of national security, and increasing police brutality and racism, the people of the U.S. gave a green light to the Obama administration as a supposed sign of a post-racial society. The Obama administration promised to withdraw troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, but it failed. The main dynamic of U.S. foreign policy was not tied to the short-term presidential administrations, but to

the long-term interests of the state and the ruling class that it serves.

After the 2008 financial crisis, the administration clearly showed its real face, bailing out companies and plundering social services, while the burden of the crisis was placed on working people. Hence, the aggressive foreign policy of the Republicans is not fundamentally different from those of the Democratic Party; they are just two parts of the whole political-economic system. We can say that there is a convergence between the policies of the two parties, rather than that they do not differ at all. Military spending didn’t decrease during the Obama administration; rather it waged the war in Syria, for example, through proxies due to its limited possibility of direct military intervention in the region.

When this journal was just a proposal, we received a very good suggestion that one of the key questions that should be taken up was how to act in the mass movement in a way that was neither sectarian nor opportunist. Of course this question is correct. But this must be looked at differently when the mass movement is basically petty-bourgeois and pro-Democratic Party (although we certainly cannot ignore this movement either).

There are also movements of working people fighting for their rights, even if not on a mass scale. For example, there have been rallies of scores of tenants in the Fulton Houses, a public housing project in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, against the attempts to tear down two buildings to put up a luxury high-rise. There have been rallies of building trades workers against the construction of a huge luxury building in the Hudson Yards area of midtown Manhattan without a Project Labor Agreement (basically as a way to avoid paying union wages). And in many parts of the country, there have been continuing demonstrations against police brutality, for a \$15 minimum wage, for increased teachers’ salaries and reduced class sizes, etc.

UNAC as an example of a United Front

One example of building a united front has been the United National Anti-war Conference (UNAC). One of the criticisms of the left has been that different groups can’t work together. (This is a correct criticism when groups have basically the same position on certain political issues – such as opposition to imperialist wars – but not where there are differences of principle.) But UNAC has shown that this can be done. Although in different cities one or another group may predominate

¹ If one excludes Staten Island, the most conservative borough and the only one where Trump won a majority, Trump would have gotten only 15%.

(or even throw its weight around), on the whole different groups and parties have been able to work together.

However, this is far from sufficient to build a genuine united front. There have been rallies in Herald Square, near the center of Manhattan, with maybe 200 people, while thousands or tens of thousands of people pass by, at most stopping long enough to take a picture but most not even bothering to take a leaflet.

A United Front in the first place has to be a united front of the working class. In the mid-1930s, after Hitler came to power in Germany, the Communist International correctly put forward the need for a united front. At that time this meant particularly a united front of workers, whether they were in the Communist Party, the Social-Democratic Party, or were not members of any party. Now we barely have any communist organizations of any size, or even socialist organizations (although there are elements such as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who form a social-democratic wing in the Democratic Party).

As we pointed out in our first issue, we do have a significant number of workers' groups that are active in their areas. Many of these have attracted a good number of advanced workers, particularly African-American, Latino and other oppressed nationality workers. In general, however, they have two weaknesses: 1) They are mostly organized on a local basis; and 2) They have different ideological backgrounds.

We would make two suggestions here:

1) That, where possible, they link up in a united front based on certain broad principles, such as: a) opposition to U.S. imperialist wars (regardless of differences on, say, the class nature of Russia and China today), and b) support for all struggles of the working class, oppressed nationalities, women and LGBT groups against the U.S. ruling class (here one could have principled unity even between "Stalinists" and "Trotskyists"). If such a front could put out a national newspaper, that could be a major step forward and could advance the struggle in areas where there are no local groups.

This unity would not be just among leftists, but among peoples' movements. Communists can lead this unity through working within those movements,

particularly the labor movement, Afro-American movement, housing rights movement, pro-abortion and women's movement, LGBT movement, among Palestinians, undocumented immigrants etc. If communists take a lead in this unification, they will also learn how to work together on the basis of the workers' and peoples' struggles.

2) A way should be found to carry on the ideological struggle among the different forces involved, with the view towards building a genuine Marxist-Leninist party based on democratic centralism. Possibly this could be done with a journal (not this one, but one built on a much broader basis). More likely different tendencies might put out their own journals, which hopefully would be read, studied and discussed by members of other groups.

A struggle that has been shaped around the demands of the workers and popular masses will show how to build this unity. Until now, the experiences of unity among advanced forces of the society have been the unity of leftist groups, which disregarded the class basis of this unity. Although these groups declared themselves to be representatives of the working class, they were actually groups with a handful of members, coming mostly from petty-bourgeois strata: students, academics, leftist intellectuals or self-proclaimed activists. In that sense, the way democratic centralism works will be much more apparent when advanced sections of society take their place in the struggle for the **actual** social, economic, and political demands of the working class and other oppressed sections of the society.

We have never supported the view that a party can be based on different tendencies (even when this view is put forward by very well-meaning comrades). Lenin opposed this view, likening it to trying to fight a war against the class enemy in front of you while having chaos in the rear.

Unfortunately, many of the existing parties would not be likely to take part in such discussions, with very few exceptions. They are too stuck in their own small circle spirit to take part.

As the class struggle heats up, in the U.S. and internationally, the most serious forces will have to take part in this struggle.

The Fascists Are On the March Against Women's Rights – We Must Respond

By: J. Palameda

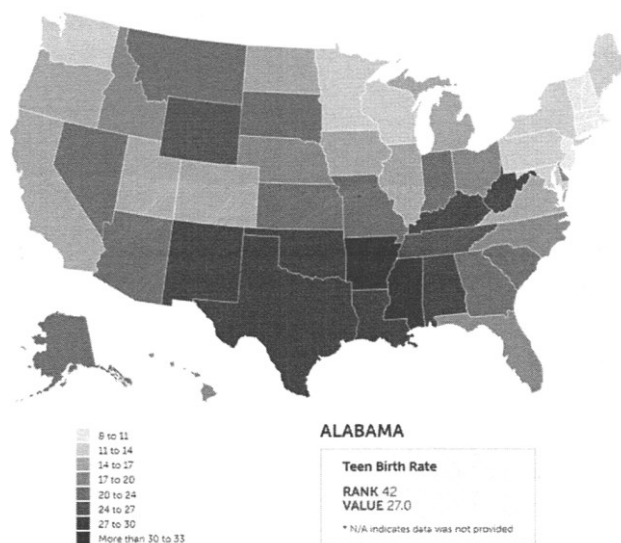
Ever since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, the religious right in the United States has waged unrelenting war on the right of women to bodily autonomy, often using terroristic tactics in its war. With the rise of Donald Trump, buoyed by the unwavering support of Christian extremists who care more about persecuting minorities and women than Trump's own failures in character, the issue has been turned over "to the states," effectively subjecting all those women living in Republican-controlled states to the whims of predominantly white, male, and ultra-conservative state government officials.

Let it be said openly that the legislation signed into law in Alabama is cruel, black-hearted barbarism. To refuse abortion rights to victims of incestual abuse and rape, and to punish doctors who seek to perform safe and healthy abortions with decades more jail time than a rapist is an open manifestation of patriarchy and the rotten heart of religious fundamentalism in the United States. Those who write off children thrown in a barbed-wire encircled concentration camp for crossing the border deify a zygote. Those babies that become women should not be allowed to access abortion in cases of incest and rape because, as fascist Matt Walsh absurdly claimed, that would destroy "evidence."

But the outrageous and barbarous nature of the anti-abortion legislation popping up in conservative states should not push the goal posts to the right, as some moderate Democrats have allowed for. For Pelosi and many other moderate Democrats, abortion is no longer a "litmus test" issue, and routine attacks on abortion are within the bounds of the party's ideology. This is how Obama moderation works: by openly opposing only extreme manifestations of fascist policy, and attacking the "purity" of leftists who stand vehemently by their principles, the body politic of the country shifts right. No longer is abortion a make or break issue for Pelosi's Democrats – supporting abortion for rape victims is. Trump's mistreatment of immigrants is barbaric, but Obama's abuse of immigrants was within the bounds. There are countless examples. This is how the Democratic Party has and will abandon working class people in an attempt to appeal to moderate Republican voters.

In the wake of the Alabama legislation, and similar legislation that will likely crop up in "red states" across

Teen Birth Rate Among Girls Age 15-19



Those states that restrict sexual education and abortion rights have the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country.

the country, we say emphatically that safe abortions are the right of all women, no matter the circumstance. We will not allow the right wing and liberals to creep the discourse right, and write out of the discussion that abortion is a universal right. And while liberals scoff at the barbarity taking place in "red states," working people in those states will continue to suffer. A recent poll revealed that only about a quarter of women in Alabama support banning abortion in all cases, which is in line with the statistics from around the country. Those states that restrict access to birth control, comprehensive sexual education, and abortion also see the highest teen pregnancy rates. While wealthy Alabamians will find ways to circumvent the law and avoid repercussions, working class women will suffer under increased police persecution, already under the burden of skyrocketing education, career-training, and healthcare costs.

Because that is ultimately the goal of this legislation, and the goal of fascists: to restrict the autonomy of women, designate their role as strictly domestic, and hamper their career, educational, and creative ambitions. Republicans and their fascist allies clearly do not care

about the livelihoods of children – they actively endorse the brutalization and death of immigrant children. No, the issue is not the lives of children – it is the subjugation of working class women. Fascists have sought this since the very beginning. In 1933, the Nazi government discouraged women from seeking higher education, and put many women in domestic skills and German culture classes rather than the standard curriculum. The ideal woman in Nazi Germany was the child-rearing mother, securing the future of the race. An educated, empowered, and struggling woman, who exercises autonomy over her destiny and body, is a threat to fascist ideology, and it is why they fought and are fighting so vehemently to hamper such a person's development and freedom.

At the crossroads of many of the issues we face in the contemporary US – from the rise of fascism, to the struggles of working people to subsist and survive, to healthcare costs, to the war on women, to the failure of the Democratic Party to stand in a meaningful way by working people across the country – lies the current attack on abortion rights. The fascists continue to sow division between people and workers, and target those

sectors of the working class that have been torch-bearers: women, organized labor, immigrants, and more. To fight the rising tide of fascism in the US, we must respond with the antithesis of fascism: working class unity, and a movement that aims to undermine all those things that play a part in denying women the right to abortion. Women across the country, no matter where they are from, or the circumstances of their pregnancy, have the right to chose their destiny, to decide when and if they want to have children and to, above all else, exercise autonomy over their own body.

The fascists are on the march against women's rights, and we will respond – with the momentum of the largest marches in the history of the country in our sails. Our targets are not only those misogynistic and patriarchal lawmakers who restrict abortion rights to barbaric levels, but also the bosses who harass their employees with impunity and deny equal pay or maternity leave, administrators who deny students access to sexual education and birth control, the legal system that favors rapists over victims, and moderate, establishment liberals like Nancy Pelosi who make fundamental human rights a "fading" issue.

Maxim Gorky on imperialist war

This excerpt is from his 1930 article "To Workers and Peasants," in On Guard for the Soviet Union. (This book and another collection of his essays, Culture for the People, are available from Red Star Publishers.) Maxim Gorky was a great Russian and Soviet writer who is considered the father of socialist realism.

Workers! It is time you knew the source of all the evil and sorrow, of all the miseries and distortions of life. The source is the greed of an insignificant minority who have become savage and demented from a thirst for hoarding money, and who lawlessly and senselessly rule over the lives of the toiling majority, wasting their energy, destroying the treasures of the earth which belong to you. You must remember that during the four years of imperialist war [World War I – *Ed.*] billions of tons of metal, which were extracted and refined by you, were lost in the sea; millions of tons of coal, mined by you, were burned; an infinite amount of leather goods, textiles, and many other products of your labour, were destroyed. Treasures are destroyed which belong to you and your children, and, in the process of destroying these treasures—while you are being ravaged and millions of men, your blood and class brothers, are being killed—the capitalists reap their profits and grow richer.

Hundreds of thousands of workers build ships which will be sunk, they make cannon, machine-guns, rifles, which will in the end be turned against you. Of course, you, too, will be killing workers and peasants who are as guiltless as you are. And this lack of guilt makes war still more senseless and more criminal. By arming the capitalists you harm yourselves, your labour for war is suicide. They want to send you against the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union who are showing you how much better it is to live and work without masters.



In the last issue of TMLU, we printed an article on the way the ruling class attempts to use identity politics against the left. Some people (incorrectly in my view) considered that article to be anti-Trans. One person wrote me a lengthy email criticizing the article, but when I asked if I could use his criticism in this next issue, he refused, apparently thinking that even replying to the article would somehow contaminate him. If people cannot even publically discuss disagreements, then they are really in bad shape. Instead, I am publishing the unrelated article below.

From New Orleans Workers Organization

<http://nolaworkers.org/2019/07/07/cops-corporations-out-of-pride-stonewall-means-fight-back/>

Posted on July 7, 2019

Cops & Corporations Out of Pride! Stonewall Means Fight Back!

By Sally Jane Black



Take Back Pride March celebrates the revolutionary LGBTQ movement.

In an effort to destroy the heroic history of the Stonewall rebellion on its 50th anniversary, the city rolled out New Orleans Pride with floats sponsored by corporations like G.E. (one of the world's largest arms dealers), Walmart (currently funding the attacks on reproductive rights), Walgreens (with a policy of allowing their pharmacists to refuse to serve LGBTQ patients), and Shell (9th largest polluter in the world). They celebrated the police and the U.S. military, rather than the fight against capitalist patriarchy that is the root of LGBTQ oppression. They partied while currently LGBTQ access to housing, education, healthcare,

homeless shelters, public bathrooms, and jobs are all under attack.

"Many of the corporate sponsors of Pride, including Shell, have contributed to the destruction of traditional homelands and the ways of life of Louisiana's coastal indigenous communities, while police have always targeted and harassed us," said local indigenous activist George, who spoke at the protest.

"As a two-spirit indigenous person it was vital for me to march against the involvement of these groups in Pride. Queerness is an essential part of Native culture, and we should be free to celebrate that without the

presence of those of who have colonized and oppressed us.”

The Take Back Pride March of LGBTQ people and allies from around the city stood up against the appropriation of the struggle. The marchers spoke out against the ongoing murders of trans women of color in and out of police and ICE custody, against the attacks on LGBTQ rights, and against the other attacks on workers in New Orleans. At the core of their demands was a

reclamation of Pride from the hands of those who have turned it into nothing more than a platform for making money off the LGBTQ community. Marches to Take Back Pride from corporations and cops were held all over the south and the rest of the country.

While most participants in the parade were there to celebrate their identity, many were unaware that behind the scenes, the corporate sponsors of the parade work with the right wing forces to attack that identity.



June 28, 2019, marked the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, a rebellion by LGBTQ people fighting police violence and oppression.

So the New Orleans Workers Group sponsored a Take Back Pride March. As the New Orleans Pride parade approached, protesters, holding banners demanding cops and corporations out of Pride, stepped in the way of the massive truck carrying members of local law enforcement and Mayor Cantrell. Nearby, members of the city council were forced to wait in their cars as the parade ground to a halt. Leaflets explaining corporate ties were given out to parade goers.

As the police proved when they swarmed the protesters, their purpose at the parade was not LGBTQ liberation but to protect rich politicians and the major tourist attraction that is New Orleans Pride. They were there to protect property over people, including the white supremacist statues that are so prominent in the French Quarter.

Organizers of Take Back Pride vowed to continue this struggle.

From Anti-Conquista

<https://anticonquista.com/2017/10/12/communism-isnt-just-for-dusty-old-white-people/>

Communism Isn't Just for Dusty Old White People



Carlos Cruz Mosquera, October 12, 2017



We've all been to communist meetings where one-foot-in-the-grave white people made up the majority in attendance.

They're stepping up their game, too. Not too long ago, I was invited by young Black activists to a communist meeting only to find the ghost-like feeble militants creeping around in the shadows — pulling the strings, of course.

It has to be admitted that communism in the West needs urgent updating. Not only in terms of its age and racial makeup, but also its outdated ideas about class struggle.

It's precisely their stubborn adherence to an out-of-date version of communist ideology that keeps younger people and people of color from joining, pushing them towards more liberal tendencies.

The idea of a universal working class continues to dominate communist narratives in the West, sweeping important nuances under the rug. One of the most obvious defects is the question of race and racism. Whenever racism is even mentioned, Western communists are quick to dismiss it as a tactic used by the ruling classes to "divide the workers."

The racism and chauvinism that is so common within the white working class in the West is misleadingly explained away as "ignorance" and a "lack of class consciousness." The real material benefits and privileges that are at stake and that lie at the root of white supremacist attitudes in imperialist countries are completely ignored or even denied.

Tied to their basic understanding of race and racism, many First World communists, like liberals, continue to believe that white people, too, can be victims of racism. Their racial-imperialist privilege does not allow them to see that racism today is much more complex than name calling and simple prejudice of one's skin color.

This inability of understanding race, racism and its imperialist underpinnings also means that non-white people are used by communists, just like all other leftists and liberals in the West do, as token members who rarely assume leadership positions.

The obvious disdain for the Global South and its diaspora in the West is not just limited to patronizing their low-ranking members and newspaper-selling foot soldiers either. Third World socialist leaders like Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Bolivian

President Evo Morales, for example, are often even dismissed as mere “populists.” And it’s not just the openly Eurocentric and dogmatic Trotskyists who are guilty of this.

By maintaining this narrow and Eurocentric version of communism, Western communists help to obscure the material privileges that are being granted to the white working class (as well as a portion of diasporic communities) through the global capitalist divide in the distribution of wealth.

By downplaying and sometimes even denying Western economic parasitism, First World communists give the white working class credit for “achievements” which were really gained from stealing huge surplus value from workers in the Third World.

Tony Norfield, a British Marxist economist, demonstrated that the National Health Service, which the British left upholds as a working class achievement, was funded and maintained through Britain’s colonial economy after WWII. This was done by effectively looting their colonies before their independence. This is just one example of how the Western capitalist core has “compromised” with its working classes, giving them social concessions funded by imperialism and guaranteeing peace between them.

Communist groups in the West have claimed that the above analysis of today’s global capitalist structure is

“revisionist.” The reality is, however, that there’s nothing more revisionist than denying the existence of a global capitalist divide and the imperialist handouts given to the West’s working classes. Ironically, the concessions given to the working class in the West has helped to water down communism there, detectable in their evermore reformist demands.

The failure to properly address the racial hierarchy and geographic divide that exists within capitalism only helps to discourage people of color in the West from studying Marxism and joining the communist movement.

The accusations by liberal and identity politics activists that Marxism and communism are inescapably Eurocentric is inaccurate. But if this revolutionary science is to capture the minds and spirit of the diasporic masses, then it must be seized from the decrepit hands that wish to hoard and harm it.

ANTICONQUISTA, the African People’s Socialist Party and our comrades at Anti-Imperialism.org are proof that communism is not just for dusty old white people who cling on to its 19th Century form. The diaspora and genuine communists in the West are marching swiftly toward reunification with the Third World to bring about a world-wide communist revolution.

Comments:

There is much that is good and correct in this article. There is no doubt that there are many groups that call themselves communist that do not recognize the crucial importance of racism and national oppression. This is especially true in the U.S., which was built on the near genocide of the native peoples to gain their land and the kidnapping of millions of African slaves (and the rape of women) for their labor power.

Lenin clearly saw that racism is not just a tool to “divide the workers,” but that it was a consequence of imperialism, which divides the world into a handful of civilized nations and the vast majority of the oppressed. He also recognized the bribery of the labor aristocracy.

In his Preface to the French and German Editions of *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, he wrote:

“Capitalism has now singled out a *handful*... of exceptionally rich and powerful states which plunder the whole world simply by “clipping coupons.” Capital exports yield an income of eight to ten billion francs per annum.... Obviously, out of such enormous *super-profits* (since they are obtained over and above the profits which capitalists squeeze out of the workers of their “own” country) it is *possible to bribe* the labour leaders and the upper stratum of the labour aristocracy. And the

capitalists of the “advanced” countries are bribing them; they bribe them in a thousand different ways, direct and indirect, overt and covert.”

Stalin pointed out in *Foundations of Leninism*:

“Formerly, the national question was usually confined to a narrow circle of questions, concerning, primarily, ‘civilised’ nationalities.... The scores and hundreds of millions of Asiatic and African peoples who are suffering national oppression in its most savage and cruel form usually remained outside of their field of vision. They hesitated to put white and black, “civilised” and “uncivilised” on the same plane....

“Leninism laid bare this crying incongruity, broke down the wall between whites and blacks, between Europeans and Asiatics, between the “civilised” and “uncivilised” slaves of imperialism, and thus linked the national question with the question of the colonies. The national question was thereby transformed from a particular and internal state problem into a general and international problem, into a world problem of emancipating the oppressed peoples in the dependent countries and colonies from the yoke of imperialism....

“f) The victory of the working class in the developed countries and the liberation of the oppressed peoples

from the yoke of imperialism are impossible without the formation and the consolidation of a common revolutionary front.

“(g) The formation of a common revolutionary front is impossible unless the proletariat of the oppressor nations renders direct and determined support to the liberation movement of the oppressed peoples against the imperialism of its ‘own country,’ for ‘no nation can be free if it oppresses other nations’ (*Engels*).”

There is no doubt that these quotes are just as applicable to oppressed nations and nationalities *within* the imperialist countries as they are to the colonial and dependent countries (although this is a position that must still be struggled out).

It took over a decade for the CPUSA to recognize this, until finally, with the help of the Communist International, it got over the view of the old Socialist Party that it had no special demands for Black people (see, for instance, Harry Haywood’s *Black Bolshevik*). That many communist groups today have gone back on this question shows the influence of revisionism, which is itself at least in part a consequence of imperialist bribery.

George Gruenthal

An old white communist who doesn’t consider himself dusty.

Further, particularly today, when Black, Latino, immigrant and other oppressed workers form a large and militant part of the U.S. working class, where many local workers groups are largely led by people from oppressed nationalities, and where the genuine Marxist-Leninist forces on a world scale include important parties in Asia, Africa and Latin America, there is no excuse for chauvinist attitudes in the communist movement.

On the other hand, Marxism-Leninism is a science, and its ideology is universal, even if its application is somewhat different in oppressed and oppressor nations. Therefore it is incorrect to speak of “First World” and “Third World” Marxist-Leninists. And within a communist party or pre-party organization there can be no separation between white and oppressed nationality cadre. Of course, chauvinist views among white cadre (as well as narrow nationalist views among oppressed nationality cadre) must continue to be fought.

Would it not help if the comrades of Anti-Conquista and other similar groups would take the lead in the struggle to build a genuine multinational communist organization?



Regardless of one’s view of the class nature of China today, there should be no doubt about the reactionary character of the recent demonstrations in Hong Kong.

Tlaib and Omar: A watershed moment in the struggle against imperialism and racism



Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar

On Aug. 17, 2019, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib stood in front of a crowd in her hometown of Detroit. The event was technically a public Shabbat called by the progressive Jewish community. However, a diverse and multinational crowd attended to show their support for the congresswoman.

The most powerful aspect about Congresswoman Tlaib's appearance was that she shouldn't have been there at all. She should have been visiting her grandmother, Muftiya, who lives in a small village in the occupied territory of the West Bank.

Since 1967, the apartheid state of Israel has violently and illegally occupied the entirety of the West Bank. For the past fifty-plus years, Palestinians in the West Bank have lived and struggled under the oppressive yoke of U.S. imperialism in the form of Israeli racism. Muftiya is one of such brave Palestinians.

So, why was Congresswoman Tlaib not in the West Bank?

Tlaib had originally planned to visit her grandmother after she completed a diplomatic mission to the region with her fellow progressive congresswoman, Ilhan Omar. In recent weeks, both

congresswomen have been under a vicious attack from the right for their alleged "anti-semitic" positions. As we have previously written, these attacks are no more than a smokescreen to silence critiques of Israel's racist and genocidal policies.

Conspicuously enough, these same voices crying anti-semitism at Omar and Tlaib were silent when a private prison correctional officer drove a truck through a crowd of Jewish people demonstrating against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement concentration camps.

As the right-wing war of words against Omar and Tlaib reached a fever pitch, the fascist leader of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced both congresswomen would be barred from entering Israel. Significantly, the Israeli government made this decision at the urging of the United States' own demagogue, President Donald J. Trump.

After a public outcry against the decision, Israel rescinded its decision to bar Omar and Tlaib, but only under the condition that neither congresswoman expressed support for the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement — colloquially known as "BDS." The BDS

movement has been a crucial force in bringing attention to Israeli apartheid.

Much to her credit, the congresswoman rejected this insulting condition, stating, “Visiting my grandmother under these oppressive conditions meant to humiliate me would break my grandmother’s heart.” This statement is indicative of an important political moment for the progressive struggle in this country and around the globe. Congresswoman Tlaib’s statement was an expression of nothing less than international working-class solidarity, and not just with her grandmother, but with all people suffering under U.S. imperialism and, in particular, Israeli apartheid.

This development is a groundbreaking one in terms of the political discourse in the U.S. The rise of two Muslim progressive congresswomen who are willing to take on the issue of Israel and Palestine in an honest and material way is unprecedented.

That is not to say that the Democratic Party transformed overnight into an anti-imperialist force. It is just to say that the contributions of Omar and Tlaib in the movement against U.S. imperialism and Israeli apartheid should not be ignored. Ultimately, their existence and rise to influence must be called what it is: a victory gained through the struggle of the working class against the wealthy at home and abroad.

Leon Koufax is a Jewish communist from Baltimore who participated in the Embassy Protection Collective’s defense of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Financed by the U.S., the Dictatorships in South America Killed Thousands



Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo denounce the kidnapping of their grandchildren

“In 1964, Che Guevara showed me, in his office in Havana, that Batista's Cuba was not merely sugar: the Imperium's blind fury against the revolution was better explained, he thought, by Cuba's big deposits of nickel and manganese.”

In this short passage from the classic *Open Veins of Latin America*, the Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, starting from Che's Marxist view, reinforced the point that the economic basis of the capitalist system ultimately determines politics. That is, behind the political-ideological action of the ruling classes are their nefarious financial interests, the unrestrained pursuit of profit, and the exploitation of the natural resources of the oppressed nations and the labor power of the working class.

It was with these objectives that the United States, after World War II, financed coups d'état to overthrow democratically elected governments and to establish military dictatorships in South and Central America.

Please excuse us for a longer quote from Galeano, so that there will be no doubt about what we want to say about the coups in Brazil and our neighboring countries:

“The wealth of iron beneath Brazil's Paraopeba valley overthrew two presidents – Jânio Quadros and João Goulart – before Marshal Castelo Branco, who made himself dictator in 1964, graciously handed it over to the Hanna Mining Company. An earlier friend of the U.S. ambassador, President Eurico Dutra (1946-1951), had handed Bethlehem Steel the 40 million tons of manganese in the state of Amapá – one of the world's biggest deposits – for 4 percent of the income from exporting it. Since then Bethlehem has been moving the mountains to the United States so enthusiastically that in fifteen years' time Brazil may have no manganese for its

own steel industry. Furthermore, thanks to the generosity of the Brazilian government, \$88 of each \$100 Bethlehem invests in mineral extraction are tax exempt, in the name of ‘regional development.’

“In Bolivia, the Matilde mine contains lead, silver, and abundant zinc twelve times more pure than that in U.S. mines; between massacres of miners, dictator René Barrientos, who seized power in 1964, handed it over to Phillips Industries. The firm was authorized to remove the crude zinc for processing in its refineries abroad, paying the state no less than 1.5 percent of the sale value. In Peru in 1968, page 11 of the agreement which President Fernando Belaúnde Terry had signed with a Standard Oil affiliate was mysteriously lost; General Juan Velasco Alvarado overthrew Belaúnde, took the reins, and nationalized the firm's wells and refinery. In Venezuela, the largest U.S. military mission in Latin America sits on Standard and Gulf's great petroleum take. Argentina's frequent coups d'état erupt before or after each offer of oil concessions. Copper was a far from minor factor in the Pentagon's disproportionate military aid to Chile before the electoral victory of Salvador Allende's left coalition; U.S. copper reserves had fallen by more than 60 percent between 1965 and 1969.” (Op. Cit., p. 135-136)

A History of Dictatorships

The first dictatorship [after the Second World War – *translator's note*] in South America with U.S. fingers on it was that of Paraguay in 1954, with Alfredo Stroessner toppling President Federico Chavez, an anti-IMF populist politician. Stroessner was elected through fraud, which prevented an opposing slate in the election. Once in power, all parties were closed down and only the

Colorado Party ran the sole candidate for president, Stroessner. He remained in power until 1989, the longest dictatorship on the continent, lasting 35 years. His base of support was the agricultural oligarchy. The United States made Paraguay a laboratory for its National Security Doctrine.

In 1959 came the victory of the Cuban Revolution the United States tightened its grip on the Americas. It would not allow a new Cuba to arise by any means, the profits of the industrial monopolies had to be increased and the natural wealth appropriated.

In 1946, U.S. imperialism had already created the School of the Americas, with the objective of training instigators of military coups and dictators. In 1961, under the pretext of building cooperation in order to develop Latin America and combat communism, the Alliance for Progress was created, whose real objective was to closely control possible revolutionary movements or any workers' actions that contradicted the interests of the capitalists.

In 1964, two dictatorships came to power in South America, both with direct intervention by the armed forces and the U.S. government: in Brazil and Bolivia. These military governments then adopted policies of privatization, eliminated labor rights, banned strikes, massacred students, criminalized communists and invited in foreign companies interested in cheap labor.

Attempts at resistance by Bolivian miners and workers were harshly repressed. In October 1967, in the region near the village of Vallegrande, the revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara, who commanded a guerrilla struggle to liberate Bolivia from the dictatorship, was arrested and executed.

In one of the short-term successes of military presidents in Bolivia, General Juan Jose Torres, a democratically oriented military officer, took over. In August 1971, Brazil's then-dictator president Emilio Garrastazu Medici offered General Torres' opponents all logistical support for a coup (weapons, planes, mercenaries, places to set up military training areas on Brazilian soil near the border, etc.). The coup, led by General Hugo Banzer, overthrew Torres and increased repression against the people, banning the trade union movement, suspending all civil rights and sending troops to the mining centers to stifle strikes.

In 1968, it was Peru's turn. General Velasco Alvarado led the coup that overthrew President Fernando Belaunde and took power. This was the response of the elites to the growth of the popular movements, such as "Tierra o Muerte" ("Land or Death"), with more than 300,000 peasants who since 1963 had occupied the land that had been taken over by the landowners. Only in the late 1970s would the country return to presidential

elections, from which successive victorious corrupt governments emerged.

In 1973, Uruguay and Chile suffered coups d'état. In Uruguay, the coup was already planned due to the possible electoral victory of General Liber Seregni, candidate of the Broad Front (formed by left and center left parties). But Juan Maria Bordaberry was elected, who as president on June 27 closed the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies with the support of the Armed Forces, announcing the creation of a State Council to replace the parliament.

This was followed by years of intense repression of the people and their organizations, such as the Tupamaros National Liberation Movement (MLN-T), which recently had its story told in the film *A Night of 12 Years*. Only in 1985 would the country return to a democratic transition.

In Chile, the democratically elected president Salvador Allende, supported by the Popular Unity (an alliance of several leftist parties), was trying to implement some reforms in order to reduce the extreme inequality of the country. Allende, however, was not a revolutionary; he defended "socialism by the democratic road".

However, on the "accusation" that the president was a communist, on September 11, 1973, the Palacio La Moneda [the president's residence] was bombed by the military, resulting in the death of President Allende himself, who resisted with a rifle in his hand. General Augusto Pinochet seized power and implemented a genocidal policy, which included, for example, mass shootings in football stadiums.

Only in 1990 would the military retire from power, leaving behind a trail of blood and almost two decades of faithful application of the neoliberal economic project ordered by the U.S., which keeps Chile subordinated to the United States to this day.

In Argentina, the coup took place on March 24, 1976. Until 1983, thousands of militants were thrown alive into the sea from airplanes (the "death flights"); 340 concentration camps were created in which "subversive" workers were punished and condemned to slavery; nearly 2,000 people have been proven killed and 30,000 others are missing, leaving behind orphaned children, desperate fathers and mothers. As if that were not enough, more than 500 babies were taken from their families to be handed over to the military and then given a "good" education. To this day, the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" and "Grandparents of the Plaza de Mayo" movements have struggled to identify the kidnapped babies, having succeeded in 126 cases.

The first president of the Argentine military dictatorship was General Jorge Rafael Videla. On November 22, 2010 he was tried and sentenced to life

imprisonment for crimes against humanity and died in jail at age 87 on May 17, 2013.

Brazil: fascism never again!

On December 10, 2014 (World Human Rights Day), the National Truth Commission (CNV) presented its final report to Brazilian society. The CNV officially declared that there were 434 people killed (of these, 210 are still missing) by the military dictatorship in Brazil, but the list is much larger.

According to the Commission's own survey, it is estimated that more than 8,350 indigenous people were killed in massacres, land grabs, forced evictions, contagion from infectious diseases, arrests, torture and ill-treatment, all in a study that only looked at ten ethnicities. There was also a massacre of peasants: the CNV counted almost 1,200 dead, surely less than the real number. Even within the Armed Forces there was a great deal of repression: about 6,600 military personnel were arrested or expelled from their units; some were killed. More than 1,200 unions were taken over by the state and dozens of student organizations, including the UNE [National Union of Educators], were closed and outlawed.

All these events proven today could have been investigated and judged after the end of the dictatorship,

as the historian José Levino pointed out in the article “A Long Night of Terror” (*A Verdade*, No. 169):

“Ignoring the struggle of the streets, the bourgeois opposition, represented by the MDB, negotiated the Amnesty Law (Law No. 6.683 / 79) with General Joao Baptista Figueiredo, which also benefitted the agents of repression, engaged in the apparatus of 'political and related crimes ', leaving out those condemned 'for the practice of crimes of terrorism, assault, kidnapping and personal attack'....

In Argentina, for example, in 1983, the same year that the dictatorship fell, the government of Raul Alfonsín set up a commission to investigate the violations that had occurred. This allowed for the condemnation of military commanders and generals who became president (dictators) Jorge Rafael Videla and Reynaldo Bignone to 50 years in prison and life imprisonment, respectively.”

The struggle for an effective Transitional Justice (right to memory, truth, justice and institutional reparations) in Brazil is therefore a current and necessary campaign. If today the President of the Republic is an apologist for the 1964 coup, by contrast, all those who defend freedom, all democrats, progressives, socialists, communists, must keep alive the slogan of punishment for the agents of dictatorship.

Sources:

Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America*, Monthly Review Press, 25th anniversary edition, 1997.

José Levino, *A Verdade*, No. 169, February 2015.

Memories of Dictatorship Project

In the name of **Communist Workers and Students for Social Change** of Puerto Rico

Revolutionary greetings to our fraternal struggling international working class.

For the first time in the history of Puerto Rico, multiclass and multiparty unity has been seen in expressing discontent over the outrage and mockery of the arrogance of the elite class represented by a governor and his system of government.

This means that the interests of the working class transcend partisan fanaticism. The unity of the working class is the only way to victory. We have to make our working people aware of the concepts of class struggle and communism, which is the only solution to these problems in this capitalist and colonial society. Only class struggle and internationalism will guarantee the defeat of capitalism, colonialism and imperialism.

On July 22, 2019 we witnessed a new level of struggle in Puerto Rico, where demonstrators have reached 750,000 to a million in the largest march that has been held in the history of the county. For the past 14 days and nights, hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have protested in violent confrontation with the tactical police force protecting the corrupt governor Ricardo Rossello. The slogan that has united us has been Ricky resign, but it is not about the resignation of the governor. The governor can be replaced by another governor the same or worse than Ricardo Rossello. He is the symptom of a degenerate corrupt society, based on inequality, racism, sexism, and homophobia (known as capitalism). Our true struggle is a class struggle against the super-exploitation that colonialism and capitalism represents for workers, whether it be by the corrupt local capitalists or foreign imperialism enterprises. It doesn't matter who is in power or in office, as long as we live in a society based on exploitation that benefits the economic interests of the rich capitalist class.

We must reflect on this because once the governor leaves, the conditions of poverty, exploitation, injustice and misery will remain. We must raise the level of consciousness of the working class beyond the immediate demands. This struggle reflects the outrage and indignation over the rampant corruption that enriches a handful of friends of the elite that governs this country; for the imposition of the PROMESA Law and the fiscal control board; for the closure of schools in favor of charter schools and poor education; for our dead in Hurricane Maria (4,645); for prejudices towards the LGBT community; for discrimination against the

poor, black, elderly, obese, immigrants people; for inadequate or almost nonexistent health care services; for the loss of pensions, for unemployment, for the so-called labor reform law; for the repossession of homes leaving thousands homeless, for the thousands who had to leave their island, and for all the austerity policies imposed, known as neoliberal policies, that impoverish our people and it is nothing else but neo-fascism.

We have heard that we live in a democracy; however the past elections were annulled by a board created in Washington and Wall Street to defend the interests of the bondholders above the interests of the Puerto Rican working class. This commission created by President Obama has a higher mandate than the Constitution, government and governor, which were "democratically elected" in the past gubernatorial elections. So much for democracy and colonialism from the champions (USA) of democracy!

We see how the struggle of those who have concealed their identities by masking themselves (encapuchados) in Venezuela against a government that was legitimately elected are called just and necessary, and yet in Puerto Rico our men and women who conceal their identities are criminalized by the same governor who lent himself to create a pro-Guaido and anti-Maduro movement in Puerto Rico against in that Latin American country, Venezuela. Hypocrites, opportunists with double morality. The protesters in Puerto Rico have the right to do as they wish, using all available means, including concealing their identities. We cannot criminalize fighting methods without taking into account the historical past during the era of repression in which people were criminalized and blacklisted by local police and FBI (COINTELPRO program). The people that conceal their identity do so to avoid persecution by the state; also for work reasons, for reasons of legal matters, to protect their family, for whatever reasons! Please respect the people who conceal their identity and do not do the work of the state and repressive forces (police, FBI, judicial system). This would be equivalent to collaborating as a state informant.

This struggle is only the beginning. Let's maintain strength, unity and focus. Take care of each other.

In revolutionary spirit! Long live communism and internationalism! The working class has no borders!

Esta canción fue compuesta por Anthar López del Partido Comunista Mejicano. Ahora es usada por varios partidos en América Latina, incluyendo el Partido Comunista Marxista-Leninista del Ecuador (PCMLE). Es mucho mejor cuando se oye con la música.

This song was composed by Anthar Lopez of the Mexican Communist Party. Now it is used by various parties in Latin America, including the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador. It is much better when heard with music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI-xVo3GhJQ>

Himno del Partido Comunista

Puedo morir como nací, sabedlo
puro, sencillo y optimista
de pie sobre la tierra como un árbol
en las filas del Partido Comunista
en las filas del Partido Comunista

Abrí sobre la tarde mi ventana
y me sentí un diestro paisajista
oh que bello es pintar para la vida
pintar para el Partido Comunista
pintar para el Partido Comunista

Aquel que amasa sangre entre las nubes
el criminal, el sádico, el guerrista
será aplastado en el mañana limpio
por el limpio Partido Comunista
por el limpio Partido Comunista

Yo quiero que mi sangre fluya fácil
siempre y a la primera vista
yo no puedo equivocarme, compañeros
mi amor es del Partido Comunista
mi amor es del Partido Comunista

Puedo morir como nací, sabedlo
puro, sencillo y optimista
de pie sobre la tierra como un árbol
en las filas del Partido Comunista
en las filas del Partido Comunista

Hymn of the Communist Party

Let me die as I was born,
pure, simple and optimistic
standing on the ground like a tree
in the ranks of the Communist Party
in the ranks of the Communist Party

In the afternoon I opened my window
and I felt like a skilled artist
oh how beautiful it is to paint for life
to paint for the Communist Party
to paint for the Communist Party

The one who sows blood among the clouds
the criminal, the sadist, the war-maker
will be crushed in the clean tomorrow
by the clean Communist Party
by the clean Communist Party

I want my blood to flow easily
always and at first sight
I can't be wrong, comrades
my love is for the Communist Party
my love is for the Communist Party

Let me die as I was born
pure, simple and optimistic
standing on the ground like a tree
in the ranks of the Communist Party
in the ranks of the Communist Party

En nombre del grupo **Trabajadores y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social** de Puerto Rico

Un saludo revolucionario fraternal a nuestra clase trabajadora y el pueblo en lucha.

Por primera vez en la historia de Puerto Rico, nunca se había visto la unidad multiclase y multipartidista en expresar indignación por la burla y la arrogancia de la clase élite representada en un gobernador y su sistema de gobierno.

Esto significa que los intereses de la clase trabajadora trasciende el fanatismo partidista. La unidad de la clase obrera es el único camino a la victoria. Tenemos que concienciar a nuestros trabajadores y trabajadoras de los conceptos de lucha de clases y el comunismo, que es la única solución a estos problemas en esta sociedad capitalista y colonial. Sólo la lucha de clases y el internacionalismo garantizarán la derrota del capitalismo, el colonialismo y el imperialismo.

El 22 de julio de 2019, fuimos testigos de un nuevo nivel de lucha en Puerto Rico, donde los manifestantes alcanzaron los 750,000 a un millón en la marcha más grande que se ha realizado en la historia del país. Por 14 días y noches consecutivos, cientos de miles de boricuas protestaron en violenta confrontación con la policía, la cual protege al gobernador corrupto Ricardo Rosselló. El lema que nos unió fue la renuncia de Ricky, pero no se trata de la renuncia del gobernador. El gobernador puede ser reemplazado por otro igual o peor que Ricardo Rossello. El es el síntoma de una sociedad corrupta degenerada, basada en la desigualdad, el racismo, el sexismo y la homofobia (conocido como capitalismo). Nuestra verdadera lucha es una lucha de clases contra la super explotación que el colonialismo y el capitalismo representan para los trabajadores. Ya sea por parte de los capitalistas locales corruptos o de las empresas imperialistas extranjeras. No importa quién esté en el poder o en el cargo, mientras vivamos en una sociedad basada en la explotación que beneficie los intereses económicos de la clase capitalista rica.

Debemos reflexionar sobre esto porque aún con la salida del gobernador, las condiciones de pobreza, explotación, injusticia y miseria permanecerán. Debemos elevar el nivel de conciencia de la clase trabajadora más allá de las demandas inmediatas. Esta lucha refleja la indignación por la corrupción desenfrenada que enriquece a un puñado de amigos de la élite que gobierna este país; por la imposición

de la Ley PROMESA y la junta de control fiscal; por el cierre de escuelas -para favorecer el establecimiento de escuelas charters, y educación deficiente; por nuestros muertos en el huracán María (4.645); por prejuicios hacia la comunidad LGBT; por la discriminación de las personas pobres, negras, ancianas, obesas, inmigrantes; por servicios de atención médica inadecuados o casi inexistentes; por la pérdida de las pensiones, por el desempleo, por la mal llamada ley de reforma laboral; por la recuperación de hogares dejando a miles de personas sin hogar, por los miles que tuvieron que abandonar su isla, y por todas las políticas de austeridad impuestas, conocidas como políticas neoliberales, que empobrecen a nuestro pueblo y no es más que el neofascismo.

Se dice que vivimos en una democracia; sin embargo, las elecciones pasadas fueron anuladas por una junta creada en Washington y Wall Street para defender los intereses de los bonistas por encima de los intereses de la clase trabajadora puertorriqueña. Esta comisión creada por el presidente Obama tiene un mandato más alto que la Constitución, el gobierno y el gobernador, que fueron "elegidos democráticamente" en las pasadas elecciones gubernamentales. ¡So much for democracy y el colonialismo de los campeones de la democracia (EUA)!

Vemos cómo la lucha de aquellos que han ocultado sus identidades al enmascararse (encapuchados) en Venezuela contra un gobierno que fue legítimamente electo es "justa y necesaria", y vistos como libertadores luchadores por la democracia. Sin embargo, en Puerto Rico nuestros hombres y mujeres que ocultan sus identidades son criminalizados por el mismo gobernador que se prestó para crear un movimiento pro Guaido y anti Maduro en Puerto Rico contra ese país latinoamericano, Venezuela. Hipócritas, oportunistas con doble moral. Los manifestantes en Puerto Rico tienen el derecho de hacer lo que deseen, utilizando todos los medios disponibles, incluso para ocultar sus identidades. No podemos criminalizar los métodos de combate sin tener en cuenta el pasado histórico durante la era de represión en el que la policía local y el FBI (programa COINTELPRO) tipificaron a las personas y las clasificaron en una lista negra. Las personas que ocultan su identidad lo

hacen para evitar la persecución por parte del estado; ¡También por razones de trabajo, por razones de asuntos legales, para proteger a su familia, o por cualquier otra razón! Respete a las personas que ocultan su identidad y no haga el trabajo del estado y las fuerzas represivas (policía, FBI, sistema judicial). Esto sería equivalente a colaborar como informante del gobierno.

Esta lucha es solo el comienzo. Mantengamos fuerza, unidad y enfoque. Cuidémonos los unos a los otros.

¡En espíritu revolucionario! ¡Que viva el comunismo y el internacionalismo! ¡La clase obrera no tiene fronteras!