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November 22, 2014

28 arrested so far in sit-down strikes at California Walmarts

Combined Sources

Twenty-eight people—including members of the clergy, community members and striking Walmart workers—were arrested outside a Walmart store in Los Angeles today calling on the company and its owners—the Waltons—to end the illegal threats to and retaliation against workers calling for \$15 an hour and consistent, full-time work at the country's largest private employer. The group was joined by hundreds of Californians who rallied outside the store in Pico Rivera, the site of the first Walmart strikes in 2012. Since earlier today, when striking workers held the first-ever sit down strike in company history in a Crenshaw, CA store, more workers have walked off the job.

As a second sit down strike continued in the Pico Rivera store, the group of Californians said America's largest employer and richest family are driving the income inequality problems that are holding the country back. Even as Walmart brings in \$16 billion in annual profits and Walmart's owners build on their \$150 billion in wealth, the majority of Walmart workers are paid less than \$25,000 a year.

The group of striking workers, from stores throughout California and part of the national organization OUR Walmart, placed tape over their mouths signifying the company's illegal efforts to



silence workers who are calling for better jobs.

Striking workers held signs with an historical nod to those of the first retail sit-down strike at Woolworth in 1937, when retail workers at the then-largest retailer in the country called for the company to increase pay, provide a 40-hour work week. The Walmart workers' signs called for the company to stop the retaliation against workers who have spoken out.

To date, workers at more than 2,100 Walmart

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stores nationwide have signed a petition calling on Walmart and the Waltons to commit to paying \$15 an hour and providing consistent, full-time hours. After taking the petition to members of the Walton family, workers' supporters committed to return to stores on Black Friday and protest if jobs

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aren't improved by then.

A growing number of Americans say Walmart and its owners are robbing workers of a decent living by paying the majority of workers less than \$25,000 a year. The Walton family, which controls the Walmart empire, is the richest family in the U.S.-with the wealth of 43 percent of American families combined. While many Walmart workers are unable to feed and clothe their families, the Walton family takes in \$8.6 million a day in Walmart dividends alone to build on its \$150 billion in wealth. Walmart brings in \$16 billion in annual profits.

The sit-down strikes and protest come on the heels of a New York Times story on how persistent understaffing at Walmart stores is contributing to wasted food, un-stocked shelves and lower sales. For the past three years, workers have been raising concerns about understaffing and the impact on the company's wellbeing with managers, shareholders and executives. Investors and analysts are also reacting today to the company's third-quarter

financial reports, which indicate that persistent staffing problems are keeping the company from improving customer traffic and growing the business.

OUR Walmart members have made significant strides toward creating change at the country's largest private employer. Most recently, after public calls from the organization for Walmart to raise pay, the CEO committed to raise wages for the company's lowest paid workers. Walmart improved its pregnancy policy recently after OUR Walmart members, who are also shareholders, submitted a resolution to the company about its pregnancy policy. And, responding to OUR Walmart members' growing calls on the retailer to improve access to hours, Walmart rolled out a new system nationwide that allows workers to sign up for open shifts in their stores online.



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French CP condemns action to eliminate Ukrainian Communist Party

French Communist Party

The odious activities of neo-fascist forces are today tolerated and encouraged in the Ukraine.

The French Communist Party gives its backing and its total solidarity to the Ukrainian communists following the shameful declarations of Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko, who has clearly advocated the elimination of the Communist Party of the Ukraine in the early legislative elections.

Poroshenko stated the Communist Party of the Ukraine "does not have the right to appear in the Ukrainian political spectrum due to the crimes committed in the past and in our times." Another leading candidate of the Poroshenko Block, Vitali Klitschko, added that "for the first time in its history, anti-Ukrainian forces, including the Communist Party, having always been the Kremlin's fifth column" will not be represented in Parliament.

All of this is done in the name of the European values by which the Ukrainian oligarchs claim to be inspired.

The odious activities of neo-fascist forces are

today tolerated and encouraged in the Ukraine and it must be pointed out that they have largely contributed to the governing Block's campaign. Worse, they have engaged in brutalities and intolerable crimes - yesterday as today - against the communists, the democrats, and the Ukrainian people whose real values are particularly marked by the struggle against fascism and Nazism.

The French communists cannot tolerate such declarations while the activists, the leaders and in particular the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine have been the victims of physical attacks.

The French communists call on all the democratic forces in our country and in Europe to exercise the greatest vigilance.

It is in this sense that they renew their entire solidarity with the Communist Party of the Ukraine and its general secretary Piotr Simonenko.

China carbon deal refutes right wing claims

By Marc Brodine



During President Obama's visit to China, both countries announced a new climate change agreement that effectively takes away one of the right wing's major arguments against action to curb global warming.

For the first time, China has agreed to set a limit on the amount of greenhouse gases it will emit by 2030, increasing its reliance on renewable energy. This is significant for two reasons—one, China is now the largest emitter of carbon dioxide emissions in the world, and two, the US government and conservatives have used China's previous unwillingness to set such limits as an excuse to avoid any and all binding targets on U.S. emissions. The U.S., as part of this agreement, sets ambitious goals for reductions in carbon pollution by 2025.

The bilateral agreement is also significant because it comes in advance of UN sponsored climate talks in Paris in the fall of 2015, aimed at forging a binding international treaty on climate change.

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, notes both the historic nature of the agreement and also its limitations, in his commentary on Huffington Post. He points out that this agreement comes barely more than a month after the giant People's Climate March in New York City on Sept. 21. This massive

outpouring set the pace for the upcoming struggles over environmental issues. He also notes that this agreement by itself is no reason to slow down or stop the mass struggle for more aggressive climate action.

Mitch McConnell, the likely new Senate majority leader in 2015, has already announced that he opposes the new deal; that he will oppose the efforts of the EPA to regulate new and existing power plant carbon pollution and that he places a high priority on Congress passing legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Some Democrats propose a vote to approve the Keystone pipeline during the lame duck session to boost the chances of Mary Landrieu winning re-election to the Senate from Louisiana.

The battles over climate change and other environmental issues will play a larger role in electoral and legislative struggles, and we can already see glimpses of splits in the ruling class. A new study confirms that the opposition by conservatives is not some kind of general rejection of science, it is a reaction against the steps needed to find solutions.

The new agreement will only escalate the intensity of right-wing opposition to any and all steps to tackle climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and all forms of carbon pollution.

This massive outpouring set the pace for the upcoming struggles over environmental issues.

Obama cancels nomination of NLRB nominee

By Mark Gruenberg

In one of the first signs he may be feeling pressure from the incoming Senate Republican majority, President Obama officially dumped the nomination of Sharon Block for an upcoming vacant seat on the National Labor Relations Board. With strong backing from unions and workers, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved Block on a party-line vote this past summer. The Republicans and their business backers screamed then because Block was one of Obama's controversial "recess nominees" in Jan. 2012. The Supreme Court later threw out the appointments, and the NLRB rulings those nominees participated in.

Block took the recess appointment, and held it because GOP filibusters prevented Obama from naming any regular NLRB members. She stepped down as part of a compromise which broke the logjam and gave the board its full five members for the first time in a decade.

The fed had no official comment on Obama's withdrawal of her name on Nov. 12, but one union president told PAI last week that doing so could be a signal of how the administration would - or wouldn't - stand up to the GOP.

"In accepting a recess appointment to the NLRB, Ms. Block answered the president's call to public service, and she fulfilled her oath of office to faithfully perform the functions of her office during her tenure," Samuel said when Obama nominated her.

Noticias de Sudáfrica

Prensa Latina

La Presidencia de Sudáfrica confirmó el lanzamiento de la Operación Phakisa, fase dos, un plan para transformar clínicas del sector público en Centros Hospitalarios Ideales (CHI) sobre la base de una atención de primera calidad. El programa busca optimizar los servicios médicos en las nuevas provincias y para todas las comunidades.

En julio pasado, el presidente Jacob Zuma puso en marcha la primera fase de la Operación Phakisa para mejorar la calidad de la atención brindada en tres mil Centros de Atención Primaria de Salud, cientos de dispensarios públicos y decenas de Árganos Comunitarios de Salud.

Durante las recientes cinco semanas un equipo de 164 directivos del gobierno nacional, junto con expertos del sector privado, académicos y líderes sindicales participaron en la preparación del concepto de CHI para bien de todos los sudafricanos, detalló el comunicado.

El ministro de Salud Aaron Motsoaledi reconoció que para avanzar en este sector, el país debe resolver obstáculos relacionados con la calidad del cuidado médico en el sistema público y los precios exorbitantes en la esfera privada, entre otros desafíos. Motsoaledi explicó que Phakisa (palabra en sesotho que significa urgencia) es la adaptación nacional de una metodología similar aplicada hace varios años en el programa de transformación económica del gobierno de Malasia.

Es una filosofía para conducir a nuestro país hacia una era de coherencia universal para todo el pueblo a

través de la implementación del Seguro Nacional de Salud (SNS), sin dejar de atender prioridades como la pobreza y el desempleo, recalcó el funcionario

La Universidad sudafricana de Western Cape presentó hoy un prototipo de generador por células que puede producir electricidad benévola con el medio ambiente a partir de la fusión del hidrógeno.

El nuevo artilugio es otro paso hacia la realización del objetivo del gobierno de controlar el déficit del comercio mediante la reducción de su dependencia en tecnologías importadas, indicó un comunicado del Departamento de Ciencia y Tecnología.

Además los generadores podrían convertirse en una alternativa energética para garantizar suministros fuera de la red tradicional y pueden ser totalmente ensamblados por científicos de la sureña provincia sudafricana.

Este miércoles la compañía energética estatal Eskom anunció que el sistema nacional está nuevamente constreñido y pueden suceder desconexiones de cargas en algunas ciudades sudafricanas hasta el próximo viernes.

Las irregularidades comenzaron hace dos semanas como consecuencia del derrumbe de un silo de carbón colindante con la central eléctrica Majuba, ubicada en la oriental provincia de Mpumalanga.

En marzo pasado, la empresa pública se vio obligada a imponer apagones por primera vez en seis años para evitar que la red nacional colapsara, una situación que alertó al Parlamento sobre la precariedad entre oferta y demanda de energía en Sudáfrica.

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