

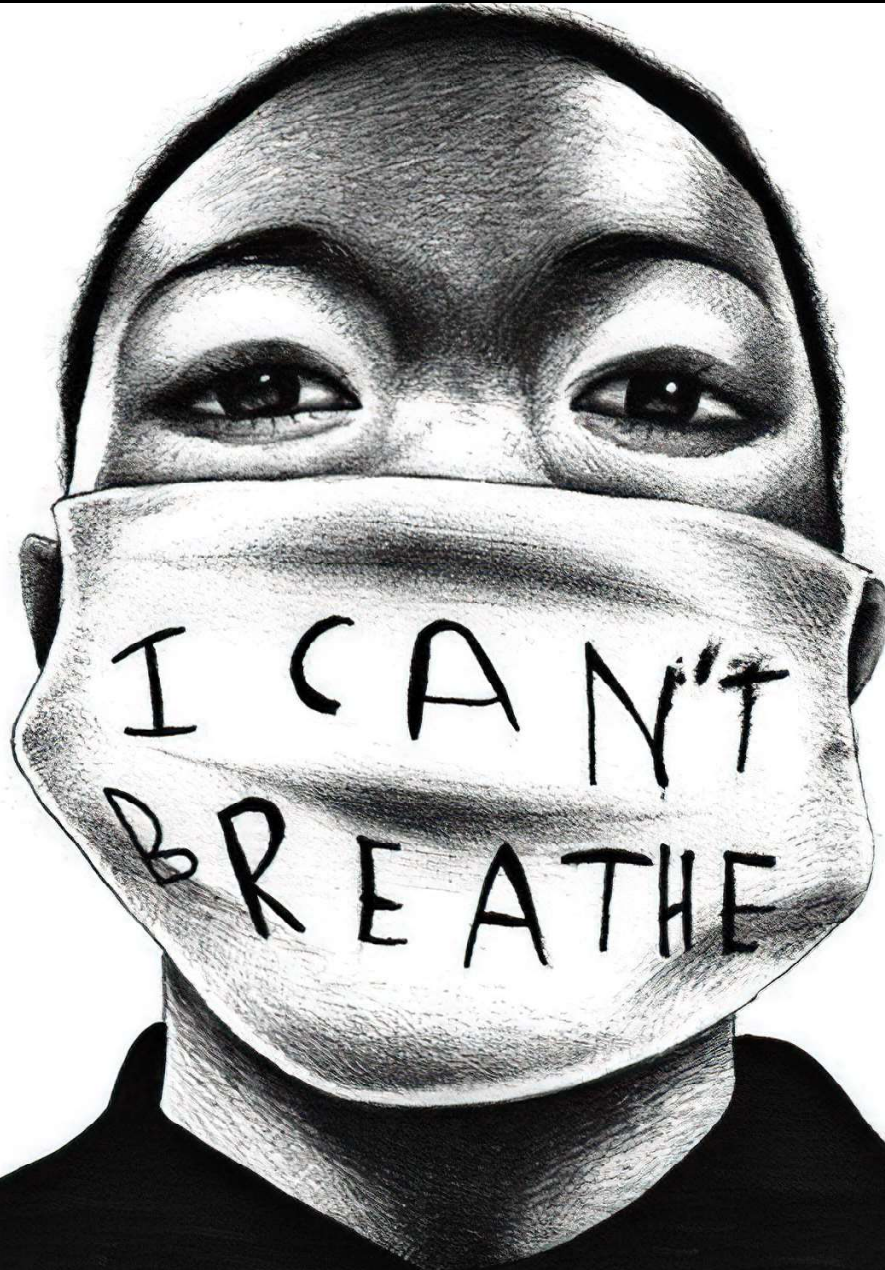


# THE RED PHOENIX

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AmericanPartyofLabor.org ★ Issue #15 ★ July / August 2020 ★ Suggested Donation: \$2.00



**IT WON'T STOP  
UNTIL WE STOP IT!**

# "A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE, AND IT'S BECAUSE OF CAPITALISM" FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS FROM FLORIDA

By Kallista Mirobel, July 20, 2020

As Governor Ron DeSantis prepares to fully reopen the state of Florida in spite of the surging number of cases in the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of workers across Florida who have already been on the front lines of the virus's first wave brace for yet another one as the death toll worldwide numbers over 600,000. While the economy slowly twists its gears back into motion in spite of the toll the virus has already taken, we've asked a few workers who have been directly impacted by the response to COVID-19 to tell their stories of the pandemic and the conditions on Florida, the national epicenter of the virus at the moment.

Iris, a shift leader for a regional retail chain, spoke briefly on the state's response to the outbreak since it began: "The country failed its citizens and waited too long to take action and the action they took wasn't enough. The whole country should have been shut down for a month when everything first happened, we wouldn't even be having this conversation if it did." In Europe where measures like this were taken, like Italy, COVID-19 active cases have plummeted, while in the US we reach new highs each day.

Alex, a former apprentice electrician before the outbreak, described their experience in more detail when asked how the pandemic had affected them personally "I was laid off from my job because of it. With 11 other people. And now I'm working part time, I got sick with the cold, or with something that wasn't COVID because I didn't have a fever or anything. I mean it's possible that it was COVID, but I haven't gotten my test results back because the [system] is so congested."

As the Trump administration and Governor DeSantis continue to impede proper reporting of the virus statistics in an effort to speed back into reopening the country and the state, the effects of their meddling are felt by those who are most at risk of being exposed to virus. Reporting on the convoluted and difficult process to be tested for COVID-19, Alex said, "It's been at least 7 days, I still haven't gotten my results back. Trying to get a test was very difficult, because they only let you schedule a test a couple of days in advance. So I had to watch the CVS website after midnight to get an appointment two days in advance, and they would book up pretty quick. The ones at Centracare and AdventHealth were cancelling people's appointments I guess, going on priority. So sometimes COVID tests would be pushed back. And when I called them they told me to stay home because I didn't have a fever. They just said don't come."

Finally, Sara, a retail worker who came down with a case of COVID at the beginning of the outbreak offered shared an extended narrative of their experiences with the virus, and the lonely, helpless feeling that came with its most severe symptoms.

"I tried to come in but I could barely breathe. My body ached like no flu I had ever had before, my stomach was so inflamed that I couldn't eat.

At the time coronavirus wasn't publicized that it was already in the US, so when I went to the ER, I assumed it was flu and strep- until I tested negative for both. I could tell the doctors and nurses were all acting different, they knew it was coronavirus. They gave me the highest doses of antibiotics they could, promethazine, anti-nausea, anti-diarrheal, anything to ease my pain. Unfortunately- none of that worked.

For 3 1/2 weeks I could barely walk, breathe, eat. I lost 12 pounds and endured the most pain and misery of my entire life. I have a genetic mutation that makes me immunocompromised- it makes it very hard for my body to fight off illness and even process my vitamins properly. My body was barely hanging on. I remember not even having the strength to cry. All I could do is pray to God, the universe, anything out there to please take away my suffering.

It was so lonely, I quarantined away from my family, my boyfriend, my best friend for weeks because of how fearful I was that they would ever have to suffer like I did. Even after my "flu-like" symptoms went away my breathing is still affected to this day. I lost my sense of smell and taste for weeks after. I don't breathe like I used to and often get out of breath easily. I'm terrified of ever getting sick again, which makes it difficult on my anxiety to go to work or go out to stores."

Reflecting on where things went wrong in Florida, Sara identified willful ignorance and overconfidence as chief catalysts in the Florida disaster: "The virus is incredibly contagious, so it is no doubt that if people return to their normal routines they will be susceptible. I think people were getting antsy being in their house for so long. They felt since stores were reopening they could get together with their friends and colleagues again and it would be fine. All it takes is one person who has the virus, whether they

are asymptomatic or not, to transmit it to you. The ripple effect starts and you give it to someone else. In early February I caught the virus from my coworkers. It wasn't long before our whole office had to almost close down due to everyone being deathly sick..."

"Some of them would never recover. I saw tons of people lose their jobs, their money, their lives crumble. I pray for the people of the world and that we can all heal from this. It breaks my heart."

This ignorance caused immediate and real human tragedy, and Sara reckoned this during her own sickness and financial difficulties. "I remember thinking that I didn't want anyone to know what this felt like, but thousands of other people were sick like me. Some of them would never recover. I saw tons of people lose their jobs, their money, their lives crumble. I pray for the people of the world and that we can all heal from this. It breaks my heart."

Since beginning to reopen bars, beaches, and other entertainment venues after their original closing, DeSantis has repeatedly shrugged off the increases in numbers, grossly attributing them to minority workers in the agricultural industry, prison inmates, and even simply testing people more. Many on the ground, however, disagree with the Governor's dismissals, having seen first hand what such a lax pandemic response looks like for the rest of the population. To Iris, "Reopening for memorial weekend and the state as a whole taking action." was responsible for the surging number of infections. Alex also noted, "I think the fact that people can't get out of work, and exposing themselves; the fact that people are gonna have to go to schools now and they don't have a choice in it."

Alex went on afterwards, speaking frankly about whether the state reopened too soon. "Yes, We are now the world's epicenter for COVID-19. Cases are rising every day, they're going to open schools, and everyone's going to get sick. A lot of people are gonna die from it. Teachers, students, and their families. All within months or weeks of each other, someone could lose their mom, their dad, their grandparents, aunts and uncles, just imagine that kind of loss."

Sara added, "I think the state assumed that people would still try to stay home as best they could and quarantine. But unfortunately tons of people haven't made any effort to stay home or even wear a mask. Wearing a mask is just courteous to the elderly, diabetics, pregnant women, people who have all sorts of problems that make them more susceptible. People need to remember we are fighting a VIRUS! Let's think in terms of human rights, their right to life. To be protected. They didn't ask to be immunocompromised and they don't deserve to be locked away in their homes for months on end."

In words that echo the sentiment of many of the "essential" and "non-essential" workers across the country, Florida workers share common anxieties over what the next several months have in store. Since Capitalism's ethos is driven by its profit motive before the sanctity of the lives of their workers, more and more businesses are deciding to move forward in spite of the human toll their actions take moving forward. While many business owners are desperate to restart their means of survival, the people who make up the foundation of their survival find fewer avenues to avoid the economic pressure. For those who have been infected by the virus especially, the common sentiments of the effects of COVID being over-exaggerated or outright false aren't just ignorant, but actively harmful.

Worldwide, millions are still reeling from the impact of the pandemic, like Sara, Alex, and Iris. From heads of state to the poorest of every nation, there are few who could honestly testify to being wholly unaffected by the growing crisis. While we brace for another wave in America while other nations tepidly move forward passed the initial outbreak, it's crucial we remember the impact that the ongoing crisis has on those who risk their health and lives at the lowest echelons of society. As Alex poignantly said, "It's involuntary, the spread of the virus, it's a result of capitalism. Covid and the response to it is a symptom of the disease."



An elderly woman returns from shopping in Miami, Florida.



## AUSTERITY, IMPERIALISM AT THE HEART OF BEIRUT DISASTER



Ground Zero of the Beirut Explosion

By E. Nesbitt on August 6, 2020

On Tuesday, August 4th, a massive explosion comparable in its explosive power to a low yield nuclear gravity bomb, erupted in the Port of Beirut, Lebanon, killing at least 137 people and wounding more than 5,000. The explosion is sourced from a cargo ship fire in the city's port igniting a nearby silo full of the industrial fertilizer and explosive precursor ammonium nitrate. Government officials had been aware of the precarious placement of the incendiary cargo for several years but did not act to secure it or to transport it away from the bustling port. Donald Trump has weighed in on the explosion after "observing initial intelligence reports" (a video on the internet, like the rest of us) as saying "It looks like a bomb." Global sympathy has been given to the people of Lebanon at a time when many are desperate not for sympathy alone, but for truth and justice.

This tragedy comes at a time of acute crisis for Lebanon, on top of the global health and economic crisis emanating from capitalism's haphazard response to COVID-19. Lebanon is one of the most import-dependent countries in the world. As of 2018, Lebanon imported \$21 billion worth of commercial goods and exported only \$3.6 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$17.4 billion. Lebanon's trade is structurally negative with a business culture extremely receptive to free trade and a laissez-faire approach to government regulation of the economy. The effects of Lebanon's 15 year-long civil war left a structural impact on Lebanon's productive capacity as does continued aggression from its imperialist neighbor Israel, most notably in 1995 and 2016 during Operation Grapes of Wrath and the 2016 July War.

The explosion occurred when the long-awaited verdict of the trial on the assassination of former President Rafiq Hariri was impending. Hezbollah had been accused of assassinating Hariri to promote a pro-Syrian government while Hezbollah challenges this assertion by accusing Israel of the assassination as a pretext for demanding Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and for increased annexations on Lebanon's southern frontier. The burgeoning crisis in Beirut has already been seized upon by Israel, who has promised to bring "humanitarian aid" to a country it has repeatedly destroyed, a classic imperialist dog whistle. The explosion comes but a week after border skirmishes between the IDF and Hezbollah, wherein Israel accused Hezbollah of provocative activity and Hezbollah asserting that Israel fabricated the threat to justify renewed operations into Lebanon.

As the value of the damage ranges between 3 to 5 billion dollars, a warehouse storing essential medical supplies for the COVID-19 crisis has been destroyed, and up to 300,000 people have been made homeless by the blast, 50% of the population of Lebanon living under the poverty line with an unemployment rate of nearly 40% and a refugee crisis from wars in Syria and Palestine, Lebanon is today, a wounded nation. Suffering and exploitation has been compounded severely and the masses of the toilers of Lebanon and of the world demand answers and justice for this outrageous incident that appears to be the result of the gross mismanagement of waste endemic to the bureaucracy and corruption of the capitalist system. Much like the Grenfell tower fire in the UK, and the deadly surge of COVID-19 in the USA, austerity and capitalist profit-seeking continues to trade human lives for corporate profit, and it is the working class who pays the most. The Lebanese Communist party has released its condolences to the victims of the explosion and calls for an immediate investigation into the cause of the explosion, a demand echoed the world over.

**Down with capitalism!**

**Invest and protect the people, not corporations!**

**Solidarity with Lebanon!**

## CHICAGO TEACHERS FIGHT BACK, AND WIN, AGAINST RECKLESS REOPENING



Chicago Teachers Union During Their Strike In Late-2019

By J. Palamedas, August 5, 2020

As school districts and universities across the country are being pressured into opening by Trump, and even liberal ally Anthony Fauci, teachers in Chicago have already begun to fight back, and win, against school administrators and reckless reopening. The Chicago Public School system announced today that it will now be fully remote at the beginning of the fall semester, after the CTU threatened to strike for the second time within the calendar year. In October 2019, the CTU struck for a record 11 days against democratic Mayor Lori Lightfoot's austerity and disproportionate funding of policing over education and services. The struggle over education and job safety has been compounded by the abuse of Chicago activists by police throughout the George Floyd movement, and Lightfoot's refusal to defund the Chicago Police, even in a token fashion, the only city of "the big three" (New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago) to refuse to do so.

The Mayor has been quick to villainize teachers for being selfish, hoping to play on the anger of parents for having to organize childcare for their children as in-person school is cancelled. Alex Forgue, a science teacher in the CTU, disputed this claim, saying that "Only 20% of CPS families said they were willing to send their children back into school. Don't believe the narrative pushed by the mayor that the fight to go remote was the result of 'selfish teachers...' The union fought to represent the wishes and concerns from families and not our own interests."

"Only 20% of CPS families said they were willing to send their children back into school. Don't believe the narrative pushed by the mayor that the fight to go remote was the result of 'selfish teachers.'" // Alex Forgue, CTU Member

Popular conservative narratives have also rendered teachers as lazy, or a coddled elite, which Forgue rejected explicitly: "Teaching remote is harder than teaching in person. We want to go back, we want to see our students again, but we cannot risk the lives of our students and families. Closing schools is not an easy decision nor is it ideal. This pandemic is not ideal and the closings of schools is required to get us back in the classroom sooner than later." Indeed, initial re-openings have already faced infections, one on the first day, and unmasked, packed hallways and classrooms.

Teachers outside K-12 have also faced unprecedented exploitation and uncertainty during the pandemic and are statistically less likely to have a union. As a university teacher, I have been offered a free living will should I be incapacitated by the virus, and a discount on regular wills should I die. Enrollments have plummeted, endangering the livelihoods of contingent teachers, and some schools have even kept teachers out of closing plans—The University of Texas, Austin, for example, will only close down if a student dies, not a faculty member. At one school, I will not receive my contract until weeks into the semester, an exploitative practice that creates perpetual job insecurity.

Yet, of course, teachers are just the latest group of workers to be forced into dangerous situations for capitalist profit. Workers around the country in the service industries, predominantly people of color, have long been endangered, causing higher rates of infections in those populations. These battles cannot be won exclusively within the spaces of organized labor, as millions of teachers, and hundreds of millions of workers across the country, are not unionized. Yet, as we have seen with the wildcat teachers strikes in West Virginia, Oklahoma, and elsewhere, organized labor can be an inspiration and a model for workers of all kinds across the country and outside the traditional "red-blue" boundary.

The CTU has set a strong example in their swift victory over unsafe working conditions, one workers across the country can look to as the fight against trading human lives for profit continues in the second wave of the Coronavirus. As we approach a contested election, the intensification of the COVID-19 crisis, and Washington's continued inability to deliver basic pandemic coverage like \$600 unemployment boosts and universal healthcare, this example of struggle and organization should figure strongly into our thinking as workers and organizers. When workers stand together, and put each other before profit margins, we are stronger than any other political force in the country.

# GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH REIGNITES UPRISING: FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS FROM HOOVER, ALABAMA

**By: Jay Hyde, Red Phoenix Correspondent, Alabama**  
**July 22, 2020**

As George Floyd's murder at the hands of the police is igniting uprisings across America, and creating international solidarity and demonstrations in opposition to police violence abroad, protests against the Hoover Police Department over the murder of Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr. have hit a new fever pitch. In 2018, Bradford was slain by police on the night of Thanksgiving, at the Riverchase Galleria Mall in Hoover, Alabama. Police responded to a shooting at the mall where two individuals had been shot. Another African American man suspected in the first shooting was arrested in Georgia a week later and charged in the shooting of those injured. Bradford was holding a legally owned weapon when shot and was not involved in the prior shooting incident, although he was near the crime scene. The shooting of Bradford was immediately controversial, and was condemned by the Alabama National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as an example of racially biased policing. The officers were placed on administrative leave.

Protests began the following day, but have come back with a new explosion of daily organized solidarity among Black Lives Matter and allies as a united front against police brutality against the community. Chants of "Hoover killed E.J." were thunderous throughout the crowd of hundreds, as I stood in front of a Black Lives Matter demonstration at the Birmingham Police Department steps on the day of May 31, 2020. Clashes with the police against peaceful protesters have only intensified across the state since that time.

We spoke to two people who were at the Hoover protests for their insights into the upsurge in protest movements in areas like Alabama: the first, Bre, a 28 year old Hoover local involved in activist work throughout, the second, Deanna, a 28 year old mother of two.

**The Red Phoenix:** Why were you protesting that day?

**Bre:** Generally speaking, I was protesting the systemic racism throughout the country within police departments. Specifically, the systemic racism and cover-ups happening inside Hoover PD on a daily basis. They are covering up for EJ Bradford's murderer and refuse to cooperate with the public. As our protests went on, my focus grew to include addressing Hoover PD's blatant disregard for constitutional rights of protesters. Watching the mistreatment and intimidation of protesters on the daily grew my disdain for the department and city as a whole. The mayor and police chief refuse to acknowledge any wrongdoing.

**TRP:** What would you want our national readers to know about the events in Hoover?

**Bre:** Hoover PD and the city of Hoover are trying their hardest to silence activists and leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement and within the Justice for EJ Bradford movement. They are using unnecessary and excessive force and intimidation tactics to try to instill fear in anyone who disagrees or dares to call them out. The city refuses to take questions about these events at City Hall meetings with open agendas. They are issuing bogus warrants against leaders and protesters in their push for silence. Regardless of these tactics, we have become more motivated, more organized, and more fired up. We will not be silenced until we get all charges against protesters dropped and the EJ Bradford video released.

**TRP:** Why were you protesting that day?

**Deanna:** I was protesting because I have seen firsthand how POC are treated differently by those in positions of power many times in my life and it has to stop. Also because I believe our police force has overstepped their bounds and Nobody that they are meant to protect (which is supposed to be Every American, not just rich or white ones) should Fear them, yet so many average Americans do. And I believe that more funding should be put into public service programs that could help prevent crime than to be wasted arming the police as if they're going to war. I also feel that the prison system is modern day slavery and inhumane. The police are meant to Help the American people, not Control or Kill them. I was in Hoover that day specifically, because I had witnessed them throw one of my friends and one of the organizers to the ground and rip her shirt off of her when they had arrested her at a previous protest, and I was determined to use

my privileged presence to protect her and any others from having that happen again.

**TRP:** How were you feeling at time of arrest?

**Deanna:** The police began telling our group we had to leave or be in violation of curfew. We repeatedly responded "Take a knee, and we'll leave." One officer did, and then they sent him home. After that happened one woman went and sat down in the grass by herself, I joined her and so did a few others. They then had a SWAT team arrive, but we all refused to move. I had never been arrested before, and I had seen them hurt others in the previous arrests at Hoover so I was shaking to be quite honest, but as I said before, determined to protect the others who stayed and the organizers who had stressed that they believed the more allies that stayed the safer we would all be, and I feel they were right. The arrests were fairly peaceful. The officer who arrested me even changed my cuffs trying to make me more comfortable. I kept waiting for them to read me my rights, but it never happened. They loaded all of us into a bus and took us to the jail where we were searched and then had body scans done. I am breastfeeding and they did allow me to use their private bathroom in order to express some milk, but had no sterile containers of any sort to collect the milk in and I had to pour it down the drain. When I was done they put me with everyone else. There were 11 of us put into one holding cell. (No social distancing.) There was one other woman in there who had not been on the bus with us, but it turned out she had been at the protest, when they told us all to leave the protest site they assured us that as long as we were in our vehicles by curfew we would be left alone. They lied and she was dragged her from her car where she was staying to watch what happened as her sister had stayed on the ground with us. While we were being held they told us three different times they would bring us water, but never did. The Hoover police force has been out in massive numbers to wait for any of our group to make a misstep so they can arrest them instead of, you know, doing their jobs and preventing Crimes. Since that day I have seen them arrest people for having one foot in the street while simultaneously allowing people to walk through the street to them to bring them lunch and things and right after arresting 6 of ours for "being in the road" a man walked by with his dog in the same street and was not bothered.

**TRP:** What would you want our national readers to know about the events in Hoover?

**Deanna:** On the fourth of July there were counter-protesters across the highway and while they arrested people from our group including the two head organizers, who they arrested upon arrival with false warrants, when we pointed out the other side and that some of them were now stepping into the street they told us, "they're not protesting." Several of the officers have now begun wearing Blue Lives Matter masks to the protests. Also, on the 4th, one woman began seizing when they went to cuff her, the arresting officer immediately put his hand on his gun, then they pushed her to the ground on her back while she was having a seizure and she suffered burns from the pavement all over her body. This past Friday, a man drove his truck into a protester who then hit the hood of his truck with a flag. The police arrested the protester and allowed the man who just tried to run people over to leave. I found that particularly telling as they have been insisting their presence at our protest is out of concern for our safety and not a desire to silence us.

The resolve of the Hoover protestors, Black Lives matter, and Justice For EJ movement endures despite daily arrests and intimidation from an increasingly hostile police force. The protests show no sign of letting up until justice for Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr. and true change in racist policing comes to the state of Alabama and the rest of the country. Alabama has been a pivotal State in the fight for civil rights, and the people are continuing the movement that has been built off of the revolutionaries that came before them. To follow our coverage of the Hoover, Huntsville, and other protests across Alabama, follow The Red Phoenix on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

**We Could Use Your Help  
Get Involved Today!**





# THE BANNER OF BLACK LIVES MATTER: SUMMER 2020



## Originally published in Evrensel Daily:

US student **Toivo Asheeke** wrote on the ongoing protests: "It was the first time to discuss the financial resources of the police, who emerged as slave hunters."

Toivo ASHEEKE

Student at Binghamton University.

With protests, mass rallies, occupations, and armed militant actions taking place across over 100 cities and towns in the United States, we are in unprecedented times. For the first time in its history, defunding the police, an institution which began as slave-catchers, has become the topic for national conversation. The murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor by police officers have provided the tinder for our current moment. Activists in Seattle have declared autonomous zones in sections of the city where the police are not allowed to go. Minneapolis has de-funded their police force after they burned the police precinct to the ground. New York City has had daily protests which have forced NYPD to back off cracking down on protests. Black people in Atlanta have put so much pressure on the police that they recently fired and have now charged the officer who shot Rayshard Brooks. Similar stories exist in other cities like Boston and LA. Moreover, many of these actions have attempted to highlight the violence Black women and Trans folks which for far too long have been ignored or seen as unimportant.

But what or whom are driving these protests? Contrary to popular opinion, this activity has not been lead or coordinated by the Black Lives Matter Movement. Instead, protesters have been inspired by BLM's message and are guided by many of its politics. Similar to the Black Power movement in the 1960s and 1970s, BLM is a banner not an organization. My thinking on this is inspired by a speech made by the Trinidadian Marxist Pan-Africanist scholar-activist, CLR James in 1967. During this talk, James described Black Power to his audience as the heir to centuries of Black struggle against racial capitalism. Black Power, to James, was building on the work of the Abolitionists, Garveyism, Black Communists of the 1920s and 30s, to the Pan-African conferences. As a banner, numerous organizations and individuals claimed its message and content, Black Liberation. However, they all organized towards that goal in different ways.

In the 1960s and 1970s there was no "Black Power Organization" with a central committee or politburo which coordinated the movement. What you had was organizations like the Black Panther Party, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, National Joint Action Committee (Trinidad), the New Jewel Movement (Grenada), and the South African Students Organization (SASO, South Africa). These organizations

coalesced around Black Power's broad message of systemic change in the realm of politics, socio-economics, and culture but organized towards these goals in their own unique ways, oftentimes not in close coordination with other groups. Some believed in armed struggle, others did not. Certain groups had a stronger anti-capitalist and anti-Vietnam war message, others focused more on local challenges in their communities or tried to form Black unions. A few groups believed education and healthcare needed to be emphasized, others felt a greater appreciation and openness for Black arts and music was needed. Others were mainstream liberal groups fighting for voting rights and incorporation into the American body-politics and used Black Power as a slogan, nothing more. And a few were able, albeit briefly, to hold all these contradictions within them, chiefly the Black Panther Party.

However, after state sanctioned repression of these radical Black groups in the 1960s and 1970s (as well as other communist or socialist groups) and the co-optation of many of the rest through NGOs, absorption into the academy and electoral politics, things have changed. As we know, the FBI in conjunction with local police forces hunted down and persecuted the Black Panthers, many of whom remain in prison today. Others like Fred Hampton were killed and guerrillas like Assata Shakur were forced into exile. Unity between Latinx, Asian, and Black people was discouraged and repressed so that today a lot of work is needed to heal the real distrust and created hierarchies that exist between us. Additionally, the increase of policing, building of prisons, and the release of harmful drugs into Black communities further hindered the ability of Black people to organize against capitalism in particular ways. While the anti-apartheid movement of the 1980s and the rise of Hip-Hop in the 1990s constituted attempts by Black people to articulate and mobilize against racial injustice, radical organizations have taken time to rebuild their strength.

Fast forward to the summer of 2020, we find mass protests and demonstrations wracking the United States. While they have been influenced by the critique and analysis of BLM, building on the work of previous movements but with an added emphasis on centering Black women and LGBTQIA voices, politics, and struggles; they are not directly organized by it. This does not mean some BLM chapters aren't participating and supporting some protests, they are. An example of an active and visible chapter here in New York City is BLM Greater New York. However like Black Power, some organizations and activists who claim BLM are more interesting in reforming the system, for example reforming the police, instead of advocating systemic change, like abolishing the police. Most importantly, BLM does not have the movement structures to coordinate mass uprisings on the scale we are seeing now.

## THE BANNER OF BLACK LIVES MATTER (CONTINUED)

Instead, Black/Latinx/Native American youths, older organizers, the unemployed, intellectuals, and indignant white professionals who have been influenced by BLM, are autonomously coming together to march and protest. This has been mostly spontaneous although many who are out in the streets have at one point or another protested against the killing of Black people by police and white supremacists. Broadly, what has been driving much of the marches is a broad consciousness shift, even amongst white people, which rejects the systemic killing of Black people by the police. While there have been some critiques of capitalism and a few open calls for socialism, this has not defined the tone and tenor of the protests, at least not yet. Groups in NYC like the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), the United Black Panther Party (UBPP), and the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) are openly calling for socialism, but they are not yet mass based popular organizations.

Let us take a closer look at what is happening on the ground through two concrete examples. In upstate New York (about 3 hours north of NYC) there is a town called Binghamton, NY with a population of about 45,000, 18% being Black and Latinx. The larger Broome County, where Binghamton is located, has 190,000 people with about 9% of the population being Black and Latinx. This is a rural area which has historically voted Republican and generally supports the police, US military, and Donald Trump. It is also one of the poorest areas in New York State with a Human Development Index lower than many Third World countries. What change is possible in this area given some of these realities?

A few weeks ago a young high school student, a Black girl, asked for help from local activists to organize a rally and march to protest the killing of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Binghamton High School, where she goes to school, has seen a drastic increase in its population of Black/Latinx students over the last two decades. Where once there were only a handful of Black/Latinx students, today, about 42% of its population is of colour and this population has for years suffered at the hands of the racist Binghamton police and system which has arrested and beaten their parents, harasses them during summers, policies them in the school, and defunds their afterschool programs.

Organizations in Binghamton like the Progressive Leaders of Tomorrow (PLOT), Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) and the Frances Beal Society (FBS) came together to help plan this event. None of these groups are formally under the BLM umbrella, but broadly subscribe to its principles. On the day of the rally over 1,000 people showed up, the vast majority being Black and working poor. This was an historic event for this town. In the past, most rallies around police brutality would receive maybe 200 people at most. Often times only 50 or so would show up. So to have 1,000 was truly historic.

In the aftermath of the BLM-inspired protest, a people's assembly was called to discuss ways to make concrete changes. Groups broke out and intense discussions were had about what changes needed to happen in Binghamton. Not only alleviate the condition of racism and the police, but also how to make life better for all the working poor in Broome County. Some of the demands that came out of these meetings were grouped into themes such as Substance and Mental Health, Education, Housing, Food Justice, and Criminal Justice. This is the fruit of the work of activists who have been fighting to make change in Binghamton for the last half-century. It also shows what is possible in areas where Black people are not in a decided majority and what small towns in the United States can do when lead by Black progressives and radicals.

Our final example takes us to New York City. NYC has a long history of radical organizing. NYC is far bigger than Binghamton with a population that runs into the millions, due to this, much of the focused organizing takes place in the boroughs (Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island). The Bronx is one of the last boroughs left which has not been completely gentrified. Consequently, it retains a large majority of Black and Latinx people (1.4 million people total). It

also is one of the poorest congressional districts in the United States, like Broome County, and has suffered from years of neglect, over-policing, and lack of investment in education, housing and healthcare. However, efforts are underway in the South Bronx to kick Black/Latinx working poor out of the area so that big businesses can move in and bring wealthier tenants and buildings to the surrounding area. This is being resisted by groups like Take Back the Bronx, another group which operates independently of BLM, who has been fighting for years against gentrification, police brutality, and the inhumane activities of I.C.E.

Protests in Brooklyn have probably been the largest and most sustained in NYC up to this point. There are a number of reasons for this, much of which centres on it is a borough that has suffered the most from gentrification. This has seen some guilty white petty bourgeois gentrifiers unite with Black people to fight rent increases (which has a long history in NYC), over-policing and surveillance, racism, and a host of other social ills. Many of the protesters here are young whites with sprinklings of old veteran white communists or union people who have found common cause with Black people. Manhattan, and in particular Harlem (which is fully in the storm of gentrification), have seen intense protests which have been led by Black people. Queens and Staten Island have been a bit quieter. Nevertheless, they too are finding ways to tap into this popular wave of protest to make their voices heard in the struggle to value Black Lives, Black Trans Lives, and Black Women's Lives.

Overall, in NYC at least, the demands of the protesters have been clear. A divestment from the police and an investment in youth programs, food banks, jobs with a living wage and benefits, improved healthcare services, and improvements in housing conditions.

In closing, the United States finds itself in a very interesting moment. Right now, anti-racism and the police are the subjects of national and international attention. These protests have not been peaceful, although they have, for now, remained non-violent. This is commendable because police forces often attack protesters with little or no provocation. While they mention things like looting as reasons for their aggression, most of the stores "looted" have been big chain stores or corporations, pharmacies (because people are sick), and a handful of jewellery stores. The real looters, as groups like Take Back the Bronx argue, are the big capitalist stores and landlords who come into our communities to drain poor people of what little money they have. So the fight will continue and organizations like the United Black Panther Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Socialist Roots, Take Back the Bronx, and others must find ways to appeal to more people to build up their forces.

If they do not, politicians and liberals and moderates will move in to capture the popular energy to make minimal changes, but keep the system functioning like normal. Examples of this can be seen with Democratic Candidate Joe Biden not endorsing defunding the police and Democrats in congress pushing for minor changes to the police. This is unfortunate but people will eventually get tired of marching for hours and hours every single day with nothing tangible to show for it. More moderate forces understand this but also know right now their voices are not ones people want to hear. So instead of fighting this wave of protest, politicians and liberal forces are praising protesters, celebrating holidays like Juneteenth, and co-opting certain cultural practices of Black people to make it seem like they care. By November 2020, when the national elections are to take place, things should be clearer as it pertains for the political direction the country is to take. Until then, leftist organizations need to work harder to win over the masses and the masses need to keep the pressure on the system for change.



# IN REMEMBERING BASEBALL'S RACIST PAST AND PRESENT, TODAY'S PLAYERS CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR A RADICAL FUTURE

By Marcus Paine, Red Phoenix Sports Correspondent September 10th 2020

Major league baseball players recently displayed powerful class and racial unity during the sport's annual celebration of Jackie Robinson's courageous legacy. Just as Robinson's story reflected the history of postwar America, today's players understand that the game has been and is intimately connected with the tenor of the country's racial relations. A much-neglected portion of the story resides in the countless incidents of racism that minority players have experienced in the years 1947-2020, Robinson was, indeed, the pioneer, but spent the rest of his life disappointed at the lack of significant racial progress in baseball and the nation.

Like Robinson, African American players continued to be subjected to racial taunts, death threats, spikings, and beanballs. Robinson led the league in being hit by pitches for the first five years of his career. While Robinson was catching a routine throw at first base, the Cardinals' Enos Slaughter leaped to spike him on the thigh. Ku Klux Klan death threats were so prominent that the FBI was informed. Players on the Phillies used bats to pretend they were shooting Robinson with rifles as he played the field. Racist taunts from fans in Cincinnati were so severe that teammate Pee Wee Reese (from Louisville, Kentucky) walked over to Jackie and embraced him in front of the hostile crowd of over 30,000. Reese's brave action may have silenced the crowd that day, but a hate-filled wave of racism continued to plague baseball.

In the first quarter century after Robinson's career, black players continued to suffer from individual and institutional racism. Each ball club (except the Dodgers, Giants, Pirates, and Cubs) employed black players only if they were stars, with virtually all bench positions going to white players.

When Newcombe met Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader told him, "You'll never know what you and Jackie and Roy did to make it possible to do my job."

Racial stereotypes were part of the lexicon of too many fans. I grew up in Chicago as a fan of the San Francisco Giants in the 1960s, a team who had embraced the hiring of black and Latino players. Countless times I was told by baseball "friends" that the Giants would never win a pennant because "they had too many black players." The implication was that black players were talented but didn't know how to win, that they were "chokers." In fact, the Giants own manager, Southern Al Dark, told reporter Stan Isaacs in 1964, "You can't make most Negro and Spanish players have the same pride in their team that you can get from white players. And they just aren't as sharp mentally." Superstars Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays were, according to Dark, "exceptions to the rule."

Black ballplayers also were required to desegregate minor league baseball teams and leagues throughout the most racist regions of the country. These players were often assigned as the only black player on the team or in the league. Star first baseman Dick Allen recalls his experiences playing for Little Rock in 1963, "Coming in from the outfield to the dugout, I would hear the voices- 'Chocolate Drop' or 'Watch your back n\*\*\*\*r.' I could never find the guy who made the remarks. Racist fans have a way of hissing and mumbling under their breath." Allen, like all other black players in the South of the era, experienced death threats, couldn't eat with their white teammates, and often stayed at homes of black citizens rather than with their teammates in segregated hotels.

The ugliness of bigotry was not just confined to the playing field. After Robinson's rookie-of-the-year season in 1947, it would be another 12 years before every team hired its first black player. The racist ownership of the Boston Red Sox did not field a black player until 1959. The New York Yankees were also late to the game, having rejected the talented Vic Power because he wasn't "the right kind of Negro." MLB also would not see a black manager until the Indians hired Hall-of-Famer Frank Robinson in 1974. This was 27 years after



Jackie Robinson made his big-league debut.

By 1987 there still had been only three black managers. In that year, Dodgers' general manager Al Campanis told ABC Nightline's Ted Koppel that there was no prejudice in baseball, and that blacks were not hired in leadership positions because, "I truly believe that they may not have some of the necessities to be, let's say, a field manager, or perhaps a general manager." Pressed by Koppel, Campanis lamely defended organized baseball's bigotry by claiming further that blacks were not meant to perform certain tasks. For example, he stated, blacks were not good at swimming "because they don't have buoyancy." Campanis' statements unfortunately reflected that MLB still had a long way to go in fulfilling its legacy of racial justice.

"Politicians don't really give a fuck about us," stated Anthony Rizzo, "All they care about is their own agenda."

During the great era of the Civil Rights Movement of (1954-1972) baseball was clearly regarded as a clarion of racial progress or the lack thereof. Don Newcombe was a black pitcher and teammate of Robinson and outstanding African American catcher, Roy Campanella. When Newcombe met Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader told him, "You'll never know what you and Jackie and Roy did to make it possible to do my job." This poignant statement reveals that baseball was and still is inexorably connected to the politics of race in America.

Unfortunately, Major League Baseball, like the nation, has now hid for too many years behind the myth of a "post-racial society." The number of black players in MLB has dramatically decreased. This decline, however, has not discouraged a working-class unity among ballplayers who are largely white suburbanites, Latinos, and African Americans. Players made sure that games were canceled. Black Lives Matter has become a rallying cry for ballplayers, if not the racist leanings of some baseball owners.

The Yankees and Mets chose a unique matter of dissent in their refusal to play a recent game. Both teams lined up on the baselines before the game and then departed the field, refusing to play in protest of the shooting of Jake Blake and the killing of so many others. All personnel left the field vacant, but a Black Lives Matter t-shirt was left on home plate for America to see. Scores of players and managers have spoken with thoughtful fluency about the desperate need for racial equality in America. A huge draped sign of "Black Lives Matter" covers the three outfield decks of Pittsburgh's PNC Park. All of these actions have come from the players and field managers, the wage-earners of modern baseball.

In response to the importance of Jackie Robinson, Chicago Cubs' star first baseman honestly expressed his frustration with the ruling class' lack of concern about equality in America. "Politicians don't really give a fuck about us," stated Anthony Rizzo, "All they care about is their own agenda and it's just the way it is and it's upsetting." Rizzo's incisive understanding of the bourgeoisie's destructive and indifferent approach to human suffering and inequality serves as a call to all of us who care. Racial equality can only be achieved if working-class people do all of the work. This axiom is as true on the streets as it is on the baseball field.

## CELEBRATE THE HISTORY AND PROMISE OF THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT



By J. Palamedas, September 2, 2019

In the United States, those of us who are leftist workers have a vexed relationship with this labor day, the first Monday in September. The day was a refuge for the American state and compromising union leadership from the May Day riots, namely Haymarket, and has since then become a state-recognized and confined day off for all workers in the US, matched with the expected sales and marketing campaigns.

Yet, Labor Day in September did begin with mass demonstrations of laborers with the Knights of Labor, AFL, and other unions in New York City in the last two decades of the 19th century. The first Labor Days were celebrated with picnics and demonstrations, finished with rousing speeches from early labor leaders. And recently, there have been preliminary attempts and rumblings to bring the red spirit of May Day to our official holiday in the US. My union, the NEA, for example, sent out a flier calling for labor day to be recognized as the labor holiday it is, as a celebration of working class pride, not merely a day off.

If there ever is a time to revisit Labor Day with this perspective, it is now. Workers across the country face mounting attacks post-Janus. As we've reported, trans workers are having their workplace rights attacked, hundreds of steel workers and Del Monte workers have been laid off, and nearly 700 immigrant workers were arrested in a wanton fashion by ICE in Mississippi with the help of abusive management. The union in which I participate has similarly faced serious financial difficulty, as some adjunct teachers have shortsightedly chosen to opt out of their dues, endangering our accreditation as a union.

Resurgent unionism has nonetheless risen in these conditions. Countless strikes organized at the workplace from fast food fights for 15, to graduate student unions, to rideshare strikes, have come to define the growing leftist movement in the United States. The DSA Convention, largely panned for its procedural "difficulties," nonetheless clearly declared democratic unionism to be the beating heart of the American left. And turning to Labor Day, bringing the militancy of our May Day marches to this day, reflects the general turn in American left strategy to bring our politics to the American worker, to merge our spaces, and make left spaces less exclusive and distinct from the lives of American workers.

In this spirit, we mark Labor Day not half-heartedly, but with the full strength of our voices as American workers. Our labor did not, as moderate union leaders will no doubt say on this day, "create the middle class," as if our identity as workers is a transitory state between poverty and wealth. On this day we remember the millions of US workers, many of them immigrants, who made the American labor union the most militant movement in recent American history, and we appreciate the progress we are making in reforging that movement. In the face of increasing attacks on immigrants and our unions, we say emphatically that, in the words of David C. Coates, radical union labor organizer: "An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

## ORGANIZING AGAINST GLORIFYING SLAVERY MONUMENTS IN ALABAMA



Via Jay Hyde, Red Phoenix Correspondent Alabama  
August 26, 2020

"Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday supporters in favor of moving monuments and the Confederate flag from government/public spaces are assembling at the Courthouse in Albertville, AL.

We support the removal of the Confederate Flag from the Albertville Marshall County Courthouse. Confederate monuments and flags were used to terrorize millions of people of color, with the reminder of white supremacy in the South.

If Marshall County does not join the growing list of Alabama counties relocating Confederate monuments and flags, it sends the message that Marshall County is not a place of inclusion for all people.

Confederate monuments and flags should not be on public display in front of our courthouses. Our local museum or Pre-Civil War Cemetery are appropriate relocation options, rather than our courthouses, which exist to bring justice and serve all of its community members without prejudice."



**PEACE, EQUALITY  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY &  
All Power  
To The  
Working  
People!**



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR . ORG**



# A CALL TO ALL WOMEN OF THE WORLD: LET'S UNITE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM SO THAT WE CAN 'BREATHE'!



**International Conference of  
Marxist-Leninist Parties and  
Organisations (CIPOML)**

**From the CIPOML Coordination Committee August 31, 2020**

It was only a few months before the outbreak of pandemic that many parts of the world experienced massive workers' movements and popular uprisings. Despite governments' attempts to suppress these upheavals with outrageous brutality, working people made clear that they would not be satisfied with a few reforms and expressed their wishes for radical change in government. In Iraq, Iran and Lebanon, women took their place in the frontlines of the protests against governments and their corruption as well as the increasing costs of living. In France, women and youth organized the most creative demonstrations against the proposed reforms in pensions. The demand for "a New Constitution, a Democratic Chile" has spread all around the world thanks to Chilean women who did not yield for a second to violence and rape of military powers. In India, masses of women raised their voices for a humane life and gender equality by participating in the largest strike in the country's history. In Latin America; in Argentina, Chile and Mexico, women who struggle for 'life' organized massive protests to protect their rights and lives by saying 'Not one less'. Recent years have witnessed the celebrations of 8th of March in widespread demonstrations by greater numbers of women in all around the world, which shows how women dedicated to their struggles.

During the last couple of years, the world has also witnessed widespread strikes and resistances, especially in healthcare and social services. This mobilization has emerged and grown in response to the effects of austerity policies and oppressive working conditions imposed by capital for a long time, which are more visible today than ever. The pandemic revealed the fact that the neoliberal transformation in healthcare and social services has become a "murder weapon" in the hands of capital. The greatest impact of this transformation is on women. Therefore, women workers who make up a large proportion of these sectors have been the most resistant part of this mobilization.

Rising rage of the world's women unveiled the connection between the neoliberal policies of the last 10 years - an expression of the murderous nature of capitalism - and violence against women; between increasing poverty and poor living and working conditions forced on women; between the rise of authoritarian regimes and attacks on women's rights. Therefore, the inequalities and violence experienced by women have been necessarily linked to the struggle against capitalism. Masses of women have come together in an uncompromising struggle against violence and abuse as well as in strikes, resistances, and street protests.

Surely, each of these movements was a manifestation of a fundamental challenge against the brutality of capitalist exploitation. And the subsequent response of the bourgeois class to COVID-19 pandemic justified once again the anger of working people, especially women.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HIT THE PEAK DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Eager to utilize the pandemic in imperialistic competition, western capitalism totally ignored all the warnings raised by scientists in recent years. It launched the fight on the pandemic only when it became a threat to western capitalism itself. So, it jeopardized the health of millions and caused the death of hundreds of thousands of people. None of these belated measures aimed to protect human life, they were to save capital and ensure its reproduction as in all crises. Capitalists and their governments found widespread testing and tracking too expensive that they abandoned the working classes to herd immunity while putting lockdown in place regardless of its consequences for women.

Lockdown in the household meant a multiplication of domestic burden on women's shoulders, more deaths and more exposure to violence.

Although there is no clear data, in April during which more than half of the world's population was under lockdown, the cases of violence against women rose by 30 per cent in many countries. In some countries, on the other hand, non-governmental organizations providing support for women who suffered from violence draw attention to a considerable decrease in the number of calls for help because of the lack of access to necessary technology. Furthermore, full or partial shutdown of women's shelters, delays or cancellation of ongoing court proceedings, release of convicted abusers from jails due to the lockdown and so-called pandemic measures have trapped women into a hell of violence.

It was not the case that international capitalism was unable to foresee all these consequences. All the data drafted by its affiliated non-governmental organizations were showing the costs of this lockdown. They were well aware that one in three women around the world are being killed by a previous or current partner. According to UN WOMEN, 243 million women and girls aged between 15 and 49 were sexually or physically attacked in the last 12 months from July 2018 to July 2019. In one in four countries all around the world, there are no laws specifically to protect women from domestic violence. Less than 40 per cent of women who suffer from violence report it, less than 10 per cent call for help from the police.

## **PANDEMIC AND AFTER: EXPLOITATION, MORE EXPLOITATION**

Violence against women takes place not only in homes but also in the so-called frontline of the fight on pandemic. Women, who constitute 70 per cent of 136 million workers in healthcare and social work all around the world, express a significant rise in violence at workplaces. All the measures taken today for the sake of the reproduction of capital in the post-pandemic world mean nothing but unemployment, poverty and informal work for millions of working women. Especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, informal workers who produce goods and services for international monopolies have already lost their earnings by 80 per cent while the number of workers in poverty has quadrupled. Women workers have been either laid off or forced to take unpaid leave because monopolies of fashion and food supply have stopped their orders which led to closure of workplaces. Tens of thousands of women who were unable to go back their homes were trapped in cities, made vulnerable in face of the pandemic, and doomed to hunger.

The 'stay home' calls meant nothing for workers who have been obliged to work. In the workplaces where there is no measures taken for infection, social distancing is impossible, no protective equipment was provided for workers' health, they were abandoned to the dilemma of 'either virus or hunger'. These are the same workplaces where women are seen as 'secondary labour' due to the sexist practices and patriarchal codes. With the pandemic, the sexist practices were deepened and the violence at workplaces has increased.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFORMALITY HIT WOMEN HARDEST**

In the highest-hit sectors (accommodation and food services; real estate, business and administrative activities; manufacture; wholesale and retail trade) where 1,25 billion workers work globally, the share of women in employment changes from 38 to 54 per cent. Millions of women workers in these sectors have already participated in the reserved army of the unemployed. Institutions aligned to capitalism themselves confessed that an estimated 25 million will be added to last year's figure of narrow unemployment (188 million), which is higher than the increase following the 2008-9 crisis (22 million). It has already become clear that unemployment hits women hardest, especially young women. In the US, the epicenter of imperialist-capitalist aggression, the unemployment rate of young women rose from 7.5 to 29.8 percent only in March and April.



**PEACE,  
EQUALITY,  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

## A CALL TO WOMEN (CONTINUED)

*continued from page 9...*

Women workers in the informal sectors are among those who were most affected sectors of society. The irregularities increased while working conditions has become wilder in informal working where migrant workers constitute a great proportion. Migrant women workers were fully deprived of any opportunities to hold onto their lives, survive and build a future for themselves and their families.

The fact that mandatory working time increased to 12 hours per day in India, where informal employment rate was already 90 per cent has shown what capitalism's 'new normal' would be in the post-pandemic era, which is nothing but more exploitation of workers, particularly working women.

In such a period during which people were taken away from humane working conditions because of deepening exploitation, more decrease in wages and worsening insecurity, especially poor working women became much more vulnerable to exploitation and violence. In addition to inhumane and hard-working conditions, the pandemic has replicated the household burden and made all the problems faced by women much deeper.

### **RAGE AGAINST CAPITALIST AGGRESSION IS GROWING**

There is no doubt that working people and women from different sectors of society are responding to the brutal face of capitalism all around the world. In Asia and Latin America, thousands of women who were doomed to unemployment and hunger organized or joined protests even during the pandemic. Moreover, the pre-pandemic popular uprisings and protests resumed in Lebanon and India, with more being added as the protests against racism and poverty started in the US and spread over many parts of the world. The atrocity of Floyd's murder released the rage that people already felt as a result of the effects of the problems caused by capitalism that were intensified during the pandemic.

The coronavirus pandemic left women with old and new problems burdened on their shoulders in their countries, cities, streets and homes. But it also made the source of all these problems more visible and sharper than ever: The "normal" of capitalism is slavery for women. And misogyny exists in the very nature of capitalism itself. This is what the pandemic made self-evident now.

Under the brutal conditions of neoliberal capitalism, women's will to protect their lives and have a decent life turned into a life-or-death struggle. With the current pandemic, the 'women friendly' mask of capitalism has fallen and its misogynist face has become apparent.

Political powers and mentalities that are willing to subordinate women utilized the pandemic to speed up their plans to attack on women's rights. While they attempted to take women's right to political representation back, make restrictions on right to abortion, suspend the laws and conventions ensuring the mechanisms of protection from violence, and increase the repression on women's organizations, it became of a vital importance to say "We don't give up our lives and rights."

### **LET'S UNITE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM AND DESTROY MYSOGYNISTIC CAPITALISM!**

Today, all preparations of capitalism for the "new normal" are accompanied with more exploitation of women's labor and bodies,

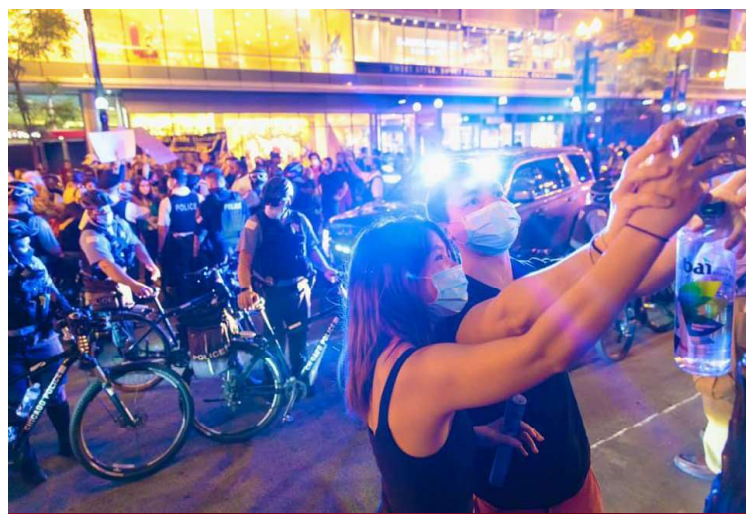
as well as the exacerbation of slavery conditions. Using their capacity to conceal the effects of crises, governments confront us with a number of practices varying from the use of public funds to suppress possible objections to thickening the sticks of oppressive regimes. Jobs, rights and the futures of millions of women are at risk. It is the course of class struggle that will determine what will happen in the "new normal" period during which we will face a new wave of massive unemployment, deterioration of social rights, forcing down of wages to drive up profit rates, and increasing pressures on labor power.

Women from all around the world, with different languages, beliefs, and colors are experiencing common consequences imposed by the capitalist system which tries to take possession of their labor and bodies. People, the oppressed, the exploited classes, and women from different countries influence each other in finding ways out of this process. Women raising their voice in Latin America resonates with their sisters in Africa; the rising rage in the US inspires the people in Europe; and the emerging struggles in the Middle East build up the strength to change in Asia. Working women of the world know that capitalism cannot bring any "good", "welfare", "prosperity", nor can it promise a fresh breath of air. The world cannot breathe! In order to be able to breathe, we cannot rely on capitalism's promise of "equal opportunity" which has never been fulfilled; we need to destroy this system of exploitation which is the very basis of women's oppression.

Socialism is the only way to breathe against everything that chokes women, i.e. violence, insecurity in the world of work, unequal pay, economic crises, wars, homophobia, xenophobic immigration policies, colonialization, destruction of nature, and neoliberalism!

Let's strengthen our unity and solidarity, and struggle to clear our way to breathe!

For women to organize and struggle together for all our rights; from right to education to right to healthcare, from right to housing to stopping ecological destruction, from the struggle against violence to the protection and improvement of right to equality, from better working conditions to right to equal pay, from equal civil rights to right to equal political representation, let's raise our voice together for all of our demands to unite and strengthen women's struggle for equality in all areas of life!



**Even Under Your Mask  
Smile In The Face Of Oppression**



## IN HONOR OF SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS WEEK

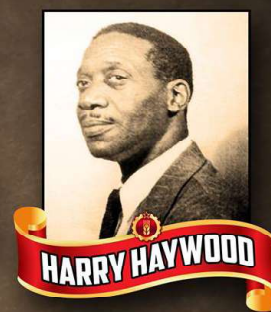
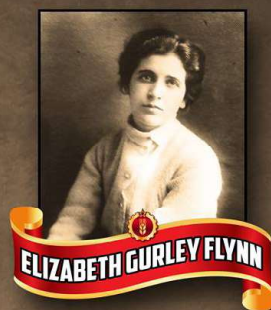
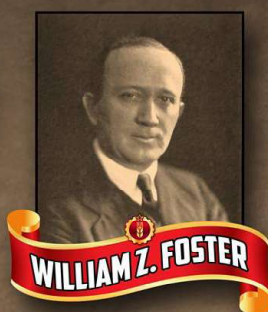
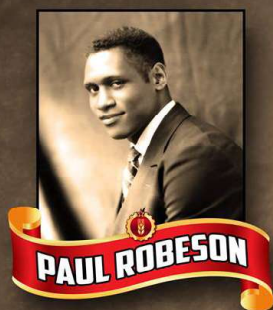
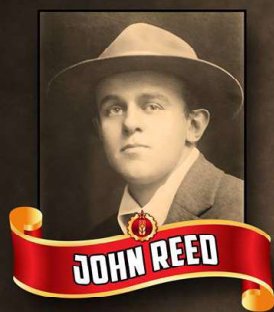
*The Red Phoenix Team, Sept 6th:  
in Honor of Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week*

*At The Red Phoenix, we're especially honoring and remembering our Comrade Frank, who we lost to suicide, and who was one of the founders of The Red Phoenix as a source of working class news in 2010. Comrade Frank dedicated his life to the growth of the openly anti-revisionist Marxist-Leninist movement in the US, and played a central role in that growth.*

*In his name, and in names of the nearly 65,000 people who die by suicide each year, we'll never stop fighting for a socialist future that puts mankind first, and makes access to healthcare a universal right, or reporting on the way working class people struggle in the imperialist core.*



PEACE, EQUALITY, SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY



ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!  
**AMERICANPARTYOFLABOR.ORG**



## The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

### Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more: please visit:

**bit.ly/JoinTheAPL**

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

## Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less – regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

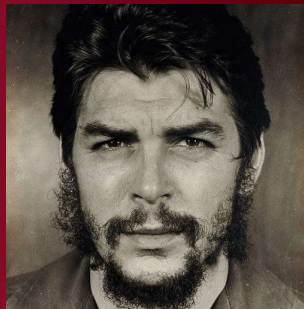
## How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?

**An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party:** The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

**A Party of Working Class People:** The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

**A Party of Equals:** The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

**Forever Anti-Fascist:** We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



**"The Life of a Single Human Being Is Worth a Million Times More Than All the Property of the Richest Man On Earth."**

**- Ernesto "Che" Guevara**



**Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!**

**Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!**

**Socialized Healthcare For All!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**Free Education For All!**

**Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!**

**End All Wars of Aggression!**

**Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!**

**No Platform for Fascists!**

**Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!**

**The Red Phoenix is published bi-monthly by The American Party of Labor.**

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*Labor donated.*

### Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.