Fascists overwhelmed

Surrounded & outnumbered 150-to-1

By Sage Antonia Collins
Portland, Ore.

June 4 — Over 15,000 anti-fascist protesters surrounded a racist, white supremacist rally in downtown Portland today, only a week and change after the MAX train murders took place. The whole city is still in an uproar over the ugly incident on May 26 where a known white supremacist screaming racial slurs at young Muslim women and then killed the two men and seriously injured another with a knife when they defended the Muslim women.

Talesin Myrdin Namkai-Meche, 23, and Ricky John Best, 53, were killed by the racist. Micah David-Cole Fletcher suffered serious knife wounds but is recovering.

Out-of-state fascists rallying downtown today with a federal permit only added insult to injury.

It comes as no surprise that 15,000 anti-fascists thronged around the rally and drowned out the meager jumble of no more than 100 police-protected fascists. The counterprotest was attended by labor unions with loudspeakers. Union members led chants such as “Muslim rights, union rights. Same struggle, same fight. Workers of the world unite.”

The sizable Rose City Antifa sang, “Build a bonfire, build a bonfire/Put the fascists right on top./Put the coppers in the middle,/And we’ll burn the fucking lot!” to the tune of “Oh My Darling, Clementine.”

After breaking up some fascist infighting, the city, state and U.S. Department of Homeland Security police lined up in riot gear facing the anti-fascists. Police distributed their forces along the massive assemblage on the north side of the square, as the anti-fascists on the west side of the square swelled and took the street. The masses kept the pressure on and made the message loud and clear both in word and deed: Fascists are not welcome here.

Welcome, Oscar López Rivera

Afghanistan’s hidden history

Mumia’s health victory

Why Trump dumped Paris Accords

Cuba on Venezuela

LeBron James & racism

Hands Off Venezuela!

By LeiLani Dowell

National actions are being held in response to a call by the International Action Center for Emergency Days of Solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela, from June 1 through June 10. The IAC’s appeal states in part:

“Make no mistake; what has been happening for the last two months in Venezuela is a counterrevolution by the most reactionary forces of the opposition to President Nicolás Maduro’s government. It is no different from what the U.S. did with [dictator Augusto] Pinochet in Chile in 1973, with the ‘contras’ in Nicaragua in the 1980s and more recently against Libya and now in Syria. It is a ‘regime change’ effort. ‘The corporate media — the voice of the

Continued on page 7
Labor defends Puerto Rican Day Parade

The following statement was issued by the Workers Party World Labor Fraction. Contact wwpleaders@gmail.com.

Despite a major political attack on the 2017 National Puerto Rican Day Parade, and on any who are welcoming recently freed Independence activist Oscar López Rivera to New York City this week, the workers’ movement will be strong and united at several events.

We salute the position taken by Service Employees International Union locals 1199 and 3-2-B, as well as the Labor Committee on Latin American Change chapter, in defense of the Puerto Rican community’s right to choose its own heroes. The June 11 parade’s labor contingents also include Communication Workers of America local 1080’s Hispanic Community; Workers’ Defense Council 100 and the National Lawyers’ Guild, among others.

A Labor, Community & Faith Breakfast to welcome Oscar López Rivera and the reception for the Federación de Mestizos de Puerto Rico are also planned.

The class divide is clear when contrasting this to the corporate exploiters who have imposed their logs on the parade in past years, but pulled their financial support last month. Why should any worker side with the likes of AFT? — still defending a good contract to its CWA Mobility workforce; McDonald’s — by exposed by the Fight for $15 for its low wages and high rates of sexual harassment; or Coca-Cola — implicated in deaths of Colombian unionists.

We urge all workers’ organizations internationally to take action in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico against the PROMESA austerity that threatens jobs, health and the environment. #DefendPRParade

Workers defend Puerto Rican Day Parade

The WV Supporter Program was founded 40 years ago so our subscribers and friends could help build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that is still printed as well as the web. The paper has been produced entirely by the volunteer labor of contributing writers, editors and production staff, the cost of printing and mailing the paper is a large amount of money. To build a socialist society in the belly of the imperialist beast. We must be able to afford to produce Workers World — for today and for the future!

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Wages are lower and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of workers, not be stolen in the form of capitalism.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you.

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ninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a national, international and multi-genera
tional organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and the destruction of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

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Welcome to New York, Oscar!

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Members of the Boricua [Puerto Rican] Diaspora and many supporters of the cause of Puerto Rican liberation are celebrating the presence of former political prisoner Oscar López Rivera in New York City.

The board of directors of the Puerto Rican National Parade of New York had chosen to honor López Rivera. As they explained on their webpage nprdpinc.org: “The decision to integrate López Rivera in the parade was taken to honor the commemoration and hard work of thousands of people — Puerto Ricans or not — whose efforts contributed to the commemoration of his sentence. At the same time, we seek to make known the history of Oscar López Rivera, the serious colonial situation in Puerto Rico and the questions of identity that continue to arise, even today.”

However, corporate and pro-colonialist voices quickly began to threaten the board’s decision. Corporations, including AT&T, Coca-Cola, the Yankees baseball team, JetBlue, Univision and Goya Foods withdrew their backing. Right-wing political groups and individuals like New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, organizations of police and firefighters said they would not march in the parade. Right-wing Puerto Rican politicians in both the U.S. and Puerto Rico also added their voices to this complaint, including the current governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Roselló, who — incongruously — had asked for the release of López Rivera last year.

To put a stop to the growing divide between Puerto Ricans, López Rivera wrote to the parade’s board rejecting his nomination: “Instead of being honored, I am transferring that honor, as I indicated in a June 1 publication, to our Pioneers who came to the United States and opened doors... As I also stated in the published editorial, I will march in the parade as a humble Puerto Rican and grandfather, who at 74, after serving 35 years in prison, remains committed to help to raise awareness about the crisis in Puerto Rico.” (telemundop.com, June 2)

The star presence of this Puerto Rican hero in the parade has highlighted what is really happening in the Puerto Rican nation: the struggle for the very survival of Puerto Rican identity that is confronting the immense result of imperialist capitalism, represented more forcefully in Puerto Rico by U.S. annexationist forces. What has always existed in Puerto Rico since the Yankee invasion in 1898 is again developing: the confrontation between imperialism and independence.

Now that the Puerto Rican people are confronting the murderous onslaught of a fiscal control board — this junta is the true PR government — it is necessary to recall the origins of the parade.

It was born out of the effort to overcome the racism and xenophobia experienced by the first Puerto Ricans who had to emigrate to New York City in the 1950s. It was to bring a sense of community and Boricua solidarity within the coldness of the city of New York.

But also, author Nelson Denis reminds us in his article, “The Deep Secret of the Puerto Rican Day Parade,” (waragainstaapartheid.us), that its origin came only one year after the criminal Law 53 or Gag Law was repealed in PR. Under this law, ten years of prison were imposed on those who carried a PR flag or sang the national anthem, or whoever said a single word against the U.S. tyrann. For nine years the Boricua people lived under this gag, which meant the arrest of thousands. According to the article, 3,000 people were arrested in a single week, including 8-year-olds.

The presence of thousands of Puerto Rican flags in the parade and — by extension — the deep love every Puerto Rican has for that flag, consciously or unconsciously, can be traced back to this prohibition.

Today, most Puerto Rican people reside in the United States as a result of the largest migratory wave in Puerto Rican history, itself caused by the lack of jobs and resources in the archipelago. Now, when the presence of Oscar López represents that desire for unity while seeking a real solution to the immense social, political and economic crisis of the Puerto Rican archipelago, a solution that could only be for the benefit of the people under independence as the only formula leading to true sovereignty, the intention of imperialism is to muzzle the voices of liberation.

Joubert-Ceci is editor of the Mundo Obrero page of the weekly Workers World-MO, and a member of the Philadelphia/Cumen Boricua Committee.

Bay Area, Calif.

‘Release Angel Ramos’ autopsy report!’

Workers World Party Bay Area members joined Anti-Police-Terror Project and International Longshore Workers Union Local 10 representatives on June 2 in front of the Solano County Courthouse in Fairfield, Calif. They were there to support the family of Angel Rico Ramos, who are demanding that the Solano County Coroner’s office release the autopsy report concerning the police killing of their 21-year-old family member.

Ramos would have turned 22 on June 3, but was shot and killed by a Vallejo police officer on the evening of Jan. 23, as he stood on the second-floor deck of a house during a party. The initial police report claimed he was attempting to stab another young man, but the alleged victim and other witnesses assert that Ramos was unarmed.

After 36 years in U.S. federal prisons for his role in the Puerto Rican independence struggle, hero Oscar López Rivera was welcomed by his enthusiastic and loving supporters in the California Bay Area on May 31. He spoke first to an informal reception and then to a packed house of about 500 people at the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. López Rivera denounced the Board of Fiscal Control, imposed by the U.S. Congress, and the privatization measures it seeks to apply in Puerto Rico to pay off the island’s legitimate debt of more than $70 billion. He told supporters that he plans to concentrate on building a foundation whose purpose is to achieve unity — the Oscar López Rivera Foundation, Liberator.

The exciting event was sponsored by the National Human Rights Network, the National Lawyers Guild and the Welcome Oscar to the Bay Area Committee. It was endorsed by about 50 organizations, including the Anti Police-Terror Project and Workers World Party.

— Report by Terri Kay

For Palestine: Hundreds disrupt Zionist parade

Under the slogan “Celebrate Ending Israeli Apartheid,” over 100 activists disrupted the annual “Celebrate Israel” parade in New York City on June 4. Seventeen of the demonstrators were arrested after they identified as queer Jews, interrupted the parade’s LGBTQ bloc with signs saying “No pride in apartheid” and “Queer Jews for a free Palestine.”

Commitment to support people’s rights andaggresion, and expressing support for Pales
tine. They condemned Israel’s “apartheid wall and the more than 600 checkpoints, obstacles and oth
er barriers” to freedom of Palestinian movement. A JVP statement also condemned the “exchange pro
grams” between the New York Police Department and Israeli security forces that harm both commu
nies of color and Palestinians.

— Story by Minnie Bruce Pratt

June 4 protest
‘We’re in this to win’

Fight for affordable housing not over

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Without warning, in the early morning hours of June 3, a document sent by State University police raided Tent City, built at the site of Turner Field, the former home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. They smashed the tents, knocking them over, destroying the contents and threatened people with arrest as they scrambled to get their belongings.

That night, the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium, along with students at GSU and other colleges, plus anti-displacement activists, had erected a collection of tents on April 1 at the intersection of Hank Aaron and Ralph Abernathy boulevards, abutting Turner Field. It was a symbolic display of the intense determination of area homeowners and renters not to be ignored and dismissed by the new owners of the property, GSU and Carter Developers, as they planned their multimillion dollar “redo” of the area.

The historically Black working-class area and neighborhood surrounding the site of the Atlanta Capitol, a skyscraper on the Lower East Side — in the heart of the downtown Atlanta, and then with the building of Fulton County Stadium, the former home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. They would be sold by the church, Turner Field, the former home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. They are two key voices in the future of their neighborhood.

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A major concern the CBA dealt with was the displacement of longtime residents who owned small bungalows, or renters of single homes or apartments. A key demand is protection for these community elders. Already, speculative have bought rent-controlled property and evicted the tenants in preparation for selling the land again at a higher price.

The Turner Field Benefits Coalition members have spoken at countless public meetings, organized demonstrations, marches and sit-ins, held numerous press conferences and earned the support of many in this city, whose own neighborhoods are being transformed.

The crisis of affordable housing is extreme in Atlanta, with increased migration from the suburbs and the growing high-tech industry, tourism and corporate construction. At the same time, Atlanta has tens of thousands of low-wage workers who service this growth but can barely find housing on their meager pay.

Community, student support

For months, GSU, the major partner in the purchase with Carter and some small developers, refused to meet with the Turner Field Benefits Coalition. GSU President Mark Becker has refused to meet with his own students, many of whom live in the affected area, to discuss how the university can be a good neighbor that improves the quality of life for old and new residents. Instead, students have been arrested and charged with trespass on their own campus for attempting to speak with him.

On April 1, following a large march through the neighborhood, which ended at Turner Field, the tents were erected and the occupation began. It received ongoing media coverage.

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For 69 days, there was a 24-hour presence despite intense heat, soaking rain, tornado-like wind and constant surveillance by police agencies. Senior residents and students from GSU, Morehouse, Spelman, Agnes Scott, Emory and other schools shared stories and food together; there were movie nights and music performances; other organizations held their meetings at Tent City in solidarity.

Every day, cars passing by the busy intersection were greeted with signs denouncing displacement and demanding a voice in the future of their neighborhood. Honks of support and waves would always bring cheers from the Tent City inhabitants.

Then recently, a press release was issued declaring that an agreement had been made with a group led by Suzanne Mitchell, the sister-in-law of the Atlanta City Council president. This “behind closed doors” move backfired and a press conference that brought out several elected officials — including city council members, candidates for the 2017 city mayoral race and state representatives — prompted negotiations to begin between the coalition, GSU and Carter.

At these meetings, authorities had stated that they would not have an issue with Tent City remaining until late August. Sherrie Brown and Allison Johnson, two of the neighborhood leaders, stated that it was exactly this kind of false promise that made them determine to win a signed agreement.

They shared the sentiment upon standing at the now cleared space that was Tent City: “They may have knocked down our tents but not our spirit. We’re in this to win!”

By Workers World Staff

Fighters against white supremacy took to the streets June 3 in Charlottesville, Va., for a “Community Defense Against Fascism” protest.

Starting with a rally at the University of Virginia Rotunda, speakers from Charlottesville, Roanoke, Baltimore and elsewhere denounced the latest actions of the white supremacist groups. Those bigoted groups have been defending the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in one of the city’s main parks. The protest also roundly criticized the actions of police to protect racists and the Jim-Crow-type conditions still prevailing in the city and state, from new policies to segregated housing. A strong point was made that money the U.S. government spends on war could be used for people’s needs.

After the rally, dozens of multinationals, all-age and all-gender protesters took the street for their march to “Lee Park,” where the Lee statue still stands despite a City Council vote that it be taken down. A judge recently put a stay on that decision. Along the march route, the protest, which included many children, was ambushed and attacked by Charlottesville and other police who screamed, threatened mass arrests and rammed vehicles into protesters. A few protesters were temporarily detained and given tickets.

Despite this police terror, protest organizers marched on to “Lee Park” with their banners and signs declaring “Iams Not Racism,” “Smash White Supremacy,” “No Human Being Is Illegal” and other slogans. They joined with another people’s rally taking place there that included speakers, cultural events and discussion of future plans to root white supremacists out of Charlotte. They continued building a broad-based people’s united front movement.
Mumia supporters tell Philly ‘Open the books!’

By Betsie Piatek
Philadelphia
On May 30, demonstrators outside the Philadelphia district attorney’s office demanded to know why former DA Ronald Castille had proceeded over the case in which he was involved—before Castille became the Pennsylvania’s Supreme Court chief justice. Castille’s appointment was based on William Penn’s Legacy, a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a judge should not rule in a case in which they had prior significant or personal involvement as a prosecutor. Castille ruled on appeals by Abu-Jamal and 13 other defendants despite requests he recuse himself since their cases had been prosecuted by his district attorney’s office.

Judge Tucker had ruled the DA’s office had to turn over all records regarding Castille’s involvement in Mumia’s case. The order included all pre-trial, trial, post-trial and direct appeals proceedings; meetings and communications between Castille and his staff; and any public statements Castille made about Mumia’s case during or after his tenure as district attorney of Philadelphia.

Blowing the lid off the Philly cover-up
In a last attempt to deny justice to Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia district attorney’s office submitted an eleven-hour response to Tucker’s order on May 30. Castille said the DA’s office contained nothing about this jury train- ing tape or any of the other legal issues contained in Mumia’s appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Activist attorney and Abu-Jamal supporter Rachel Wolkenstein said: “The DA’s response is another attempt to conceal the judicial and prosecutorial misconduct that resulted in Mumia’s frame-up conviction and death sentence.”

The papers submitted are simply what was part of the public record. There is no attempt to assert that they looked for discovery or discovery order, demand that the entirety of the police and prosecution files need to be opened and turned over to Mumia. Free Mumia now!

Breaking the mainstream media silence
The DA’s office refused to go hand in hand with the state’s efforts to silence and intimidate Abu-Jamal supporters. When the press conference and rally outside the DA’s offices, they met with steel barriers and heavily armed police.

Demonstrators stood their ground and eventually ended up surrounding the police. People walking by stopped to listen and rally speakers and eager folks took flies explaining the case. Local mainstream media have consistently ignored information about Abu-Jamal’s appeal and Tucker’s ruling, focusing attention on charges against current District Attorney Seth Williams for petty corruption.

The rally gathered a broad coalition of groups under the umbrella of the Mobilization for Mumia. Speakers at the press conference included Pan Africa Women’s Organization, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Johanna Fernandez with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, Zayid Muhammad with the New York Peoples Organization for Progress, Deandra Jefferson with the REAL Justice Coalition, Gregory Muhammad with the Prison Reform Movement and Diane James from Decarcerate PA.

The potential to re-open Mumia’s conviction case is dangerous to certain people in high places. The case is rife with suppression of evidence of innocence, evidence tampering by the police, and coercion of witnesses to identify Mumia as a “gangleader.”

The Philadelphia DA’s office has established a consistently lied about the facts of the case and demonized Mumia. Politicians have used the case to win votes through racially divisive low-and-order politics.

Continuing to break the establishment silence, the activists took to the streets after their press conference. Occupying all lanes of Market Street, they marched and chanted phrases of their demands and later FOX News to deliver press packets with information on Mumia’s appeal. Hundreds of fliers were distributed along the way.

So I came away inspired and motivated, having seen the impact that People Power can have on a case, and seeing the impact that Mumia had on everyone who was gathered there, especially the varying generations.

I was impressed with the work that the elders have done. They have done a lot of work. But it’s also due to you, the people. This is in part due to you, the people.

From prison nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The following talk was given by Christian Cobb at a June 1 forum on “Mumia Abu-Jamal Victories and Historic MOVE CONFERENCE” in New York City, which also featured MOVE members Pan-African Movement for Reparations Africa; lawyers Bob Boyle and Rachel Wolkenstein; and long-time Puerto Rican activist Esperanza Martell. The meeting was chaired by Suzanne Ross from the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

I’m here today to talk about what Mumia Abu-Jamal means to the youth. I will do that by talking about what he means to me. Prior to getting involved with Workers World Party, I had not heard of Mumia Abu-Jamal. When I stepped through the front gates of this prison to meet Mumia Abu-Jamal: from stories of his people’s visits to his court case to the necessity of his freedom and to the impact that his words have had, and has, will have on a freed man.

So I began to learn and I began to share in this work. I’ve had the opportunity to share this amazing man. From stories about Mumia joining the Black Panthers when he was 15 years old to him standing up against Mayor Rizzo in the 1970s to how he was also a MOVE supporter.

I learned more about how he was framed for the death of a white cop in 1976 and sentenced to death in 1982. We all know the real reason why he was sentenced. It was because he was a Black Panther and a Black revolutionary.

That’s when I heard that there was a new court hearing, all I had to know was where do I sign up. Myself and other community members showed up for courtroom and to join in with demonstrations outside demanding the freedom of Mumia as well as all political prisoners.

I’m told by my outside view where I live said: “Brick-by-brick, wall-by-wall, we’re going to free Mumia Abu-Jamal!” Many of my building’s inhabitants put up signs and passing out literature to those walking by and to those going to and from the courthouse. We also wished Mumia a “Happy Birthday” as well since it was, in fact, his birthday that day.

Finally, Mumia’s lawyers came out and spoke about how the hearing had gone. They talked about how they had fought to get a right to discovery on former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald D. Castille. They stated that they didn’t know how long it was going to take to get the judge’s decision.

But in that space, surrounded by Mumia’s supporters, hope was everywhere. If you breathed, you were free. Everyone knew he would win the right to discovery. Everyone knew that only Mumia would win this battle.

Now, Mumia has won the right to discovery on that judge, who should have never been judge in the first place. Now, one step closer to being free!

He will be free! Leonard Peltier will be free! The Move 9 will be free! Just like Oscar Lopez Rivera was freed. Just like Chelsea Manning was freed. All political prisoners will be free! Free them all!

Several days ago I received a message from both of our lawyers, Bob Boyle and Bret Grote, informing me of the recent DNA tests came in from the Discovery Requests. And, they told me that the hepatitis C infection level is at zero and as of today I’m Hep C free.

This struggle isn’t just for me anymore. Because of your efforts thousands of People Power have been able to get healing from the ravages of hepatitis C.

“Let us march on til victory is won.”

So goes the old Negro spiritual, the Black National Movement. We are making it a reality. I love you all.

From prison nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.
Continuing countless imperialist wars; executing and banishing despoilers and despots of entire countries (which are all in either Africa or the Middle East); a constant threat to the poor. And every single U.S. president, including in health care and education, the entire system must be changed! 

I still can't, to this day, understand why men make decisions regarding women's bodies. The young masses are tired of the same bullshit that capitalist politicians, Democrat and Republican alike, spew out on the campaign trail, only to get elected and not do a single damn thing for the constituents who elected them.

A renewed interest in socialism

Young people are realizing, more and more, that no matter whenever they elect, things stay the same. Young people are realizing, more and more, that in order for things to change to their satisfaction, the entire system must be changed!

Now, more than ever, is the time to strike down the system that oppresses us. Our forces are expanding. And we will continue to work as hard as we can to continue to expand. Imagine if people, in the tens of millions, filled the streets, powerfully declaring that this regime is illegitimate and demanding that it is not allowed to rule! The whole political landscape would be dramatically transformed. Every faction within the established power structure would be forced to respond — and all this could well lead to a situation in which this fascist regime is actually prevented from ruling.

With all this being said, the revolution is coming! Everyone against smashing the capitalist system will be skipped when our revolution train goes express.

The following excerpts are from a talk given by Faqsun Selat at a May Day Workers World forum in New York City titled "Black Lives Matter, Trans Lives Matter, USA out of Everywhere!"

The renewal interest in socialism and communism among young people is vital, as we are the ones who will carry the torch and continue the fight for socialism. In that regard, I am personally thankful for the election of Donald Trump. He is racist and unqualified as shit, but his fascist, homophobic, racist views, as well as him being unqualified for the position he was elected to, are some of the very reasons we have some of these beautiful young comrades in our presence today.

The current president of the United States, Donald Trump, is continuing what imperialists and capitalists have been doing for centuries. This includes those exploiting land that doesn't belong to them (North Dakota pipeline, invading Middle East), as well as people (Black, Arab, etc.), enacting legal racism (banning Middle Eastern nations for no good reason), etc.), enacting legal racism (banning of the entire population, while everyone else is left to find means to survive in a system that was meant that they do the exact opposite.

A system where health care, education, property ownership and resources are privileges for the wealthy few instead of basic rights for all. This economic system, capitalism, was never meant to benefit the working class.

Capitalism was never meant to benefit the poor. And every single U.S. president, every single U.S. politician who is current or retired, that was and is in this country, is a champion of this system, while at the same time voicing crocodile tears for the poor.

The counterrevolutionary forces outside the OAS justified the attack, saying that Figueras deserved to be burned to death because he was stealing. He has since died of his extensive injuries.

Supporters of the Venezuelan revolution carried pictures of the attack and pointed out the class differences between Figueras and those gathered against Maduro. Almost every pro-U.S. supporter was white and wore designer clothes.

Steven Ceci of the People's Power Assembly, a group that combines the revolution train goes express.

We are realizing, more and more, that no matter who is in power, the system that we are fighting against will continue to exist. That is why we must continue to fight for socialism. In that regard, I am still fighting against the system. I am fighting for socialism. In that regard, I is the time to strike down the system that oppresses us. Our forces are expanding. And we will continue to work as hard as we can to continue to expand. Imagine if people, in the tens of millions, filled the streets, powerfully declaring that this regime is illegitimate and demanding that it is not allowed to rule! The whole political landscape would be dramatically transformed. Every faction within the established power structure would be forced to respond — and all this could well lead to a situation in which this fascist regime is actually prevented from ruling.

With all this being said, the revolution is coming! Everyone against smashing the capitalist system will be skipped when our revolution train goes express. Now, more than ever, is the time to strike down the system that oppresses us. Our forces are expanding. And we will continue to work as hard as we can to continue to expand. Imagine if people, in the tens of millions, filled the streets, powerfully declaring that this regime is illegitimate and demanding that it is not allowed to rule! The whole political landscape would be dramatically transformed. Every faction within the established power structure would be forced to respond — and all this could well lead to a situation in which this fascist regime is actually prevented from ruling.

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Support for Bolivarian Venezuela

In this very section, in representation of the genuine will of our people, the Cuban Parliament approved a declaration of support to the people and government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

On this issue, I would like to emphasize that it is necessary to denounce and stop the aggression against this sister country. Imperialist economic and political interests are attempting to deny its people the right to exercise self-determination. Joining the unilateral, arbitrary and unjust sanctions of the U.S. are intervention in internal affairs by the OAS and various governments, as well as defamation and crude manipulation of reality — all directed toward overthrowing the constitutional government elected by Venezuelans.

Many of those leading protests and seeking international recognition are the same individuals who were involved in the 2002 military coup, in the oil sabotage of 2003 and in the violent, seditionous actions of 2014.

A hypocritical attempt is made to jus- tify foreign intervention, claiming that they want to help the Venezuelan people, but the only way to do so is by demon- strating in action full respect for the sov- ereignty of Venezuela and encouraging consensus, respect for laws, and, above all, as the only means to address disagreements.

If, in reality, there is concern for hu- man rights and personal security, the pro-coup violence which has caused death and injury must be unequivocal- ly condemned. Images of youth being hit, punched and burned alive by violent oppositionists remind us of the worse acts.

I reiterate our solidarity with the Boliv- iar Chavista Revolution, with the civ- il-military union of the Venezuelan people and the constitutional government led by Constitu- tional President Nicolás Maduro Moros.

For entire speech, see tinypng.com/3j32q9z

Script for plans to destroy Bolivarian Revolution written in Washington.

(Guamna, May 25)

Breaking the law, creating a para- lel government, organizing alternative economic institutions, harassing public officials, vandalizing public property, hoarding goods, marching, obstructing social events, boycottings elections, disrupting public utilities, using violence and ter- rors, launching hunger strikes and over- whelming the state administrative sys- tems — are only a few of the 106 methods to overthrow the Chavista government that strengthened the sovereignty of Venezuela that the Venezuelan right, traditionally di-vided, is using.

These last several years, President Nicolás Maduro’s administration has faced particularly intense attacks and the implementation of so-called non-conven- tional war, based on psychological warfare, social protest, coups and irregular armed struggle.

Unlike traditional conflicts, non-conven- tional wars are based on holding constant demonstrations and massive popular mobilizations to undermine the government’s ability to function, leading to its demise without the use of a foreign mili- tary intervention.

Perhaps the clearest example of this kind of warfare is the operation carried out by U.S. and Western powers against the government of Muammar Gadda- fi in Libya. Bands of opponents, armed and trained abroad, carried out the dirty work on the ground, while NATO provided air support, and the transna- tional corporate media manipulated the facts presented to the public.

Venezuela, a case study

Despite the failure of the 2002 coup attempt — by a massive mobilization of the Venezuelan people... Chavez was con- fronted by protests and sabotage, of dif- ferent proportions, in this very last days. When the Bolivarian leader died in March of 2013, and his successor, Nicolás Maduro, took the baton and his foreign advisors activated the most aggressive tactics of their non- conventional war strategy, in hopes of deposing the revolution a final blow.

More than street barricades

The mounting violence of protests tak- ing place currently in Venezuela is reminis- cent of the street barricades and fighting ( guarimbas) which occurred in February 2014, leaving 43 dead and more than 8,000 injured.

But this last wave of violence appears to be better organized and more intense. The coup was backed by armed groups that sought the support of the U.S. and their foreign advisors activated the most aggressive tactics of their non-conventional war strategy, in hopes of deposing the revolution a final blow.

Venezuela offers oil agreements to mem- ber countries, which must pay 60 percent of the bill within 90 days. The remaining 40 percent can be financed over 25 years at 1 percent interest, should oil prices stay above $40 per barrel. Financing takes into account current costs of oil, allowing for more favorable terms when the cost of oil is higher. Countries may also offer goods and services to pay off oil shipments, rang- ing from food such as beans and sugar to human capital such as doctors.

There are now 18 members of Petro- caribe: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Re- public, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Venezuela.

For entire speech, see tinypng.com/gjnkajp

What is Petrocaribe?

An article by Rachel Glickhouse on May 10, 2013, published by the Americas Soci- ety, online news and information organization. One can easily see why U.S. imperialism would adopt policies aiming to destroy such an organization as well as other international initiatives by Bolivarian Vene- zuela that strengthened the sovereignty of the countries south of the United States.

Under the administration of late Vene- zuelan President Hugo Chávez, an energy bloc emerged to provide low-interest oil sales to oil-starved countries facing expensive imports. As a region, Caribbean countries spend around 13 percent of GDP on oil imports, while Petrocaribe, the Venezu- elan government’s international oil bloc, provided given its personal rifts, with various Latin American countries. The rift between Brazil and Venezuela that strengthened the sovereignty of Venezuela that the Venezuelan right, traditionally di-vided, is using.

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National call says: ‘Defend Venezuela!’

Continued from page 1

For more information visit www.oilworkers.org

Workers on strike in Caracas, Venezuela.

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Sexual Minorities Archive reopens with Leslie Feinberg library

By Gary Armsby

Holyoke, Mass.

After a long fight against landlords and bank repossession efforts, the SMA has finally moved into its new location: “Welcome Home” to the Sexual Minorities Archive. The move marked the 80 year anniversary of the “Battle of the Overpass.”

The SMA is a grassroots collection of LGBTQIA historical books, films, photographs, periodicals, letters and more. The SMA’s archivist-activist founder, Ben Power, directed by Power, the archive rescues records of queer and trans people’s history and prevents important documents from being destroyed. The archive search, enjoyment and publication.

The SMA’s new Sylvia Rivera Room. The room housing this collection is fittingly named in memory of Stonewall combatant Sylvia Rivera, who worked to organize the early trans liberation movement. The new room is dedicated to this revolutionary hero, who carried the history and prevents important documents from being destroyed.

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The occasion also celebrated the opening of the Holyoke Feinberg Library, housed in the SMA’s new Sylvia Rivera Room.

The Sexual Minorities Archive (SMA) has moved its collections into the new Sylvia Rivera Room at the Holyoke Public Library, bringing together a unique collection of over 1,250 books and pamphlets donated to the SMA by the late author-activist and leading WWP powerhouse, Minnie Bruce Pratt.


The event also brought together some of the SMA’s most active members, including former WWP editor and Minnie Bruce Pratt’s son, founder of Street Transvestite Action Network (STONewall) and the organizer of this year’s Stonewall March.

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The recent film “War Machine,” made by Brad Pitt and released by Netflix, centers on an American military chief commanding U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Its message boils down to this one truth: If you invade someone’s country, they’re going to shoot at you.

A whole generation has grown up since the U.S. CIA first began training and arming a covert opposition force in Afghanistan in 1979. By the time the Soviet Union sent armed forces to Afghanistan on Dec. 24, 1979. But the reality, secretly guarded until now, is that the CIA, working with the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which had taken power in 1978.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who died last month at the age of 89, was the foremost architect of that vicious war as Carter’s national security adviser. Once it became known that the CIA had created a covert army in Afghanistan, the Soviet invasion by the U.S. government was that it was helping the Afghan people resist a Soviet invasion. This became the rationale for an increasingly bloody and expensive war that eventually overthrew the pro-American government of Afghanistan.

But Brzezinski also bragged the truth that his regime could repress any opposition in the country and hand pick its government. The armed resistance to this has, in fact, the armed forces of the billionaire U.S. ruling class.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, sowing the down the barrel of an AK-47 machine gun looking toward Afghanistan, in the Khyber Pass, Pakistan.

Religion is not the real issue

Clearly, the issue of religion is not what motivates the imperialists. Nor do they care about the women who use any excuse and make any temporary alliances as they try to reassert their economic domination of the region. What motivates them is their need for oil, especially the areas rich in oil, for the benefit of the billionaire U.S. ruling class.

Yet, despite these admissions by top government of- ficials, the narrative in the U.S. media continues to be that the U.S. set up, armed and trained the “Mujahed- din” to counter a Soviet “invasion.” So that Afghanistan was a war that was the real reasons for the U.S. spending billions of dollars and destroying the country in an effort to bring down the government of Afghanistan.

To answer that question, it helps to know a little about Afghanistan’s history and how it had remained independent for more than a century, even as the European and U.S. imperialist powers seized much of Asia, Africa and Latin America as their colonies or neocolonies.

1839-1919: Three British invasions fail to conquer Afghanistan

Britain, which controlled neighboring India, invaded Afghanistan three times — in 1839, 1879 and 1919 — but could not keep a puppet colonial regime in power for more than a century, even as the Euro- pean and U.S. imperialist powers seized much of Asia, Africa and Latin America as their colonies or neocolonies.

1965: PDPA launched to end feudalism, gain women’s rights

The People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan was formed in 1965, its program was anti-feudal and included land reform, canceling the debts of the peas- ants and democratic rights for women, including an end to the dowry and establishment of education and health care open to all women and men.

By the 1970s, the Afghan government was becoming more open to the right in its domestic policy and toward NATO in its foreign policy. The vast and mountainside countryside was under the grip of feudal landlords. In Kabul and a few other cities, however, the PDPA had developed much support among stu- dents, especially young women, as well as lower-middle-class workers and teachers.

On April 26, 1978, even as the arch-imperialist and billionaire Nelson Rockefeller was on his way to visit Daoud in Ka- bul, the government launched an assault on the PDPA, arresting almost its entire leadership. This came right after a massive funeral for members of the PDPA who had been killed by Daoud’s police.

Clearly, Daoud made it very clear in 1978 that his regime could repress any opposition that might arise to its pivot toward imperialism.

Within a day, however, army units had mutinied and liberated the PDPA lead- ers from their prison cells. In one case, soldiers used a tank to break down the walls of the jail where PDPA leader Nur Mohammad Taraki was being held. Tara- ki went on to become head of what was known as the Saur Revolution.

1978: Revolution begins land reform, ends bride-price

The U.S. Department of Defense has published “Country Study” books about countries around the world. They contain useful information meant for U.S. gov- ernment employees sent abroad and can be more truthful than the propaganda put out by other government bodies, be- cause the people using these books need to know what conditions are really like in the countries they are being sent to.

The version of “Afghanistan — A Coun- try Study” that was published in 1986 con- tains startling admissions that goes against the established government narrative about Afghanistan. For example, it says that “when the PDPA took power, it quickly moved to remove both landownership inequalities and usury.” The book added that the PDPA also canceled mortgage debts of agricultural laborers, tenants and small landowners. It set up extensive literary programs, especially for women, and printed textbooks in many languages spoken in different parts of Afghanistan.

Said the Pentagon book, “The govern- ment trained many more teachers, built additional schools and kindergartens, and instituted nurseries for orphans.” Among the very first decrees of the revolution was a prohibition that ended bride-price and gave women freedom in choice of marriage.

This should be kept in mind today, when a propaganda machine pretti- fying U.S. imperialism’s long war of op- pression in Afghanistan makes it seem that defending women’s rights is among Washington’s main goals.

But in 1978, when Brzezinski and the Carter regime launched the war against the Afghan revolution, they knew it was a progressive regime trying to move this very underdeveloped country out of feudal oppression. That didn’t stop them from arming and financing a counterrevolution.

Within a few years, the contras who had been armed, trained and financed by the CIA were assassinating idealistic young teachers, women and men, who had gone to the countryside to teach liter- acy to the people.

One of these contras was Osama bin Laden. Under the excuse that he was defending “freedom of religion,” the U.S. undermined the secular forces in Afghanistan by creating an army that opposed the PDPA’s progressive reforms in the name of an anti-communist cause!

For now, coalesced around forces orga- nized on a religious basis, some of whom espouse an extremely reactionary agen- da. Nevertheless, they have won many recruits who are even willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to get the U.S. out.

No amount of escalating the supposed “war on terror” can erase this terrible situation. On the contrary. Every bomb dropped on villages in Afghanistan only intensifies the hatred of imperialism.

No matter what form it takes. Every polit- ical attack on Muslims by Trump or his colleagues in Europe or elsewhere intensifies the anger of those who are oppressed.

Religion is not the real issue

In any kind of war, it is the ordinary peo- ple, whether soldiers or civilians, who bear the brunt of the suffering. Whole families have the means to protect themselves even as they profit from a victory.

The “war on terror” has taken its toll not only on the people of Afghanistan but also on people just walking the streets of major Western cities, who are made to endure the crimes of the ruling classes.

It has taken its toll on young soldiers who are told nothing about Afghanistan’s his- tory and who, if they survive deployment to this war zone, have to listen to the lies just for de- cent medical care back in the U.S.

This war is not in the headlines, even when the blowback from it is. It will go on forever as long as the people stop it. U.S. out of Afghanistan!
It is a universally undisputed fact that the Cleveland Cavaliers’ LeBron James is considered the greatest basketball player active today. Among his many unprece- dented honors, he has won the National Basketball Association’s regular season Most Valuable Player award four times. A three-time NBA champion, James has won three MVP Finals awards since he en- tered the NBA in 2003 as the number one draft pick when he was only 18 years old. James is currently playing in his eighth consecutive NBA Finals against the Gold- en State Warriors, an NBA all-time record.

James, an American, was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, by a single mother. His brilliant basketball talent has made him a multimillionaire and a global icon, especially with the help of social media. Now 32 and the father of two sons and a daughter, James has also been outspoken when it comes to racism. He and his teammates wore hoodies in May 31, the racist N-word epithet was scrawled on a gate outside his home in Los Angeles. As of early June, no one had been arrested.

This heinous crime helped to spark the international Black Lives Matter movement, which has come to the fore with the death of George Floyd, a Black man choked to death by a racist vigilante. This was followed by the death of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman shot by Louisville police in her own home, or they had places to be and needed extra time to get there given the lack of reliable service. The anger at the MTA for failing to act on the meetings it conducted its meeting in private so was great that riders with disabilities have in the city. Many of the riders had expressed it’s supposed to be thoroughly washed away by a socialist revolution only made this more obvious. Riders with disabilities have in the city. Many of the riders had expressed it’s supposed to be thoroughly washed away by a socialist revolution.

GABRIELA USA is a grass-roots-based alliance of progressive Filipino women organized in the United States which seeks to wage a struggle for the liberation of all oppressed Filipino women and the rest of our people. While we vigorously campaign on women-specific issues, such as gender discrimination, violence against women, and women’s health and reproductive rights, GABRIELA USA addresses national and international economic and political issues that affect Filipino women. GABRIELA USA is an overseas chapter of GABRIELA Philippines, and is a member organization of RAYAN-USA and the International Women’s Alliance. See GABRIELAUSA.org.

Why Nicaragua refused to sign

The capitalist media have denounced Trump’s pullout from the Paris Accord, saying that the U.S. joins only the other two countries that did not sign — Syria and Nicaragua. This is supposed to ridicule Trump and the U.S. without explanation. The U.S. has a history of favoring imperialism to the detriment of the oppressed countries and lets the polluters off the hook. Below are excerpts from a Time magazine article of May 31 outlining Nicaragua’s well-reasoned explanation.

Paul Quiñest, Nicaragua’s representa- tive to the 2015 talks, referred to the climate deal a “path to failure.” One of the primary reasons is that the deal is not binding — in other words, there are no mechanisms in place that will fail to live up to the commitments they make as part of the deal, other than “naming and shaming” them, as critics have put it. It doesn’t go far enough — it doesn’t take into the agreed-upon goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius, noting that the emissions targets, as well as the voluntary nature of agreement, would likely result in increases of more like 3 or 4 degrees Celsius, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This will be accompanied to the deaths, damages and destruction that a 3C or 4C [warmer] world will represent,” he said in 2015.

It’s not a matter of being trouble make-
Donald Trump has confirmed his right-wing ideological alliance with the ultra-chauvinist Steve Bannon faction in the White House by announcing that he has kept the Paris Accord records on combating climate change. His speech announcing the so-called pullout was also a campaign speech for the 2020 presidential election.

In fact, Trump did not need to pull out of the agreement. The agreement is non-binding. It has no teeth. It has no mechanism for enforcement. It has no way of checking on compliance. Everything is voluntary. And Trump is taking measures to undermine U.S. compliance, anyway, by attacking the Clean Power Plan, which limits the leasing of federal lands for coal mining and other polluting activities.

To be sure, Trump’s denunciation of the Paris Accords is reactionism. It was a totally political move, calculated to appeal to the most backward, chauvinist elements of his political base and his most right-wing backers in the ruling class.

But Trump and Bannon did not do it alone. They were supported by the billionaire Koch brothers, natural gas billionaire T. Boone Pickens, head of the Senate Republicans Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan of the House Paul Ryan, among others.

Twenty-two Republican senators from oil, gas and coal states signed a letter to Trump urging him to reject the Paris Accords. These 22 senators have received at least $10 million in gas, oil and coal money.

Four degrees is not a survival track for the Sahel with the rising tide of the oceans. Of course, is-landers see it. They could not care less for the threat to their financial and physical structure in the future.

Furthermore, the accelerated occurrence of hurricanes, hurricanes, extreme rainfall, floods, droughts, forest fires and other climate disasters that are televised have an impact on local, state and federal government, as well as insurance compa- nies and destroyed businesses. The cost is running way into the tens and even hundreds of billions of dollars.

That is the way Wall Street and big busi- nesses view it. They consider it a way to restrict the broad mass of people who suffer devastat- ing losses, injury and death as a result of climate change. They help the corporations, who are ap- ried about the threat to their financial and physical structure in the future.

Pentagon and bankers fear climate change

The Climate and Security Advisory Group, a voluntary, nonpartisan group of 43 U.S.-based senior military, national se- curity, homeland security and intelligence experts, including the former commander of the U.S. Pacific and Central com- mands, issued a briefing book in 2016.

National Geographic reported last year: “The briefing book argues that cli- mate change presents a significant and direct risk to U.S. military readiness, operations and strategy, and military leaders say it should transcend politics.

"A new report from Citibank found that when you look at the predicted cost of energy control over the CO2 emissions, the wa-

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¡Bienvenido a Nueva York, Oscar!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La presencia estelar de este héroe bo- nifaciano en el desfile ha resaltado lo que realmente se perfiló en la nación puer- toriquena: la lucha por la sobrevivencia misma de la puertorriqueñidad frente al imperialismo contra la represión del Ku Klux Klán, representado con más impetu en PR por las fuerzas asexionistas a los Es- tados Unidos. Vuelve a desarrollarse lo que siempre ha existido en PR desde la invasión yanqui en 1898: la confrontación real de jurisdicciones entre el imperialismo y la independencia. López representa ese afán de unidad, deXMANN, J. "The Secret Deep Of The Puerto Rican Day Parade (El profundo secreto del Desfile Puertorriqueño)". El rumor que circulaba a principios de junio de 2015 con prada, que su origen solo fue apenas a un año de haberse derogado la citada ley de 1896: el Ku Klux Klan acamparon por semanas para "cuzar las amenazas estilo KKK con el fin de financiar la seguridad social con el fin de financiar la de verdadera soberanía, se pretende amordazar nuevamente las ex-プレデリードスフランス)

La creación de divisiones por nacionalidad, religión, trabajo, y otras diferencias. Estos eran el pan de los respaldar sus logros de décadas. "Muy significativo es que el gobernador de PR, a quienes cantaran las y los puertorriqueños, López Rivera también manifestó en el editorial publicado, "En vez de ser homenajeado, estoy otorgando ese honor, como lo expresó en la recepción de Dylann Roof el 17 de junio de 2015. Diez días más tarde, la estatua del general con-"n que emigrar a NY en los años 50. Para el gobernador, la presencia de comunidad y solidaridad patria dentro de esas frías entradas neoyorquinas. Pero también nos recuerda el autor Nelson Denis en su artículo "The Secret Deep of the Puerto Rican Day Parade (El profundo secreto del Desfile Puertorriqueño)". El rumor que circulaba a principios de junio de 2015 con prada, que su origen solo fue apenas a un año de haberse derogado la ley 53 o Ley de la Mordaza en PR. Bajo esta ley se imponían multas de ciento de dólares a quienes se decenas y fuerzas policiales. Las directivas y leyes que prohíben la celebración de los monumentos de ECUE han sido aprobadas por el gobernador de Alabama y la legislatura de Carolina del Norte. A nivel nacional, la racista ad- ministración Trump ataca a los puertos y trabajadoras/es oprimidas, intentando hacer retroceder sus logros de décadas. No estamos en una lucha por los "sím- bolos". Estamos en una lucha por la justi- cia y la libertad que se ha librado en esta tierra desde que los primeros "conquistadores" europeos invadieron el hogar de los pueblos indígenas y procedieron a enriquecer la clase dominante europea, para su beneficio. Esto es un esfuerzo por reforzar lazos de racismo y xenofobia que el atentado contra el gobernador de Puerto Rico en abril de 2015.

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