Capitalism “civilization” returned to the nation’s capital on Jan. 20—Joseph Biden’s Inauguration Day. Occupied by 25,000 troops forming an iron ring around the few thousand establishment dignitaries gathered to pay homage to the new president—a career Democratic Party politician with deep roots in America’s racist, warmongering past and present—the crowning event aimed to reassure the world that the Trump-era unpredictability/insanity had come to an end.

Aside from the armed troops, more than the combined U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria that daily rain death and destruction on those beleaguered nations, the streets of Washington were largely empty. Public transportation was shut down tight; the area was enclosed in steel fences and barriers designed to withstand a virtual army of potential Trump insurgents.

But no one came, either to Washington or to the other 50 state capitols where hundreds of blustering rightwing bigots had promised armed mobilizations to challenge the “stolen election.”

America Is Back?

The day was conceived by the ruling class as a declaration, but U.S. capitalism would not be bullied or beseiged by the likes of the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired mob of several hundred white supremacists, fascist wannabes, small groups of self-described paramilitary neo-Nazis, including the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, scribed paramilitary neo-Nazis, including several hundred white supremacists, fanatics, the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired mob of several hundred white supremacists, fanatics, the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired mob of several hundred white supremacists, fanatics, the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired mob of several hundred white supremacists, fanatics.

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While legislation addressing the climate crisis will seek a “middle ground” on solutions spanning 60 years will Biden take on the scientifically-backward, and even criminal, forces that have stymied action on climate solutions for decades? Where the scientific facts of climate change have encountered a corporate wall of concealment, denial, and inaction spanning 60 years will Biden take on the scientifically-backward, and even criminal, forces that have stymied action on climate solutions for decades? Where the scientific facts of climate change have encountered a corporate wall of concealment, denial, and inaction spanning 60 years will Biden take on the scientifically-backward, and even criminal, forces that have stymied action on climate solutions for decades?

Beware of Biden’s fancy footwork on climate change

Mostly silent on what his climate plans may eventually entail, Biden’s flurry of executive orders portrays him as seriously addressing the issue.

While the scientists at ExxonMobil knew as early as 1977 of the emerging dangers that greenhouse gases posed to the Earth’s ozone layer, they did nothing. In fact, the world’s largest oil and gas producer hid this information from the public while internal corporate management repeatedly exchanged memos on the issue.

History of lies and concealment

It took an entire decade, but only after alarming testimony about global warming had been presented to Congress, that Exxon finally acted. It initiated an onslaught of misinformation. Using consultants to confuse the public and paid climate deniers to offer “expert” testimony, the company became what Scientific American magazine called “a leader in campaigns of confusion.”

Exxon was quickly joined in sowing doubt by other fossil fuel players as well as a host of individuals on the payroll of Big Oil. Brendan DeMelle of DeSmog has identified what amounts to a professional, climate-denier school of misinformation describing them as having “made

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Trump’s ‘free speech’ for billionaires

By Jeff Mackler

The world noticed when two billionaires, no less, pushed a button and de-platformed then President Donald Trump from their social media empires.

“Af ter close review of recent Tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account and the content around them,” Twitter wrote, “we have permanently suspended his account due to the risk of further incitement of violence.”

That was before Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives for “in-citement to insurrection.” Whether he will be convicted with the required two-thirds vote of the U.S. Senate remains to be seen.

As we go to press a divided and embar- rassed Republican Party appears more concerned with debating whether the Senate has the “Constitutional” right to convicts one senator on any count than with adjudicating whether Trump incited a mob to violently negate a presidential election.

Such are the exigencies of capitalist parties and politics, today plagued with internal divisions regarding whether to punish Trump, remove the party, or not investigate or prosecute him. The corporate media’s monopoly on “democratic” elections resides in the fact that the working class is the only force capable of effectively challenging the rule of the billionaires.

Corporate “free speech” monopoly

With Trump’s ban, eighty million Twitter followers and another 35 million from Facebook had to look elsewhere to follow his daily rants. But there is no comparable “elsewhere” in this largely monopolized private-for-profit – not free speech – industry, whose unprecedented reach covers the globe.

With Twitter’s generous algorithm assistance Trump’s magnified tweets boosted Twitter’s corporate profits big time. No doubt, Twitter or Facebook accounts that challenge capitalist politics are accorded the reverse end of the algorithm spectrum, if not banned outright. The latter is the growing experience of activists concerned with social justice, antiracism, anti-capitalist and Palestinian freedom issues. Many of their websites and/or posts are removed outright. Kevin Roose’s Jan. 11, 2021 New York Times Interpreter column is explicit in telling us that in the capitalist world of privately-owned social media the rich have every right to ban any ideas that counter their interests. Says Roose, “No serious thinker believes that Twitter and Facebook, as private companies, are ob- ligated to give any user a platform, just as no one doubts that a restaurant owner can boot an unruly diner for causing a scene.”

True enough! Under capitalist rule, the billionaire elite’s privately-owned social media and/or their government can “legally” boot us out at their discretion, de- creeing our “unruly” views as threats to their “national security” – the same pretext they employ to justify their Patriot Act surveillance state wherein the entire population is subjected to their ever- plying —spying devices.

The same exclusion of dissenting views applies to the entire spectrum of corpo- rate media, from television to radio and print.

Need we add that the capitalist monopol- ony on “democratic” elections resides in two “competing” multi-billionaire parties with their corporate media dominating the discourse?

Socialist vision of free speech

In the society that we seek to establish, an egalitarian social-society aimed at the emancipation of humanity from capitalist exploitation and oppression in all its manifestations, the working class through its own democratically-chosen representatives will preside over a nation- alized social media complex aimed at so- cial enlightenment and the free expression of ideas.

The democracy that we fight for con- sists in the rule of the vast majority – so- cialism – not the rule of the one percent! In the meantime, we fight against all manifestations of corporate and govern- ment censorship knowing full well that success is directly proportional to our power in the streets as opposed to nec- essary but subordinate engagement in “legal” battles for free speech for every- one.

Trump’s unimpeded soapbox allowed him to saturate the internet with endless waves of racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQI hate-mongering, war threatening menda- cious fabrications on the subject of his choice, while pillorying his enemies and basking in the adoration of his ever-mis- informed followers. He had a direct line to every newsroom in the country. “Work out the tweets,” Trump told the Financial Times in 2017, “I wouldn’t be here.”

Before the Jan. 6 Trump-encouraged mob attack on the Capitol no Twitter or Facebook executive seriously challenged his “right” to lie, cheat and steal, to threaten nations with “obliteration,” to openly advocate and initiate military coups, threaten nuclear war, orchestrate regime change wars, officially order as- sassinations (Qassem Soleimani in Iraq), impose deadly economic sanctions on 39 nations, order the bombing of Iranian nu- clear research facilities and assassinate Iranian scientists.

It was only when Trump moved to chal- lenge the sanctity of capitalist elections that the top echelons of the ruling elite pulled the plug.

Manufacturing Consent

Today, free speech applies with full force only to the private corporate media. They are the Manufacturing Consent pur- veyors of the Orwellian, Trumpian Show/Potemkin Village world of lies, distortions and half truths.

Media magnate multi-billionaire Rupert Murdoch (family wealth at $16.9 billion) presides over the News Corp empire that includes The New York Post, The Times of London, The Wall Street Jour- nal and Fox News. Murdoch’s “free speech” monopoly allowed him to simul- taneously call for Trump’s impeachment via one outlet and to denounce the 2020 election results on the other!

In sharp contrast social movement ac- tivists are allowed to utter a modicum of ideas to the precious few until the thought control czars consider that we present a threat to the status quo. Then the full force of state repression is set into mo- tion, limited only by our power to resist with mass forces in the streets.

A glimpse of the operational guidelines of today’s print media was provided by a Jan. 2021 Fairness and Accuracy in Re- porting (FAIR) survey of the major media’s reportage on recent events in Venezuela.

Over a three-month period analyzing some 78 articles (1/15/19–4/15/19) FAIR found that “Not a single commentator in the Washington Post, New York Times or on the big three Sunday morning talk shows of PBS NewsHour…challenged the Trump administration’s coup and sanction actions aimed at forcing Vene- zuela’s President Nicolás Maduro to step down.”

“Race-baiting, xenophobic bigot”

That Trump, the unexpected 2016 pres- idential winner, is and has been a lying, white-supremacist, xenophobic, racist, and is common knowledge among most every- one in the Washington, D.C. political community. A sampling of assessments for leading Republicans to Trump’s emerging as their 2016 candi- date are instructive.

Florida Senator Ted Cruz stated that: Trump is “utterly amoral,” a “serial phi- landerer” and “a narcissist at a level that I don’t think this country has ever seen.” Cruz again: “This man is a pathological liar. He doesn’t know the difference between truth and lies. He lies practically every time he speaks.”

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Gre- ham declared: “He’s a race-baiting, xen- ophobic, religious bigot. He doesn’t rep- resent my party. He doesn’t represent the values that the men and women who wear the uniform are fighting for…He’s the ISL [ISIS] man of the year.”

And from Florida Senator Marco Rubio: “We’re on the verge of having someone take over the disruptive movement who is a con artist.” Trump is the most “vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency.”

Mike Pompeo, Trump’s Secretary of State, predicted in March 2016 that Trump would become “an authoritarian president who ignored our Constitution.”

But Trump won and immediately be- came a tolerable embarrassment to the Republicans, whose only real success to “civilize” their unexpected monster. But generally, Trump satisfied their null needs.

Their system remained intact, albeit tar- nished. Today, and immediately follow- ing Trump’s 2016 election, most of these same publications, magnates, self-styled experts, now shrill advocates of Trump’s every lying, hate-filled word and deed, each vying for the post-election loyalty of their “base,” eyeing an easy future ride to fame and fortune.

Capitalism’s “free speech” media monop- oly and its $14.3 billion in 2020 elec- tion campaign expenditures aim at shifting the blame for its inherent failings onto society’s most oppressed and ex- pressed, not merely a shrinking number of Native American communities, women, immi- grants and LGBTQI people.

It’s mind-bending propaganda machine demonized Black Lives Matter activists as violent property-destroyers along with “socialism,” capitalism’s increasingly lethal, effective red-baiting resort to dis- credit all who challenge its minority rule.

The corporate media notwithstanding, working people have every right to defend and advance their interests, begin- ning with their basic solidarity and ca- pacity to unite in building powerful, democratic organizations that champion their interests in the streets, at the point of production, in their own communities and in schools and universities every- where.

In this framework, independent of and against corporate media’s in- kept media, they are rapidly discovering, as evidenced last summer by the 20 min- ute Black Lives Matter protests and those that followed in cities across the nation, countless ways to communicate with their sisters and brothers to chal- lenge the heavens and bring into being a new society cleansed of the horrors inher- ent in a capitalist system in deep decay.
The U.S. is a slowly dying empire. In di-
rect response to its declining economic pow-
er its military clout is increasing
worldwide.

Mossadegh was replaced with the Shah
nationalized some of Iran's oil facilities.

The CIA that overthrew the elected Mo-
ment without doubt, we do support its
right of return of all dispossessed Pal-
el. We support the Palestinian struggle
against Israel's capitalist government, to fight for

We demand the immediate end to all
sanctions. With the U.S. conquest
remaining U.S. troops still control much of
the region to harass Iranian ships.

In May 2018, Trump withdrew from this
agreement that killed 500,000 Syrians and destroyed
military coups in 2002 and 2019 an-
to organize broad united front-type inde-
test for 100 years. Afghanistan: 20 years of U.S. war
and its deadly eco-
up against imperialist attacks and invasion.

The combination of imperialist war,
thrusts and sanctions again Iran
Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, the Car-
ibbean, the Arctic waters, both coasts of
Afghanistan, among the poorest nations on
earth sits on $1 trillion in minerals in-
cluding lithium and other rare earth min-
erals vital for modern computer
technology and battery power. Control of
these resources, along with Afghanistan’s strategic geo-political location, stand at the center of U.S. objectives. Now the longest war in U.S. history, 20 years, the U.S. war has cost Trillions along with 600,000 lives taken. Again, we demand U.S. Out Now.

The same with Yemen, where the U.S. has
armed, financed and provided “logis-
tical” support to Saudi Arabia’s genocidal
war against the Yemeni people. And with
Africa, where the U.S. maintains 29 mil-
itary bases in 15 African nations. With
zero exceptions, the imperialist beast is
there to advance U.S. corporate interests,
its endless hyperbole about “fighting ter-
rorism” notwithstanding.

Russia and China

Russia has some 20 military foreign bases,
mostly located in nations bordered on
the former Soviet Union. By contrast, the U.S. maintains 1,100 military bases on foreign soil. Russia has a single over-
seas military base in Djibouti.

Although Socialist Action characterizes
China and Russia as imperialist nations,
we do not mechanically condemn all their
actions. We assess each in the existing
context of world politics.

When Russia or China are called on by
poor and oppressed nations for aid, as for
the case today with Syria and Venezuela,
their direct and immediate actions objec-
tively serve to thwart U.S. acts of war, in-
tervention and conquest against any poor
and oppressed nations, we fully assent to
their concrete actions in providing aid.

“Neutrality” in these matters, not to
mention the spurious demand raised by
some non-participants in the U.S. antiwar
movement that Russia and China with-
draw from Syria and Venezuela—as well as
U.S. imperialism—is tantamount to
denying poor and oppressed nations the
right to self-determination. It’s practical
effect is to stand in the camp of imperial-
ism.

U.S. Out Now! remains our central
focus as we confront U.S. capitalism’s

0nly one penny for war!
Almost immediately upon District Judge Vanessa Baraitser’s early January ruling that WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange would not be extradited from the United Kingdom to the United States on medical grounds, lawyers representing the U.S. announced their intent to appeal that decision.

Two days later, Judge Baraitser, whose ruling rejected Assange’s free speech and democratic rights arguments, denied Assange’s bail application, meaning he will remain in the freezing cold, COVID-infected maximum-security Belmarsh prison in London as he waits for the appeal process to unfold. That process could take weeks, months, or longer if the U.S. refuses to drop the charges altogether.

Will the U.S. drop the charges?

Despite the prosecution’s declaration of intent to appeal, it’s unclear how much appetite there is in the U.S. for continuing the prosecution. The ruling and notice of appeal came in the final days of the Trump Administration, and the day after the verdict, the U.S.’s outgoing lead federal prosecutor Zachary Terwilliger told NPR that he wasn’t sure if the Biden administration would continue to fight for Assange’s extradition.

“It will be very interesting to see what happens with this case,” Terwilliger said. “There’ll be some decisions to be made. Some of this does come down to resources and where you’re going to focus your energies.” President Biden was Vice President when the Obama administration explicitly decided not to prosecute Assange.

“The problem the department has always had in investigating Julian Assange is there is no way to prosecute him for publishing information without the same theory being applied to journalists,” said former Justice Department spokesman Matthew Miller. “And if you are not going to prosecute journalists for publishing classified information, which the department is not, then there is no way to prosecute Assange.”

Press freedom organizations and newsrooms agree that the prosecution of Assange puts all journalists at risk, by criminalizing basic newsgathering activity as well as the publication of truthful information in the public interest.

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“Julian Assange’s Indictment Aims at the Heart of the First Amendment,” wrote the New York Times editorial board.

Appealing on Medical Grounds

The U.K.’s lawyers (the Crown Prosecution Service, or CPS) representing the U.S. confirmed to reporters that the CPS would trigger this suicide risk. “I am as certain as a psychiatrist ever can be that, in the event of imminent extradition, Mr. Assange would indeed find a way to commit suicide,” testified psychiatrist Dr. Michael Kopelman.

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The U.S. is expected to attempt to challenge these arguments on appeal. Once the U.S. files its grounds for appeal, Assange’s defense team has 10 days to respond to that filing, indicating the ways in which they will argue against the U.S. submission.

High Court

These appeal submissions are then sent to a single U.K. High Court judge, who makes a determination as to whether to grant permission to appeal, based on whether that judge feels the grounds are reasonably arguable. If the judge rules to allow the appeal, the case is then scheduled to be heard by the High Court, a panel of two judges.

If the High Court finally refuses to hear the appeal, which is rare, it will be the end of the road for the United States and Love, who like Julian has Asperger’s syndrome, could not be protected from the high risk of suicide.

Potential further appeals

If the case were successfully appealed beyond the High Court, it could theoretically (though not automatically) be sent up to the U.K.’s Supreme Court and even higher to the European Court of Human Rights.

While these proceedings take place in the United Kingdom, Assange is only detained and at risk because of the U.S.’s prosecution, and the new Justice Department could simply drop the indictment and extradition request at any time.

To support Assange’s free speech rights and oppose his extradition sign the petition at Assangedefense.org

Nathan Fuller is the Executive Director of Assangedefense.org and the Director of the United Kingdom-based Courage Foundation that defends whistleblowers, including Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange.
...can capitalism be reformed?

...
herd immunity “theory” and his opposition to mandated mask wearing were a crude reflection of this idea—that corporate profits trumped human lives—the Democrats were never far behind, with all 50 state governors at one time or another deciding to prematurely reopen businesses and schools, knowing full well the deadly consequences.

**Environmental catastrophe**

Fossil fuel giants threaten the very survival of life on earth, yet they press on, unimpeded. Biden assured his corporate backers that there will be no serious Green New Deal under his administration. These “reforms” are impossible under capitalism, where the likes of Exxon Mobile, soon to be merged with Chevron Corporation, plan and prepare fossil fuel extraction long into the future; at a time when serious scientists already ponder whether it is already too late to avoid catastrophic results for the world’s people.

Obama’s Democrats opened the door wider than ever to offshore and Arctic drilling in addition to the promotion of unprecedented deadly fracking that made the U.S. for the first time a net exporter of fossil fuel.

**Capitalism equals imperialist war**

War is a central element in advancing the economic interests of the ruling elite, no matter the cost and regardless of which capitalist party is in power. The ever-promoted rationalizations regarding U.S. “responsibility” to thwart “worldwide terrorism”—which the U.S. is the chief instigator—or to conduct “humanitarian wars” that destroy a nation’s infrastructure to “save innocent lives” have long been exposed as lies. But the U.S. war machine presses on with $1 trillion spent annually to line the pockets of the largely monopolized military-industrial complex while defending U.S. capitalism’s “right” to rape and pillage worldwide.

Democrat: Party President Lyndon Johnson presided over the genocidal Vietnam War that slaughtered four million Vietnamese. He extended full support and U.S. collaboration to the 1965 Indonesian military coup that slaughtered one million alleged communists in a single year, literally clogging that nation’s rivers with executed individuals; and more. It mattered not whether the U.S. head of state was a Kennedy, Nixon, Reagan, Bush or a Clinton, Obama, Trump or Biden.

**The deficit: hawks or not**

The rules of the economic-political game are adjusted, bent or discarded in accordance with the needs of the ruling rich. Two decades ago in 2001 the 1890 Sherman Anti-Trust Act, supposedly protecting citizens against monopolies, was interpreted by the Supreme Court to allow Microsoft’s monopoly to continue when the nation’s top courts essentially ruled that its monopoly was needed to defend U.S. corporations against foreign competition. Apple’s offshoring billions to avoid taxes was essentially ignored as with its near slave labor million member Chinese work force, Pfizer’s and hundreds of other U.S. corporate entities that offshored their headquarters to avoid taxes did so with impunity, minus or plus an occasional slap on the wrist. Republican “deficit hawks” disappeared under Trump when Strimmons in bailouts were gifted to the elite. None wonced when the Treasury Department combined with the Federal Reserve, to literally gift them back some $6 trillion in bailouts for their first quarter 2020 losses. This was a bi-partisan affair as was Trump’s $1.9 trillion tax cut for the rich.

Here we conclude with the simple proposition that capitalism cannot be reformed regardless of which combination of corporate behemoths hold the presidency or one or another houses of Congress.

Biden’s pledge to seek bipartisan unity affirms once again that unity resides in the common exploitation of working people in the U.S. and worldwide.

His reign will see no challenge from his party to abolish America’s systemic racism, sexism and LGBTQI discrimination. The deepening degradation of the environment and capitalism’s endless wars for profit and plunder will continue as will its guarantee of yet another round of deadly pandemics that originate in capitalism’s failure to establish a rational ecological balance between nature and human society.

Today, the capitalist system has inadvertently set into motion a new generation of radicalizing youth intent on challenging ruling class prerogatives on multiple fronts.

Their success in charting a new and independent course aimed at challenging and abolishing capitalist rule will prove decisive in the years ahead. Central to their success is the construction of a mass revolutionary socialist party deeply rooted in all the struggles to come. Join us!
a living out of denying the science of cli- mate change, the one-upmanship of the talk shows, and anywhere they might get an invitation, these so-called “experts” offer up their statements to a “I'm not a climate scientist, but...” before launching into a series of carefully re- hearsed talking points meant to confuse the layperson and arouse the global panic wave.

Who defends fossil fuel industry

The fossil fuel industry has had many defenders. The Koch brothers, Heartland Institute, and15 major companies have been involved in funding and supporting this agenda. But as we know very well, the polluters are not the only ones funding the publicity campaigns. The public also has a role to play.

The fossil fuel industry has also been backed by politicians and corporate leaders. They have funded and supported campaigns to promote the use of fossil fuels and to denounce climate change as a real threat. This has been done through donations to political campaigns, lobbying efforts, and advertising campaigns.

In addition, the fossil fuel industry has also been backed by the financial sector. Banks and investment firms have provided billions of dollars in financing to fossil fuel projects, while also investing in companies that are developing cleaner technologies.

As a result, the fossil fuel industry has been able to shape public discourse and policy decisions. They have used their resources to influence the media, politicians, and regulators, and they have succeeded in slowing down the transition to renewable energy sources.

What can be done?

There are a number of things that can be done to address the threats posed by the fossil fuel industry. One approach is to increase the transparency of the industry's activities and the financial flows that support them. This could be done through better disclosure requirements for companies and financial institutions, and through the collection of taxes on carbon emissions.

Another approach is to support efforts to phase out fossil fuels. This could be done through the deployment of renewable energy sources, the development of new technologies, and the reduction of barriers to innovation.

Finally, public pressure is critical. It is important to raise awareness about the dangers of the fossil fuel industry and to support movements that aim to phase it out. This could be done through education, activism, and public discourse.

In conclusion, the fossil fuel industry is a serious threat to the planet and to all of humanity. It is essential that we take action to address this threat, and that we do so urgently.
Cops at the Capitol: Racist mob in our ranks!

The January 6th storming of the Capitol by a right-wing white supremacist mob at the instigation of Donald Trump shocked the world and laid bare the social and political crises in the United States.

Rather than the result, specifically, of Trump and Trumpism, the events of the 6th were decades in the making, and the later actions of at least 40 years of bipartisan neo-liberal attacks on workers, the poor, and people of color.

From [President] Reagan’s attack on the air-traffic controllers union in 1981, and Clinton’s ending of “welfare as we know it,” to the Biden/police collaboration on the 1994 crime bill, and Obama’s threat to use the National Guard on a Longshore Workers strike in 2012—workers and people of color have been on the defensive to protect the social, economic, and political gains won in struggle.

Meanwhile, the dominant political system serving the 1% continues its incessant attacks on progress made by social movements over the past 100 or more years which won the 8-hour work day, Social Security, women’s right to vote, a powerful union movement, the end of Jim Crow laws, access to reproductive justice, gay marriage, and more.

George Floyd protests

The 2020 George Floyd protests awakened 16-24 million anti-racist fighters who made history by demanding a new world reimagined by limiting or totally abolishing the police, who, for 300 years, have terrorized Black, Latinx and Native-American communities, workers, and any and all movements fighting for a world based on justice, democracy, and equality.

It is no surprise, given their shared dominant ideology of white supremacy and other retrograde views, that police collaborate with the right-wing mob on January 6th.

We find no comfort, therefore, that the entire labor leadership endorsed Joe Biden, who, in the midst of the Floyd protests and the massive economic crisis borne by workers and oppressed communities, has called for $300 million for the police, with self-described “Top Cop” Kamala Harris at his side and Obama gaslighting the movement for demanding police defunding.

Tech barons who control modern day social media communication have de-platformed Trump and some of his acolytes, but this points out the unchecked power of a handful of billionaires whose censorship has already been levered against left-wing critics of today’s system. It’s a slippery slope.

Need to out-mobilize right-wing

We believe that in order to challenge right-wing attacks and white-supremacist violence, the movement must out-mobilize right-wing forces by organizing workers and the millions of anti-racist fighters from this past summer. The future of our struggle resides in our own power, not the power of the 1%.

SEIU Drop the Cops, born out of the inspiring Floyd mobilizations, demands that SEIU’s leadership turn away from organizing the purported 15,000 police in our union’s ranks.

If the murder of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta by two SEIU/NAGE members was not enough, witness the massive mobilization of armed and violent police throughout the country against the largely peaceful anti-racist protesters this past summer.

Witness the police in Kenosha, Wisconsin, collaborating with white supremacist Kyle Rittenhouse, who murdered two anti-racist protesters.

Meanwhile, SEIU President Mary Kay Henry on November 7th told one of our members that her focus is on trying to get police to address racial injustice. “I’m not giving up on them,” she said. SEIU/DC wonders what happened to her statement the same time in which she said police in our ranks was a “which side are you on?” moment and that expelling police unions from the labor movement “has to be considered.” Democratic participation among the rank and file must be central for this critical decision.

Cops are strike-breakers

In times of economic crisis, Democrats and Republicans alike have historically turned to austerity measures against working people to pay for trillion-dollar bail outs of the rich.

And when working people fight back, police are deployed against our just strikes, like we witnessed during the 2020 SEIU/California Nurses Association strike against the Alameda Health System for Covid-19 job safety and other demands. Police protected buses full of scabs. When our homes need to be safe havens against the pandemic, the looming eviction crisis will come at the barrel of police pistols.

It’s clear to SEIU Drop the Cops and our like-minded brothers and sisters in the AFL-CIO that police have never been on the side of workers: every single action by organized labor since it’s inception has been opposed, often violently, by the police, who serve only to protect the private property of the rich, from the slavocracy’s chattel, to the mudflord’s tenement.

The police are enemies of the working class and not one more day should they remain in our ranks. We need reinvigorated unity among organized labor and oppressed groups in a politically independent mass movement to fight the rise of white supremacy and fascism.

• No cops in our unions!
• Organize the unorganized!
• For a mass jobs program!
• Mass independent political action to fight white supremacy and fascism!
Will ‘Big Coal’ bulldoze Rocky Mountains Beauty?

By Gary Porter

Alberta’s move to allow coal mines in protected mountains where rivers rise and cattle graze, is generating widespread opposition.

This week the popular Lethbridge-based musician Corb Lund released a statement. ‘The province’s long-standing coal policy, introduces a new factor which now includes ranchers, irrigators, farmers, landowners and entire municipalities. Coalition President Dominic LeBlanc told CBC. “It’s not hard to think of many things on which better to spend the money. How about housing the homeless, or vaccinating front line workers and the elderly?”

Julie Payette, has the Canadian establishment in a tizzy. Her sudden exit comes in the wake of a damning report that found her and her top aide responsible for workplace harassment at Rideau Hall. What are we to make of this situation? The mainstream media and opposition parties are fixated on the failure of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to properly vet, in 2017, his evidently uncognizable appointee. The affair is pregnant with another possibility. Why not abolish the GG, as well as the monarchy that the office so dutifully represents? Consider this.

Abolish the G.G., and the Monarchy too

—Her Highness—Julie Payette

number than the poor.” (Confederation, Joseph Pope, 1895) Though labor bureaucrats and NDP parliamentarians are loath even to ponder it, the working class, when it takes charge, will surely sweep aside the feudal remnants and all the parasites clinging to this malignant system.

By Barry Weisleder

The resignation, on January 21, of Governor General (GG) and former astronaut Julie Payette, has the Canadian establishment in a tizzy. Her sudden exit comes in the wake of a damning report that found her and her top aide responsible for workplace harassment at Rideau Hall. What are we to make of this situation? The mainstream media and opposition parties are fixated on the failure of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to properly vet, in 2017, his evidently uncognizable appointee. The affair is pregnant with another possibility. Why not abolish the GG, as well as the monarchy that the office so dutifully represents? Consider this.

Ottawa spent over $50 million (including Payette’s salary of $300,000) on the office in 2018. That is to say nothing of the cost borne by each province to maintain a resident lieutenant governor who performs the same pointless ceremonial functions. What prize reactionary protocol? It’s not hard to think of many things on which better to spend the money. How about housing the homeless, or vaccinating front line workers and the elderly?

Payette did not admit to any wrongdoing, although scores of her public service employees beg to differ. She reduced many to tears on a daily basis. Arrogance and a rarefied sense of entitlement seem to go with jobs at the top of the capitalist state.

Nonetheless, it’s good to see fruit of the generations of mass protests against elitism, sexism and racism—in tolerance of toxicity in the work place—when it is doggedly exposed. “It doesn’t serve a great purpose now that the governor general has resigned to ascribe blame to individuals,” Queen’s Privy Council President Dominic LeBlanc told CBC. Is this to save Payette, Trudeau, or the whole anachronistic setup?

Trudeau said that Richard Wagner, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, will fulfill the duties of the governor general on an interim basis, and that a recommendation on a permanent replacement will be made to Queen Elizabeth “in due course.”

Wouldn’t it be supremely better simply to abolish the Governor General position, terminate the presence on Turtle Island of the oppressive, blood-soaked British monarchy, and while we’re at it, dispense with the appointed Senate?

Remember that the Upper Chamber was created in 1867 to protect the men of property. Canada’s first prime minister, John A. MacDonald, put it this way: “The rights of the minority must be protected, and the rich are always fewer in the case of a long-standing coal policy that protected the mountains. “In my opinion,” he said, “it’s a very big threat to much of our fresh water and our landscape, and a terrible idea for Alberta’s long-term well-being.”

On January 5, Energy Minister Sonya Savage acknowledged the mounting opposition and announced the province was cancelling 11 coal leases “and pausing” future sales. But he is fooling no one. This represents 0.2 percent of land leased to coal operators. Meanwhile, signatures on two petitions on Facebook opposing the UPC government’s pro-coal mining moves are past 100,000. Like the escalating pandemic, Jason Kenney’s government quickly and quietly reversed the province’s 44-year-old Coal Policy.

The visionary policy of former Premier Peter Lougheed states that most of the eastern slopes of the Rockies should remain off limits to mountain-top removal mining, which now includes ranchers, irrigators, farmers, landowners and entire municipalities. Coalition President Dominic LeBlanc told CBC. “It’s not hard to think of many things on which better to spend the money. How about housing the homeless, or vaccinating front line workers and the elderly?”

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On January 7, MPs in Canada’s parliament urged the Justin Trudeau government to designate Proud Boys a terrorist entity and to ban the organization in Canada. Sadly, the motion was introduced by New Democratic Party (NDP) Leader Jagmeet Singh, who, in his own words, “stands with the unquestioned consent in the House of Commons on January 25. It calls upon the federal government to “use all available tools to address the proliferation of white supremacist and hate groups starting with the immediate designation of the Proud Boys as a terrorist entity.”

Singh, a civil rights lawyer, acts as a storefront for the far-right, so-called “alternative media” that promotes and engages in political violence, with the not-so-subtle support of U.S. President Donald Trump. The Greens and the Bloc Quebecois to undermine civil rights. He urges that Parliament extend the power of the state to ban organizations. What could possibly go wrong? History suggests that it was, at best, a foolish act, at worst a conscious betrayal.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney already obtained legislation to jail people who block a pipelines, highways or streets, for up to 10 years. A draconian punishment for exercising Charter rights, it has yet to be tested in the courts. This is not about supporting the Proud Boys. Consider who they are? Henry “Enrique Tarrio” is the chairman of the Proud Boys, a far-right, neo-fascist, male-only sect that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States and Canada. Tarrio, arrested in Florida in 2012, became a cop informer on drug and human smuggling cases for a few years. He helped put away 13 people, but no right-wing racist thugs among them.

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Activists Demand Immediate End To Deportations, Reunite Families!

By ANN MONTEGUE

El presidente Biden ha estado firmando numerosas órdenes ejecutivas. Pero una mirada más cercana muestra que no contienen soluciones inmediatas.

En su lugar, simplemente remiten los problemas a un organismo gubernamental o crean un grupo de trabajo para su estudio adicional. Los activistas pro inmigración querían acción inmediata sobre los temas más importantes: deportaciones, separación familiar y cierre de las prisiones privadas utilizadas por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

Aura Bogado, coordinadora de la Organización de Derechos de los Inmigrantes (Nak.Media), señaló que el presidente Biden ha firmado únicamente dos órdenes: una para poner fin a la separación de familias y otra para un grupo de trabajo para el tema de la reunificación.

Bogado también señala que la Orden Ejecutiva para la reunificación familiar, en su última revisión, está restringida a las familias que ya han sido separadas.

Las deportaciones continúan bajo el nuevo gobierno, y los activistas han recibido cerca de 600 familias en sólo los primeros días de la gestión del presidente Biden.

Presidente Biden ha sido criticado por no haber tomado medidas más drásticas para poner fin a las deportaciones. El grupo pro inmigración quiere que Biden firmara una Orden Ejecutiva para reconstruir las familias separadas por el gobierno.

Activists Demand Immediate End To Deportations, Reunite Families!

By ANN MONTEGUE

President Biden has been signing numerous Executive Orders. But a closer look shows they contain no immediate solutions.

Instead they merely refer issues to a governmental body or create a task force for further study. Activists for immigrant rights want immediate action on the most important issues of deportation, family separation and closing of the private prisons used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Deportations are continuing as Biden calls only for “review and planning.” Hundreds continue to be deported every week. Advocates are frustrated as they see the continuation of the same egregious practices of Trump and Obama before him.

Ara Bogado from the Center For Investigative Reporting notes that President Biden has called only for a “Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Task Force” on family separation. She points out, “This is the same agency that separated children from their parents in the first place. Now they are the ones tasked with figuring out where these families are when they never had a reunification plan in the first place?” Biden commissioned not only existing family separations.

The idea is that we need a task force, when Biden has the House and the Senate rings hollow to a lot of people. If you compare Obama and Trump just on the numbers alone, one President deported far more than the other, and that was Obama. So we will see what Biden does.”

Erika Pinheiro, the Litigation Director of EL Otro Lado is assisting families on both sides of the border. She responds to media statements that there are 600 families who are separated. “There are well over 600 if you count children that have been put in foster care and parents who were forcibly deported.”

There could easily be over a thousand families. I was disappointed to see that the task force has 120 days until their first report. That is four months of study! We are in touch with families now! They have been vetted, they are ready to return. We have no indication that they will bring back the families who were deported without their children.” There is great concern among those already working to reunite families that the task force is more than a delay, it is just posturing.

Bogado also points out that the Executive Order to end all new contracts with for-profit private corporations applies only to the Department Of Justice not ICE.

Operation Streamline

Immigration detention should never mean imprisonment because it was technically never a crime. They were held on civil charges. But in 2005 through a joint initiative of the DHS and Department Of Justice they created a program called Operation Streamline.

This fast tracked immigration offenses by providing for mass proceedings of unlawful border crossings in which as many as 80 people were tried together in a single hearing, generally pleading guilty en masse. The first entry was a misdemeanor punished by 6 months in prison. Reentry became a felony punished by up to 20 years. Prior to Operation Streamline they would have been returned to their home country unless they had committed a felony.

The immigrant rights organization in Tucson, derechos para todos the last four years has encouraged everyone to sit in a courtroom to observe Operation Streamline. It is reported shocked at the large groups of men who are shackled to each other come before the judge without a lawyer. They were given a plea agreement to sign prior to walking into the courtroom. They are sentenced and now have a prison record. Then they are sent to one of the ICE prisons.

Operation Streamline and the criminalization of immigrants has made record profits for corporations like the GEO Group and Corrections Corporation of America. It is doubtful that an executive order will end either Operation Streamline, the criminalization of immigrants or the private prison system.

More than 160 immigration and criminal justice groups across the country are calling for an end to Operation Streamline, mass sentencing and for a suspension of unauthorized entry and re entry prosecution.

They want the termination of DHS contracts with private prisons and the release of the current system. “There are 80-90 men who are brought into courtrooms and asked to plead to charges in English, then sentenced without the right to a fair a hearing and due process.” They advocate for replacing detention with immigration services and access to counsel.

Thousands of people have protested the inhumane treatment of immigrants for the last four years. Appointment a task force to study immigration reform continues the human misery. Everyone must join the fight.

End Deportations

Reunite Families

End Operation Streamline

Abolish ICE

Close all private profit prisons

(continued from page 9)

Varios activistas de inmigrantes han protestado para la reunificación de las familias separadas por el gobierno bajo el nuevo gobierno.

El presidente Biden ha estado firmando numerosas órdenes ejecutivas. Pero una mirada más cercana muestra que no contienen soluciones inmediatas. En su lugar, simplemente remiten los problemas a un organismo gubernamental o crean un grupo de trabajo para su estudio adicional. Los activistas pro inmigración querían acción inmediata sobre los temas más importantes: deportaciones, separación familiar y cierre de las prisiones privadas utilizadas por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

Bogado también señala que la Orden Ejecutiva para reunir a las familias que fueron separadas por la fuerza. Fácilmente podría haber más de mil familias.

Erika Pinheiro, directora de litigios de EL Otro Lado, está ayudando a familias en ambos lados de la frontera. Ella responde a las declaraciones de los medios de comunicación de que hay 600 familias separadas. “Hay más de 600 si se cuentan los niños que han sido puestos en hogares de crianza y los padres que fueron deportados por la fuerza. Fácilmente podría haber más de mil familias.

Me decepcionó ver el grupo de trabajo tiene 120 días hasta su primer informe. ¿Son cuatro meses de estudio? Estamos en contacto con las familias que han sido separadas. Han sido examinados, están listos para regresar.

No tenemos ninguna indicación de que traerán de regreso a las familias que fueron separadas por la fuerza. Existe una gran preocupación entre quienes ya están trabajando para reunir a las familias de que el Grupo de Trabajo sea más que una demora, es solo una pose.

Bogado también señala que la Orden Ejecutiva para poner fin a todos los nuevos contratos con empresas carcelarias privadas con fines de lucro se aplica sólo al Departamento de Justicia, no al ICE.

Operation Streamline

La detención de inmigrantes nunca debe significar encarcelamiento porque técnicamente nunca fue un crimen. Estaban detenidos por cargos civiles. Pero en 2005, a través de una iniciativa conjunta del DHS y el Departamento de Justicia, se creó un programa llamado Operation Streamline.

Esto aceleró los delitos de inmigración al proporcionar procedimientos básicos de crímenes fronterizos ilegales en los que hasta 80 personas fueron juzgadas juntas en una sola audiencia, generalmente declarándose culpables en masa. La primera medida fue una delincuencia menor sancionada con 6 meses de prisión. La reentrada se convirtió en un delito grave castigado con hasta 20 años de prisión. Antes de la Operación Streamline, habían sido devueltos a su país de origen a menos que hubieran cometido un delito grave.

La organización de derechos de los inmigrantes en Tucson, Derechos Humanos, durante los últimos cuatro años, ha conocido un aumento de grupos de trabajo para estudiar la reforma migratoria, pero no acaba con la miseria humana. Todos deben unirse a la lucha.

Poner fin a las deportaciones.

Reunificar a las familias.

Acabar con la Operación Streamline

Abolir al ICE.

Cerrar todas las cárceles privadas con fines lucrativos.
The controversial law was published in Poland’s Journal of Laws, the last step on its route to becoming law. Demonstrators shouted slogans and held placards including, “I think, I feel, I decide!” and “Freedom of choice without exception!” Protesters in the capital city of Warsaw lit red flares, waved rainbow flags and halted traffic. Wanda Nowicka, a member of Poland’s main opposition party, said that the ruling government hadn’t yet won “this war against women.” Poland’s human rights commissioner said the move signaled that the government hadn’t yet won “this war against women.” Poland’s human rights commissioner said the move signaled that the government hadn’t yet won “this war against women.” The leadership of the current movement borrows and artisans. They have little or no critical limitations of the struggle.

The government has to invest 6.39 billion rupees ($86 billion) in the agricultural sector for a significant radical challenge. It is only the working class that can lead other layers of society for a significant radical change.

Though opponents have accused the Catholic and conservative Law and Justice Party (PiS) of pressuring the court with Poland’s constitution. The government wanted to torture women and risk surgical laboratories. Women’s groups estimate that as many as 200,000 more Polish women seek abortion each year, either abroad or illegally at home.

By Suzanne Reiner

Introduction: Late in the afternoon of Jan 27, after the announcement of the publication by the Polish government of the verdict of the Constitutional Court on abortion, the National Women’s Strike called for a nationwide protest. Two hours later women and their allies mobilized in mass protests in 48 cities across the country. On Jan. 28, the journal Gazeta Wyborcza reported that “There is no other force in Poland able to mobilize like this under the conditions of a deadly pan- demic and in the heart of winter.” In violation of the law, the government, fearful of mass opposition, had delayed publication of the verdict for nearly three months.\n
Thailand, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh account for 53 percent of all farmers’ suicides. Due to the large informal Indian economy, most of the hard-earned farmers’ profits go to off high-interest rate debts to private moneylenders. In the end, the farmer ends up selling his land to pay off the debts.

One of the reasons why the Modi government is aggressively pushing for privatization is to raise capital for the agricultural sector. In fact, the Indian government has sold a large share of its assets over the next five years. This is the main reason the government is not investing in the economy, but rather distancing itself.

Debt among farmers is rising. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development reported in 2018 that 52 percent of all agricultural households were indebted with an average debt of $1,470. Suicides among farmers are rampant. National Crime Records Bureau suggests that every day 28 farmers commit suicide in India. The top six states, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh account for 53 percent of all the farmers’ suicides. Due to the large informal Indian economy, most of the hard-earned farmers’ profits go to off high-interest rate debts to private moneylenders. In the end, the farmer ends up selling his land to pay off the debts.

The leadership of the current movement borrows and artisans. They have little or no concern for issues like minimum wage rates, debt forgiveness, national calamities relief, or greater stagnation.

Many small landholders also work in big cities at kitchens and restaurants to supplement their income. Recently, COVID lockdowns have rendered the worst effects on their livelihoods. While the Indian State attempted to de- stry the feudal system by abolishing the Zamindari system in the country, even today many regions and areas of the country act to perpetuate the oppressive feudal system. In large parts of India, remnants of the worst forms of slavery are still visible.

While the nationalists aim to confine this movement to the interests of a tiny fraction of the working farmers’ community, the movement has sought to more broadly align with the working class, agricultural laborers and other layers of society on a clear class-based program.

It is no doubt that this movement has given enormous impetus to recent struggles. Indian workers are already struggling against privatization, contro- versial liberalizations in the land and declining wages. The 24-hour strike was an initial and vital expression of worker- farmer unity. But the need to consolidate India’s diverse struggles into large decisive long-term movements remains a crit- ical future objective.

Limited role of communist parties

India’s communist parties are participat- ing in strikes, protests and movements but their role is more akin to spectators rather than leading vanguard forces. It is only the working class that can lead other layers of society for a significant radical change.

But communist parties today have largely reduced themselves to electoral politics; any challenge to the capitalist order itself is far from the agenda.

India has a rich history of working-class and peasant revolts. During the colonial era peasant revolts shook the very core of British rule. However, “Independent India” has seen many tre- mendous farmers’ movements.

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By Umar Shaheen

(The article below by Umar Shaheen is an update of the historic January 26 mobilizations in India against the neoliberal policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The previous protest-strike of November 26, 2020, the “Bharat Bandh”—meaning the 24-hour closure of—including a monumental 250 million participation— See “India Strike Wave is Biggest in World History,” Socialist Action January 2021 by Marty Goodman.

The current article references India’s two large workers parties, the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), both of which are steeped in the historic reformism of Stalinism, ever in pursuit of electoral alliances with capitalist parties like the Congress Party, India’s pre-and post-independence party of the capitalist class.

The current rationale for supporting such disastrous multi-class electoral alliances is the danger posed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his reactionary right-wing Hindu party, the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party).

The Indian farmers’ struggle entered a new phase on January 26 when breaking through police barricades and sweeping through all hurdles, farmers managed to enter Red Fort and wave their farm union flags. Red Fort is a Mughal-era relic, viewed as a power symbol in India. Every year on “Independence” Day, August 15, the Indian Prime Minister hoists the Indian national flag there and delivers a speech from its ramparts. This year on Republic Day, the world saw a different scene.

The Center of Delhi became a battlefield between farmers and security forces. Violent clashes left one person dead and many injured. Due to these clashes, Indian farmers called off a march to parliament on February 1st and the leaders also condemned the violence.

One farmer told The Guardian, “We have been protesting for the last six months but the government didn’t bother to listen to us; our ancestors have charged this fort several times in history. This was a message to the government that we can do it again and more than this if our demands are not met.”

Indian farmers are protesting against three controversial agriculture laws, the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce Act, the Farmers Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities Act. These laws are aimed at corporatizing the agricultural sector, eliminating Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) subjecting prices to the mercy of market forces. Price supports out the window

They curtail the farmers’ right to challenge contract disputes in court and encourage stockpiling and other measures designed to the advantage big capitalists. The basic purpose of APMCs has been to ensure that all farmers’ produce be brought to designated market yards and then sold through auction, the practice followed since the independence of India. This ensured a minimum support price (MSP), set by the government for a farmer’s harvest.

The state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the largest procurer and distributor of food grains; it contracts for 15 to 20 per cent of India’s wheat output and 12 to 15 per cent of its rice output annually. This provides food through various government-run welfare arrangements at subsidized rates that help poorer sections of society. The difference between MSP and subsidized rates is paid by the government. It is no coincidence that the largest FCI operations are in the Punjab state.

The epicenters of the current farmer’s movement have been in Punjab and Haryana. These two states constitute three per cent of India’s land area but produce close to 50 per cent of its surplus of rice and wheat. The new laws will benefit large-scale retailers and capitalists. Small and marginal farmers will face disaster. The Indian State of Bihar is a perfect example of the consequences of implementing nation-wide these new laws. Fifteen years ago the government’s dismantling of its procurement infrastructures and establishment of “open” markets in Bihar saw farmers forced to sell their rice at $16 per 100 kilograms on the “open” market whereas farmers in Punjab sold the same quantities of rice at the government subsidized rate of $25.

Soon after the introduction of these laws in September farmers started the campaign for “Rail Roko” (Stop the Trains), from September 24 to October 23, 2020. Farmers successfully halted train services by laying and protesting on railway tracks. With no response from their state governments, they moved to pressure the central government. Millions of farmers across India heeded the call for Delhi Chalo (Farmers’ march towards Delhi, capital of India).

Since the end of November, Indian farmers successfully established townships outside Delhi via mass sit-ins. On November 26, 2020, Bharat Bandh (Closure of India, a 24-hour strike) was called against the controversial labor and agriculture laws. 250 million farmers and workers participated.

Since then, farmers have maintained their blockade of Delhi. Opposition parties and several showbiz celebrities have expressed their support for their struggle. Their movement has become a national focal point highlighting the plight of all Indian workers and farmers. Modi regime retreats for the moment

The right-wing media has played a scandalous role as the hired agents of the ruling class by projecting the farmers as terrorists, acting on foreign agendas aimed at destabilizing the country. Farmers have been branded separatists, mislead by political parties. Police have prevented them from moving towards Delhi. They have been pilloried as “reckless” for taking on the government’s might.

While the government has attempted to break their unity, the farmers have demonstrated an unprecedented resilience. The government has charged that opposition political parties are trying to subvert political stability.

But the government has backed off, at least for the moment, proposing to suspend these laws for 18 months and to include some concessions. The farmers, however, are demanding the total repeal of all these laws and the conviction of a special session of parliament to do so. In the second week of January, the Indian Supreme Court rushed to save face for the ruling class by suspending the implementation of the three laws until further notice and establishing a committee to review the matter.

However, The All India Kisan Sangh- Harish Coordination Committee rejected the formation of this committee because its members included the same people who are known for their support to the three new laws. The Farmers’ Demands Include: Convert a special Parliament session to repeal the farm laws. Mandate minimum support price (MSP) and state procurement of crops a legal obligation. Assure that the constitutional procurement system remains. Implement Swaminathan Panel Report and peg MSP at least 50 percent more than weighted average cost of production. Cut diesel prices for agricultural use by 50 percent. Repeal the Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and the adjoining Ordinance 2020 and remove punishment and fines for stubble burning. Release farmers arrested for burning paddy stubble in Punjab. Abolish the Electricity Ordinance 2020. Center should not interfere in state subjects, decentralization in practice. Withdraw all charges against and release of leader farmers.

Class struggle in the countryside

Agriculture remains a predominant occupation in India. According to the World Bank, more than 40 percent of India’s workforce is engaged in agriculture. It provides a livelihood to nearly 70 per cent of the country’s 1.3 billion people. Water shortages, natural calamities, debt, increasing input costs, double-digit inflation combined with manslaughter by multinatioanl companies have ruined the lives of countless farmers.

A report by the Organization for Eco- (continued on page 13)