

Women's soccer team wins again with \$24 million equal pay suit



By Mark Gruenberg

The longtime medal winning U.S. National Women's Soccer team racked up yet another win on February 22, but this one was in court: The U.S. Soccer Federation agreed to settle the team's equal pay suit, for \$24 million.

And while that didn't equal the \$67 million they sought to make up for decades of past pay discrimination—compared to the perennially awful U.S. men's team—the settlement also ensures equal pay for equal soccer work going forward. So the women hailed it.

The breakdown of the settlement is \$22 million in back pay and \$2 million more for a fund the USNWT players can draw from to help develop their post-soccer careers.

There was no estimate on how much the women would gain from the future equal pay mandate. That includes, among other provisions, equal pay for World Cup and Olympic appearances and wins.

Male-dominated international soccer doles out those funds, mostly from TV revenues, to national federations, and the women have gotten pennies on the dollar—even as they kept winning titles and the men kept finishing far out of the running.

The outcome of the 2014 men's World Cup and the 2015 Women's World Cup demonstrated the difference. After a \$3.625 million payment to the U.S. Soccer Federation—the bosses—the men split

\$5.375 million. They had a 1-1-1 record and finished second in their four-team group, then lost in the first playoff round. That was their best showing in 20 years.

The women won the whole 64-team tournament—again—went undefeated—again—and split \$1.725 million, after a \$250,000 payment to the U.S. Soccer Federation.

“For us as players, I'm just so proud of the way we stuck together and really just kind of put our

T H I S W E E K :

- **Women's soccer team wins again with \$24 million equal pay suit**
- **CPUSA: 'No war on Ukraine, No war on Russia, No war period!'**
- **Dangerous escalation: Putin puts Russia's nuclear forces on high alert**
- **Russian anti-war activists call for end to war and for radical...**
- **Ucranianos y rusos muertos significan ganancias para capitalistas**

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foot down. This is a huge win for us,” longtime star Megan Rapinoe told USA Today. Some 28 USNWT players, led by Rapinoe and goalie Hope Solo, filed the suit. “We not only right the wrongs of the past but set the next generation up for something that we could only have dreamed of.”

Their latest win was not for playing soccer but for a lawsuit they filed in court.

The settlement came just two weeks before a scheduled March 7 trial of the equal pay case in federal court in San Francisco—a trial that would have publicly put the Biden administration on the soccer team’s side.

That’s because the team let the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission take part in what would have been the oral argument for their cause. And in the 2020 presidential campaign, Democratic President Joe Biden strongly backed the team’s equal pay case.

The judge sitting then had dismissed the case, saying the women’s union agreed to a contract with unequal pay in it. The judge granted the women’s claims for equality in benefits and facilities, such as training sites, equipment and meals, and in the quality of soccer fields.

The judge’s ruling in 2020 prompted a tweeted Biden retort, with one part backing the team and the other telling the U.S. Soccer Federation—the team’s bosses—not to expect federal support if they bid to

bring World Cup games to U.S. shores:

“To @USNWT: Don’t give up this fight. This is not over yet. To @USSoccer: Equal pay, now. Or else, when I’m president, you can go elsewhere for World Cup funding.”

The settlement also depends on a new collective bargaining agreement between the women’s team and the bosses. The current head of the U.S. Soccer Federation, former women’s team player Cindy Parlow Cone, told sports media that constant legal battles between USSF and the women’s team hurts both.

The catch to getting a new CBA, though, is Carlos Cordeiro. Cone replaced him when he was forced to resign under pressure. He’s running to get his old job back, the Washington Post reported. Cordeiro opposes equal pay and denigrated the women’s team as “inferior.”

CPUSA: ‘No war on Ukraine, No war on Russia, No war period!’

By Communist Party USA

The following statement was issued by the National Board of the Communist Party USA, February 25, 2022.

The CPUSA calls on the U.S. people to demand the Biden administration change course immediately. War is never an acceptable solution and must be rejected in the strongest terms. Therefore, we also call on Russia to withdraw troops. All sanctions must be ended and borders secured and respected.

The saber rattling, sanctions, and selling of “wolf tickets” in recent weeks, as the CPUSA National Committee meeting recently warned, have spilled over into open war. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine threatens catastrophic consequences.

There is no doubt that the longstanding attempt by U.S. imperialism and NATO to bring Ukraine into the military alliance has heightened tensions. In the recent period, this effort along with providing military supplies combined with Cold War rhetoric is a backdrop to the crisis. A lasting peace is not possible unless Ukraine remains outside of NATO.

Russia’s ruling circles have their own national designs, and the outbreak of war will only make mat-

ters worse

The present crisis has been long in the making. The historical context reaches back to the end of World War II, the Cold War, and the formation of NATO.

Our country is facing a serious political and social crisis that the fanning of the flames of war can only exacerbate. The praise of the invasion as “wonderful” by former President Trump implies that the U.S. should invade Mexico. “We could use that on our southern border. That’s the strongest peace force I’ve ever seen,” was his horrifying statement.

The serious problems of climate change, lack of health care, low-wage jobs, and institutional racism challenging our working class cannot be solved while the U.S. spends billions each year on maintaining a massive military force and weaponry and on NATO. Consider that billions could be found for the military budget, but “Build Back Better” is said to be too costly.

We, the members of the CPUSA, unequivocally join with peace forces around the world in demanding: No expansion of NATO, No deployment of troops, No war on Ukraine, No war on Russia, No war period! The future of the planet depends on it.

Statement of the National Board of the Communist Party USA.

Dangerous escalation: Putin puts Russia's nuclear forces on high alert



By John Wojcik

There were calls heard around the world last weekend for Russia to end its attack on Ukraine which has been going on now for more than five days since it violated international law and Ukraine's sovereignty by crossing the border into that country with troops and weapons.

As the fighting continued in Ukraine's major cities and the death toll mounted – 3,00-plus Ukrainian civilians and 3,500 Russian soldiers – there were new developments that offered a glimmer of hope. Both countries agreed to hold talks in a neutral location on the border between Ukraine and Belarus.

Successful diplomacy to solve the crisis, must begin with the cessation of Russian military operations in Ukraine and give serious attention to a number of critical issues.

The latest threats by Putin followed the announcement of new “crippling sanctions” by the West. They cannot be followed by yet more sanctions by the West and then more threats from Russia and then on and on until we end up in a conflagration that draws in the entire world.

Rather than relying on sanctions, the U.S. must do everything within its powers to try and find a diplomatic solution. Failure to do this can well result in an even wider war with unimaginable consequences.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a leading progressive, has made this point. Sanders blamed Putin for the crisis we are now facing. He

has rightly described Putin as a right-wing autocrat and a liar who has accumulated enormous personal wealth at the expense of his own people.

Sanders has also noted, however, that well before Putin ever came on the scene, Russia has had “legitimate concerns” about NATO's expansion towards Russia. Sanders has also noted that it was dangerous for the U.S. to ignore, for many years, all of those legitimate concerns.

The Vermont senator said that recognizing the “complex roots of the tensions” in the region was key to fostering a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Those negotiating for an end to this war must negotiate with this in mind.

“It is good to know some history... Invasion by Russia is not an answer; neither is intransigence by NATO,” Sanders said. “It is also important to recognize that Finland, one of the most developed and democratic countries in the world, borders Russia and has chosen not to be a member of NATO.”

On the issue of national sovereignty, it should be clear that no country has the right to violate internationally recognized borders and invade another country. Unfortunately, the U.S. has done this often in its history and it has backed the assassination of foreign leaders and replacement of their governments. (Sanders estimated that this was done by the U.S. at least 15 times.) It was wrong for the U.S. to do this and it is wrong for Vladimir Putin to do this today. The UN charter, agreed to by both the U.S. and Russia, forbids this behavior.

There was a glimmer of hope, however, in a Sunday agreement by Ukraine and Russia to hold talks in a neutral location.

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Russian anti-war activists call for end to war and for radical change to country's 'whole political system'

By Steve Sweeney

Russian anti-war activists called for a radical change in their country's government and "whole political system" as well as an end to the war on "the fraternal Ukrainian people."

Activists have urged an increase in anti-war agitation among Russian citizens as police crack down brutally on dissent.

More than 1,700 people were arrested in 53 cities on last Thursday evening as mass protests took place across the vast country, according to monitoring groups.

Russian authorities have warned that anti-war activities and "negative comments" will be treated as treason.

More than 250 journalists have signed an open letter condemning the war and similar letters have been signed by scientists and municipal councilors.

Today's Novaya Gazeta newspaper was printed in both Russian and Ukrainian, explaining that its journalists "do not consider Ukrainian the language of the enemy."

Editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov wrote in a leading article that "only the anti-war movement of Russian citizens can save life on this planet."

An anti-war statement issued by the group condemned President Vladimir Putin's decision to invade Ukraine, warning that it would lead to the death of thousands of people on both sides.

It called for an immediate end of the war against "the fraternal Ukrainian people" and for Russians to engage in anti-war agitation among friends, relatives, workers, and other citizens.

Ucranianos y rusos muertos significan ganancias para poderosos capitalistas

By John Wojcik

Aunque era probable que las compañías de petróleo y gas natural de EE. UU. obtuvieran grandes ganancias de las hostilidades, incluso si Rusia no hubiera invadido Ucrania, el ataque de Putin contra ese país selló el trato.

Europa, que obtenía el 30 por ciento de su gas natural y petróleo de Rusia, ahora se ve obligada a comprar el gas fracturado más caro que extraen las empresas estadounidenses mientras destruyen nuestro suministro de agua potable aquí en casa. Nosotros también nos uniremos a la gente de Europa para llenar los bolsillos de los directores ejecutivos con incluso más dinero del que ya tienen. C.J. Atkins advirtió sobre esto en un artículo la semana pasada en Peoples World.

Para los capitalistas, la guerra tiene que ver con sus ganancias, pero para los trabajadores y la gente, e incluso para las mascotas que aman, es un asunto completamente diferente. Hubo un artículo en el New York Times el viernes pasado que describía la escena en la estación de metro Universytet en Kiev, que está a casi 300 pies bajo tierra.

El sábado se llenó con cientos que se apiñaron a lo largo de las plataformas con sus hijos, sus perros y sus gatos a cuestas.

Compañías como Chevron, Exxon-Mobil y Shell, junto con los cientos de contratistas de perforación y transporte que trabajan con ellas, ahora están preparadas para vender su gas y petróleo a Europa, escribió Atkins en su artículo. Las sanciones están cortando la línea de vida de energía que han comprado regularmente a Rusia.

Estados Unidos ha respaldado la

expansión de la OTAN y ha ignorado las legítimas necesidades de seguridad de Rusia durante muchos años y nunca ha negociado seriamente para satisfacer esas necesidades o abordar problemas que la OTAN, en lugar de resolver, solo empeoran para todos los europeos. Esto sirve a los intereses de los monopolios energéticos que quieren cortar el petróleo que Europa tiene proveniente del este.

Junto con esta servidumbre a los grandes monopolios energéticos, la política exterior de EE. UU. ha servido a los intereses de Raytheon y otros productores de armas al respaldar la absorción de más y más países de Europa del Este en la órbita militar de la OTAN. Esto también ha sido percibido por Rusia como una seria amenaza a su seguridad.

El resultado ahora es una guerra horrible en la que Putin ha enviado tropas al otro lado de la frontera con Ucrania, matando a unos 100 ucranianos y 3.000 soldados rusos muertos en el proceso. Es demasiado pronto para saber si la guerra puede detenerse pronto o si continuará hasta que muchos más resulten heridos y muertos.

Putin debe poner fin a su invasión y EE. UU. debe cambiar de rumbo e impulsar negociaciones reales basadas en satisfacer las necesidades legítimas de seguridad de ambas partes. Una Ucrania neutral en la que se protejan los derechos de sus ciudadanos de habla rusa es el camino a seguir.

Es demasiado tarde para los ucranianos y rusos muertos. Pero todavía hay tiempo para salvar a los que se congelan con sus hijos, perros y gatos en la estación de metro Universytet de Kiev.

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