



Across U.S. and world, protests demand 'NO WAR ON IRAN'

By Deirdre Griswold

Many anti-war organizations across the United States and in several other countries came together on Feb. 4 to protest the rising crescendo of threats against Iran. In more than 30 U.S. states and 80 cities, large and small, groups joined forces to raise four key demands: "No war, no sanctions, no intervention, no assassinations!"

Groups participating included the United National Anti-war Coalition, International Action Center, No War on Iran, Solidarity with Iran (SI) Campaign, StopWarOnIranCampaign.org, American Iranian Friendship Committee, Answer and World Can't Wait.

The corporate media had been reporting for weeks that the Israeli regime was weighing an attack on Iran aimed at dismantling its nuclear program. Yet even former U.S. intelligence officers point out that Iran's nuclear development is entirely peaceful; it is not building any nuclear weapons. (See "Divining the Truth About Iran" by Ray McGovern, commondreams.org, Feb. 2)

Totally unsubstantiated claims of Iran being a nuclear danger form the basis on which Israel, which itself has a large nuclear arsenal and has been armed and financed by the U.S., has been publicly claiming its right to launch a military attack on Iran.

The process had already begun in the major corporate media to give credibility to Israel's charges and soften up public opinion to accept such a criminal act, which would unleash yet another devastating war in this oil-rich region so coveted by imperialism.

A large crowd marched in **NEW YORK** from Times Square to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and then to the Israeli Consulate. The French press agency AFP estimated the protest at 500, with people from many different organizations. Beside the four main demands opposing any foreign intervention, many placards and handmade signs also fingered Wall Street and the banks as the real enemies of the people here, not Iran.

Kazem Azim, of Solidarity with Iran (SI) Campaign, told Workers World that the most important issue was the thousands of targeted assassinations that have taken place in recent years of Iranian scientists, state representatives and even parliament ministers, for which the Iranian people blame Israeli and U.S. agents.

"This has united the Iranian people," Azim said, "against foreign intervention and war. The war has already started because sanctions are an act of war. Even many of those who have opposed the Iranian government are now seeing that their main enemy is U.S. imperialism."

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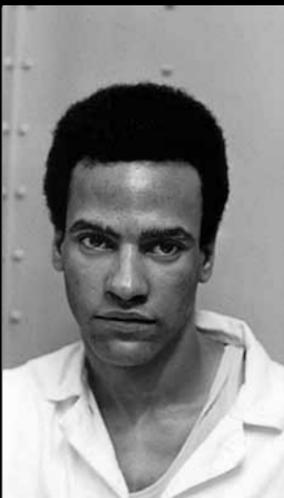
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH STRUGGLE & CULTURE



Black Panther leader & political prisoner
Huey P. Newton



Etta James



Don Cornelius

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PHOTO: NLG

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NEW YORK, N.Y.

New Yorkers take to streets Feb. 4 against war on Iran.

WWW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Imperialism 'guilty' says People's Tribunal

By Dolores Cox
New York

The International People's Tribunal on War Crimes and Violations of International Law was held on Jan. 14 at Columbia University's School of Law in New York City. The tribunal was sponsored by the December 12th Movement International Secretariat. The tribunal is part of a campaign to seek peace and ensure justice.

The people's case brought before the presiding judges charges political and military leaders in the U.S., Holland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Portugal and NATO allies with war crimes and human rights abuses against Libya, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Zimbabwe and Haiti.

The criminal acts committed were the bombing of Libya and implementing regime change in Libya; implementing sanctions against Zimbabwe and attempting regime change there; armed intervention in Cote d'Ivoire — a former French colony — to overthrow and arrest President Laurent Gbagbo, rape and ethnic cleansing; coup d'etat in Haiti and the overthrow of President Jean Bertrand Aristide; the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade/African Holocaust and slavery; and institutionalized racism and war on Black people in the U.S.

The charges were crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, enslavement, imprisonment, torture, rape and persecution of a definable group.

The laws violated under the United Nations Charter were sovereignty of nations, political independence of nations, territorial integrity of nations, responsibility to protect doctrine, doctrine of humanitarian intervention, and crimes of blatant aggression, which include violation of the Geneva Convention and U.N. Charter regarding torture, rape and attacks involving physical damage to civilians, property and appropriation of property.

On the panel of presiding judges were the Hon. David Comissiong, attorney, 2001 U.N. Durban Conference on Racism, Clement Payne Movement, Barbados; the Hon. Lennox Hinds, attorney, National Conference of Black Lawyers, Rutgers University professor; and the Hon. Rosemary Mealy, attorney, International People's Tribunal vice president.

The prosecuting and investigation team consisted

of Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, attorney, former coordinator American Civil Liberties Union's Campaign Against Racial Profiling Project, Harvard University political science professor, Campaign to End the New Jim Crow; Troy Griffith, attorney, Libya; Sylvestre Kouadio, attorney, African Diaspora for Democracy and Development, Cote d'Ivoire; Alfred Toussaint, attorney, Haiti; and Roger Wareham, attorney, December 12th Movement.

'Might does not make right!'

Court decorum prevailed throughout. Judges wore formal judicial robes, and court procedures were adhered to. Witness after witness was sworn in and provided testimony as to the criminal acts. Opening remarks by the court secretary included the purpose of the tribunal, a reflection on what a war crime is, and the people's right to accuse and put ruthless capitalism, ethnic imperialism and neocolonialism on trial and to condemn and indict the Western powers.

The statement was made that "this is a moment in which we've claimed agency, taken a lead. We're about to commence on an important and sacred task. We forthrightly condemn and indict Western powers and their weapons of mass destruction. No impunity for any nation or person for breach of international law. People here are outraged. Might does not make right. Long live freedom!"

Several documentary videos and charts were shown and entered as exhibits. They included video of French rebels in Cote d'Ivoire gunning down young people; video of Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi wounded and dying; images of the 1921 Tulsa, Okla., race riot; and exhibits pertaining to police misconduct, brutality and murders of Black and Latino men and youth.

Personal accounts by Black prisoners were submitted, as well as video showing the psychological effects of solitary confinement, which is cruel and inhumane treatment amounting to torture.

Following the judges' deliberations and assessment of evidence submitted, a verdict was rendered. The judges stated that a prima facie case had been sufficiently made with supportive evidence of an orchestrated and systematic campaign by neocolonial powers to willfully violate the U.N. Charter regarding sovereignty of nations, po-

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Phone: 212.627.2994
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Vol. 54, No. 6 • Feb. 16, 2012
Closing date: Feb. 8, 2012

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor,

New York, N.Y. 10011.

Protesters demand 'Free Leonard Peltier'



A strong, well-attended demonstration demanding immediate, unconditional freedom for Native-American activist and political prisoner Leonard Peltier was held on Feb. 4 in Buffalo, N.Y., at the Federal Courthouse on Niagara Square. The event was coordinated by the local chapter of the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee in support of similar demonstrations held around the world to mark the 36 years that Leonard Peltier has been

imprisoned in the United States. Peltier was wrongfully convicted of the 1975 shooting deaths of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Michael Kuzma, a Buffalo attorney and lawyer for Leonard Peltier, spoke on the series of crimes committed by the prosecutors, the courts and the FBI in framing Peltier and preventing his release.

— Report & photo by Ellie Dorritie

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Foreclosures and evictions stopped

Detroit activists force banks to back down

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Activists in this devastated city have scored four significant victories in the last eight weeks, each time stopping evictions and foreclosures by engaging in mass mobilizations. In each case, the courts had ruled against the homeowners and evictions were imminent.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs worked in conjunction with Occupy Detroit, the People Before Banks Coalition — which is officially endorsed by the United Auto Workers union — and Occupy Our Homes to initiate and carry out broad-based campaigns to stop these evictions.

In each case, the banks quickly caved in when faced with mass pressure. One bank, when it backed down, expressed apprehension because the Occupy movement was involved. The financial institutions — which have destroyed city after city with their racist, predatory, subprime mortgages — have shown a great fear of mass struggle and further bad publicity.

Two of the cases involved Citibank. After months of litigation and stubborn refusal to do loan modifications or other workouts, this bank rescinded the evictions and worked out arrangements to keep the owners in their homes permanently. The bank conceded almost immediately after calls for rallies went out, and email and calling campaigns were initiated to demand it deal equitably with the homeowners.

One of these campaigns was to save 1515 Broadway in downtown Detroit. This location is a well-known community center, theater and coffee house that is also the residence of proprietor Christopher Jaszczak and his son. Jaszczak had opened the

doors to 1515 Broadway as a place for Occupy Detroit to hold its meetings. When the bank got wind of a scheduled press conference and community rally, it immediately set in process negotiations. The talks allowed Jaszczak, after months of futile dealings in the courts, to void the foreclosure and remain in the establishment.

Support also poured out for Debra Henry and Robert Henry in the downriver Detroit suburb of Southgate. The Henry family faced an imminent eviction by Bank of America and by Fannie Mae, a government-owned enterprise and infamous for being among those initiating the most evictions in the United States.

A rally at the home and a subsequent demonstration took place with strong union participation. The demonstration included a march to a local Bank of America branch. Fannie Mae and Bank of America then backed down, stopped the eviction and worked out an agreement that keeps the Henrys in their home.

During the last couple days of January, activists helped stop the eviction of the Garrett family in northwest Detroit. Wil-

liam Garrett used to be a hairdresser for many Motown singers. Now, he is blind and disabled after suffering four strokes. He and his spouse, Bertha Garrett, were facing eviction from the home where they had lived for many years.

The mortgage on the home was held by their son-in-law and put into foreclosure and sold at a sheriff's sale to Bank of New York Mellon Trust for only \$12,000. This megabank had reneged on an agreement to allow the Garretts to purchase the home for the sheriff's sale price.

The bank was moving forward with their eviction and actually had a dumpster placed in front of the home on Jan. 30 — meaning the eviction was scheduled for that day. Activists kept vigil at the Garretts' home, blocked the dumpster, demonstrated in downtown Detroit at a Bank of New York Mellon branch office and started emailing the bank and servicer.

Within about 48 hours, the eviction was canceled, and the bank agreed to allow the Garretts to repurchase the home for the \$12,000 redemption amount.

In early December, housing activists

saved the home of tenant Kyra Williams on Detroit's near eastside. They moved against Citi Mortgage after the bank reneged on an agreement to allow Williams to purchase the home after they had placed its owner in foreclosure. The bank was proceeding full-steam ahead with plans to evict until public outcry and mobilization caused it to about-face and allow Williams to remain in her home.

In light of these victories and the increase in anti-foreclosure and anti-eviction activity across the U.S., the Moratorium NOW! Coalition is hosting a national conference in Detroit on Saturday, March 31. This gathering will offer an opportunity for anti-foreclosure activists in different localities to share their experiences with stopping foreclosures and evictions through direct action. It will also discuss ways to step up the national campaign for a two-year federal moratorium to halt all foreclosures and foreclosure-related evictions across the U.S.

For more information or to register for the March 31 conference, visit nationalmoratorium.org or call 313-680-5508. □

Occupy Pittsburgh 'far from over'

Occupy Pittsburgh, in one of the last major cities in the Occupy movement with a remaining tent encampment, is facing eviction on Monday, Feb. 6. At its height, OP had close to 100 tents and maintained a library, medical tent and food canteen. OP was ordered by a judge to vacate Mellon Green, which was renamed "The People's Park" by the movement. Located in downtown Pittsburgh, the park is owned by and located next to the Bank of New York Mellon. Occupy Pittsburgh targeted the infamous bank because of its alleged theft of pensions from countless union workers. OP activists have also called marches, held actions and written statements protesting cuts to public transportation, opposing the National Defense Authorization Act, and in outrage of the brutal beating of Jordan Miles by Pittsburgh police. While it has been played up



in the press that Occupy Pittsburgh had begun packing up and dismantling the camp over the weekend, OP activists told

Workers World that their movement was "far from over."

— Report and photo by Imani Henry

Imperialism 'guilty'

Continued from page 2

litical independence of nations, territorial integrity of nations, responsibility to protect doctrine, doctrine of humanitarian intervention, and crimes of aggression.

The judges found the accused guilty of the charges levied, and will therefore be demanding that the International Criminal Court adhere to the tribunal's decision and take action against the guilty parties. The ICC has jurisdiction over international war crimes.

The tribunal closed with the following statement: "We'll memorialize this historic event. It's the first time that victims of international crimes are taking the lead. We're witnessing a cutting edge of international law and are convinced we're on the right side of history. What we do through this international process is a memorial to the victims."

The findings of this case will be submitted to the ICC prosecutor at The Hague, the Netherlands. The intention is to take 400 delegates to The Hague from June 16-20. On June 18, a press conference will be held, and the petition and verdict of the people's tribunal will be presented to the ICC.

People or organizations interested in joining this important delegation should contact the December 12th Movement International Secretariat at 456 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11216; phone: 718-398-1766; e-mail: d12m@aol.com. □

INDIANA

Anti-union law protested at Super Bowl

By Gene Clancy

The New York Giants and New England Patriots football teams played Feb. 5 in the National Football League's 46th Super Bowl in Indianapolis, Ind. Like its predecessors, this spectacle was fully in the hands of big business, notwithstanding the fact that more than 111 million people in the U.S. viewed the event.

This year, however, was different. The annual reactionary ruling-class party was met by demonstrators from the Occupy movement who turned out to confront both the preparation events and the Super Bowl itself. The protesters included union workers, who were protesting the law Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels signed four days earlier making Indiana the 23rd "right-to-work" state in the country.

The protesters have the support of the National Football League Players Association, which issued a statement denouncing the legislation before it was even signed into law. When asked why the NFLPA opposes the law, DeMaurice

Smith, executive director of the players union, was direct:

"[On this issue] we are in lock step with organized labor. ... We want decent wages. We want a fair pension. We want to be taken care of when we get hurt. We want a decent and safe working environment. So when you look at legislation...[that they want to call] something like 'right to work,' I mean, let's just put the hammer on the nail. It's untrue.

"This bill has nothing to do with a 'right to work,'" Smith continued. "If folks ... want to pass a bill that really is something called 'right to work' have a constitutional amendment that guarantees every citizen a job, that's a 'right to work.' What this is instead is a right to ensure that ordinary working citizens can't get together as a team, can't organize, can't stand together and can't fight management on an even playing field." (The Nation, Jan. 18)

Not only are right-wingers like Gov. Daniels opposed to unions, they have also slashed millions for public services, claiming they need to keep taxes low. But

the Lucas Oil Stadium where the game will be played was built with \$720 million of loans underwritten by public tax money. When these loans collapsed during the recent economic crisis, the public was left holding the bag. The Indiana state treasury paid \$16.9 million to the Capital Improvement Board, which owns the stadium, just to bail it out of a credit default scheme, and it now faces \$26.3 million in additional bailouts. This is on top of \$7 million that the state paid in order to issue the bonds in the first place.

The stadium and hosting the Super Bowl are defended by proponents of professional sports as promoting "economic development," a good business climate and of course jobs. But not much of this "trickles down" to the workers. In fact, the Indianapolis Hyatt Regency hotel, which has made millions in profits and expects to get \$1,000 per night per room during the Super Bowl, just announced plans to fire 20 low-paid staffers for the "crime" of filing a federal lawsuit alleging wage theft. □

BLACK HISTORY 2012

Lessons from the life of Panther leader

HUEY P. NEWTON

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Dr. Huey Percy Newton, the co-founder of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, was born in Monroe, La., on Feb. 17, 1942, the youngest of seven children born to Walter Newton and Armelia Johnson.

Walter Newton was a hardworking southern African American. According to Huey, "During those years in Louisiana he worked in a gravel pit, a carbon plant, in sugar cane mills, and sawmills. This pattern did not change when we moved to Oakland." (Revolutionary Suicide, 1973)

"As a youngster," Newton continued, "I well remember my father leaving one job in the afternoon, coming home for a while, then going to the other. In spite of this, he always found time for his family. It was always high-quality time when he was home."

Newton also mentioned that his father was a Baptist minister in Louisiana and in Oakland, Calif., where the family settled in 1945. Oakland was a center of African-American migration during the 1940s. War production had opened up new jobs for the working class.

Newton became alienated from his teachers and educational administrators in the Oakland public school system. He rebelled as an individual, fighting and de-

fyng his instructors.

Newton wrote that in his last year in high school, he was functionally illiterate. However, his older brother, Melvin, helped him develop an interest in reading. He studied Plato and Aristotle, became a ferocious reader, and took up sociology and law in Oakland City College.

Nonetheless, Newton became involved in petty hustling to raise money and so he could have leisure time to read books and enjoy time free from work. Eventually he landed in Alameda County Jail in 1964. In 1965 when he got out of jail, he began to hang out with Bobby Seale, whom he had met earlier.

Becoming disenchanted with existing groups they were active in, the two aimed at forming an organization that would rely on the most oppressed segments in the African-American community. Newton wrote, "None of the groups were able to recruit and involve the very people they professed to represent — the poor people in the community who never went to college, probably were not even able to finish high school."

Origins of the Black Panther Party

The concept of the Black Panther Party grew out of the Civil Rights struggles in Lowndes County, Ala., in 1965-66. Founded after the March 1965 Selma to



Montgomery march, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization made an attempt to form an independent, Black-led political party in opposition to both Democrats and Republicans.

Local activists started the LCFO in cooperation with organizers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael and other activists were instrumental in formulating LCFO's tactics and strategy.

The concept spread, and by 1966 the Alabama Black Panther Party had been established. The organization took up arms in defense of the right of African Americans to organize and to vote. The presence of armed African Americans caught the imagination of youth around the country. Soon Black Panther organizations existed around the United States.

Newton and Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self Defense in Oakland in October 1966. In California by early 1967, at least three different groups were organizing around the Black Panther symbol. By 1968, in a complicated set of historical circumstances that extend beyond the scope of this article, the

1942-1989

most well-known and predominant group within the Black Panther movement centered around Newton and Seale.

During this period the prevailing philosophy of nonviolent resistance came under ideological attack within the African-American community. Rebellions erupted in hundreds of cities between 1963 and 1968.

On Oct. 28, 1967, Newton, then Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party, was involved in a shoot-out with police; one officer was killed and another wounded. Newton was also seriously wounded and spent nearly three years in the California prison system.

Growth & repression of the Panthers

During Newton's 1967-1970 incarceration, the BPP grew into a national organization, headquartered in Oakland and encompassing some of the most revolutionary men and women. The FBI, under the administrations of both Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon, in collusion with local cops, declared war on the Panthers and other revolutionary African-American organizations. In that war the police, with FBI coordination, killed dozens of BPP members, arrested and framed-up hundreds on fabricated criminal charges, and drove others underground or into exile.

Such pressure from the federal govern-

An appreciation of singer ETTA JAMES

By Larry Hales

Etta James died at the age of 73 on Jan. 20 after having suffered from leukemia and Alzheimer's. Her death came three days after that of R&B singer Johnny Otis, who is credited with getting her started in the music business in 1950. At that time, James was 14 and singing with a group then named the Crelettes. James, who would have turned 74 on Jan. 25, died in Riverside, Calif.

Though the movie, "Cadillac Records," like many Hollywood biographical films, was inaccurate and incorrect in its portrayals and relationships, it would be wrong not to at least give it credit for introducing new generations not only to Etta James, but also to Howling Wolf, Chuck Berry, Little Walter and Muddy Waters.

Some may have been drawn to the actors

who portrayed the musicians, most notably Beyoncé Knowles and Mos Def, but, eventually, one could hope that the viewer and listener would return to the source.

To listen to Etta James sing "I'd Rather Go Blind," "All I Could Do is Cry" or her signature song, "At Last," and to listen to Beyoncé are two different experiences. Any other rendition of either song or any other performed by James, such as "Out of the Rain," would seem flat. James seemed to live her songs or they her. She could soar or be smoky and sultry. "At Last," and "Out of the Rain" complement one another through Etta James — one new, young and hopeful; the latter older, wiser and sweeter. The songs were 30 years apart.

Much has been made of Etta James' heroin addiction; even the film dealt with it. While what drives one to use a mind-altering substance may be different from



what keeps the same person returning to the substance; while those reasons may be many, and the person may give different answers if queried, for the film to portray a Black woman as fundamentally weakened by a desire to find and be accepted by her white father, is an example of a liberal form of racism. As far as Etta James was concerned, she was Black.

Every child has a right to know her or his parents, but the much more interesting aspects of Etta James' life and her reasons for the things she did are missed entirely. She didn't want anyone to project on to her but desired to be her own person, to be open about her sexuality and to

go against the bourgeois norms of society.

Such feelings are tied to the social and political atmosphere of the time and the personal circumstances of her life, which would include her feelings regarding her mother's relationships, including the lack of full knowledge pertaining to her father; but to understand fully any sketch of her life would have to put it in its proper context. The tendency towards the anti-norms is as much a part of the culture as what is normal.

As Henri Wallon in his theory of cognitive psychology says, "Our mental life is perpetually conditioned by the situations in which it is engaged, be they in accord with its own propensities or contrary to them."

James' inclinations reflected her turn against the norms of her day, against the racism and sexism inherent in the society. It drove her towards her relationships with gay men and her acceptance of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people. Her album, "Life From San Francisco," was recorded in a gay bar in the early 1980s and during her low time

DON CORNELIUS His 'Soul Train' instilled Black pride

By Monica Moorehead

As a teenager living in Hampton, Va., I would eagerly look forward to watching the TV show "Soul Train" every Saturday morning like millions of others in the U.S., the majority of them Black people like me. "Soul Train" was the place to see the most popular Black artists, like the O'Jays, LaBelle, Al Green, Chaka Khan, the Jackson Five and many more, perform along with the incomparable Soul Train dancers. And at the end of each show, the creator of "Soul Train," Don Cornelius, would tell the viewers in his rich, very cool baritone voice, "I wish you love, peace and soul."

It is because "Soul Train" touched and enriched the lives of Black America, even today, that music lovers everywhere were stunned and saddened to hear that Cor-

nelius had reportedly committed suicide, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, on Feb. 1 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 75 years old. Thousands upon thousands of twitter messages flooded the Internet paying tribute to him. Flash mobs everywhere are paying homage to him.

Cornelius was the host of "Soul Train" from 1971 until 1993. When the show ended in 2006, it was the longest-running syndicated television show in U.S. history. This is a profound achievement considering the fact that "Soul Train" was not only created but owned outright by Cornelius, an African American.

The roots of "Soul Train"

"Soul Train" was a by-product of the struggle against racism. Following the passing of the 1964 and 1965 federal Civil



Rights bills, which focused on legally breaking down racial barriers in the Jim Crow South, Dr. Martin Luther King decided to target the white-only, segregated neighborhoods in Chicago. Cicero, a Chicago suburb, was a hotbed of pro-Nazi activity. Dr. King, who was physically assaulted during a march in Cicero, once stated that racism in the North was in some ways more vicious than that in the South. Police brutality along with abject poverty was rampant, especially in African-American urban cities like Chicago.

Cornelius grew up on the South Side of Chicago. He became a news reporter for

a local station, WCIU, and was once assigned to interview Dr. King. In response to the negative, racist images Black people were relegated to in the white-dominated corporate media, Cornelius stated, "I had a burning desire to see Black people presented on television in a positive light."

Cornelius convinced WCIU to allow him to develop a local show named "Soul Train" to help showcase well-known, local African-American soul and blues singers such as Curtis Mayfield, the Staple Singers and B.B. King. The Philadelphia-based O'Jays also appeared on the first show, which aired on Aug. 17, 1970. Local Chicago Black youth became dancers on the show.

"Soul Train" had become so popular by the end of its first year that Cornelius moved the show to Los Angeles, around the same time that Motown moved there from Detroit. On Aug. 2, 1971, "Soul Train" began its national syndicated run, initially attracting seven cities. In 1972, due to the appearances of popular artists like Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin, as

ment led to major political splits within the BPP between 1969 and 1971. In 1969, Stokely Carmichael resigned along with many of his supporters. In 1971, there was a split between Newton and Eldridge Cleaver and their respective supporters.

These developments occurred simultaneously with major restructuring of the U.S. labor force. Production facilities that had employed African Americans post-World War II began to relocate outside urban communities to small towns and other states.

Newton's tragic death in 1989 must be viewed in this context. The leader, who had been hounded for years by Oakland authorities, was killed there on Aug. 22. His death was the result of his involvement with crack-cocaine drug use, which had devastated the African-American community throughout the country during the late 1980s.

Nevertheless, the Black Panther Party's example remains a high point in the overall struggle against national and class oppression. The Panthers' impact and their uncompromising challenges to the system of capitalist exploitation influenced other oppressed nations, including Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Asians, Native peoples and radical whites.

Today the need for revolutionary organizations is just as important as, if not more than, it was in the 1960s and 1970s. With the decline in wages and the rise of social misery among the working class and impoverished, it is only through the fundamental transformation of U.S. society that the majority of people inside the country and internationally will be totally liberated. □

— when she was facing poverty. She said it was the gay community that kept her from starving, because she was able to perform in gay and lesbian clubs across the country.

Another little known fact about Etta James is that she was in the Nation of Islam, won over by Malcolm X. Despite substance abuse and other things that would have run counter to the Nation of Islam's beliefs, she remained a member for almost a decade.

James will be missed. Her songs will be around for generations as well as her autobiography, "Rage to Survive: the Etta James Story," as a testament.

This writer will always remember first discovering her as the credits rolled to the movie based on a Walter Mosley collection of stories, "Always Out Numbered, Always Outgunned," when her voice captured the sentiments of the characters in the movie — stern and low at times and others gliding, melancholy and then hopeful and very mature — and opened my eyes to one of the greatest singers ever. Etta James ¡Presente! □

well as the Los Angeles dancers and Cornelius' charisma, "Soul Train" expanded its syndication to 50 cities.

The show was gaining so much unprecedented popularity that "American Bandstand," a popular dance show dominated by white singers and dancers, was losing a huge chunk of its white audience to it. AB's creator, Dick Clark, financed an offshoot show, "Soul Unlimited," in an attempt to undermine "Soul Train." Many Black performers along with Cornelius denounced this obvious ploy, forcing Clark to take "Soul Unlimited" off the air.

By 1973, "Soul Train" was syndicated in 70 cities and had an estimated 4 million viewers. Not only did "Soul Train" fill a huge void in helping to break Black rhythm and blues performers into mainstream culture, but it also showcased products, like Afro-Sheen for natural hair, geared towards promoting pride in the Black community.

In 1974 — a period when Black schoolchildren were attacked while being bussed

An inspiring visit with Mumia Abu-Jamal

Johanna Fernandez and Heidi Boghosian visit Mumia, Feb. 2.



PHOTO: NLG

By Monica Moorehead

Political prisoner and revolutionary journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was transferred Jan. 27 to general population in SCI-Mahanoy in Frackville, Pa. He had spent almost 30 years on Pennsylvania death row since he was convicted of first degree murder July 3, 1982, for the 1981 killing of a white police officer in Philadelphia. Mumia has proclaimed his innocence since his arrest on Dec. 9, 1981, which was followed by a sham of a trial. His state and federal appeals for a new trial to prove his innocence have been systematically denied by the courts. While on death row, none of his visitors could physically touch him, an unimaginable form of torture.

Only two days before a massive "Free Mumia" rally in Philadelphia on Dec. 9, his death sentence was overturned and replaced with life in prison with no parole. A few days later Mumia was transferred from death row at SCI-Greene to SCI Ma-

hanoy where he should have been placed in general population. Instead he was subjected to the cruel conditions of solitary confinement or "the hole" for seven weeks. Only after supporters held a press conference on Jan. 26, before presenting more than 5,000 signatures demanding Mumia's release into general population, was he reassigned there on Jan. 27.

Mumia's supporters have vowed to keep organizing until he is finally liberated from prison. An Occupy the Justice Department protest in Washington, D.C., to demand his freedom will take place on April 24, Mumia's 58th birthday.

On Jan. 30, Mumia had his first contact visit with his spouse, Wadiya. On Feb. 2, Mumia had his second contact visit, this time with filmmaker and Educators for Mumia member Johanna Fernandez and National Lawyers Guild Executive Director Heidi Boghosian.

The following excerpts are from a stirring open letter to the movement written by Fernandez about the visit with Mumia:

"Compared to the intense and focused conversations we had had with Mumia in a small, isolated visiting cell on Death Row, behind sterile plexiglass, this exchange was more relaxed and informal and more unpredictably interactive with the people around us ... it was more human.

"When we entered, we immediately saw Mumia standing across the room. We walked toward each other, and he hugged both of us simultaneously. We were both stunned that he would embrace us so warmly and share his personal space so generously after so many years in isolation.

"As he said in his own words, 'The only thing more drastically different than what I'm experiencing now would be freedom.' The experience of breaking bread with our friend and comrade was emotional. We're still taking it all in. The journey has been humbling and humanizing, and we are re-energized and re-inspired!!"

Read the entire letter at millions4mumia.org. □

Community outraged by police brutality



Bronx, N.Y.

On Feb. 4, several hundred people marched through the Morrisania neighborhood of the Bronx, N.Y., to protest the Feb. 2 police killing of unarmed, 18-year-old African-American Rahmarley Graham in his home. Graham's six-year-old brother and grandmother witnessed the shooting.

The protesters also demanded the release of Jateik Reed, another African-American youth, whose savage beating

on Jan. 26 by four officers was captured on video. Among the charges against Reed are assaulting a police officer and drug possession. Hours after the beating, Reed's family members and friends were also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest at a Bronx police precinct. Reed was released on bond Feb. 6 from Riker's Island.

None of the police involved with these

two horrific incidents has been charged as of yet. Ironically, the Feb. 4 demonstration took place on the 12th anniversary of the police murder of 23-year-old African immigrant Amadou Diallo, who was struck with 19 out of 41 bullets fired at him while standing in the hallway of his apartment building in the Bronx. The four police officers involved in this criminal act were acquitted.

— Report & photo by Lal Roohk

to predominately white schools as in South Boston — "Soul Train" introduced a segment called the Scramble Board, in which participants spelled out the names of prominent Black people from all walks of life.

But by far the most enduring feature of "Soul Train" was the Soul Train line, where dancers would show off the moves — many created by the show — of the

various music eras, like popping, ticking, break dancing, the robot and the moonwalk. Michael Jackson made the moonwalk famous worldwide, but he gave credit to the Soul Train dancers for introducing it to him and to the world. Many famous artists, like Rosie Perez and Snoop Dogg, attribute "Soul Train" to enhancing or jump starting their careers.

"Soul Train" was certainly an out-

growth of an important time of anti-racist struggle. It is to Don Cornelius' credit that he fought to make an important social contribution to this period in the form of "Soul Train." There will never, ever be another phenomenon like it.

Background material, including quotes in this article, are from a 2010 VHI documentary, "Soul Train: The Hippest Trip in America."

OCCUPY OAKLAND

Police repression intensifies

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

The brutal attack on Occupy Oakland on Jan. 28 by the Oakland Police Department is part of a nationally coordinated attack against the Occupy movement, which includes the Feb. 4 eviction of Occupy DC from McPherson Square in the U.S. capital by riot-clad cops. The OPD is under threat of federal receivership, possibly as soon as March, due to reports by an independent monitor which highly criticized the OPD for its handling of previous Occupy Oakland protests.

The Jan. 28 march was an attempt to take over an abandoned public building and convert it into a community center, a place to feed and shelter the homeless, and an operations center for general assemblies and other meetings and activities. Occupy Oakland has faced increasing police harassment at Oscar Grant Plaza, where it continues a 24/7 vigil ever since the last encampment was broken up.

According to the National Lawyers Guild, at least 284 people were arrested

Jan. 28, with many reports of assaults on protesters by the OPD. This included one person who had their teeth knocked out from a strike to the face by a police baton, others thrown through a glass door and down a flight of stairs, and the clubbing of a videographer by the OPD. Once in Alameda County Sheriff's custody, the brutality continued.

Significantly, Occupy Oakland has been intensively engaged in building solidarity with workers' struggles, demands and issues. It inspired activists around the U.S. with the Nov. 2 general strike and port shutdown, organized in just one week, after the Oct. 25 vicious police raid on their camp.

In addition to shutting down downtown Oakland and focusing on the banks, which have destroyed the economy and stolen peoples' homes, Occupy Oakland, with the support of the ranks of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, shut down Oakland's ports. They raised demands to support ILWU Local 21 in Longview, Wash., which was engaged in a militant struggle against

international grain cartel EGT.

Then, Occupy Oakland led other Occupy groups in organizing an entire West Coast port shutdown on Dec. 12, with the major demands being support for the ILWU Local 21 struggle in Longview and support for port truckers in Los Angeles fighting to get union recognition. Occupy Oakland was exemplary for its fightback response to the nationally coordinated attacks against the Occupy movement. Ports were shut down in Oakland; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; and Longview, Wash., with port slowdowns and solidarity actions in other cities.

Occupy Oakland then took on a campaign to organize a caravan to Longview to blockade the loading of scab grain onto a ship in response to a call by Occupy Longview and the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum County [Wash.] Central Labor Council. Support was organized up and down the coast and EGT was forced back to the bargaining table under threat of thousands of protesters descending on the small town.

The government wants to discredit these organizers and keep them from



WW PHOTO: BILL BOWERS

Occupy Oakland builds solidarity with dock workers. Above, Nov. 2 rally at the port.

being able to continue building solidarity between the community and labor. "Stay away" injunctions have been issued to at least 12 of the Jan. 28 arrestees, who are not allowed to go near Oscar Grant Plaza. Felony burglary charges were leveled against at least 50 people who ran into the open YMCA to get away from the police. The district attorney is not pursuing these charges now, but has threatened to renew the charge for anyone arrested again in the next year.

The Oakland City Council is pursuing a resolution on Feb. 7 to basically use any "legal" means at their disposal to prevent any future shutdowns at the port of Oakland. The resolution was originally raised as an emergency resolution after the Dec. 12 port shutdown. Occupiers filled the council chambers in protest. The resolution was denied emergency status, but now will be voted on.

California Gov. Jerry Brown has offered up the National Guard to aid the OPD in the event of another port shutdown attempt. Meanwhile, hundreds of port truckers have walked off the job in Seattle, in protest of inhumane and unsafe conditions, effectively shutting the port of Seattle for days.

At the same time that the city of Oakland has spent millions of dollars repressing Occupy Oakland, they are planning major layoffs of city workers and related service cutbacks to the community. When the council planned a vote in January on the proposed layoffs, 100 Occupiers marched right into the council chambers in support of the Service Employees union, disrupting the meeting with chants against the layoffs and demanding that payments to the banks be withheld instead.

Despite the repression, Occupy Oakland plans to support a march on Feb. 17 by immigrant workers, 200 of whom were fired by Pacific Steel in Berkeley, Calif., after a "soft" raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. □

PHILADELPHIA

Solidarity with Oakland

Two hundred or so activists protested in Philadelphia on Jan. 29 in solidarity with Oakland, Calif., Occupiers and against police repression. Demonstrations around the U.S. took place following the Jan. 28 attack on Occupy Oakland activists. After snaking through Center City traffic for an hour, demonstrators were eventually able to tear down two sections of the construction fence in front of City Hall. After a short speech within the space where Occupy Philly was camped out before its eviction, and as protesters were returning to the original starting point of the march in Love Park, police arrested two demonstrators.

— Story and photo by Joe Piette



As judge orders eviction

Supporters galvanize to save Atlanta shelter

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

On Feb. 3, more than 200 supporters of the Task Force for the Homeless filled the hallway outside the courtroom of Fulton County Superior Court Judge Craig Schwall. Only a relatively few made it inside to witness the hearing on a motion to force the eviction of the Task Force from its building located at Peachtree and Pine in midtown Atlanta.

The building serves as Atlanta's only emergency overflow shelter where 600 to 800 men sleep every night. In extreme weather, the number can climb to 1,000. It is also the only place men can find respite from rain, cold or heat during the day.

The Task Force also operates a 24-hour hotline that provides referrals; assists clients in securing IDs, veterans' benefits and food stamps; runs a residential housing program; conducts GED and other classes; and has a medical clinic. For those seeking help with addictions, there

is a 12-step recovery program and on-site counseling. The large building also has a rooftop garden and maintains studio and gallery space for homeless artists.

For the last several years due to a precipitous decline in funding, these activities have been staffed by volunteers, many of them residents at the shelter.

How the Task Force — once the recipient of millions of dollars in public and private money — came to such a dire financial state can be found in legal briefs filed by lawyer Steve Hall. In a lawsuit charging "tortious interference," such powerful business entities as Central Atlanta Progress, the Downtown Business Improvement District, the City of Atlanta and, most recently, Emory University are named as engaging in an illegal conspiracy to drive the shelter out of business.

The Task Force earned the enmity of the business community when it successfully challenged "quality of life" ordinances designed to drive poor, homeless African-American men out of the downtown area

during the 1996 Olympics.

The Task Force's stand that "housing is a human right" and that public space belongs to everyone counters the for-profit developers who are gentrifying the area around the building. More recently, the Task Force fought the demolition of public housing throughout Atlanta and campaigned for a moratorium on evictions. Its presence on Peachtree Street, Atlanta's main thoroughfare, is an unpleasant reminder to the city's 1% that Atlanta consistently ranks as one of the metropolitan areas in the U.S. with high concentrations of poverty, unemployment, low wages and lack of affordable housing.

Two years ago, Judge Schwall had originally prevented the transfer of the building to a phony charity, citing the clear appearance of underhanded dealings that could prove the sale of the shelter's mortgage and immediate foreclosure to be illegal.

However, at the recent hearing Schwall declined to hear any evidence establish-

ing the racist motives and diverse methods used to deprive the Task Force of public funds, undermine private donations and slander its reputation in the media. These communications outline plans by developers and others to drive the Task Force into debt, buy the mortgage and get control of a very valuable piece of property for a song.

Instead, Schwall criticized Task Force Director Anita Beaty and President of the Board Rev. Jim Beaty for receiving a salary from another nonprofit and for allowing Occupy Atlanta to use space in the building — issues the judge referenced frequently.

A graduate of Emory Law School, Schwall seemed particularly incensed that Emory University and the hospital it operates across the street from the shelter were included in the conspiracy charges. A recent article in the "Emory Wheel," the student newspaper, publicized the content of damning emails that showed how these influential and wealthy institutions plotted the ruin of the shelter.

At the end of the two-hour hearing,

Protesting low wages, bad conditions

Seattle port truckers on strike

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Striking against poverty pay and sweatshop conditions, Seattle port truck drivers in the Seattle Truck Drivers Association went on strike against the wealthy port transportation industry on Jan. 30. The drivers, mostly of African origins, then drove 60 miles to the state Capitol building in Olympia, Wash., where they testified against unsafe trucking conditions at a legislative committee.

Their cause is the same as port truckers across the country — getting rid of the brutal conditions of poverty pay, unsafe equipment, and a lack of respect and human rights which goes with working in an anti-union industry. Drivers told Workers World that the strike, now a week old, has grown from 120 workers to 500 or 600. What started at four or five companies now affects a dozen, they said.

“It’s time for a change,” driver Calvin

Borders told a rally of truck drivers on Feb. 6. “If equipment is damaged, the drivers should not be held responsible for it. We are going to fight until we get our demands met.” The workers drive beat-up and poorly maintained trucks, which the companies provide. The truckers frequently get tickets for illegal equipment or for being overloaded, conditions the bosses force on them. An overweight citation from the cops costs \$716, which could come with a company suspension, workers said.

The truck drivers pick up their trucks and get paid by the same company. But most port drivers are falsely classified as “independent contractors” to try to make them ineligible to join unions. This also shifts the burden of the trucks’ expenses from the companies onto the shoulders of the workers, the so-called “independent contractors.” The workers operate under a bosses’ contract instead of a workers’ or labor contract.

Michael, a driver, said: “We have to pay for insurance, fuel, dispatch fees, \$161-a-month tonnage fees and repairs. We work for below-the-minimum wage and we have families to feed and mortgages to pay. The biggest issue is the conditions.”

Big companies forcing their workers to be independent contractors is rampant in the transportation industry and runs across all industries. Millions of long haul and local delivery truck drivers along with taxicab drivers are forced to work long hours as independent contractors or in similar leasing agreements. Construction workers and many others are forced to labor under these oppressive conditions. Port truck drivers are certainly among the most exploited of these. The drivers have received racist harassment from Seattle and Port cops.

Goldman Sachs, which now owns half of SSA Marine, is invested in the port transport business because of the big profits to be made. SSA Marine operates

two big terminals in Seattle and four in Long Beach, Calif. Goldman Sachs/SSA owns Shippers Transport Express and this Wall Street combination has been involved in disguising employees as independent contractors. The truck drivers are up against Wall Street titans and their anti-worker schemes.

At the waterfront rally on Feb. 6, the truck drivers and their supporters talked about staging more solidarity demonstrations. Jeff Johnson of the Washington State Labor Council told the drivers, “Representing the 425,000 unionists of Washington state, we stand with you because you have stood up for yourselves and against the big companies.” Representatives of UNITE-HERE, the United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters and other unions and community organizations pledged support. Puget Sound Stage and Seattle Solidarity said they would hold food and pledge drives. □

Another victory due to struggle

ILWU recognized at EGT grain terminal

By Cheryl LaBash

On Feb. 1, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 was officially recognized as the representative of workers at the state-of-the-art EGT grain terminal in Longview, Wash. According to an ILWU Coast Longshore Division news release, “EGT and ILWU representatives then signed a recognition agreement and committed to negotiate the details of a collective bargaining agreement for all landside and shipside operations in the next several days.” Workers hired by EGT through the Local 21-Pacific Maritime Association hiring hall voted in a card-check process, affirming the ILWU while already at work in the terminal.

A joint ILWU-EGT press statement announced the first test ship will dock at the terminal on Feb. 7. ILWU members will work it. This ship is key to readying the terminal for full production which had been scheduled for 2011 harvest. The ship reportedly has been anchored four hours

away from Longview for weeks, held back by the threat of a massive protest. ILWU rank-and-file members, the Occupy movement and workers across the country vowed to block the massive carrier if there was any attempt to load the ship without ILWU workers.

Even the announcement that armed Coast Guard vessels would escort the ship failed to dampen the mobilization. Resolutions from the San Francisco Labor Council and North Carolina’s United Electrical Local 150 and picket lines in New York City and other places condemned the threatened military intervention. Vivid memories of the militant demonstrations in Seattle at the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting no doubt helped spur the Washington governor to find a solution to the standoff.

In November 2010, some 14 months ago,

international grain consortium EGT told the union it had “no need” of its services. The company prepared to open the facility, declaring war on the ILWU. This anti-labor challenge to the right of port workers to be represented by the ILWU — won in the 1934 West Coast longshore workers strike that led to the San Francisco general strike — launched a mighty struggle.

Three months after EGT calculated it could shove the ILWU aside, the workers of Wisconsin occupied the State Capitol on Feb. 14, 2011. In September, Occupy Wall Street encampments erupted in cities and towns, including all the port cities on the West Coast. The Occupy movement mobilized to support Local 21 and the ILWU in conjunction with rank-and-file ILWU members.

Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire brokered the Jan. 27 agreement among EGT,

the Port of Longview and the ILWU, establishing the groundwork that resulted in recognition of the ILWU. It specifies that the ILWU issue a statement informing “the public, including the Occupy movement ... urging them to cease and desist from any actions ... directed against EGT.”

During a number of pickets in Longview over the last six months, various state and local police agencies made at least 200 arrests. On Feb. 1, four women arrested on Sept. 21 for blocking a train loaded with grain bound for the EGT terminal were found not guilty. Two others were acquitted earlier, and 12 misdemeanor charges were dropped. The ILWU has called for all charges to be dropped.

Additional issues remain to be resolved in contract negotiations. More than \$300,000 in fines against the union have not yet been lifted. □

NORTH CAROLINA

Students fight tuition hikes

By Eva Panjwani
Durham, N.C.

On Feb. 10, students from across the University of North Carolina system will mobilize in Chapel Hill to protest unprecedented tuition hikes planned for the 17 statewide institutions and to demand more of a voice at UNC Board of Governors meetings.

The board will be voting on tuition and fee increases, some exceeding 10 percent to 15 percent, for in-state students per year. The proposed hike would mean an increase in costs of more than 40 percent over the next four years for students at some campuses. Student organizers have highlighted how undemocratic this process has been, with administrators belittling and ignoring input from the few student representatives allowed in the meetings.

Because the hikes will impact many students’ ability to access higher education, and lead to students enrolling without being able to predict how much debt

they will accumulate before graduating, the students plan to pack the boardrooms and demand a seat at the table. Allied organizations, including the UNC Chapel Hill Employee Forum and the North Carolina NAACP, have spoken in support of the students’ demands.

With student debt totaling over \$1 trillion, eclipsing the total credit card debt in the United States, and the unemployment rate for recent college graduates at 9.1 percent, the average North Carolina student graduates with over \$20,000 in student loan debt, with few prospects for paying it off.

Tuition has already gone up by more than 150 percent in the past 10 years at some UNC schools. Meanwhile, state and federal budgets prioritize funding imperialist wars and bailing out banks and corporations, with students and workers having to pay the balance. Funding for public education across the country, from elementary schools to universities, is on the chopping block, with programs

like the Pell Grant being threatened and financial aid continually being cut.

Privatizing the face of public universities in the UNC system comes at the risk of decreasing the enrollment of students of color and threatens funding for departments and university centers that serve oppressed students.

The NC Defend Education Coalition has begun a grassroots fundraising effort to fund transportation to Chapel Hill for the Board of Governors meeting. Organizers expect students from across the state to meet early that morning and take to the streets.

The Board of Governors panders to corporate interests at the expense of students and workers. Board members have ties to companies with known workers’ rights violations, say activists. Organizers are particularly outraged that the board is controlled by the wealthy and has no voting student representatives.

The writer is a youth activist in Raleigh-FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together).

Schwall, responding to the irreparable harm an eviction would cause the Task Force, said, “Why don’t they find another place for those people? There are plenty of empty warehouses in Atlanta.”

He then ordered the Task Force to vacate the building by Feb. 15 and mandated that the United Way operate the facility for six months until its closing. The United Way representative indicated that even with its resources and millions of dollars at its disposal, at best 25 men a week could be placed in temporary housing.

In its over-30-year history, the Task Force for the Homeless has not just been a provider of services to poor and homeless people. It has consistently been an advocate and fighter for human and civil rights for those marginalized populations. It has fearlessly challenged Atlanta to live up to its claim to be “The City Too Busy to Hate.” The battle for the Peachtree-Pine shelter is not over.

For more information, go to www.homelesstaskforce.org. □

Across U.S. and world, protests demand 'No War on Iran'



LOS ANGELES

PHOTO: DOMINIC GRECO

Continued from page 1

In **LOS ANGELES**, some 200 people rallied at the city's busiest intersection by the Wilshire Federal Building. Speakers included representatives from the Union of Progressive Iranians, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Filipino group BAYAN-USA, the Latino/a group ALBA-USA, Bail Out the People Movement, Workers World Party, Southern California Immigration Coalition and the International Action Center. People who had been at an Answer event several blocks away also joined the main rally.

A protest in **BUFFALO, N.Y.**, was held downtown at Niagara Square, where Occupy Buffalo had an encampment before being evicted by police. Occupy returned to the square as an endorser of the Iran demonstration, carrying signs reading "This is SO not over." Other endorsers included the International Action Center, Burning Books, Western New York Peace Center and WNY Drilling Defense, an anti-fracking group that opposes powerful U.S. oil and gas corporations that pollute here and push for wars abroad. The crowd strongly



MILWAUKEE

WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

supported calls for U.S. and Israel hands off Syria as well as Iran and respect for the sovereignty of nations.

In **MILWAUKEE**, dozens of protesters from labor, student and community organizations participated in a press conference to say "No War on Iran!" They then marched, chanting "Jobs, not war," through neighborhoods where unemployment is high.

About 150 people rallied at Federal Plaza in **CHICAGO**'s Loop and then marched through the State Street shopping district. Progressive members of Chicago's Iranian community voiced their opposition to U.S. imperialism's planned genocidal war against their country. Many people from Occupy Chicago also came to add their voices.

More than 100 people occupied the four corners of the intersection outside CNN in downtown **ATLANTA**, chanting their opposition to U.S. bellicose policies toward Iran and holding banners and signs declaring "No war, no intervention, no sanctions and no assassinations." The protest was covered by all four local television stations, the Associated Press and other media. The crowd was a mix of Occupy Atlanta youth,



BOSTON

WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

members of the Iranian community and anti-war, anti-imperialist activists from Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition/Atlanta, the International Action Center, Women's Action for New Directions and other organizations. Fliers disputing the lies regarding Iran's nuclear energy program were distributed to pedestrians.

In **BOSTON**, over 300 marched through downtown to the Israeli Consulate. Initiated by Occupy Boston Action for Peace Working Group, there were speakers from Boston UNAC, Vets for Peace, the International Action Center, the Boston School Bus Drivers union, the Women's Fightback Network, United for Justice with Peace, Dorchester Peace Action, and many others. Sahin, a gay Iranian-American, said don't be fooled into believing the U.S. military could in any way make life better for gay Iranians. Signs from Occupy 4 Jobs and Workers World Party read: "I need a job, not war on Iran" and "War makes the 1% richer and the 99% poorer."

In **SAN FRANCISCO**, some 600 Bay Area activists from a broad coalition of anti-intervention, progressive and community organizations marched to demand "No war on Iran, No sanctions!" A rally at the busy intersection of Powell and Market featured anti-Vietnam War whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg and Iraq War anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan. Ellsberg said a recent Israeli poll



SAN FRANCISCO

WW PHOTO: BILL BOWERS

showed that 43 percent of the population there is against military intervention in Iran. A spirited contingent of Filipino activists was the highlight of the march to the Civic Center, where another rally was held. A speaker from Occupy San Francisco said the Occupy movement was fully opposed to U.S. intervention in Iran or anywhere in the world.

Members of the **JERSEY CITY** Peace Movement, NJ Action 21, Occupy Jersey City and Veterans for Peace marched around the Central Avenue business district and conducted mic checks in front of a large supermarket. Everyone encountered supported the "No war with Iran" demands.

Among other cities with protests were **Albany, N.Y.**; **Raleigh, N.C.**; **Washington, D.C.**; **Tampa, Fla.**; as well as **Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Detroit, Minneapolis, Dallas, Houston, Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Seattle and Honolulu.**

The demonstrations were pulled together on only two weeks' notice, but they inspired similar protests in other countries, including one by the Movement against War and Occupation in **Vancouver, Canada**; another in **Calgary, Canada**; demonstrations in **Bangladesh, India, Britain, Ireland and Norway**; and a symbolic protest by U.S. citizens living in **Italy.**

Thanks to Sara Flounders, John Parker, Ellie Dorritie, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Erich Struch, Dianne Mathiowetz, Frank Neisser, Judy Greenspan and Michael Kramer for information contained in this roundup. More information can be found at www.iacenter.org.



BUFFALO, NY

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

Repression of anti-war activists continues

From press releases issued Feb. 1 and 2 by the Committee to Stop FBI Repression.

Northern Illinois Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas stated that the "investigation is continuing" in the case of the anti-war and international solidarity activists hit with FBI raids and grand jury repression. Jonas is known for his leading role in prosecuting the leaders of the Holy Land Foundation while he was trial attorney for the Department of Justice Counterterrorism Section.

This confirms what the U.S. Attorney's office related some months ago: They are preparing multiple indictments of multiple activists. The FBI raided seven homes, and the government subpoenaed 23 international solidarity activists to a Chicago grand jury in September 2010. The anti-war activists refused to appear at the secretive grand jury and launched a campaign against political repression. The U.S. government is threatening to im-

prison anti-war activists on the grounds of "material support for terrorism."

The confirmation of the ongoing investigation came during a Jan. 24 phone call between Jonas and attorney Bruce Nestor, who represents some of the political activists.

Nestor initially contacted Minneapolis Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Winter to view some of the sealed documents in the case. The grand jury proceedings against the anti-war activists are secret. The vast majority of documents relating to their case are under seal, meaning the targeted activists or their attorneys cannot view them. Winter had helped to oversee the Sept. 24, 2010, raids and in recent months represented the government on returning property seized in the raids. Winter told Nestor to contact Jonas.

Jonas told Nestor the documents would remain secret "pending completion of the investigation." Jonas views solidarity with

Palestine as a crime deserving long-term imprisonment. Based on past performance, he is willing to pull every dirty trick available to him to obtain convictions.

Case continues against Carlos Montes

In a closely related case, the FBI directed the Los Angeles Sheriff to raid the home last May 17 of veteran Chicano leader Carlos Montes, who is now facing trial and imprisonment on six trumped-up felony charges

"In the interests of justice this case should be dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence," said Montes' lawyer, attorney Jorge Gonzales, in Los Angeles Superior Court on Jan. 24. Minutes later, however, [the judge] sided with the prosecution, refusing to dismiss the charges. This sets the stage for a trial later this year.

Before Montes' court appearance, activists gathered outside the court building demanding that the charges, which carry

up to 18 years in prison, be dismissed. Then the protesters filled the courtroom. They ranged from longtime political activists to street vendors from Central America whom Montes is working with to fight police harassment and racist discrimination.

The prosecution has told the press that they want Montes to spend at least five years in jail.

The May 17 raid, by members of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the FBI, took place at 5 a.m. The Sheriff's SWAT team and Emergency Operations Bureau agents armed with automatic weapons broke down the door to Montes' home. They seized computers, cell phones, current and historical political documents and left Montes' home in shambles.

Montes states that he is looking forward to a jury trial and that he is confident that a jury of his peers will find him not guilty. □

Heaviest charges dropped against former Haitian dictator

By G. Dunkel

Judge Carvès Jean, basing his decision on the recommendation of Haiti's state prosecutor, told the media on Jan. 30 that he had dropped all murder, torture and other charges against Jean-Claude Duvalier. The former Haitian dictator, who has had the support of both U.S. and French imperialism, will face only corruption charges.

A whole gamut of human rights organizations, as well as the United Nations, which has militarily occupied Haiti for

the past seven years, and even right-wing journals like "The Economist," condemned this decision.

These charges — now dropped — grew out of the deaths and the disappearances of thousands upon thousands of Haitians. The crimes are so voluminous that they reached the status of crimes against humanity, which under international law has no statute of limitation, that is, no time period after which they expire.

If Duvalier escapes these charges, then his supporters too will feel a renewed sense of impunity. These gangsters have

overthrown Haitian governments with coups, relying on mass murder and the disappearances of thousands of Haitians.

Duvalier himself was overthrown by a mass revolution in 1986. A U.S. Air Force plane removed him from Haiti to France then, where he had lived in lush exile on the Riviera before his recent return to Haiti.

"This wrong-headed decision, if upheld on appeal, would entrench Haiti's culture of impunity by denying justice for Duvalier's thousands of victims," said Reed Brody, special counsel for Human Rights Watch. "Haiti has an obligation to its people to investigate and prosecute the grave violations of human rights under Duvalier's rule." (HRW press release)

Following an obviously fixed referendum (he won by 2,391,916 "yesses" and at most one "no") in February 1971, Jean-Claude Duvalier, sometimes called Baby Doc, was chosen to succeed his father, Dr. François Duvalier, as president for life of Haiti. ("Haiti," Laurent Dubois, p 349)

François Duvalier had managed to "win" the election the army held in 1957 by using a large group of gangsters called "cagoulards" more effectively than his opponents used similar groups. His cagoulards later morphed into the National Security Volunteers, better known by their Haitian nickname, the Tonton Makout. It is believed that 20,000 to 60,000 people were murdered during "Papa Doc's" rule.

Washington had its differences from time to time with the Duvalierist regimes. With socialist Cuba just 75 miles across the Windward Passages from Haiti as a revolutionary contrast, the Duvaliers were an embarrassment. But they were able to maneuver to maintain essential U.S. support.

Sometimes, relations were warmer than others. In 1969, banker and New York state governor, Nelson Rockefeller, visited Haiti and was photographed shak-

ing hands with Duvalier and the U.S. ambassador. Rockefeller so strongly lobbied for aid that some Haitian officials proposed him for honorary membership in the Tonton Makout.

When Duvalier took over from his father in 1971, he was 19 years old. But he inherited not only the title but a well-organized repressive system. There were over 300,000 members of the Tonton Makouts, many armed with U.S. weapons and some trained by the U.S. military.

U.S. aid was flowing freely to Haiti, both to counteract the attraction of the Cuban model and to prop up businesses that relied on the extremely low wages prevalent for workers in Haiti. Baby Doc and his cronies and their families raked off a large share of this aid. To keep the profits flowing they relied on their terror apparatus.

"Crimes against humanity committed while Jean-Claude Duvalier was in power remain shrouded in total impunity," said Javier Zúñiga, special advisor at Amnesty International, who had researched the crimes of Jean-Claude Duvalier in the 1980s.

"The authorities haven't made a serious effort to look into past events that afflicted a generation of Haitians with torture, enforced disappearance, extra-judicial executions, arbitrary arrests and other serious human rights violations.

"Haitian judicial authorities must be given all the resources and support — including from the U.N. — they need to conclude the investigation and bring those responsible to justice in trials that meet international standards." (Amnesty International press release).

Regarding Washington's position, it was telling that at a governmental ceremony in early January former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who coordinates the U.S. role overseeing the Haitian regime, openly shook hands with Jean-Claude Duvalier. □

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Conference condemns Israeli crimes

By Michael Z. Ladson
Philadelphia

An historic national conference to promote the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement directed at ending Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people was held at the University of Pennsylvania Feb. 3-5.

Even before the conference began a wave of vicious racist attacks were directed against Palestine solidarity activists by the campus press, on-line blogs and the Philadelphia Inquirer. Penn students active in organizing the conference were verbally attacked by pro-Israeli forces.

Perhaps the most disgusting was the anti-Semitic slur of "kapos" aimed at Jewish pro-BDS students by Professor Ruben Gur in the campus paper The Daily Pennsylvanian. The term refers to Jews who collaborated with Nazis in concentration and extermination camps during World War II.

The night before the conference opened, Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz — an apologist for Israeli and U.S. war crimes — addressed an event sponsored by several Penn academic departments and the college chapters of the Republicans and Democrats.

Dershowitz encouraged this audience to deny the brutal ethnic cleansing of Palestinians during the creation of the State of Israel, known as al-Nakba.

Conference stresses need for BDS

Yet these attacks did not stop students and their supporters from holding a very successful event. On the opening night of the BDS conference, "The Roadmap to Apartheid" was shown at Penn. Also, Temple University Students for Justice in Palestine hosted Palestinian-American journalist and co-founder of the Electronic Intifada Ali Abunimah for his first speech of the weekend.

Abunimah spoke of the inflammatory press coverage building up to the conference and the BDS movement's diversity as opposed to the opposition's. Furthermore, he pointed out the contradiction of many Zionists who demand that Palestinians renounce armed struggle, yet denounce the nonviolent BDS movement.

Abunimah called illegal settlements in the West Bank "Jim Crow." He said that the British medical journal The Lancet reported how dozens of Palestinian infants died during childbirth at checkpoints because the Israeli military prevented ambulances from passing through, thus forcing women to give birth at these stops.

The first full day of the conference was jam-packed with breakout groups and panels. Susan Abulhawa, author of best-selling novel "Mornings in Jenin" and founder of Playgrounds for Palestine, opened the conference with a talk that alerted participants to the great need for BDS.

She spoke of the hundreds of laws and military orders used by Israel to create a world of oppression for Palestinians in Israel. Abulhawa detailed 20 measures, including Israeli laws prohibiting the growth of Arab villages and military laws that permit detention of Palestinians for months without charges or trials. "Everything we had has been taken from us."

Breakout groups included discussions of "pinkwashing" whereby, in the words of one lesbian/gay/bi/trans/queer Palestinian speaker, "our voices are used against us" to justify the Israeli state's crimes against humanity.

Other breakout groups covered the economics of occupation, Jewish anti-Zionism, international law, solidarity with the Black freedom struggle in the U.S., lessons from the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, BDS on campus and state repression.

Journalist Max Blumenthal, winner of the University of Southern California's Anenberg Online Journalism Award for his investigative print journalism, addressed the conference and led a discussion of the corporate media's distortion of the conflict and the multimillion-dollar Zionist disinformation campaign that fuels it.

Other speakers included Palestinian-American journalist Ahmed Moor; Palestinian human rights attorney Noura Erakat; Bill Fletcher, editor of BlackCommentator.com; U.S.-born Palestinian poet Remi Kanazi; Nancy Kricorian from Code Pink; and Rev. Graylan Hagler, who led the Free South Africa Movement for divestiture against the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

Several prominent Jewish activists participated, including Rebecca Vilkomerson, executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace; Dr. Dalit Baum, of the Coalition of Women for Peace in Israel; Philip Weiss, who describes himself as an "anti-Zionist" writer; and author and human rights activist Anna Baltzer.

This gathering of leaders and activists in the Palestine solidarity movement informed and inspired everyone for the struggles ahead.

The author is a member of Temple University Students for Justice in Palestine.

Egyptians battle police after soccer massacre

By John Catalinotto

Reacting to a massacre at a soccer match in Port Said on Feb. 1, people in Egypt took to the streets for five days, battling police outside the Interior Ministry. By Feb. 6, the protests seem to have diminished. Still it is obvious that the revolution which a year ago overthrew President Hosni Mubarak is far from settled.

The latest clashes began after 73 soccer fans were killed and thousands wounded following a Feb. 1 match between a Cairo team and the Port Said team when one group of fans attacked the other. Most were killed and injured in the crush of trying to escape the fighting.

Many of the fans and people in general blame the military authorities and the police for failing to stop the assaults. People say they are especially suspicious because of the role the Cairo fans, known as the "Ultras," had played in last year's revolution. They helped organize the physical defense of Tahrir Square against Mubarak's hired gangsters.

On Feb. 2, the Ultras joined others in the streets of Cairo, Suez and other cities to continue protesting the military-

led government. The next day thousands streamed into Tahrir Square and then moved to the Interior Ministry. Slogans varied from demanding the resignation of Hussein Tantawi, the head of the military council — which is the executive committee of the government — to demanding that the military leave the government entirely.

During the protests, the repressive forces used shotgun pellets and tear gas against the demonstrators, who answered with stones and chunks of concrete. By Feb. 5, the authorities had erected concrete walls around the ministry and set up barbed wire in the street.

The military regime is no friend of the Egyptian people. But along with its repression of the popular movement, the military regime has also showed displeasure with Washington's role in Egypt.

The Egyptian police subsequently brought charges against 41 employees of Western nongovernmental organizations functioning in Egypt. These included 19 U.S. citizens who are agents of the International Republican Institute, — Freedom House and the National Democratic Institute, all openly pro-imperialist organizations. □

WORKERS WORLD editorial

U.S. owes reparations to world's women

Women do not particularly want to have abortions. They prefer other ways to control their bodies and plan their lives. For most women, an abortion is a last resort — even though, with the Mifepristone pill known as RU486, it may be relatively simple.

This was emphatically proven by a study recently published in the highly respected medical journal *The Lancet*. (“Induced abortion: incidence and trends worldwide from 1995 to 2008,” Jan. 17)

In countries where both contraception and abortion are freely available, the study said, the abortion rate is lowest.

However, it also found that, while the abortion rate worldwide was stable between 2003 and 2008 at less than 3 percent of women aged 15 to 44 years, the number of unsafe abortions — that is, those not carried out under medical supervision, usually because they are illegal or unaffordable or both — actually rose.

In summary, it reported: “Worldwide, 49 percent of abortions were unsafe in 2008, compared to 44 percent in 1995. About one in five pregnancies ended in abortion in 2008. The abortion rate was lower in subregions where more women live under liberal abortion laws. ... Restrictive abortion laws are not associated with lower abortion rates.”

Where women have little recourse to contraception and abortions are illegal, the abortion rate is the highest. And so are maternal deaths and dangerous complications.

Thus, all the rhetoric about the “right to life” is simply that — rhetoric, with no basis in fact. Depriving women of choice in family planning doesn’t save lives — it destroys them.

Why has the rate of unsafe abortions gone up? The study concludes: “Measures to reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion, including investments in family planning services and safe abortion care, are crucial steps toward achieving [U.N.] Millennium Development Goals.” But poor countries don’t have the money for these “investments.”

No country has done more to hurt poor women’s right to choose safe abortions than the U.S. Under what is called the “Mexico City Policy,” the U.S. Agency for International Development required countries “to certify that they will not perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning using funds generated from any source.” Otherwise, no aid for family planning. This harmful policy was in effect from 1985 to 1993, and again from 2001 to 2009, when it was rescinded by President Barack Obama.

The years 2001 to 2008, the years covered in the study, were a boom time for international capital. The crisis that has brought down living standards for working people everywhere had not yet happened. Yet all that wealth did nothing for poor women around the world. While huge fortunes were made in real estate and financial markets, women’s options were being narrowed as a deliberate policy of the U.S. government.

Now the crisis has hit. With all the cuts in domestic services, it is unlikely that Washington will allocate more funds for family planning abroad. Yet that is what should be done. And funding in the form of reparations should be paid for the way the U.S. has used this issue as a political football to the detriment of women and women’s health worldwide. □

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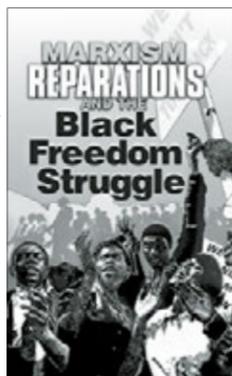
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COVER GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON

Komen vs. Planned Parenthood

Women beat back right-wing attack on health care

Editor's note: News sources reported Feb. 7 that Komen's Karen Handel has resigned as the foundation's vice president for public policy.

By Kathy Durkin

Women scored a big victory in early February when they pushed back a right-wing attempt to defund a leading organization providing health care to low-income women. This gave women a huge boost after having been besieged by reactionary assaults on their rights, which have accelerated in recent years.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, a breast cancer advocacy group that has been aligned with ultra-right forces within and without the organization, had cancelled its \$700,000 annual grant to Planned Parenthood. The money was to be used for breast cancer screening for low-income women.

When this information became public on Jan. 30, the dam burst. A tide of opposition swept the country over a reactionary political agenda that put women’s health at risk. This plus increasing political attacks on their rights and economic cuts to their health care drove women to loudly object.

Millions expressed their outrage on Facebook and Twitter and through email petition campaigns. The tools of social media enabled a swift, strong outcry.

Some top Komen Foundation officials quit, including Mollie Williams, who had overseen their multimillion-dollar grant program. Many of its affiliates mutinied, some threatening to quit and others saying they would raise funds for Planned Parenthood themselves. Some big donors balked. Many women who had raised funds for Komen felt betrayed and vowed never to do it again. Boycotts were proposed.

No doubt, women were also propelled into action out of disgust at the reactionary, white male, millionaire Republican presidential candidates outdoing each other with racist, sexist, anti-poor barbs. Their slams at Planned Parenthood have become a keynote of the primaries.

Moreover, many women across the country were emboldened to act quickly by the months-long Occupy Wall Street mobilizations against the super-rich 1% and the politicians who represent them. These activists have helped create a climate of resistance and fightback.

The massive, grassroots outcry pushed Komen to reverse its decision and agree to restore Planned Parenthood’s grant — although there is no promise about future grants.

Initially, Nancy Brinker, the founder and CEO of the Komen group, which had revenues of \$410 million in 2010, gave as its excuse that Planned Parenthood was “under investigation” by Congress into its possible use of federal funds to cover abortions. This bogus, McCarthy-type witch-hunt by one representative and his allies was initiated after the Senate rejected the bill to defund reproductive health programs that do not even cover abortions.

Then Komen backed off. Claiming the decision was made because of Planned Parenthood’s cancer screening services, Brinker said the foundation would change its funding criteria to exclude only groups under “criminal” and not “political” investigation.

Why the right targets Planned Parenthood

However, the extreme right will never be satisfied. They are targeting Planned Parenthood not only because it performs abortions (only 3 percent of its services), but because it provides contraceptives and crucial health care services to low-income communities. The vast majority of its resources and staff are allocated for medical checkups, including pap tests, breast cancer, HIV and other screening, as well as birth control.

Planned Parenthood performs 750,000 breast exams annually, out of which Komen has funded 170,000 over five years. This treasured institution serves many neighborhoods where there is no other health care facility. It aids millions of women a year,

especially those in uninsured and underserved African-American, Latina and Native communities — the very communities where breast cancer is often not detected early. Planned Parenthood provides essential, life-saving services.

Yet ultra-right, anti-woman forces are waging war against it. They are hell-bent on destroying this vital national organization. When they couldn’t get Congress to stop its funding, extremist state legislators began campaigns to bar federal Medicaid funds from reaching Planned Parenthood affiliates. So far, Washington continues to maintain that states cannot prevent allocated federal funds from reaching intended grantees.

Meanwhile, reactionary legislators keep whittling away at state-sponsored medical programs, cutting access to reproductive and other health services for low-income women. This is taking place as the capitalist class aggressively tries to undermine rightful social gains and services for the multinational working class.

Their scheme backfired this time. Not only did Planned Parenthood get overwhelming political support from millions of people across the U.S., but it raised \$3 million within three days from thousands of grassroots donors. Its national president, Cecile Richards, has pledged that this money will go directly to expand breast cancer screening, education and diagnostic services.

Komen’s corporate ties

Brinker, a big Republican donor who helped get George W. Bush elected president, held top posts during his administration. She secretly conferred with Ari Fleischer, Bush’s former press secretary and a tough critic of Planned Parenthood, on how to deal with the organization.

Last spring, Karen Handel was appointed Komen’s senior vice president of public policy. Handel, a former unsuccessful Georgia gubernatorial candidate and ally of Sarah Palin, ran on an anti-choice program, swearing to defund Planned Parenthood and other critical health programs. She reportedly suggested the “investigation” rationale as a figleaf for the defunding. The National Organization for Women stresses Handel’s “vendetta against Planned Parenthood” and is demanding her firing.

In another sign of its right-wing leanings, the foundation just cut \$12 million in stem cell research grants. These programs could lead to treatments or even a cure for breast cancer. The grants should be restored.

Throughout its history, the Komen Foundation has had strong corporate connections, even partnering with cancer-industry profiteers. Ten years ago, it lobbied against a pro-consumer Patient Bill of Rights. The *Daily Kos* on Feb. 1 reported that Komen opposed Medicaid funding for breast and cervical cancer services in 2000, and in 2009 it campaigned against the Health Care Reform Bill’s Public Option plan.

Jodi Jacobson, editor of *RH Reality Check*, explains in “The Cancerous Politics and Ideology of the Susan G. Komen Foundation” that there are “concerns about Komen’s influence on a recent Institute of Medicine report playing down environmental factors in breast cancer and its close affiliation with many companies that manufacture products using cancer-causing agents.” (Feb. 1)

No one concerned about this struggle thinks it is over. The same leadership is still at Komen’s helm and will decide future grants. Hard-right religious and political groups are pressuring other nongovernmental donors to cease contributing to Planned Parenthood.

Many women were propelled to speak out when it became evident that the extreme right would even sacrifice women’s lives to breast cancer to push their reactionary agenda. Activists who joined this massive outcry know that it will take constant vigilance and strong, immediate protests to keep the ultra-right from destroying progressive institutions and programs for working-class and poor women and their communities.

The fightback is on! □

U.S. escalates drone use against Somalia

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The Pentagon and the White House continue to deny that United States military forces are directly involved in the current war over control of the Horn of Africa state of Somalia. Nevertheless, a Washington-directed drone struck an internationally supervised displaced persons camp just outside Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

Washington's escalation of military involvement in the Horn of Africa is designed to control the geopolitical situation and to dominate the exploration and exploitation of oil that has recently been discovered in Somalia.

Over the last several months, U.S. drones have killed and injured hundreds of Somalis. The escalation of military actions aims to liquidate the al-Shabaab Islamic resistance movement inside the country. The most recent attack on Feb. 3 drew international attention to the Obama administration's role in East Africa.

Raxanreeb Broadcasting Corporation Radio reported, "The unmanned drone went down at Badbado [displaced person] camp which is in the Dharkenley district, south of Mogadishu. According to Badbado resident Ahmed Abdi, 'It was around noon that we saw a white small aircraft flying over our camp and in minutes we saw it fall down here.'" (Feb. 3)

Reports indicated that soldiers from

the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali officials entered the camp, removed the crashed drone and turned it over to the government.

This is the second reported drone crash in Somalia over the last three months. Last year the U.S. administration admitted that it had set up a base for surveillance drones in neighboring Ethiopia.

That Washington has deployed drones in Somalia and other regions represents an escalation of military aggression. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta recently revealed a 30 percent increase in U.S. use of pilotless aerial vehicles, including predator drones.

A Feb. 5 Boston Globe article acknowledges that drone use is a new U.S. strategy in its so-called war on terrorism: "Drones are much cheaper than boots on the ground; they avoid putting American troops at direct risk and allow us to target enemies wherever they may be. By using unmanned weapons, the argument goes, we can avoid the kind of protracted, costly wars that have been so disastrous in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Previously used mainly for surveillance purposes, drones now target and kill "perceived" enemies of the U.S., along with innocent civilians who have no involvement with organizations that the White House has deemed "terrorists."

The same article explains, "When the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 it had only about 60 unmanned aircraft. To-

day we have more than 7,000 as well as 12,000 ground-based robots."

These weapons have flown more than 80,000 missions worldwide, hitting targets in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia and spying on other countries.

The legality of the usage of such weapons for targeted assassinations is never raised within the U.S. corporate media or debated in Congress. The United Nations Charter, which the U.S. says it abides by, allows for national defense of a nation-state, but prohibits the use of deadly weapons to settle disputes outside borders.

There has been no formal declaration of war against Somalia or Pakistan. Thus the CIA, which ostensibly launches drones under its command, is not compelled to reveal or acknowledge the deployment of these weapons. The CIA's budget is classified, and therefore the public has no access to the cost of these deployments or the frequency with which these weapons are utilized.

U.S. proxy war kills hundreds

In October 2011, the Kenyan Defense Forces crossed over into neighboring Somalia and began a war against the Al-Shabaab resistance movement, which controls large sections of the central and south of the country. Since October, the KDF has said it has killed hundreds of Somalis and displaced thousands more.

The RBC Radio report stated, "The

spokesman for Kenya's military says an estimated 100 Somali militants were killed after helicopter gunships targeted a gathering of more than 20 al-Shabaab fighters in Somalia."

The Kenyan government, in cooperation with the U.S., had planned the intervention in Somalia for nearly two years. Also the White House has pledged ongoing funding for AMISOM forces, which are based in Mogadishu and are carrying out the war against al-Shabaab in the capital and other areas in the central region of the country.

Famine 'over' with millions still at risk

On Feb. 3, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit and the Famine Early Warning System declared the famine in Somalia over. Yet the latest data indicate that 2.3 million people are still at risk and are in need of life-saving assistance.

In fact, if international assistance does not continue in Somalia, by May the food security system could worsen again. Mark Bowden, who is the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, said in the same RBC dispatch, "The gains are fragile and will be reversed without continued support."

Consequently, the imperialist states must refrain from continuing their militarism in the region and allow the unimpeded distribution of food and other relief assistance there. □

SENEGAL:

Popular protests confront president's third term

By **G. Dunkel**

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade is fighting for a third term in office. But many Senegalese say that two were enough and he should step down. The most popular chant in the protests sweeping the West African country is "No third term. Protect my constitution," according to Fallou Gueye, a Senegalese political activist living in New York.

A third term may not seem to be a fundamental issue. But the struggles have led to mass demonstrations and six deaths, one of a cop; big protests both in Senegal's capital Dakar and in small towns like Podor in the north; plus a rise of political tension throughout the country.

Gueye says that one way for people in the United States to better understand

what is happening in Senegal is to view the popular uprising of the Senegalese against Wade as analogous to the uprisings a year ago of Tunisians against Zine al-Abadine Ben Ali and of Egyptians against Hosni Mubarak.

Wade heads the Senegalese Democratic Party. After several unsuccessful campaigns, he was elected in 2000. When Senegal's new constitution was adopted in 2001, he promised to adhere to its limit of two terms.

Last years Wade tried to get Senegal to change the constitution to allow for a vice president. The most likely person for this post was Wade's son, Karim Wade. The outcry over his attempt to found a dynasty was so intense that Wade dropped the project.

But now he is campaigning for a third term. He is officially 85 years old, though many Senegalese suspect he is even older and is planning on maneuvering to get his son to replace him.

The protests, according to Gueye, are being led by "Y'en A Marre" (French slang for "fed up") in conjunction with M23 (23 of June Movement), a coalition of civil social and oppositional groups, named after its tactic of holding mass protests on the 23rd of each month. M23 emerged after the major protest held June 23, 2011, against Wade.

High youth unemployment

Y'en A Marre is primarily a youth group, led by rappers and musicians, reflecting the extraordinarily high unemployment rate for youth, even those with university degrees. The CIA Factbook estimate for unemployment among Senegal's 12 mil-



Senegalese protesters.

lion people is 48 percent. Many observers say unemployment hits youth particularly hard.

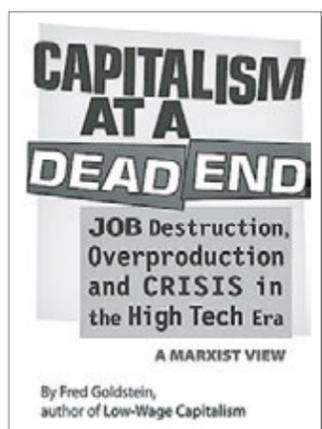
After the cops deliberately killed one student, youth and students around Dakar University led a series of militant protests in which barricades and cars were burned.

The same elections court that accepted the candidacy of Wade for a third term rejected that of Youssou N'Dour, the world famous Senegalese rapper and musician. The court claimed N'Dour failed to gather enough signatures. The young people in Y'en A Marre say this is another manipulation of elections by the Senegalese elite.

During the last 50 years every Senegalese postcolonial government has subordinated the needs of Senegal's economy

to that of its former colonial power, France, while making sure officials got their personal rewards. The country's entire private sector is controlled by French multinationals, such as French oil/gas company Total, France Telecom, Société Générale, BNP Paribas, Air France and so on. Senegal's money supply was first tied to the French franc and now to the euro at a fixed rate. (Sanou Mbaye, Le Monde diplomatique, Feb. 2012)

What this means is that France controls the basic layers of the Senegalese economy. All the waste, corruption, inefficiencies and chicanery that go on among the Senegalese ruling class are just ripples on the stream of profits that go to the French multinationals. □



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Hondureños/as se organizan en medio de creciente represión

Por Heather Cottin

Cuando el New York Times publica un artículo de opinión indicando que Honduras “está descendiendo profundamente en un abismo de derechos humanos y seguridad” y agrega que esto es “en gran parte, obra del Departamento de Estado”, algo está cambiando. (26 de enero)

Desde el golpe militar del 28 de junio de 2009, patrocinado por el gobierno de Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Estado ha extendido una cortina de humo para justificar el secuestro del legalmente electo presidente Manuel Zelaya Rosales y la brutal toma militar del poder en este país de más de 8 millones de personas.

Las condiciones en Honduras, la segunda nación más pobre en Centroamérica, sólo han empeorado desde el golpe de estado. El sesenta y siete por ciento de la población — más de 5,5 millones de personas, vive por debajo del nivel de pobreza. La tasa de desempleo es casi del 30 por ciento. (3 de enero hondurasnews.com) Los oligarcas y las empresas transnacionales han tomado totalmente el control, explotando al pueblo y los recursos, privatizando incluso los ríos del país.

Desde el golpe de estado, Honduras se ha convertido en el centro de las operaciones militares de Estados Unidos en Centroamérica. La base aérea de Soto Cano (Palmerola), a la que Zelaya fue trasladado durante su secuestro, ha recibido una inyección de hasta 45 millones de dólares en fondos para construcción desde 2009. (Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de EE.UU.)

La violencia y el narcotráfico en el país también han aumentado durante el mismo período. Como resultado de los asesinatos perpetrados por el ejército y las fuerzas policiales entrenadas por el ejército, Honduras está entre los países con las tasas de homicidio más altas en el mundo. (southcom.mil)

Según un informe de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos de la OEA, hay “una impunidad generalizada de las violaciones de los derechos humanos” y el regreso de los escuadrones de la muerte. (Octubre de 2010)

Lucy Pagoada, una representante de Honduras USA Resistencia, dijo a Workers World/Mundo Obrero: “Roberto Micheletti, el líder del golpe de estado, y Miguel Facussé, el oligarca más rico del país y tío de la embajadora de Honduras ante la ONU, Mary Flores Facussé, son los principales narcotraficantes de Honduras”.

Se alega que Facussé ha robado vastas extensiones de tierras de indígenas y garífunas (afro-hondureños/as) y sus escuadrones de muerte han asesinado, secuestrado y torturado a decenas de campesinos/as en el Valle del Aguán. Facussé llevó al Batallón Quince de infantería del ejército hondureño entrenado por los EE.UU. y a guardias de seguridad privados para atacar a los/as campesinos/as del Aguán. Un joven de 17 años y cinco guardias de seguridad fueron asesinados en el 2010. (Red de Solidaridad con Honduras, 19 de agosto de 2010)

El artículo en el New York Times dice que el golpe de estado y el apoyo de Wash-

ington a la farsa electoral de Porfirio Lobo Sosa en noviembre del 2009 instalaron un régimen en el poder que rápidamente fue reconocido por la administración Obama. El gobierno de Lobo “abrió las puertas a un enorme incremento del tráfico de drogas y violencia, y desató una continuada ola de represión estatal. ... El sistema judicial apenas funciona. Reina la impunidad. Al menos 34 miembros de la oposición han desaparecido o han sido asesinados/as, y más de 300 personas han sido asesinadas por la represión del Estado”.

Represión crea resistencia

Pero el Movimiento de Resistencia Hondureña ha estado en las calles, enfrentando a la policía y al ejército en las ciudades y en el campo. En febrero del 2011, celebraron una gran asamblea representativa y luego volvieron a sus comunidades para organizarse y tomar el poder.

Para las elecciones nacionales programadas para noviembre del 2013, “campesinos/as, estudiantes, indígenas, maestros/as y trabajadores/as han organizado un partido en desafío directo a los dos partidos tradicionales de Honduras, el Partido Nacional y el Partido Liberal”, dijo Pagoada. “Lo llamamos ‘LibRe’, — por Libertad y Refundación. Hemos decidido tomar un rumbo político. Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, la esposa de Manuel Zelaya, será nuestra candidata, y una encuesta tomada el 28 de enero mostró que ella es la candidata que está a la cabeza.

Ante el temor de esta inmensa oleada

de resistencia, el gobierno estadounidense nombró a Lisa Kubiske como su embajadora en Honduras. El 26 de enero Kubiske llevó a toda prisa a Miami al presidente Lobo para 10 horas de conversaciones de alto nivel. Eso dio lugar a su decisión de apoyar una legislación sin precedentes que permitiría a los Estados Unidos extraditar a presuntos narcotraficantes hondureños, específicamente a Miguel Facussé y Roberto Micheletti. Lobo también ordenó el arresto de policías considerados responsables del asesinato del hijo de un destacado académico. Luego, las policías milagrosamente escapó de la prisión, observó Pagoada.

El mismo día, los legisladores hondureños propusieron un proyecto de ley que establecería un órgano de vigilancia independiente encargado de reformar la policía notoriamente corrupta del país. (insightcrime.org, 27 de enero)

“Pocos artículos admiten que toda la pobreza, los asesinatos, el narcotráfico y la corrupción son el resultado directo del golpe de estado patrocinado por EE.UU.”, Pagoada dijo a Workers World/Mundo Obrero. “Lo que está claro es que ha fracasado el golpe de estado”.

Pagoada informó a WW/MO que “Xiomara Castro de Zelaya vendrá a Estados Unidos para hablar en Nueva York y Washington. También va a hacer una presentación durante la convención de la Coalición Nacional Unida Contra la Guerra en Stamford, Connecticut, el [23-25] de marzo. Escucharemos un poderoso mensaje de resistencia, democracia y paz del pueblo hondureño”. □

Ocupar Oakland intenta abrir edificio vacante, centenares detenidos

Por Terri Kay
Oakland Calif.

Cerca de más de 2.000 participantes de Ocupar Oakland fueron enfrentados/as con violencia policial y cientos de arrestos el 28 de enero cuando marchaban hacia el abandonado edificio del Centro de Convenciones Henry J. Kaiser. El grupo había planeado la ocupación del edificio durante varios meses.

Apodado “Día de la Mudanza”, la intención era convertir el edificio en un “centro social, centro de convergencia, centro de operaciones, para comidas gratis, y lugar de residencia para Ocupar Oakland”. Los/as organizadores habían descrito su plan en una carta abierta al alcalde de Oakland, Jean Quan; al Departamento de Policía de Oakland; y al Consejo de la Ciudad de Oakland.

Ocupar Oakland ha mantenido una fuerte presencia en la Plaza Oscar Grant a pesar de que la ciudad dispersó su campamento. Allí han celebrado asambleas generales, alimentado a personas sin hogar y organizado varias reuniones y actividades. Varias personas allí han sido constantemente hostigadas y detenidas por la policía por “delitos menores” tales como el sostener un paraguas, considerado una

forma de carpa o estructura — o alimentar a personas sin hogar sin tener una licencia. Esto, además del mal tiempo del invierno motivó el evento de mudanza.

Los/as manifestantes marcharon pacíficamente por las calles de Oakland hacia el edificio, con su camión de sonido tocando música festiva. Después de que una ruta fue bloqueada por la policía, los/as manifestantes cambiaron la ruta hacia la parte posterior del edificio, a través del Laney College, sin ningún incidente.

Cuando llegamos al edificio, nos encontramos con la policía dotada de equipo antidisturbios custodiando el edificio abandonado. Mientras la muchedumbre trataba de encontrar una manera de entrar, derribando algunas secciones de la cerca, la policía comenzó a lanzar bombas de humo y gases lacrimógenos.

La administración municipal estaba decidida a impedir al movimiento Ocupar tener un hogar o centro de operaciones. No importaba que el edificio hubiera sido abandonado por la ciudad y Ocupar estuviera dispuesto a arreglarlo y utilizarlo para servir a la comunidad.

Un grupo de padres con sus hijos se había retirado para protegerse de la violencia policial. De la nada aparecieron algunos guardias antidisturbios y comen-

zaron a empujarles, uno amenazando con su macana. El grupo incluía a niños/as pequeños/as y a una señora con un bebé.

La multitud se vio obligada a pasar al Plan B, a otro edificio abandonado. Una vez más, la policía antidisturbios bloqueó las calles, lanzando granadas de mano y disparando balas de goma y gases lacrimógenos a los/as manifestantes.

La gente marchó a la Plaza Oscar Grant para reagruparse. Después de descansar y comer, se reunieron brevemente y decidieron intentar una vez más ocupar otro edificio. La policía los/as rodeó e intentó atraparles en una pequeña área, pero se liberaron al derribar una valla.

En otra cuadra, la policía atrapó a un grupo de 300 a 400 personas. Muchos/as intentaron correr al YMCA que estaba todavía abierto, pero allí encontraron más policía en la puerta de atrás cuando trataban de salir. La policía detuvo a todas las personas en el lugar, alrededor de 400 personas, y muchas reportaron heridas de golpes por las macanas de la policía.

El Comité de Mudanzas de Ocupar Oakland dijo en una declaración: “La ocupación de un edificio por Ocupar Oakland, un acto de desobediencia civil, fue interrumpida ayer por una brutal respuesta policial. Los/as manifestantes

enfrentaron golpes de garrote, disparos de balas de goma, y fueron expuestos a gases lacrimógenos a lo largo de la ruta. La policía inmediatamente emitió declaraciones negando el uso de gases lacrimógenos; sin embargo, como pueden atestiguar muchas víctimas, los gases fueron usados abiertamente sin respetar la seguridad de esta multitud que incluía familias y niños/as. . . . Estas acciones del Departamento de la Policía de Oakland ocurren en un momento cuando la ciudad de Oakland está despidiendo a cientos de trabajadores/as, donde millones de dólares son desperdiciados en semejantes ataques brutales policiales.”

Manifestaciones de solidaridad tuvieron lugar al día siguiente por más de 21 Ocupaciones por todo EE.UU. y Canadá. En Iowa, más de 100 miembros de Ocupar Des Moines establecieron un campamento en el Parque del Pueblo frente al Capitolio del Estado de Iowa en solidaridad con Ocupar Oakland. Ocupar Oakland planea continuar con sus talleres educativos y reuniones a pesar de las detenciones y la represión. Han pedido donativos para liberar a los/as cientos/as de detenidos/as. Para obtener más información, busque en Google “Occupy Oakland Bail Fund”. □