



December 28, 2024

“President” Musk gets his lapdog Trump to push for government shutdown

By Mark Gruenberg and John Wojcik

WASHINGTON—Apparently heeding his corporate “handler,” multibillionaire Elon Musk, Republican President-elect Donald Trump torpedoed a spending agreement covering the federal government from now through March 14 unless congressional Democrats raised the U.S. debt ceiling.

Musk and his lap dog Trump don’t want to deal with the mess of raising the debt ceiling next year even though it doesn’t need to be raised until at least June. And, most important, they want it raised now to allow for a massive tax cut for billionaires promised by Trump during his campaign.

Musk went on social media all day long yesterday to rant and rave about the bi-partisan compromise deal reached by House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a deal which put money into the hurricane and storm relief efforts across the country and continued the funding of essential government programs until next January.

If all this sounds convoluted, it is. Showing his ignorance about law-making in a democracy, Musk said that there should be no agreements on legislation until after Trump takes over on January 20. That would mean intense suffering immediately for millions of Americans and guarantee long term suffering for them next year while he, Musk, wallows in comfort becoming the richest man in the world.

It doesn’t matter that Musk is lying when he claims he deserves, because of his innate brilliance, all his riches and wealth. He conveniently ignores that his wealth comes from government contracts paid for by the U.S. working class. Even more important, he forgets that when Tesla was about to collapse into insolvency he went, hat in hand, to then-President Obama to beg for a 600 million-dollar handout from the government which Obama granted to him. Today he shows gratitude to the people who provide him with the money lining his pockets by not even offering a slice of cake to the hungry, as Marie Antoinette famously did just before the French Revolution.

The blowing up of the budget deal and the impending government shutdown show Musk’s clout and Trump’s satisfaction with being his lap dog as long as he (Trump) gets his stay-out-of-jail-card by being elected again and, if Musk allows him to do it, the power to grant unlimited drilling rights to his pals in the fossil fuel industry.



The collapse of the deal, already on shaky ground due to flak from Trumpite right-wingers in the U.S. House and the twitterverse, raises the prospect of a government shutdown of all but essential services at midnight at the end of tomorrow December 20.

Worked out the spending plan

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., had worked out the spending plan, which would give the pro-rated share of a trillion dollars to the military and its contractors and keep domestic spending, also pro-rated, at the same level as it is now, at about \$200 billion less. Those two shares began this past October 1. Their plan would avoid the shutdown.

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CONTINUING THE DAILY WORKER



For over a century, People’s World and its predecessor publications have taken the side of the 99 percent and worked to promote the struggle for a sustainable environment, jobs, democracy, peace, and equality.

“President” Musk gets his lapdog Trump

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Musk and, then Trump, only in the last minute when it was clear he had marching orders from his master, opposed it. Trump did not even get involved in this fight until after Musk spent a full day sabotaging it on social media.

“We should pass a streamlined spending bill that doesn’t give Chuck Schumer and the Democrats everything they want,” Trump and Vance tweeted out of reverence for the wishes of Musk. “The only way to do that is with a temporary funding bill WITHOUT DEMOCRAT GIVEAWAYS combined with an increase in the debt ceiling.”

Musk tweeted that anybody “who votes for this outrageous spending bill deserves to be voted out in two years!” Musk owns twitter, now called X. He purchased it allegedly to promote freedom of the press which he and his billionaire pals are busy taking away. The billionaire owner of the LA Times recently hopped on the “free press” bandwagon by ordering his writers to stop producing articles critical of Trump.

The debt ceiling hike is the financial and political key to Musk’s clout, however. Both Trump and Musk know full well why the debt ceiling must be raised. If it isn’t raised eventually the federal government will run out of financial room to pay its debts.

Demagogues, almost all Republicans, rail against and vote against raising the debt ceiling. They portray it as akin to failing to balance your checkbook. It isn’t. It’s the equivalent of maxing out on the national credit card and asking for and getting a hike on your credit limit. No increase, and you default.

That debt limit hike not only lets the government borrow to pay past bills, but also to run up future debts—like debt from the planned Trump-GOP tax cuts for corporations and the rich after January 20.

In prior financial fights, the House’s Democrats bailed the Republicans out by voting to raise the debt limit, as well as to pass temporary money bills, like the one that Musk via Trump torpedoed. The Democrats bailed out the GOP the only time the Republicans led the nation to the brink of a default, in 2011.

It was close. Wall Street downgraded the U.S.’s world-leading credit rating from AAA to AA+.

“The downgrade reflects our view that the effectiveness, stability, and predictability of American policymaking and political institutions have weakened at a time of ongoing fiscal and economic challenges to a degree more than we envisioned,” Standard and Poor’s said then. Sound familiar?

This time, after Trump, under orders from Musk, torpedoed the spending deal, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., said the Democrats weren’t necessarily going to play the game or be the political patsies for Trump and Musk.

“House Republicans have been ordered to shut down the government. And hurt the working-class Americans they claim to support,” Jeffries retorted in a tweet. “You break the bipartisan agreement, you own the consequences that follow.” In other words, the shutdown.

You break it, you own it

Or as Gen. Colin Powell said of the results of one U.S. Middle East war: “Once you break it, you are going to own it.”

The money bill’s numbers count only “discretionary” spending which Congress controls, for everything from air traffic control to food inspections to wage and hour law enforcement to battling monopolies. That spending, and half the government with it, would shut down if Congress doesn’t meet the deadline.

That figure doesn’t cover pre-set programs available to all, notably Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, all of which Trump has mused about cutting. But “discretionary” spending also includes paying workers who run those three big programs, and all others.

The 1,547-page bill had more than just continuing present levels of spending. Add-ons included \$110 billion in relief for disaster victims, a one-year extension of farm subsidies, and curbs on so-called pharmacy benefit managers whose rulings on which medicines are covered and which aren’t help drive up health care costs.

It also had a congressional pay raise—the first in 16 years—and renewal, with more available money, of federal flood insurance. With GOP support, Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., inserted a streamlined federal worker retraining program, too.

The bill even demanded the military probe and provide information on potential threats from drones near busy U.S. airports. Drones buzzed the New York metro area’s congested airspace the week before.

Both Trump and Vance claimed the congressional pay raise would be 40%. Factcheck.org, from the Annenberg Public Policy Center, reported it would be—at a legal maximum—3.8%.

Opposition to the deal wasn’t confined to congressional Trumpites. The tweeters on Musk’s platform X were even nastier. Jeffries cited them as well as the flak from the House Trumpite Republicans. And even Speaker Johnson wasn’t enthusiastic.

Most tweeters slammed the pay raise. One falsely claimed the feds are giving money to D.C. to erect a new stadium for the city’s football team. Another listed all the military aid for Israel, the Ukraine, Egypt and Jordan and demanded its elimination.

Defending his money bill, Johnson said it would also “clear the decks” for Trump. “That’s when the big changes start, and we can’t wait to get there,” he said. The big changes are in separate, and temporarily sidelined, Republican-written money bills. They feature draconian cuts in domestic spending and social issue riders to appease the Trumpites.

And Johnson pointed out the Democrats still control the Senate, and will until the new Congress convenes, so he must compromise with them. Paraphrasing a quote wrongly attributed to famed German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, Johnson told Trump megaphone Fox “News”: “This is the sausage-making process, OK?”

Bismarck’s alleged quote was, “Laws are like sausages. It is best not to see them being made.”

General Motors' 1991 Christmas Massacre: 21 plants, 74,000 jobs gone

By Special to People's World



This article is part of the [People's World 100th Anniversary Series](#).

In the 1980s, General Motors CEO Roger Smith became infamous in the eyes of auto workers nationwide after he initiated a major onslaught against organized labor and the working class with his mass shutdown and outsourcing of auto plants across the country. He and his deeds were immortalized in filmmaker Michael Moore's 1989 documentary, [Roger & Me](#).

Smith's successor at GM, executive Robert Stempel, carried on the offensive. On Dec. 20, 1991, just as auto workers were ending their shifts to go on holiday break with their families, Stempel and GM announced it was closing 21 more plants across North America, eliminating 74,000 jobs.

The article below, published in our Dec. 21, 1991, edition, was People's World's first article on the "General Motors Christmas Massacre."

The General Motors Christmas Massacre: GM to shut down 21 plants

Special to the World

Dec. 21, 1991

DETROIT—General Motors Corp. yesterday announced that it will close 21 North American plants over the next four years and slash thousands of jobs, decimating auto worker communities already reeling from years of double-digit unemployment. The announcement is hitting auto communities like a bloody Christmas massacre.

The statement said six vehicle assembly plants, four powertrain plants and 11 component plants will be permanently closed. United Auto Workers' President Owen Bieber and UAW Vice President Stephen P. Yokich, head of the union's General Motors Department, compared GM to Ebenezer Scrooge.

"Both in the long and the short term, strategies which close plants, reduce employment, and curtail capital spending are self-defeating," they said. "This announcement will not only strengthen our resolve to fully enforce the contract, it will further energize us to win the White House."

One of GM's two plants that produce large rear-wheel drive cars—either the plant in Arlington, Texas or the one in Ypsilanti, Mich.—will be shut down. GM's refusal to say which will be closed led UAW members to charge that GM is resorting to "whipsaw" tactics, pitting the workers in the two plants against each other in order to force wage and benefit concessions.

Dave Perdue, President of UAW Local 276 representing the 3,800 workers at the Arlington plant told People's World that the members were voting by secret ballot Wednesday on whether to allow the local "to put together a package that will be attractive to the company."

Perdue denied that GM had asked for concessions, but he said the shutdown of the plant would be devastating to the Dallas-Fort Worth region, which has already been hit by deep job cutbacks at the General Dynamics plant and the closing of Carswell Air Force Base.

"These jobs are really vital to the economy of this part of Texas," he said. "We've really been decimated by lay-offs." Every candidate for the presidency, whether Republican or Democrat, must be confronted with demands for action to reverse the economic recession, Perdue said.

"The problems we have out here have been accumulating for 12 years," he said. "The Republicans haven't helped us a bit. George Bush isn't asking us, 'Are you better off now than you were 12 years ago?' We're all much worse off."

In addition to the plant closings, the company will accelerate a white-collar job reduction program that eliminated 6,000 jobs this year. An additional 9,400 salaried jobs are to be eliminated in 1992 through attrition and a new early-retirement program. GM also plans to reduce its hourly work force by 15,000 people through attrition and retirement next year.

The assembly plant closings are likely to affect supplier plants inside and outside the mammoth automaker, boosting the number of layoffs.

GM CEO Robert Stempel was asked which of the two rear-drive plants will close. "Obviously, we're not down to which one," he said, adding GM would decide early next year. Asked whether GM was playing one plant off against another, he said, "We are not in the process of whipsawing."

At least one of GM's five plants making mid-sized front-wheel drive cars would be closed next year. These closings are in addition to the four assembly plants GM already announced it would idle. Starting in 1993, GM said it will stop making V6 engines in Lansing, Mich. These engine lines will be consolidated into plants in Flint, Mich., and Tonawanda, N.Y.

GM has more than 300,000 active hourly workers and about 94,000 salaried employees in the United States. The UAW contract requires that laid off workers get payments supplementing unemployment to bring their benefits to 95% of their normal take-home pay. After 36 weeks, the workers must be rehired or put in a special job pool at full pay.

Even before the official announcement, workers coming off the night shift at the Arlington plant reacted with fear and disbelief. "We're just holding our breath. We don't know what's going to happen," said George Grishman, 64, who has worked at the Arlington plant for seven years. "You just have to look for another job. It reaches down to every nook and cranny in your life."

Clearly, it will take more than hope to stem the massive loss of jobs being planned by corporate America.

Kill the ‘non-profit killer’ bill

By Sonali Kolhatkar



Shortly after the election this fall, the House passed a dangerous piece of legislation that many call the “non-profit killer” bill. The bill has an incongruous title: the “Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.”

It would give the Treasury Department the authority to unilaterally accuse non-profit organizations of supporting “terrorism” and revoke their non-profit status. Critics, like the ACLU, say this would give presidents the power to shut down organizations that criticize them.

When the bill was introduced in the spring, it was largely viewed as an effort to silence pro-Palestinian activism. At the time, dozens of House Democrats supported it alongside most Republicans. However, after Donald Trump’s White House win, amid fears that the incoming president would use it to bludgeon his perceived enemies, it passed with significantly less Democratic support.

But, really, it should never have been introduced or passed, no matter the political winds. The bill is considered unlikely to pass the Senate this year, but it could be reintroduced next year and signed by President Trump.

This would have a dangerous chilling effect on speech.

Consider the Florida woman Briana Boston, who recently said, “Delay, deny, depose. You people are next,” during a phone call with a health insurance representative after her coverage was denied. It was a reference to what the killer of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson wrote on bullet casings in a now-infamous targeted assassination.

Boston has no history of violence, nor does she own firearms. But she wasn’t only arrested—she was charged with threatening to commit an act of *terrorism*.

What she was really “guilty” of was expressing vitriol against corporate CEOs for an inhumane business model. It’s not hard to imagine such a scenario applied to non-profits in the coming years.

Non-profits are effectively the voice of civil society in the United States. And even without HR 9495, they already have severe limits on their speech. In order to keep their non-profit status, groups have to follow strict [guidelines](#) published by the Internal Revenue Service when speaking about elections.

As a journalist who works in the non-profit world, I’ve seen the resulting self-censorship firsthand. Many journalists and non-profit leaders feared compromising their institutions if they warned about Donald Trump’s fascism or even criticized President Joe Biden’s policies regarding Gaza ahead of the 2024 election.

Meanwhile, for-profit industries have enjoyed continuous and ever-growing impunity to advocate for whatever they want, no matter how destructive.

For example, the health insurance and fossil fuel industries play with people’s lives by denying coverage and spewing carbon, respectively. However, they have been given the right to [spend enormous amounts](#) of their ill-gotten gains on campaign contributions, putting an outsized thumb on the democratic scale.

Kill the bill

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Thanks to the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling, they have greater means to make anonymous donations to Political Action Committees to lobby the government and help elect politicians.

The Supreme Court has long considered corporations to be, in a legal sense, people. In contrast to such abstract entities, we humans can be jailed, silenced, or even killed by corporate-controlled systems—and the non-profits representing our interests can be officially sanctioned for “political speech.”

Today, corporations have greater means to speak more freely than the rest of us, and they are increasingly grabbing political power to cement their stranglehold.

Trump’s incoming administration will likely be filled with billionaires. And his proposed Treasury Secretary pick—who would ostensibly oversee the department making determinations under HR 9495—is a long-time hedge fund investment manager named Scott Bessent. Trump has also openly promised to bend regulations for billionaire investors.

In this context, HR 9495 is not only a danger to civil society’s right to speech but a serious escalation in favor of corporations.

Telling our stories: breaking out of capitalism’s cultural chains

By David Hill



The following is based on a report given to the CPUSA National Committee in November, and includes contributions from members of the Writers Subcommittee of the CPUSA Labor Commission.

As political and cultural battles deepen in the United States, we must intensify the struggle to reclaim the cultural arena from capitalist dominance. Just as the Party contests in elections to challenge the ruling class, it recognizes the need to contest dominant cultural narratives — via stories, art, music, and media — that shape public consciousness. For the Party, the goal is clear: to build a working-class media ecosystem that inspires, mobilizes, and gives voice to struggles that corporate platforms ignore.

Culture is more than entertainment — it’s where beliefs are formed and values are reinforced. Stories we hear and tell shape our understanding of the world and what we think is possible. For decades, capitalism has spun a web of false narratives: the myth of rugged individualism, the illusion of American exceptionalism, and the lie of meritocracy.

More insidiously, capitalist culture has perpetuated racism, misogyny, and national chauvinism to divide the working class and protect corporate profits. In contrast, socialism offers a compelling, aspirational alternative. It tells stories of community, solidarity, and a better future — of ending exploitation, achieving true democracy, and ensuring that every person has dignity, security, and a place in society. These stories are powerful. These values naturally resonate with working people. Yet, we ask: why aren’t we a louder voice in the cultural arena?

Reflecting on the 2024 election cycle, the Party highlighted both progress and challenges in the media landscape. Efforts to grow People’s World, the Party’s flagship publication, are paying off as local clubs in Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Maine, and Massachusetts adopt writers’ collectives, drawing new contributors into the process. Ohio’s District is developing a statewide writers’ network, and the Labor Commission’s Writers Subcommittee has emerged as a model for amplifying local labor struggles across the country.

Initiatives like the National Writers Group Exchange, led by the Working-Class Project, are fostering collaboration among writers nationwide, while significant strides in new media — such as Good Morning Revolution and improved content on Instagram and Twitter — are strengthening the Party’s reach. Plans to revive the Southern Workers Voice, a regional edition of People’s World focused on labor organizing in the Southeast, reflect the Party’s commitment to reaching working-class communities in often-overlooked regions.

Yet the Party is equally clear about the challenges that lie ahead.

The MAGA movement, armed with its sprawling media machine, dominates platforms like YouTube, podcasts, and streaming services, where influential voices such as Joe Rogan, comedian Theo Von, and streamer Adin Ross have drawn millions of young viewers into far-right spaces. Figures once considered apolitical have become entry points for fascistic ideology, contributing to a rightward shift among young men in the 2024 election.

Popular left-leaning platforms, while critical of capitalism, have also fallen short of mobilizing their audiences toward organized struggle. Chapo Trap House, a widely listened-to podcast, spent much of the election cycle fostering cynicism about electoral participation, discouraging engagement while maintaining a paradoxical focus on the political process. This attitude, paired with its entertainment value, suppressed voter enthusiasm among young people who traditionally lean toward progressive causes. Meanwhile, corporate media narratives of a “booming economy” stood in stark contrast to the real struggles of working people, deepening distrust and alienation among voters.

The challenges extend beyond messaging and include infrastructure and resources. As Karl Marx explained in *The German Ideology* (1846):

“The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are subject to it.”

Modern media production requires skilled writers, editors, designers, coders, and video producers — talent often monopolized by capitalist media.

As corporate networks absorb the most skilled workers, socialist movements are left under-resourced. Adding to this is a fundamental shift in how people consume information: many no longer rely on traditional media, gravitating instead to digital entertainment-driven platforms while avoiding explicitly political content altogether.

In response, the Party can chart a path forward to build a working-class media ecosystem capable of competing with capitalist narratives. Building on the success of the writers’ collective model, we should strive to organize media collectives in every local club.

To sustain this effort, the Party can focus on skill-building at the national level, training members in writing, editing, video production, and design to support local clubs while growing long-term capacity. Strategic partnerships with labor unions like the National Writers Union and SAG-AFTRA will help tap into networks of unionized media workers while strengthening ties to the broader labor movement.

Recognizing the changing habits of media consumption, the Party should plan to mobilize members to create all forms of online content — not only explicitly political media, but also cultural and entertainment-driven works that meet people where they are. This includes elevating significant works developed from local to national platforms in order to ensure the strongest stories reach the widest possible audience. By expanding capacity, training new talent, and engaging strategically with digital media, the Party can amplify working-class voices, challenge capitalist narratives, and light the spark of class consciousness.

Cultural work is integral to the overall class struggle. For too long, capitalism’s cultural dominance has gone unchallenged, shaping values and beliefs to preserve the status quo. Yet socialism offers an alternative vision — one of solidarity, community, and hope. By reclaiming the cultural arena and building a working-class media ecosystem, the Party can help tell the stories that inspire change, mobilize action, and give voice to the struggles and dreams of working people. Media is not just a tool for the Party, it is a reflection of the hopes and dreams of working people, dreams that can become reality through action.



With health insurer greed in spotlight, Michael Moore brings back 'Sicko' movie



Editor's Note: After the killing of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson by Luigi Mangione on Dec. 4, the greed and profiteering of the private health insurance industry is back in the spotlight, with millions of Americans sharing their stories of denied claims and care. It is in that context that filmmaker Michael Moore has brought back his 2007 documentary Sicko, which he has made available to [WATCH FOR FREE ON YOUTUBE](#).

Here's one of our original articles from the summer the film was released. It was published in People's Weekly World under the headline "Health insurers worried sick over Michael Moore film" on July 13, 2007.

Filmmaker Michael Moore, on July 6, 2007, sent out a copy of a confidential memo forwarded to his office by an employee of Capital Blue Cross. The memo, intercepted by a Blue Cross worker, was written and circulated by the company's vice president of corporate communications, Barclay Fitzpatrick. His assignment was to go and watch Sicko, observe the audience's reaction, and then suggest a plan of action for how the health insurance industry should deal with the movie.

The film is a searing indictment of the role of private insurance companies in the delivery of costly and substandard health care to the American public, and it shows how people in Britain, Canada, France, and Cuba enjoy health care superior to that available in the United States.

The Blue Cross vice president appeared on the verge of depression as he wrote, "You would have to be dead to be unaffected by Moore's movie." "Sicko," Fitzpatrick wrote, "leaves audiences feeling ashamed to be a capitalist, and part of a 'me' society instead of a 'we' society."

The Blue Cross VP wrote further in his memo: "In typical Moore fashion, government and business leaders are behind a conspiracy to keep the little guy down and dominated while they get rich." "No. You don't say! That can't be!" Michael Moore said in response.

Moore's film presents the picture of a health insurance industry dedicated to denying claims in the name of profit. It exposes how the companies call routine treatments "experimental," how they call new illnesses "pre-existing conditions," and how they single out application errors and omissions—all in an effort to deny treatment and increase their profits.

The film shows how Blue Cross, specifically, denied many claims for incredible reasons, turning down life-saving treatment for a woman simply because she was "too fat." Fitzpatrick's memo discusses reaction of the public after the film showing he attended. He expressed alarm that "people—complete strangers—started mingling and talking to each other, making remarks like 'I didn't know that the insurance companies did that.'"

health insurer greed in spotlight

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He continues, “The impact on small business decision makers, our members, the community, and our employees could be significant. Ignoring its impact might be a successful strategy only if it flops, but that has not been the history of Moore’s films. If popular, the movie will have a negative impact on our image in this community.”

Moore, in response, challenged Capital Blue Cross to a debate.

No more secret memos and hand-wringing about the millions seeing Sicko,” he said, “Just me and your CEO openly debating the merits of a system that kills thousands of innocent Americans every year.”

Moore also told the folks at Blue Cross that he hoped they wouldn’t mind his sharing the Fitzpatrick memo with the people of the United States. Not too much regarding Sicko seems to be going as the insurance execs had hoped. On July 6, the day Michael Moore released his copy of the secret Blue Cross memo, the movie opened in an additional 100 cities for a total of over 700 screens across the United States. Attendance went up a whopping 56% on the Fourth of July, higher than any other film in theaters.

“But don’t be scared, and certainly don’t be ashamed to be a capitalist,” Moore wrote to Fitzpatrick, adding, “Greed is good! Especially good for you. There’s nothing like having the pre-existing condition of being rich, should you ever get sick and need help.”

End the cruel and hypocritical attack on Cuban sovereignty

By CPUSA International Department



The CPUSA International Department issued this statement on Friday, Dec. 20 on the occasion of the Cuban people’s demonstration against the blockade in front of the U.S. embassy in Havana.

Comrades, at this critical moment, the Communist Party of the United States of America reaffirms its commitment to the Cuban Revolution and its people in their struggle for justice, sovereignty, and socialism.

The U.S. designation of Cuba as a “state sponsor of terrorism” is a baseless slander, reflecting U.S. imperialist hostility towards nations that dare to defend their independence. It is a flagrant hypocrisy for a country like the United States, with its long history of interventions, violence, and support for dictatorial regimes around the world, to accuse Cuba of terrorism. The fight against unjust sanctions is a fight for the dignity of all peoples around the world who defend their right to self-determination. It is time for the U.S. government to cease its economic warfare and systematic aggression against Cuba!

The Communist Party of the United States condemns the cruel and brutal policy of the blockade which continues to affect the everyday lives of Cubans and must be lifted immediately.

The Communist Party of the United States will work to mobilize a massive coalition and pressure the U.S. government to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Cuba is not a state sponsor of terrorism, but a nation that has worked tirelessly for peace, international cooperation, and social justice, even collaborating with the United States in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. It is unacceptable for the U.S. government to continue using the “terrorist” classification as a tool to cause the suffering of the Cuban people.

Today, at this protest in front of the U.S. Embassy in Havana, we raise our voices with you to demand that Cuba be removed from this list, that the blockade be lifted, and that U.S. imperialism cease to be an obstacle to global progress and peace.

We are with you in the fight for justice, freedom, and socialism. Long live the Cuban Revolution! Until victory, always!



***Seasons
Greetings
from all at
People's World***

***Peace
&
Solidarity
for
2025***

Free Palestine

-

End all wars

***Another World
is
Possible***

***People's World
is taking a
break***

***we will be
back with
you on the
week-ending
January 11, 2025***



Women in France and around the world: ‘Thank you, Gisele’

By L’Humanite

“Thank You, Gisele,” a huge banner read opposite the Avignon courtroom Wednesday as Gisele Pelicot watched her rapist husband Dominique sentenced to 20 years behind bars.

Mr. Pelicot received the maximum sentence for aggravated rape under French law after admitting he had drugged his wife over the years, knocking her out and recruiting strangers online who abused her while he filmed the process. At 72, he may die in jail.

All 50 men accused of the rape or sexual assault of Ms. Pelicot in a trial that has shaken France got jail sentences ranging from three to 15 years, though prosecutors said they felt many of the sentences were too lenient.

Ms. Pelicot waived her right to anonymity as a survivor of sexual abuse and pushed successfully for the evidence, including the videos her husband took, to be heard and viewed in open court “so that all victims of rape no longer feel ashamed.” She looked each defendant in the eye as they were sent down.

Feminists across France say her courage has opened up a national conversation about rape and sexual abuse.

“Men are starting to talk to women—their girlfriends, mothers, and friends,” said activist Fanny Foures of the Amazons feminist organization.

“Some women are realizing, maybe for the first time, that their ex-husbands violated them, or that someone close to them committed abuse.

“And men are starting to reckon with their own behavior or complicity — things they’ve ignored or failed to act on. It’s heavy, but it’s creating change.”

Mr. Pelicot was initially arrested after a supermarket security guard caught him filming up women’s skirts. Police raiding his home discovered a vast library documenting the years of abuse. Seventy-two men feature in the videos, but it was not possible to identify them all.

The trial has exposed widespread misogynist attitudes, with some defendants claiming a husband could consent to sex on his wife’s behalf or that they believed they were taking part in a consensual sex game. Ms. Pelicot rejected all excuses, declaring: “They are rapists, full stop.”

Colón responde a los nazis: “El odio no tiene hogar aquí”

By David Hill

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Docenas de personas de toda la ciudad se reunieron recientemente en el distrito Columbus Short North en una fría tarde de diciembre para mostrarle al mundo que “el odio no tiene hogar aquí”.

Apenas unas semanas después de la impactante marcha nazi en Columbus, que recibió cobertura de la prensa internacional y condena de la administración Biden, el pueblo de Columbus organizó una “Caminata por la Humanidad” por las mismas calles de la ciudad.

“Necesitamos tomar este horrible evento y convertirlo en algo que pueda ser realmente positivo para mucha gente”, dijo Kathleen Minor, organizadora del evento. Alrededor de tres docenas de miembros de la comunidad se reunieron en Short North, portando una serie de pancartas que incluían la bandera del Orgullo y carteles con lemas populares como “Be The Change”.

Los organizadores distribuyeron calcomanías que decían “Be Kind” a los transeúntes en medio de la ajetreada temporada de compras navideñas en uno de los principales distritos comerciales de Columbus. El ambiente de la protesta fue de júbilo, con parlantes tocando canciones como “We are the World” y “I Will Survive” desde un pequeño carrito tirado al frente de la marcha. Tanto niños como adultos sintieron la energía festiva: “Me encanta la música”, dijo la fotógrafa y participante Jenny Riegler.

La comunidad reflejó la positividad y la alegría a medida que la marcha avanzaba por Short North, con autos que pasaban tocando bocinas y gente sonriente saludando desde tiendas y cafés a lo largo de la ruta. Los manifestantes se detuvieron e intercambiaron abrazos con amigos y conocidos en los negocios locales. En un momento, la multitud se encontró con un corredor que venía por la acera en dirección opuesta. La multitud se abrió por la mitad y el hombre pasó con el puño levantado en el aire en señal de apoyo.

La recepción de la comunidad a la Caminata por la Humanidad fue un marcado contraste con la respuesta de Colón a los nazis en sus calles semanas antes. Las imágenes de la cámara corporal de la policía muestran a los manifestantes nazis quejándose ante los agentes de que habían sido atacados por transeúntes mientras marchaban por Short North portando banderas con la esvástica y gritando consignas de odio.

Un oficial respondió con los sentimientos de toda la ciudad en un comentario espontáneo plasmado en las imágenes de la cámara corporal: “Definitivamente siento que tienes el derecho de la Primera Enmienda a decir cualquier tontería que sea esto, pero vamos, hombre, los Buckeyes están jugando. Hombre, vamos”.

La policía señaló en su relato que los nazis parecían estar cubiertos de gas pimienta. El Columbus Dispatch informó que la gente “les apuntó con armas y arrojó latas y verduras” a los nazis.

Nada de esa energía estuvo presente el sábado por la tarde en la Caminata por la Humanidad. Aunque un grupo de tres policías de Columbus acompañaron la marcha para garantizar la seguridad, en ningún momento de las horas de manifestación hubo siquiera un atisbo de enfrentamiento.

Mientras el sol brillaba bajo en el horizonte y entre los viejos edificios de ladrillo a última hora de la tarde, la multitud sonriente se reunió para una foto grupal antes de dispersarse.

“Tal vez este sea un nuevo comienzo para algo diferente”, reflexionó Minor sonriendo mientras la multitud se dispersaba el sábado por la noche. Todos lo esperamos.

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People's World
3339 S. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60608
Ph: (773) 446-9920 Fax: (773) 446-9928

