

Terrorism, racism, and misogyny in Georgia



By Communist Party USA

The Communist Party USA stands in solidarity with the families of the eight dead in Georgia, the people of Georgia, and the nation's Asian communities in the wake of the recent attack that occurred in Acworth and Atlanta. The result of one gunman's hate rage is eight dead, of whom six were Asian Americans, seven were women, and two white. A Guatemalan immigrant is hospitalized in critical condition.

This hideous crime, borne of racism, misogyny, or both, occurred in a country where these attitudes are woven into our nation's fabric.

Hate crimes against Asian Americans are not new, but the number rose by 150% in 2020, when the previous president blamed China for the spread of COVID-19, naming it "Kung flu." No matter that an Asian American may have roots in Japan, Korea, or Thailand — in the minds of racists, they're all the same. Remember Vincent Chin, the Chinese American murdered in 1982 by 2 white thugs in Highland Park, Mich., because he was perceived as Japanese and blamed for a declining auto industry.

Misogyny, too, reaches every corner of our society, from schools and the workplace where 90% of young women are sexually harassed, to the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where U.S. House Representative Ocasio-Cortez was verbally attacked by a so-called colleague.

Hatred is learned, and some of its best teachers are

leaders. The anti-China rhetoric from No. 45 spread throughout the media, and as it turns out, words matter. According to a report by Stop AAPI Hate, released the same day as the murders, xenophobic comments about China and Chinese people are directly linked to the rise of hate crimes against all Asian Americans.

In the days and weeks to come we will see and experience the same grieving process and calls for justice that we have become all too familiar with and

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desensitized to. There will be testimonials, media outcry, and hashtags. There will be people calling for change, rightfully so, and people demanding answers as to how this individual was turned into yet another killer in a rising tide of racist terrorism in this country. This is the same cycle we've seen

**A terrorism borne
of racism and
misogyny comes
from within
our borders.**

play out after countless other attacks, with countless other victims, and yet nothing seems to change.

It doesn't have to be this way. In the short term, measures can be taken on at least one front: life-saving gun control legislation. The killer was found with a 9-millimeter handgun purchased the same day he went on a killing spree. How can we weigh the profit of the gun store owner and the weapons manufacturer against the human capital lost on March 16? Literally, and in the deadliest of terms, "profit over people" rules.

In 2020 over 19,000 people were killed due to gun violence, a 25% increase over the previous year. At the minimum, we should tighten background checks, reinstate the ban on military-style assault rifles, and ban large-capacity magazines.

In the longer term, we need to strengthen our mental health "system," invest in violence-interruption programs, and build healthy communities so that everyone plays a meaningful role in society.

But on a deeper level, it is time for all of us to understand that the racist and misogynistic divisions that have been sown in our communities are the direct result of the exploitation we face every single day under the current system. Racism is a ruling-class ideology and device. So long as we are fighting each other, we cannot fight our real enemies.

The Communist Party calls for all workers to unite, to find our common ground, and to work together to fight back against our oppressors.

We must fight back against racist and misogynistic terrorism, and we must fight back against the exploitative system that foments it. That means recognizing the special forms of racist oppression directed against Asian Americans, Latinos, African Americans, and Native American Indians.

It also means working-class whites have a special responsibility to take up the fight.

Let us embrace and learn from one another and stand together in solidarity.

Our very lives depend on it.

Oakland crafting pilot program for response to mental health crises

By Marilyn Bechtel

An innovative program to provide trained civilian responders for mental health and other nonviolent crisis calls, instead of armed law enforcement, moved a step closer March 16 with unanimous City Council passage of legislation that will launch a pilot project within Oakland's Fire Department.

The Council's actions include an ordinance amending Oakland Fire Department duties to include administering the program, MACRO/Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland, and a resolution supporting rapid, community-informed implementation of the program's pilot phase within the Fire Department, with city employees. The City Council is to receive monthly progress reports, and an independent consultant will evaluate the pilot phase.

The MACRO program is designed to reduce the city's reliance on law enforcement by offering an alternative with teams of emergency medical technicians and counselors/crisis responders providing medical assessment, de-escalation, and connection to behavioral and physical health care.

It focuses on input from Oakland communities most impacted by violence, including people who

have been involved in the criminal legal system, unhoused people, domestic violence survivors, and youth, among others.

MACRO draws inspiration from programs in other cities, including Eugene, Oregon's more than 30 years' experience with its CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) mobile crisis intervention program where trained medical and mental health workers provide a non-law enforcement response to mental health crisis calls.

A recent poll found that some 58% of Oaklanders favor someone other than law enforcement responding to nonviolent emergencies.

Participants in 90 minutes of public comment that preceded the Council's vote were overwhelmingly supportive of the program and of its administration by the Fire Department.

Yeon Park, an Alameda County mental health specialist and a leader in SEIU Local 1021, also supported launching the MACRO pilot with city workers and trained staff who have expertise in working with the community.

By the time the Council voted its unanimous approval of the program, all eight councilmembers had signed on as co-sponsors.

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White supremacist propaganda increased in 2020, report says



By Aaron Morrison

White supremacist propaganda reached alarming levels across the U.S. in 2020, according to a new report that the Anti-Defamation League provided to The Associated Press.

There were 5,125 cases of racist, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ, and other hateful messages spread through physical flyers, stickers, banners, and posters, according to Wednesday's report. That's nearly double the 2,724 instances from 2019. Online propaganda is much harder to quantify, and it's likely those cases reached into the millions, the anti-hate organization said.

The ADL, which was founded more than a century ago, said that last year marked the highest level of white supremacist propaganda seen in at least a decade. Its report comes as federal authorities investigate and prosecute those who stormed the U.S. Capitol in January, some of whom are accused of having ties to or expressing support for hate groups and antigovernment militias.

Propaganda, often distributed with the intention of garnering media and online attention, helps white supremacists normalize their messaging and bolster recruitment efforts, the ADL said in its report. Language used in the propaganda is frequently veiled with a patriotic slant, making it seem benign to an untrained eye.

One piece of propaganda disseminated by the New Jersey European Heritage Association included the

words "Black Crimes Matter," a derisive reference to the Black Lives Matter movement, along with cherry-picked crime statistics about attacks on white victims by Black assailants.

A neo-Nazi group known as Folks Front distributed stickers with the words "White Lives Matter."

According to the report, at least 30 white supremacist groups were behind hate propaganda. But three groups — NJEHA, Patriot Front, and Nationalist Social Club — were responsible for 92% of the activity.

The propaganda appeared in every state except Hawaii. The highest levels were seen in Texas, Washington, California, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, according to the report.

Despite the overall increase, the ADL reported a steep decline in distribution of white supremacist propaganda at colleges and universities, due in large part to the coronavirus pandemic and the lack of students living and studying on campus. There were 303 reports of propaganda on college campuses in 2020, down from 630 in 2019.

Greenblatt acknowledged that free speech rights allow for rhetoric that "we don't like and we detest." But when that speech spurs violence or creates conditions for normalizing extremism, it must be opposed, he said.

"There's no pixie dust that you can sprinkle on this like it's all going to go away," Greenblatt said. "We need to recognize that the roots of this problem run deep."

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LOCAL NEWS

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Environmentalists seek climate action in U.S. infrastructure bill

By Climate Nexus

Environmental groups are launching a \$10 million push for Congress to make climate change central to infrastructure legislation.

“The Great American Build” campaign, a joint effort of Climate Power, the League of Conservation Voters and Potential Energy Coalition, will pressure lawmakers to include funding for climate action as part of the emerging infrastructure package.

“Americans elected pro-climate majorities in Congress, and they expect big things on the issues that drove them to the polls — including clean energy and climate change,” Lori Lodes, executive director of Climate Power, told NBC.

As reported by The Hill:

Democrats in Congress began openly discussing an infrastructure package last week, just days after the president’s \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package became his first legislative victory in Congress and he signed the bill into law.

Some lawmakers have hinted that any successful infrastructure push would likely require Democrats to use the budget reconciliation process, as they did with the stimulus package, to avoid defeat at the hands of Republicans. Under the parliamentary process, bills can pass with a simple majority in the evenly split Senate, where Vice President Harris serves as a tie-breaker.

“Ultimately, it’s going to be put together similar to how the American Rescue Plan was put together,” Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) was heard telling Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “Most likely, we’re going to have to use reconciliation.”

El proyecto de ley de inmigración de Biden se muestra prometedor

BY CHAUNCEY K. ROBINSON

El gobierno de Biden ha presentado un nuevo y amplio proyecto de ley de inmigración que contrasta con los cuatro años de ataques de Donald Trump contra los trabajadores indocumentados y sus familias. Muchos ven el nuevo proyecto de ley como un paso audaz hacia una mejor dirección, pero algunos activistas por los derechos de los inmigrantes están señalando deficiencias en el nuevo proyecto de ley, y la legislación, tal como está, existe una batalla cuesta arriba para ser aprobada en el Congreso.

El proyecto de ley de inmigración de Biden, titulado oficialmente Ley de Ciudadanía de los EE. UU. De 2021, llega inmediatamente después de las tres órdenes ejecutivas del nuevo presidente centradas en la inmigración emitidas a principios de mes. Esos decretos crearon un grupo de trabajo para reunir a las familias que la administración Trump había dividido con su política de separación fronteriza, revocó temporalmente el programa de Protocolos de Protección al Migrante de Trump y revisó la regla de carga pública del país de 1882 que permitió al gobierno negar visas a los solicitantes que son juzgados como es probable que se vuelva dependiente de los beneficios del gobierno. También se incluyó una suspensión inmediata de la financiación para la construcción del muro fronterizo de Trump.

El camino abreviado hacia la ciudadanía es la pieza central del nuevo proyecto de ley. La legislación recortaría cinco años del proceso de solicitud actual, y los inmigrantes indocumentados podrían obtener la ciudadanía en ocho años o menos, en

lugar de 13. Aquellos que califiquen tendrían que estar físicamente presentes en el país el 1 de enero de este año o antes. año.

La Ley de Acción Diferida sobre los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA), cuyos beneficiarios son conocidos como Dreamers, y el Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS), generalmente dirigido a refugiados que enfrentan condiciones peligrosas en sus países de origen, fueron dos programas que Trump intentó eliminar continuamente. Si se aprueba, el proyecto de ley de Biden otorgaría inmediatamente estatus legal a través de una tarjeta de residente permanente, o tarjeta verde, a quienes se acojan a estos programas. Luego podrían solicitar la ciudadanía tres años después. Esta excepción también se aplica a los trabajadores agrícolas indocumentados.

La administración de Biden afirma que su nuevo proyecto de ley reformará el “sistema de inmigración basado en la familia al eliminar los atrasos, recuperar las visas no utilizadas, eliminar los largos tiempos de espera y aumentar los límites de visas por país”.

Durante décadas, y especialmente durante los últimos cuatro años, términos como “extranjero ilegal” se han utilizado para crear una narrativa en torno a las personas indocumentadas como el “otro”, evocando imágenes de invasores externos. Parece que Biden está intentando revertir esa narrativa. Aunque se puede argumentar que incluso el término no ciudadano se queda corto, ya que los ciudadanos deben acatar la ley y pagar impuestos, todas las cosas que hacen los trabajadores indocumentados también.

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