

## Jobless numbers stay high as Senate's ruling Republicans do nothing



By Mark Gruenberg

The nation's jobless lines—people collecting state or federal unemployment benefits—totalled 21.157 million in the week ending Oct. 24, or one in every seven workers, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. And that doesn't include the 1.021 million more people who sought aid in the week ending Nov. 7, nor the 1.106 million who applied for aid in the week before that. Add in the people who sought aid in the last two weeks, and the jobless rate rises to 15.9%, or nearly one in every six.

Despite those numbers, the Republican Senate majority still refuse to help, especially those people whose benefits have run out or who are headed for the rocks by the end of this year. NBC reported that latter group could total 13 million by Jan. 1.

Congressional Republicans aren't the only ones turning a blind eye to the coronavirus and its joblessness. GOP Oval Office occupant Trump is still in denial, urging states to open up their economies, despite the skyrocketing coronavirus caseload. But he's really consumed with filing frivolous lawsuits trying to overturn his Nov. 3 election loss to Democratic nominee Joe Biden. He's not paying attention to the misery of joblessness or the virus.

The states, forced to battle anew on their own against rising infection rates, again rush to clamp down on social interactions which lead to the spread of the modern-day plague. The U.S. set a new daily

record on Nov. 11, 144,133, of the number of people testing positive for the virus.

That raises the cumulative national total of ill people to 10,403,745, equivalent to the entire state of Michigan plus all but 13,000 people in Minneapolis. Of those who tested positive, the COVID-19 Tracking Project reported 61,694 are hospitalized, straining nationwide capacity, and almost a quarter of a million (241,809) have died. That figure exceeds the population of Fremont, Calif.

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The effort must be bipartisan, because the Democratic-run House has already done its job, passing the Heroes Act—to provide jobless benefits and other aid, including to hard-pressed state and local governments—twice, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

**The unemployment crisis continues as people run out of benefit lifelines.**

“The Heroes Act”—the original, more-comprehensive, House-passed \$3.4 trillion version—should be the starting point, not an emaciated bill that prioritizes protections for corporations and considers the needs of American families as an afterthought,” Schumer said at a joint press conference Nov. 12. “The Heroes Act, passed in the House, does meet this moment. It doesn’t pick and choose who we’re going to help during the greatest health and economic crisis in decades,” he argued.

That original Heroes Act restores \$600 weekly federal jobless benefits, which ran out July 31, on top of state aid. Besides more money for the jobless, it also demands Trump’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration force businesses to craft and implement plans to protect workers and customers against the virus. And it orders Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to force factories to make personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline workers, among other provisions.

Two days before, Schumer chided McConnell

and the GOP for refusing to aid the jobless.

“Congress should pursue a strong, comprehensive COVID-relief bill that actually meets the needs of the American people,” he said. But on Nov. 9 “the Republican leader suggested the Republican majority will continue to pursue its policy of targeted relief—in other words, inadequate relief. He seemed to suggest the development of a possible vaccine was actually a reason to pare back on aid to the American people.” McConnell, in opening remarks on Nov. 10, didn’t mention COVID-19 at all.

Trump may be inactive, but Biden isn’t. He named a coronavirus task force, composed entirely of MDs and specialists in infectious diseases, to craft a comprehensive plan to battle the virus, and says he will follow their recommendations. And in a key pivot, the federal Centers for Disease Control said on Nov. 10 that wearing masks nationwide will protect you from inhaling the virus, as well as protecting others from your exhaled microscopic droplets that carry it.

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## Tel Aviv crowd cheers U.S. elections result

By Adam Keller

**T**he news of the Biden victory arrived just a few hours before the annual Tel Aviv rally to commemorate the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, exactly 25 years ago. As every year, the rally concluded with Aviv Gefen singing “Let’s march into the dream / Let’s conquer peace / And not territories”.

But this year, after he finished singing, he remained on the podium and made a short impromptu speech:

“On this very special day I want to thank our brothers and sisters in America. I want to thank them for showing us that you can defend Democracy and overcome the forces of disruption. To thank them for giving us hope! Forward to Victory!” And there was an enormous cheer.

Gush Shalom, the Israeli Peace Bloc, congratulates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for their hard-fought victory and their impending entry into the White House. This is a great day for the whole world.

We congratulate American democracy which managed to shake off and oust a President who trampled on the most basic of democratic norms and still persists in futile efforts to cling to his

fading power.

As Israelis, we welcome the removal of a false friend who caused enormous damage to the State of Israel by pushing our country ever deeper into the mire of occupation and oppression, who distanced Israel from peace with its Palestinian neighbors — the vitally needed peace which is essential for our future and without which agreements with distant countries are completely worthless.

We hope that President Biden, though having many other urgent tasks awaiting him, will return the Palestinian issue to the forefront of US policy in the Middle East.

In particular — that he will act in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution stating that West Bank settlements are illegal. Biden himself, as the Vice President in the Obama Administration, was among that resolution’s prime movers.

**Our American brothers and sisters have given us Israelis a new hope.**

# South Africa's Communists condemn possible release of Chris Hani's assassin



By Steve Sweeney

**T**he South African Communist Party (SACP) voiced strong opposition to the application for the release of the murderer of its former general secretary Chris Hani.

Janusz Walus was jailed for life for the 1993 killing, which took place while negotiations to end the country's racist apartheid system were at an advanced stage. Walus's latest parole application was heard Nov. 10 in the North Gauteng high court.

Co-conspirator Clive Derby-Lewis, a Conservative Party parliamentarian who provided the gun to Walus, admitted to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee that the assassination of Hani was designed to provoke a racial civil war.

The SACP warned that they almost succeeded. Riots broke out in Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth following the murder. Seven people were killed, three of whom were shot dead by the police.

Some six million black workers are believed to have taken part in a one-day general strike which paved the way for South Africa's first democratic election, which took place in April 1994.

Nelson Mandela called for a national day of mourning and warned that the nation "teeters on the brink of disaster," but called for "all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for: the freedom of all of us."

Both Derby-Lewis and Walus were sentenced to death after being found guilty of Hani's murder, but

the sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. Walus was stripped of his South African citizenship in 2017 and faces deportation to his native Poland if he is ever released.

His previous applications for parole have been rejected, most recently in March 2020. His lawyer insists that he is completely rehabilitated. But Walus is a symbol for Poland's far-right, which glorifies him for his role in trying to "stop communism" in South Africa.

Walus told Polish journalist Cezary Lazarewicz in 2018 that "he still believes in the system of racial segregation and that whites and blacks should live apart."

The SACP argued that Walus remains unrepentant and was merely playing the system in his latest bid for freedom.

"The assassination of Hani left a gaping wound that still bleeds to this day. This has to be taken into account in the public interest," the party said.

"It is without doubt that the crime committed by Walus and his co-conspirator Clive Derby-Lewis was of such a magnitude that they could not have acted alone," the party said, insisting there must have been high-level involvement in the murder.

"There must be full disclosure of the truth towards justice and closure," it said, calling for full transparency in the case.

The court reserved judgment on the application for Walus's release. The SACP said it "remains firm to the end in seeking justice for Hani and the people."

**Hani's murder, coming just as apartheid was ending, was intended to spark a racial civil war in South Africa.**

## Chile, Ecuador: Leftists analyze U.S. influence on Latin American ultra-right

By Emile Schepers

**W**riting in *El siglo* (The Century), the newspaper of the Communist Party of Chile, Ecuadorian historian Juan J. Paz y Miño Cepeda reminds readers of the extremely great impact of the U.S. elections on the electoral politics of Latin America. This has been true since the original promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine in the early 19th century, which established “Americanism” as a policy of U.S. hegemonic control over all the countries of Latin America, including the many military interventions.

To this has been added, during the Cold War and since, the use of “anti-communism” to intervene in the affairs of Latin American states. “Donald Trump’s positions are well known: He not only revived the traditional ‘Monroeism’ together with threatening interventionism, but also sharpened the continentalist strategies, including to strengthen the economic curtain against Russia and particularly against China . . . he reinforced the blockade against Cuba, dismantling what Barack Obama had advanced, and did not reduce the threats against Venezuela and equally against Nicaragua.” “Biden has promised a more cordial dealing with Latin America,” but whatever the changes Biden brings, it is still necessary to analyze what impact U.S. policy will have on the internal politics of the Latin American countries, in which there are signs that the autonomous left forces may be rising again (translation by E. Schepers).

## El esfuerzo de Trump para excluir a las personas indocumentadas del censo

Tim Libretti

**L**a Corte Suprema indicó que el 30 de noviembre escuchará argumentos en la apelación de la administración Trump sobre sus esfuerzos para excluir a los inmigrantes indocumentados del censo que se utiliza para calcular la distribución de los distritos del Congreso.

De hecho, la Corte Suprema señaló que a lo largo de toda la historia de los Estados Unidos, el recuento de personas utilizado para determinar cuántos escaños se asignan a cada estado en la Cámara de Representantes ha “incluido a todas las personas que residen en los Estados Unidos en el momento del censo, ya sea ciudadano o no y si vive aquí con o sin estatus legal”.

La corte observó en términos bastante prácticos que la táctica de Trump no tiene base en el lenguaje de la Constitución, en la ley de letra negra, enfatizando que “el Memorando Presidencial viola el estatuto que rige la distribución porque, mientras residan en los Estados Unidos Estados, los extranjeros ilegales califican como ‘personas en’ un ‘Estado’ como el Congreso utilizó esas palabras”.

De hecho, a las mujeres no se les ha otorgado los plenos derechos de una “persona” ante la ley. Los grupos antiaborto se han opuesto a la ERA precisamente porque al otorgar a las mujeres estos derechos, temen que se refuercen los derechos de las mujeres a controlar sus cuerpos y los procesos reproductivos.

Muchas vidas no cuentan y no importan en las políticas de Trump.

A pesar de la decisión histórica de la Corte Suprema que otorga a las personas LGBTQ protección contra la discriminación en el empleo, Trump ha hecho posible discriminar a las personas LGBTQ cuando se trata de acceso a atención médica.

Al insistir en abrir la economía sin abordar adecuadamente la pandemia de COVID-19, ha mostrado poco cuidado por los ancianos y por los trabajadores . Trump insiste en que deben regresar a lugares de trabajo inseguros. Él y muchos otros republicanos han declarado enérgicamente que salvar la economía es más importante que salvar vidas humanas.

Él no ve a los trabajadores como personas de igual valor que los demás. Esto quedó claro cuando se burló de la Representante Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez por haber sido mesera, como si servir en este cargo de alguna manera la disminuyera y la hiciera importar menos.

Para Trump, no contamos.

Sus esfuerzos por descontar a las personas en los datos, para asegurarse de que no tengan representación en el Congreso, es solo una parte integral de su visión gobernante, en la que la mayoría de nosotros simplemente no contamos.

Al igual que los militares que denuncia, nos ve como “tontos” y “perdedores”.

Y así como no puede representar razonablemente los intereses de aquellos de nosotros a quienes no puede respetar, no quiere que nadie nos represente.