



# **SURVIVAL** **OVER** **SPORTS**

How the 2022 World Athletics Championships are an attack on the poor and working people of Eugene, OR

# NOT IN OUR INTEREST

The 2022 World Athletic Championships are taking place in Eugene OR, so-called "Track Town USA", on **July 15-24th**. It is the third largest sporting event in the world, after the Olympics and World Cup. The traditional bidding process for the host city was bypassed for this year's event, with Eugene chosen behind closed doors. This decision was **investigated for corruption by the FBI**, but was swept under the rug after a few high ranking officials, including Robert Coe (CEO of World Athletics and Brand Ambassador for Nike at the time), quietly stepped down. Whatever other bribery may have happened, it is clear is that the recent **\$400 million dollar renovation** of University of Oregon's Hayward Field, funded by Nike's infamous billionaire CEO Phil Knight, was the hook, line, and sinker for the Championships to be held here. He will certainly make a pretty penny off this investment.

Like most sporting events, the World Athletic Championships are not simply a celebration of athletic prowess, but **a violent cash grab for capitalists to line their pockets**. The city is expecting a daunting 200,000 visitors for the event, which is roughly the population of the city itself. It is estimated that the spending by athletes, teams, and fans could range from \$50 million to \$200 million. **The working people of Eugene will see none of that**. Meanwhile, the state is funneling money that should go to improving our lives into the Championships- approximately \$75 million of it.





Demonstrations against the Summer 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

# DARE TO STRUGGLE

The World Athletics Championships needs a playground for their attendees, so to get their liberal paradise ready, the city has to clean house. First, they **violently sweep homeless people to the outskirts of town**. Then, they need to find a place to put up attendees. So, ignoring that many tenants are cost burdened by rent to the point of having to vacate their homes and even the city, they build new hotels, encourage short-term rentals with abandon, and **allow costs of living be jacked up to drive poor tenants out**. Next, they need to cater to the wealthy visitors. Service workers get their voices silenced, their breaks cut, and prepare to be pummeled with at least twice the customers **with no increase in their low wages**.

This process is not unique to Eugene. Around the globe, poor people have bared the brunt of the ugly side of sporting events meant to dazzle and delight the rich and famous. But **where there is exploitation, there is resistance**, and the masses have shown time and time again how we can come together to push back against these oppressive events and demand what we deserve.

It is not sports that are the problem, it is the **mountain of money** behind them and the people that sit atop it. The money that moves through hands out of reach of those who need it most. The people that hoard resources and **work us to the bone so they can live in luxury**. No one asked us, the working people of Eugene, how this would impact us or if we even wanted it. So let us make it clear:

**The World Athletics Championships are not welcome here.**

# UNITED WE FIGHT, DIVIDED WE BEG

Following in the steps of poor and working people internationally, Eugene Housing and Neighborhood Defense (HAND) will be hosting an event to denounce the non-consensual use of our city as the grounds for this exploitative sporting event. For decades, people have stood up against events like the World Cup and the Olympics, who cost millions to host and yet bring destitution, back breaking labor, and unwelcome guests into cities of people struggling to make ends meet. **On July 23rd at 5:00pm, HAND will be hosting a rally at Campbell Park in opposition to the event.** We will be meeting at the parking lot on Chesire Ave. It is open to all who want to fight back against the presence of the World Athletics Championships and learn more about systemic attacks on workers and tenants.

HAND is an organization of tenants fighting to unite working people against landlords, developers, property management companies, and other class enemies. In your apartment complex, or in your workplace, you do not have to fight alone. **We are stronger together!** Please reach out to to learn more about our upcoming event, or if you would like to talk about organizing with your neighbors.



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