

# HANDS OFF SYRIA

## Protests called as war threats grow

By John Catalinotto

The Turkish regime, in cahoots with the NATO powers, has carried out a provocation against the Syrian people that threatens a new war of imperialist conquest in Western Asia.

That's the message out of Brussels on June 26, where a cynical meeting of NATO labeled Syria the "aggressor." Why? Because Syria's air defenses shot down a Turkish plane flying low and fast into

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its airspace as it was about to reach its territory. The Turkish government even admitted that its RF4E Phantom jet had flown into Syria's airspace on June 22 — "erroneously."

Western governments and corporate media immediately heaped the blame on Syria — making it obvious that a planned provocation is in progress.

Important sections of the anti-war and progressive movement in the United States have reacted to this new war threat, calling actions during the week of June 23 to July 1 to protest NATO war moves. They have also called for "day after" actions following any new U.S., NATO or Turkish aggression against Syria.

Under the conditions of near civil war in Syria, it is understandable that Syria's air defenses would react quickly to a perceived threat. This is all the more true because arms are being supplied to the pro-imperialist opposition through Turkey. (See factsheet on page 9.) Instead of handling the shoot-down as an accident, as the Syrian government declared, the Turkish regime is playing the role of cat's-paw for NATO intervention in the region.

Immediately after the furor began in the corporate media over the downing of the plane, articles appeared in many progressive media asking the question: "Is another Gulf of Tonkin incident taking place?"

The Gulf of Tonkin incident, which took place in August 1964, was an alleged attack by small North Vietnamese patrol boats against huge U.S. destroyers right off the coast of Vietnam. The Lyndon Johnson administration used this phony provocation as a pretext to begin massive bombing of the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi and the port city of Haiphong, and then to get the U.S. Senate to approve a massive escalation of U.S. military intervention.

While the Gulf of Tonkin incident is a classic example of the imperialists creating a provocation in order to whip up a war fever, similar incidents

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Ramsey Clark, left and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center analyze and denounce U.S. militarist foreign policy, including the murderous use of drones and the growing threats against Syria and Iran, at a dinner-forum of the Pakistan USA Freedom Forum June 23.



WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Workers World Party marched in New York City's LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer) Pride march for the 41st year on June 24. The WWP contingent raised awareness about the struggle

to free CeCe McDonald, an African-American transwoman being imprisoned for defending herself and her friends from a racist, bigoted attack.

—LeiLani Dowell

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May Day in New York.

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## Hands Off Syria

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have been used many times to start a war, starting with the explosion on the USS Maine in Havana harbor in 1898 and the sinking of the Lusitania in 1916 — and including variations like the supposed finding of Iraq’s imaginary “weapons of mass destruction” in 2003.

Turkish President Recep Erdogan, backed up by NATO generals and officials from all the imperialist powers in Brussels, is now threatening Turkish intervention against Syrian land forces near the border. This is a direct threat to intervene on the side of the reactionary uprising in Syria.

### UNAC reacts, calls ‘day after’ actions

The United National Antiwar Coalition in the U.S. was already mobilizing for a week of anti-war actions. Its demands are:

“Hands off Syria and Iran!”

“End the drone wars!”  
“We need jobs, education and healthcare, not endless war!”

Following the new threat from Turkey and NATO, UNAC put out the following call:

“If NATO military action is unleashed against Syria, UNAC is urging activists to be on alert and start making plans now across the country to immediately call united ‘Day After’ demonstrations within 24 hours at federal buildings across the U.S.”

UNAC reports that actions during the week of June 23 to July 1 are already being held in the following cities:

Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City; Northampton, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; Albany, Brooklyn, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y.; Jersey City and Newark, N.J.; Columbus, Ohio; Tallahassee, Fla.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Durham, N.C.; Oakland and Fresno, Calif.; and Vancouver in Canada.

For more information on the actions, see UNACpeace.org. □

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# Hunger strike, rallies to oppose postal cuts

By Joe Piette

Postal workers and community activists are staging a four-day hunger strike to defend tens of thousands of post office jobs. In response to congressional actions that are starving the United States Postal Service of funds, at least 12 postal union members and their supporters will go without food June 25-28 as part of the Hunger Strike Back — Save the Post Office campaign.

Coordinated rallies, press conferences and visits to congressional offices are planned in Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma, Wash.; Richmond, Va.; South Bend, Ind.; San Francisco; Chicago; Philadelphia; and other cities.

The largest protests will occur in Washington, D.C., where many hunger strikers and their supporters are converging. A caravan organized by Community Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services will pick up people from the Mid-Hudson region of New York through Manhattan; Newark, N.J.; Philadelphia; and Baltimore on the way to Washington. Included in their delegation will be Debby Szeredy, a hunger striker and also president of the Mid-Hudson American Postal Workers Union local.

Among the protesters in Washington will be Nannette Corley, president of the Montgomery County, Md., local of the APWU and also a hunger striker. This female African-American union organizer joins a long list of Black and Latino/a groups and leaders endorsing the actions, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the National Action Network Youth Movement and the Chicago NAACP.

“Take away a parent’s job, [and you] take away a child’s future,” said Victoria Panell, youth leader of NAN. Twenty-one percent of postal jobs are held by African Americans. The postal service is the largest employer of Black workers making more than \$55,000 annually. Many of those jobs are threatened by ongoing and planned postal cutbacks in jobs and services. (multiculturalallife.org)

On July 1, the USPS begins to phase out overnight first-class mail delivery standards. In effect, mail that used to be delivered within 24 hours in most cities will instead be put in mail boxes two or three days later. This relaxation of the decades-old operating standards will inevitably encourage private competitors to step in. It is a major step in the privatization of the post office.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe is also shutting down half of the mail processing plants and cutting hours by 25 percent to 75 percent in half of the post offices from coast to coast. The postal service also wants congressional approval to cut mail delivery from six to five days a week. More than 100,000 union jobs will be eliminated. Rural communities and oppressed neighborhoods will be especially hit hard by the loss of postal services as well as the decrease in good-paying career jobs with health care and pension benefits.

## Union busting by the 1%

“Not the Internet, not private competition, not the recession — Congress is responsible for the postal debt,” said Jamie Partridge, a retired letter carrier traveling from Portland, Ore., to Washington, D.C., for the hunger strike and a main or-

ganizer of the four-day event. “Corporate interests, working through their friends in Congress, want to undermine the USPS, bust the unions, then give the work to private, for-profit interests.” (Communities and Postal Workers United press release)

A 2006 congressional mandate forces the USPS to pre-fund retiree health care benefits 75 years in advance. No other business or agency has that requirement, and it is killing the 250-year-old postal service. Without this \$5.5 billion yearly requirement, the post office would have made a profit in the last three years.

“We could easily protect the Postal Service if Congress would address the agency’s overpayment into its Retiree Health Benefits program,” asserted U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio. (PostalNews.com, June 22)

“We will not stand by as our beloved postal service is destroyed,” said Tom Dodge, a hunger striker and postal worker from Baltimore. “We will shame Congress and denounce the Postmaster General. We will engage in dramatic actions on Capitol Hill and at the USPS Headquarters to turn up the heat on decision makers.” (Communities and Postal Workers United press release) The Washington, D.C., actions are being organized by CPWU, a national grassroots network.



WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

‘The Postal Service is not for sale!’ chanted postal workers and community activists in New York on March 17.

Among the planned actions are a press conference at the Capitol; a “Stop the Robbery” march from postal headquarters to the Capitol on June 26; and a “Tell the Truth” protest at the Washington Post building on June 27. The activists also plan to visit the headquarters of the four main postal unions. The hunger strike will end with a mass rally at postal headquarters on June 28, where a “citizen’s arrest” of Postmaster General Donahoe will be attempted.

A list of endorsers over 400 strong includes many APWU and National Association of Letter Carriers locals and officials. In addition, Jobs With Justice branches, Occupy working groups, labor officials and members in numerous unions, as well as religious and community organizations throughout the U.S. have endorsed. □

## Meeting demands end to foreclosures



“Stop Foreclosures and Evictions, Moratorium Now!” was the theme of a June 23 meeting in Milwaukee hosted by the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement. Among the attendees were community members from throughout Wisconsin, including members of Occupy Wall Street; activists from Detroit with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs; and Larry Hales, a national leader of the Bail Out The People Movement.

There have been 20,000 foreclosures in Milwaukee since 2007, most of them in the central city, where the majority of African Americans reside, and tens of thousands more statewide. Participants discussed vic-

tories against the banks on behalf of homeowners in Detroit and other cities. They suggested other creative actions to fight foreclosures and evictions by the racist banks and to win a moratorium or halt on throwing people out of their homes. Speakers also addressed issues such as the U.S.-supported coup in Paraguay, the recall movement in Wisconsin, police brutality, the concept of people’s power assemblies, organizing for the March on Wall Street South during the Democratic National Convention, and a new Service Employees union campaign to win a \$10 minimum wage. The event was held at the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 hall.

— Report and photo by Bryan G. Pfeifer

## Chicago teachers authorize strike

By G. Dunkel

Some 600,000 public employees — half of them teachers, paraprofessionals and clinicians — have lost their jobs since the financial crisis struck in 2008. There has been a national movement among school boards to demonize and disrespect teachers, especially those who dare to complain about their poor working conditions — the conditions under which their students are expected to learn.

The vote of the Chicago Teachers Union to authorize their leaders to call a strike at the beginning of the school year, shortly after the Democratic National Convention, is a sign of growing resistance. The vote was inspiring. Out of a total CTU voting membership of 26,502, “yes” votes were 23,780; “no” votes were 482, and 2,240 did not vote or their votes were spoiled, according to a CTU press release.

Last year, the misnamed Stand for Children group, along with other education privatization supporters and Chicago’s mayor, Rahm Emanuel, engineered a state law requiring 75 percent of all eligible CTU members to vote yes to authorize a strike vote. Stand for Children leader Jonah Edelman bragged that the CTU “will never be able to muster the votes to strike.” But the arrogant attacks on teachers and other educators, along with Emanuel’s demand that the school day be extended by 20 percent and his refusal to pay a budgeted wage increase, so enraged teachers that a number of schools voted 100 percent to authorize a strike.

This vote is not just a sharp response to the national attack on teachers. Chicago has deep ties to the Obama administration. Chicago is President Barack Obama’s hometown. Its mayor was previously his chief of staff. His secretary of education, Arne Duncan, began his career running charter schools in Chicago and was appointed chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools by then-Mayor Richard Daley in 2001.

The CTU is the third largest local in the American Federation of Teachers, which is very closely allied with the Democratic Party and historically backed U.S. aggression in Vietnam in the 1960s, intervention in Central America in the 1980s, and the Bush administration’s initial attacks on Iraq.

Randi Weingarten, president of the AFT, came to the major rally and march the CTU held on May 23, and said, “It is pretty interesting how the rich are getting richer, how the banks are getting bailed out, but not those who are working hard every single day who are educating the kids.” The AFT issued a statement in Weingarten’s name after the CTU’s votes were announced, saying, “This level of participation and engagement by Chicago’s educators is both inspiring and instructive. It represents not just anger and frustration, but also a real commitment to Chicago’s students.”

How the AFT is going to relate to a strike in Chicago, if it occurs, is obviously going to be a main topic at the AFT convention at the end of July. □

# People's Assembly to expose police violence

By Gene Clancy

Police brutality continues to be a scourge against poor and working people across the United States. Youth, high school and college students, the unemployed, seniors, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, homeless people, Occupiers — just about everyone is subject to police abuse if they stand up for their rights.

When it comes to poor people and people of color, the police do not need a reason. Victims are profiled and abused simply for being who they are.

On Saturday, June 30, a People's Assembly will hold hearings in Baltimore to expose and oppose police violence and abuse. The hearings will run from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church at Dolphin and Ettings streets.

The hearings have been organized by the Justice4Trayvon organization, which led a large demonstration on March 26 to demand justice for Trayvon Martin, the young African American stalked and

killed by a vigilante in Florida. The issues raised in that march have expanded to include justice for the victims of police brutality.

In cities across the country, police brutality follows an all-too-familiar pattern. Cops profile, beat, mace, falsely arrest, destroy and seize property, and often murder people, primarily in the Black and Latino/a communities.

Sometimes, if a case is high enough profile, the police involved may be temporarily suspended, with pay. The case is then sent to a grand jury whose proceedings are secret. The result is invariably to exonerate the officers, or at most to deliver a slap on the wrist. Often this is accompanied by media coverage based on unverified leaks that slander and diminish the victims.

The People's Assembly in Baltimore will give poor and working people an opportunity to expose, by first-hand testimony, the cesspool of brutality and racism



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Protest in solidarity with the family of Trayvon Martin in Baltimore, March 26.

carried out by the police on the streets of Baltimore on a daily basis.

Sharon Black, an organizer of the Trayvon Martin march, said to Workers World that police brutality "is a blow

against all of us, whether we are in the Occupy movement, with a union, fighting to stop racism, war or injustice, no matter where we live or reside."

All out for the People's Assembly! □

# Fight against solitary confinement grows

By Gloria Rubac

"It is hell, it is hell, and it's hell every day. ... I listened to guys who were happy to be executed instead of existing up under those same solitary conditions," reported exonerated death-row prisoner Anthony Graves on June 20 on "Democracy Now." "One guy told me, 'Man, I'm ready to go.' ... I mean, he would rather die than exist up under them inhumane conditions."

Housing prisoners in total isolation has become common in the United States in the last 30 years. An estimated 80,000 or more inmates are held under such conditions — whether they're called solitary confinement, super max, security housing units (SHU), maximum security or administrative segregation.

A June 25 Time magazine editorial entitled "It's time to end solitary confinement in U.S. prisons" used the example of the Angola 3 — political prisoners who have been held in solitary for more than 40 years — as a prime example of the wrongs of this practice.

Thanks to prisoners organizing and fighting back, the issue of solitary confinement is now on the stage of civil rights struggles.

## Hunger strike movement grows

On May 31, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a group of California prisoners, challenging the practice of long-term isolation in the state's notorious Pelican Bay State Prison. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of SHU inmates who have spent from 10 to 28 years in solitary confinement. They are among the more than 500 inmates at Pelican Bay who have been segregated from general population inmates for at least 10 years.

The state of California keeps more than 3,000 inmates in SHU. ([tinyurl.com/7cxfdf](http://tinyurl.com/7cxfdf))

The lawsuit comes nearly a year after the first of two large-scale hunger strikes protesting long-term solitary confinement in California prisons. The first lasted three weeks last July and prompted the California Assembly's Public Safety Com-



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement welcomes Anthony Graves to Houston following his release.

mittee to hold a public hearing to discuss the situation in the SHU. ([solitarywatch.com](http://solitarywatch.com), Aug. 24, 2011)

A second, larger strike involving more than 6,000 inmates was launched in October and also lasted approximately three weeks. A later, smaller hunger strike in February at Corcoran State Prison's Administrative Segregation Unit resulted in the death of inmate Christian Gomez. ([solitarywatch.com](http://solitarywatch.com), Feb. 10)

In late May, four dozen inmates at Virginia's Red Onion State Prison launched a hunger strike in protest of their long-term solitary confinement. (*Washington Post*, May 22) In a letter to Solitary Watch, an inmate described the conditions as "absolutely primitive. ... They have me next to an inmate that throws poop on the tier, rubs it all over regularly. ... The pod has several like that ... constant[ly] yelling, banging." Another inmate wrote that the situation "would make you truly wonder what the hell is going on in the minds of people who run these institutions." (May 24)

Recent hunger strikes at supermax prisons in Virginia and California are part of a larger movement of hunger strikes in soli-

tary units across the nation. A less-publicized strike at Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown last month lasted for more than two weeks. ([vindy.com](http://vindy.com), May 4) All the striking prisoners were held at the highest security levels in the Ohio prison system.

A class-action lawsuit, *Bacote vs. Federal Bureau of Prisons*, was filed on behalf of five prisoner plaintiffs at the U.S. Penitentiary's Administrative Maximum Facility in Florence, Colo., on June 18. The prison is known as the "Alcatraz of the Rockies."

The next day, as African-American communities around the country were celebrating Juneteenth, a U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee heard testimony on the psychological and human rights implications of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons. It was the first hearing of its kind.

## Former death-row inmate speaks

Anthony Graves was on death row in Texas before being exonerated of a murder conviction. He was released on Oct. 27, 2010, after being in prison for almost 19 years.

In written testimony submitted to the hearing, Graves stated: "I was subjected to sleep deprivation. I would hear the clanging of metal doors throughout the night, an officer walking the runs and shining his flash light in your eyes, or an inmate kicking and screaming because he's losing his mind. Guys become paranoid, schizophrenic, and can't sleep because they are hearing voices. ... Guys would attempt suicide by cutting themselves, trying to tie a sheet around their neck or overdosing on their medication." ([judiciary.senate.gov](http://judiciary.senate.gov))

On June 20 Democracy Now reported that Graves told the panel: "I watched men literally self-mutilate themselves. They had to be put on razor restrictions, because ... they will cut their own throat, their own neck, wherever they could cut at on their own bodies. ... And this one man in particular that I watched do this; they took him over to what they call the psychiatric ward. A few days later, he hung himself. ... There's a man sitting on Texas death row right now who's housed in solitary confinement. [He] pulled his eye out

and swallowed it — all because of the conditions. Solitary confinement dehumanizes us all."

During the show Graves added: "I witnessed officers doing things that they just felt that they had to do; otherwise, they would be considered to be soft with the inmates. So, it's just a — it's a culture of madness, and it's designed to drive those guys totally insane."

"We have definitely crossed the line when it comes to punishment, crime and punishment. [A] guy gets sentenced at his initial trial, and then he goes and gets sentenced while he's [in prison] to punishment and torture. ... We laughed when ... we heard people talking about other countries' human rights, and you're sitting here torturing us. ... This is the way we was treated before we got any kind of rights in this country. And we're still being treated like that now. You know, there's not much difference. This is just modern-day slavery."

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, who presided over the Senate hearing, says he is working on legislation that would require greater transparency about state and federal use of solitary confinement. The *New York Times* reported that Durbin began the hearing by "noting that more prisoners are held in isolation in the United States than in any other democracy and that about half of all prison suicides occur among inmates in solitary confinement." (June 19)

## Get involved 'Speaking out until this madness ends'

A relatively new organization, Solitary Watch: News from a Nation in Lockdown, is documenting issues surrounding solitary confinement and the struggles to limit its use. They can be followed on Twitter, Facebook or at [solitarywatch.com](http://solitarywatch.com).

Graves, who co-hosts "The Prison Show" on Houston Pacifica radio station KPFT 90.1 FM, told Workers World, "I will never forget the men I left on death row and I will speak out for them until this madness called solitary ends and the executions stop." □

# Call to action July 31 against racism and fascism

Special to Workers World

This year's Day of Action Against Fascism and Racism on July 31, sponsored by Anti-Racist Action, will focus on gathering support for the Tinley Park 5 as part of the ongoing fight against white supremacists and those who support them.

The Tinley Park 5 — Jason W. Sutherland, Cody L. Sutherland, Dylan J. Sutherland, Alex R. Stuck and John S. Tucker — are currently incarcerated in Cook County Jail in Chicago. The Five, white anti-racist

## FREE THE TINLEY PARK 5

anarchists, were arrested on May 19 for allegedly physically breaking up an "economic summit" by members of the Illinois European Heritage Association at a restaurant in Tinley Park, Ill., a Chicago suburb. The Five are facing major felony charges, including "mob action, criminal damage to property and aggravated battery." They are being held in jail on combined bail of about \$1 million.

The Hoosier Anti-Racist Movement and the ARA are encouraging supporters to hold fundraising and educational events, protests and other creative actions on July 31 to raise awareness and support for the Five, to demand their release and that all charges against them be dropped.

"We hope July 31st will serve as a catalyst for long lasting, pro-active antifascist affinity groups or organizations. We be-

lieve that we need a dedicated and large force of militant antifascists with great intelligence, analysis, and dedication to crushing emerging extreme Right and fascist movements. If your organization or crew is interested in endorsing the July 31st Day of Action, please contact us at July31DOA@yahoo.com. Fight Fascism, Smash Racism," reads the ARA July 31 call. (antiracistaction.org)

For more information on how to support the Tinley Park 5, go to indianantifa.wordpress.com. □

# Anti-NATO activists face trumped-up charges

By Caleb T. Maupin

Three young activists who came to Chicago to protest against the NATO Summit in May were singled out by the police and now face trumped-up charges of terrorism. Brian Church, Jared Chase and Brent Vincent Betterly face 11 counts. If convicted under previously unused Illinois anti-terrorism laws, they could face up to 85 years in prison.

Before they were arrested, these political activists were stopped by the Chicago Police Department. The police illegally searched the trunk of their car. The young men say that as police searched the car, they made comments threatening the young activists.

The officers joked about the famous acts of brutality in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The officers laughed as they said, among other things, "Do you guys know '68? ... Billy club to the f—king skull." The officers joked about racism and brutality: "Take race out of it ... we'll beat your white ass." They also said that at the upcoming anti-NATO protests, "We'll be looking for each and every one of you." (opednews.com, June 18)

This exchange, in which CPD members revealed their twisted and sadistic nature, was recorded by one of the youth. A video of the incident was soon up on the internet.

Six days after the video was posted, cops raided the apartment where these activists were staying. Eleven of the people staying there were arrested and held for 68 hours before the authorities brought any charges. At the time of the raid, two police infiltrators, going by the monikers of "Mo" and "Gloves," were staying at the apartment.

Prosecutor Anita Alvarez made clear the political nature of her prosecution by numerous times pointing out that the men were "anarchists" and linking them to the "Black bloc." In the apartment raid, the police discovered equipment for making beer. Alvarez now claims this equipment was intended for making Molotov cocktails.

### Terrorism charges used to spread fear and anger

Kris Hermes, spokesperson for the National Lawyers Guild, pointed out how unbelievable this claim is: "No Molotov cocktails or other incendiary devices have been used at any political demonstration in the U.S. in recent memory."

Hermes observed that the charges were "the unfortunate consequence of the city's desire to create a hysteria around so-called terrorism charges." She noted that the arrests were intended to "discredit the NATO demonstrators and perhaps diminish the number of people on the streets protesting."

Michael Deutsch, the lawyer representing Brian Church, described how the three men are being held in isolation. Not allowed any reading or writing material, they are being held in "hospital white cells" for 24 hours a day. They are not allowed to see any other prisoners or each other.

While NATO often bombs and destroys countries using the excuse of "human rights," three young men who dared protest NATO's crimes are now being held in conditions described as "inhuman" and "torturous."

Hypocrisy is nothing new for NATO and its armed servants. The organization Doctors Without Borders has refused to work with the new NATO-installed government in Libya, as it also is engaging

in acts of torture and inhumanity against those who oppose it.

The activists have pleaded not guilty. A team of expert and experienced attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild has mobilized to defend them.

There is a great deal of hope that these charges can be defeated. The recent victory in the Carlos Montes' case and the state of Pennsylvania's ultimate failure to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal after decades of trying show that mass mobilizations of the people can be key in halting repression. Such mobilizations can also force the state to drop the charges against these young people.

## Newark NJ – 363 days & counting Peoples Protest Campaign

By Tsehah Hiwot  
Newark, N.J.

On June 23, activists from the International Action Center joined in solidarity with the Peoples Organization for Progress at a rally in Newark, N.J. Held in the heart of the city's downtown shopping district, this rally was the 363rd consecutive daily protest. POP intends to continue until the number of days equals the number of days of the 1955 Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott that sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

Newark is the largest city in New Jersey. Its predominately Black neighborhoods have been hit the hardest by unemployment and cuts in essential services.

Organizers and activists began the "Daily Peoples Protest Campaign" on June 27, 2011, and set up actions every day since then to call attention to the need for a national jobs program; preservation of unions and public schools; and winning workers' rights, affordable college tuition and national health care — and many other concerns of the working class. They also call for an end to expensive U.S. wars.

Due to the dedication of POP activists, this campaign of daily actions is commemorating its one-year anniversary on June 27. POP has had the support of 179 organizations, including the IAC.

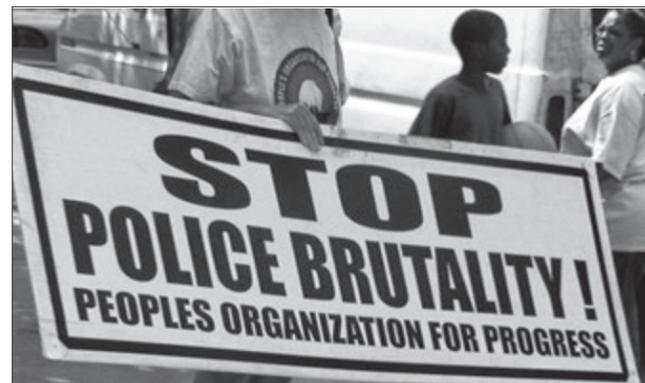
At this protest on Market Street, a major intersection through Newark's downtown center with endless vehicular traffic, activists held large black-and-white banners encouraging motorists to honk their horns for jobs. Motorists honked and gave thumbs-up as they sped down the avenue.

Cliff Harrington, a leading POP organizer, welcomed New York activists with

The facts of this case and others like it are revealing many truths to the thousands of youth who are now becoming politicized. They show that the police and the state cannot be trusted or won over as "friends" of the 99% movement.

According to an article in the June 25 Occupied Chicago Tribune, "Occupy groups around the country are calling for an international day of solidarity with the detained NATO protesters for July 2, the day of the arraignment."

The youthful movement is showing that its struggle against the 1% also includes a struggle against their government and police apparatus. □



warmth and appreciation, and they, in turn, expressed their gratitude and honor to be part of this inspiring and informative campaign. POP also held a voter registration drive, and Harrington reminded the community that many people died to afford people of color the right to vote.

The IAC supplied banners for this event, which denounced racism, police brutality and war, and provided leaflets protesting the elimination of post offices and postal jobs and services.

IAC activists who spoke at the rally addressed many issues of the day and spoke of being genuinely moved by the vigil, the spirit of hope and determination shown there, and the public support of the ongoing campaign.

POP organizers appreciate the support and encourage everyone to join in their daily vigils, which are held at Springfield Avenue and West Market Street from 4:30 to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday and on Saturdays from 2 to 3 p.m. and at Broad and Market Streets from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sundays. They invite activists to their weekly Thursday meetings at 6:30 p.m. at the Abyssinian Baptist Church on 224 West Kinney St. in Newark.

For information, see www.njpop.org or Facebook.com/Peoples Organization for Progress. For updates, email info@njpop.org or call 973-801-0001.

Hiwot is an IAC volunteer.

## SAVE THE DATE SEPT 14 7 PM RIVERSIDE CHURCH

On the day following the 41st anniversary of the Attica massacre of courageous prisoners rising up against intolerable oppression, we call for a major event at Riverside Church, precisely where a powerful and moving commemoration took place last year.



FREE MUMIA

& All Our Political Prisoners



CLOSE DOWN ATTICA  
END MASS INCARCERATION  
NO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!

Organizing Committee: ■ International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal ■ The Riverside Church Mission and Social Justice ■ The Riverside Church Prison Ministry ■ Correctional Association of New York ■ New York State Prisoner Justice Network ■ The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow ■ Professor Marc Lamont Hill  
To endorse this event contact: Sept14th2012@gmail.com

# LGBTQ OccuPride resists corporate sponsors

By Judy Greenspan  
San Francisco

The foremothers and forefathers of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer movements would have been proud of the series of protests and actions held in the Bay Area the last weekend in June. At a time when commercialization and corporate buyouts of LGBTQ heritage are rampant, queer activists from many organizations, including Occupy SF and Oakland, Pride at Work, QUIT (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism), ACT-UP, Workers World Party and others, held a dynamic “OccuPride 2012.”

As the TransMarch stepped off the night of June 22, posters and banners demanding “Free CeCe McDonald” and “Stop attacks on trans people” were highly visible. The TransMarch demanded justice for the most oppressed of the transgender communities — Black and Brown trans people, immigrants and the homeless. More than 2,000 marched through the streets of San Francisco demanding “Hey hey, ho, ho, transphobia’s got to go!”

Activists were particularly concerned about the case of CeCe McDonald, a transgender woman in Minneapolis who was attacked by a group of bigots and allegedly killed one of her attackers in self-defense. McDonald was recently sentenced to 41 months in prison for surviving this vicious assault.

On the night of June 23, OccuPride ac-

tivists — led by QUIT and Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention — disrupted the beginning of an Israeli film shown at the LGBT Film Festival in San Francisco. The demonstrators stood up in the front of the theater and presented Frameline, the festival’s organizer, with a “pink-washing” award for not honoring the international boycott of Israel. The boycott aimed to protest Israel’s occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people.

Many people in the theater applauded the anti-Zionist activists for making this statement against the film. The demonstration then moved outside to the front of the theater where the annual Dyke March was underway. Many women in the march expressed solidarity with this protest. Later that evening, members of the newly formed ACT-UP did a banner drop over the front of another theater showing a Frameline film.

## Opposing Pride’s commercialization

OccuPride formed in opposition to the gross commercialization of LGBTQ Pride in the Bay Area. Activists were particularly incensed by the highlighted presence of corporate institutions like Bank of America and Wells Fargo. Trans activists were angered by the inclusion of Kaiser Permanente, an HMO that does not provide surgical services for transpeople.

On June 24, at Sunday’s main event — the LGBTQ march that attracts over 1 million people — OccuPride 2012 brought the

## San Francisco Bay Area



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

strong message of “Community Not Commodity” to the parade. Activists worked hard to plan how to get into the beginning of the parade, which is made difficult by the placement of barricades between the participants and the spectators.

OccuPride successfully inserted itself early into the event and made a strong

statement about what this movement is really about. Chants were heard about Stonewall being a rebellion, not a shopping opportunity. Activists also raised the issue of “Free CeCe McDonald!” which was warmly received by supporters on the sidelines.

OccuPride activists also joined with Pride at Work, which inserted itself in the parade right before the Kaiser Permanente float and contingent. This group of activists sat down during the march to make a statement about Kaiser’s discrimination against trans people. Another group from OccuPride joined the parade near the Wells Fargo contingent and made a similar protest during the march. The bank is well known for its unjust lending and foreclosure policies against poor and working people.

The spirit of the Stonewall and the Compton Cafeteria rebellions was alive and well this Pride weekend in the Bay Area. OccuPride hopes to continue its resistance to discrimination, oppression and commercialization beyond LGBTQ Pride. (bayoccupride.com) □

# Support grows for elementary school sit-in

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

School is out all over the Bay Area except at Lakeview Elementary, one of the schools recently closed by the Oakland United School District. At Lakeview, the People’s School for Public Education holds daily classes and activities for children. The Save the Lakeview Elementary Coalition continues its sit-in and occupation of the school property.

If the June 23 protest — a lively march of several hundred people from Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland to the school — is any indication, this growing community of parents, teachers, students and Occupy activists will not accept any school closures.

The protest featured students, family members and supporters from the other elementary schools that were also closed on June 15. Members of the Oakland Education Association, the local teachers’ union which is part of the National Education Association, marched proudly behind a banner that read, “Bail Out Schools and Services Not Banks.”

An opening rally was held at Oscar Grant Plaza, which was renamed by the

Oakland progressive community to honor Oscar Grant, a young African-American man shot and killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit police on January 1, 2009. Thearse Pecot, a grandmother of three children who went to Santa Fe Elementary School, one of the schools closed by OUSD, told the crowd, “We have children that need to be educated. We can’t do that by closing schools!”

Bryant Phan, a young rap artist from Youth Speaks and a graduate of Oakland schools, delivered a moving spoken word performance about Oakland and the community’s ability to survive and to thrive. The rally was chaired by Fey, an after-school teacher in Oakland who is part of the sit-in at Lakeview. “There is a 50 percent dropout rate in this city,” Fey stated. “We are trying to protect the right for everyone to have an education.”

Jabari Shaw, an Oakland community activist, ended the rally with another political rap and then led a group of children out of Oscar Grant Plaza to start the march, chanting, “Stop attacks on education! Build the Lakeview occupation!”

All along the march route to Lakeview, people in cars honked their horns and expressed their solidarity with this commu-

nity struggle against school closures.

After another rally at Lakeview, Jamal and Zacqui, both fourth graders, thanked people for coming. “Thank you for supporting our struggle,” said Jamal. Referring to the People’s School for Public Education, he continued, “There’s nothing better than having fun and learning.”

People were urged to join the sit-in and support the People’s School. A mobilization is being planned for June 27 when the Oakland School Board has its meeting. □

# Castlewood Country Club Locked-out workers upset golf tourney

By Terri Kay  
Pleasanton, Calif.

The mostly Latino/a members of UNITE HERE Local 2850 defied the owner-members of the elite Castlewood Country Club once again at the club’s annual Men’s Invitational here on June 23. The club has locked out the workers for more than two years, after they refused to accept major cuts to their health care benefits.

Workers and their supporters came out to the club’s biggest annual golf tournament, refusing to allow the millionaire members to ignore their struggle. To make sure they were heard, the protesters came armed with drums, trombones, tambourines, bullhorns, songs and chants. They were determined to prevent the bosses from having a peaceful golf outing at the expense of the workers and their families.

At endthelockout.org, the workers say a major open issue is that “Under the Club’s current proposal, the Club would contribute up to \$500 per qualifying worker per month for health care. However, the Club’s health plan charges \$1,349 per month for family coverage. So workers would be stuck paying the difference (\$849), more than 40 percent of their average wage.”

The Castlewood workers are fighting for health care for their children, job security and the right to work with dignity. Many of the rich member-owners have been disrespectful to the workers during this struggle. Some have tried to run over workers with their golf carts and/or have made ridiculous statements like “I pay for my health care. Why can’t you pay for yours?”

This reporter noted that one of the golfers tried to run her over with a golf cart while she was taking a photograph, claiming she was on the cart pathway. □



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

**With permits secured,**

# Coalition sets sights to March on Wall Street South

By Ben Carroll  
Charlotte, N.C.

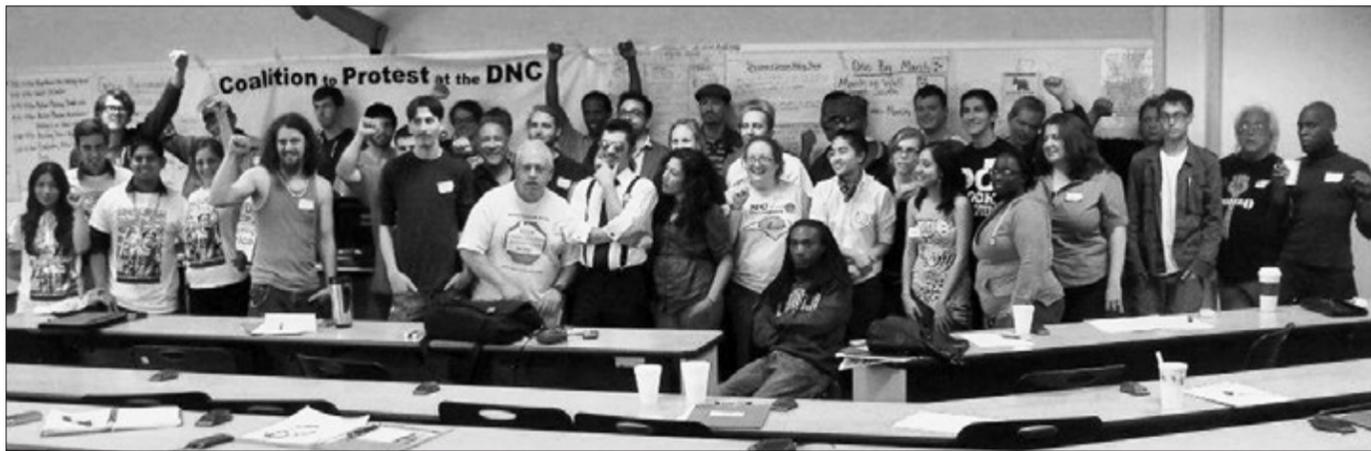
After a major victory last month that won permits to march, organizers with the Coalition to March on Wall Street South are moving forward with their plans for demonstrations before and during the Democratic National Convention. The convention will be held in Charlotte, N.C., during the first week of September.

The march will pass within sight and sound of the major targets in Uptown Charlotte: the Bank of America Stadium and world headquarters, East Coast headquarters of Wells Fargo, and the Time Warner Cable Arena.

At the end of May — after eight months of repeated applications, more than 1,500 signatures on a national petition demanding permits, and preparations for legal action — Charlotte officials caved and granted permits for the March on Wall Street South. On June 19, Coalition representatives held their first meeting with Charlotte officials to begin negotiations about permit details.

The March on Wall Street South is set for Sunday, Sept. 2, at Charlotte's Frazier Park. The opening rally will begin at 11 a.m.; the march will step off at 1 p.m.

In recent weeks, many prominent or-



WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

On April 14, key activists representing labor, community and student organizations from across the U.S. gathered in Charlotte, N.C., for the National Organizing Conference of the Coalition to Protest at the DNC.

ganizations have joined the Coalition, including the Mississippi Workers Center, the Southern Human Rights Organizing Network, Queer Occupy Wall Street, the School of the Americas Watch, IFCO/Pastors for Peace and many more.

Local organizing centers are being established in cities across the country to help bring thousands to the streets of Charlotte not only for the March on Wall Street South, but for the many other events and demonstrations taking place throughout the protest week.

Organizers with the Coalition will participate in the Baltimore Peoples Assembly on Police Abuse, Racism, and Misconduct on June 30. Many of the organizations and activists who have been mobilizing for the September demonstrations will also be participating in the Occupy National Gathering in Philadelphia from June 30 to July 4. Those attending should look for the March on

Wall Street South table.

The most up-to-date information about the demonstrations, as well as fliers and other materials, are posted at wallstouth.org. Those interested in getting involved, hosting an outreach meeting in your area, or establishing a local organizing committee should contact Coalition organizers right away by emailing info@wallstouth.org or calling 704-266-0362. □

## Hondurans commemorate 3-year resistance

By Heather Cottin  
New York

In cities across the U.S. and Honduras on June 28, a National Day of Action will commemorate three years of resistance to the coup that removed Manuel Zelaya Rosales from the presidency of Honduras. These actions come at a moment when Washington has engineered another coup against a legally elected leader in Paraguay, Fernando Lugo.

Lucy Pagoada, delegate to the Honduran Resistance (Front for National Resistance of the People, FNRP) and member of the Libre (Liberty and Refoundation) Party, spoke with Workers World about these events.

"The U.S. government kidnapped and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's legally elected president, in 2004, plunging Haiti into repression and more poverty! We must not leave Haiti out of our analysis of U.S. imperialism.

"The Haitian coup was followed by the military coup and kidnapping of Manuel Zelaya Rosales in Honduras on June 28, 2009. Then in 2010 there was the coup attempt against Raphael Correa in Ecuador, which the Ecuadoran police fomented. Now we have the 'Parliamentary judgment,' a coup against Paraguay's popular and legally elected President, Fernando Lugo."

U.S. imperialism, said Pagoada, "used Haiti and Honduras as experiments to advance the interests of imperialism against the weaker countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. The U.S. attacks popular leaders and controls the international press reportage. In the countries afflicted, the coup-plotters control the press. Re-

sistance radio stations in Honduras were closed down, and Lugo has just reported that a radio station in Paraguay has also been silenced.

"When we demonstrate on June 28 at 4 p.m. in Times Square to oppose the illegitimate government the United States and the Honduran oligarchy have created, hundreds of thousands will be taking the streets of Honduras." As the condition of the poor has deteriorated and violence against the people has escalated, resistance has grown.

This is happening now in Paraguay. Fernando Lugo said, "I call on people from the countryside, the youth and all citizens to resist until we are back in the office we unfairly had to leave." Lugo has symbolically created a parallel cabinet, attacking the legitimacy of the government that replaced him. (Russia Today, June 26)

Pagoada noted, "Aristide, Zelaya and Lugo all promoted reforms to improve the lives of the poor people. In every case the U.S. lied to legitimize the removal of legally elected presidents. Each coup was followed by repression and resistance. In Honduras that resistance has grown into the millions, and the Front for National Resistance of the People and Libre will be forming a Constitutional Assembly to rewrite the constitution."

On July 1, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya will announce her candidacy for president of Honduras.

Pagoada added, "Our slogan is 'Ni perdon ni olvido' — 'Neither forgive nor forget' — what the coup has done, who they killed and tortured. The imperialists and the oligarchies everywhere in Latin America are very afraid of peoples' power." □

## Down in North Carolina:

# The Birth of SNCC

By Durham Branch Workers World Party

North Carolina has a strong activist legacy for human and Civil Rights — from the Wilmington 10 to current-day DREAM activists. North Carolina has been a central locale in the South for organizing against racist oppression, especially during reconstruction and later during the Civil Rights movement.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is a part of North Carolina's rich history of activism, and its birth in 1960 is a testament to what students, activists and everyday folks can achieve when they band together to fight the racist powers that be.

In the Jim Crow South throughout the first half of the 20th century, Black people were fighting the racist and oppressive system of segregation that kept Black people isolated and economically deprived. All across the southern United States Blacks and whites, working in solidarity, were taking part in harrowing direct actions and confronting the oppressive status quo.

From sit-ins to boycotts to protests, it was clear there was a movement afoot, and North Carolina and its activists would prove to be an essential piece of the equation.

Sit-ins, like the much-famed Woolworth sit-in in Greensboro in 1960, inspired many and galvanized a broader movement across the South. The Southern Christian Leadership Coalition, the NAACP and countless other organizations proliferated throughout the South, creating a broad network of organizers.

Among those active in the struggle was Ella Baker, a student at Shaw University in Raleigh and a committed activist.

Baker was instrumental in the creation of the Southwide Youth Leadership Con-

ference at her alma mater. The conference, held over the Easter holiday of 1960, proved to be both powerful and productive. SNCC was born out of the conference and within it were two very powerful contingents: a wing devoted to direct action and a wing devoted to voter registration and the enfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of Black people across the United States.

SNCC sought to differentiate itself from the SCLC and the NAACP, and it did. SNCC was the vanguard within the southern Civil Rights movement, taking on greater risks than many other organizations. Freedom riders risked life and limb, entering the most dangerous pro-Jim Crow Deep South, fighting segregation and confronting violent opposition at the hands of racist police, FBI and residents.

By the mid-1960s, SNCC was not only combating oppression on the front lines in public spaces, but also organizing labor unions and political parties to fight the racist Southern Democratic or Dixiecrat machine. These activities further strengthened organizing in the South and paved the way for different factions of the group to go on to fight important battles there.

North Carolina's legacy extends well beyond its borders. SNCC is a powerful example of what can be accomplished on a national level when activists unite to combat injustice, inequity and racial oppression! We walk in the footsteps of those who fought to gain so much, and it is our duty to continue to fight all oppression and band together in solidarity!

*This is the first of a series of historical articles focusing on North Carolina and organizing in the South, in anticipation of the demonstration at Wall Street South — in Charlotte — during the Democratic National Convention.* □

# Latin America resists coup in Paraguay

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Another right-wing coup d'état has toppled a democratically elected president in Latin America. Three years after the coup in Honduras that deposed President Manuel Zelaya in June 2009, the same forces have overthrown President Fernando Lugo in Paraguay.

These reactionary forces include the local oligarchy in Paraguay, along with the mostly U.S.-based transnational corporations and the U.S. Embassy, which exists to serve these corporations.

In an incredibly swift pace of events, the Paraguayan Legislature, composed overwhelmingly of Lugo's right-wing opponents, voted on June 21 to hold an impeachment hearing in the Senate. The president had only two hours to prepare his defense.

The next day the Senate removed Lugo from office. His vice president, Federico Franco, from the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, who had turned against Lugo, was sworn in as president.

## What provoked these rapid proceedings?

The forces opposing Lugo's presidency have been working incessantly since he took office on Aug. 15, 2008, to remove him. Finally, they found an opportune moment to move. Many analysts in Paraguay and beyond assert that the reactionaries cooked up an incident in order to remove him.

On June 15, eleven campesinos and six police officers were killed and many peasants wounded when police moved against peasant occupiers of a farm run by the wealthiest man in Paraguay, Blas N. Riquelme. The peasants had occupied the land for almost three weeks, protesting the lack of arable land for small farmers.

Paraguay has a population of little more than 6 million people. Agriculture and meat trade are the motors of its economy. According to OXFAM.org, 2.6 percent of the population own 85.5 percent of the arable land, while more than 250,000 campesinos have no access to land.

Paraguay is also a paradise for the wealthy and transnational corporations because of its lax tax law that works to their benefit.

Riquelme owns land that was illegally ceded to him during the 1954-1989 violent dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner. Riquelme was part of the then-ruling Colorado Party. Since 2010 the National Institute of Land and Rural Development has claimed that same land in order to include it in the Agrarian Reform Plan.

It is a common practice by wealthy landowners in Latin America to hire armed mercenaries. The peasants say that Riquelme contracted heavily armed thugs to shoot at them and also shoot at the police. Interestingly, one of the police killed was the brother of Lugo's Chief of Security.

The police claim that the campesinos were armed with heavy weaponry and ambushed the police. People dismiss this as a lie, especially since only machetes and primitive rifles belonging to the campesinos were found at the site.

Lugo, with the support of the Organization of American States, was preparing an investigation of the terrible incident. He dismissed Minister of Interior Carlos Filizzola and Chief of Police Paulino Rojas. This, however, was not sufficient for the opposition, who accused Lugo of being responsible for the massacre.

The three other charges against Lugo expose the political nature of the impeachment: Lugo was charged with allowing a socialist event with Che Guevara flags in a military quarter, encouraging

land occupations against landowners, and endangering citizens' security by failing to combat the guerrilla Paraguayan People's Army.

## Contradictions of Lugo's administration

Lugo won 41 percent of the votes in 2008 with an alliance of different organizations and parties that in general represented center-left forces, mostly social democratic ones. They were grouped under the banner of the Patriotic Alliance for Change. Even coup-President Franco's Authentic Radical Liberal Party was initially part of this alliance.

In a country with a strong oligarchy tied to transnational agribusinesses and a history of fascist dictatorship, the progressive movement had tremendous difficulties. Hundreds of progressives had been in exile for many years due to political repression. And the forces behind Lugo were divided.

Lugo's strongest defenders are not in Asunción, the capital, but in the rural areas. The Congress is dominated by the right-wing opposition. The oligarchy was and is the real power in the judiciary and most of the other government institutions, and of course, it controls the economy.

The only real power that Lugo could count on was the people, particularly the peasantry. Yet in an effort to appease the right wing, Lugo made too many concessions that then reduced his support among the masses and within some parties, including the Communist Party of Paraguay.

That Lugo made these concessions was a fundamental mistake that has proven disastrous. He even approved an antiterrorism law promoted by the U.S. after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. But the right-wing and imperialism are never satisfied with mere concessions. As Che Guevara said, "Al imperialismo, ni un tantito así" ("To imperialism, not even the smallest concession").

Despite the concessions, Lugo was able to make some positive reforms. These included free medicine for the people, subsidies for 20,000 families who live in dire poverty, and free breakfast and lunch in the public school system.

## Role of U.S. government & transnational agribusiness

According to a report Wikileaks released, the U.S. Embassy knew of the possibilities of a coup against Lugo as early as 2009. The report shows that then Vice President Franco spoke with the U.S. ambassador about the possibility of a coup and about his disagreement with Lugo. (elintransigente.com, June 25)

In another concession to the right-wing, Lugo nominated Rubén Candia from the Colorado Party to replace Filizzola as interior minister after the June 15 massacre. Candia was justice minister under right-wing President Nicanor Duarte (2003-2008).

In the article "Monsanto golpea en Paraguay: Los muertos de Curuguaty y el juicio político a Lugo" ("Monsanto hits Paraguay: The dead of Curuguaty and the political trial of Lugo") published at rebelion.org, Paraguayan political journalist and author of the book "Los Herederos de Stroessner" ("Stroessner's Heirs") Idilio Méndez Grimaldi wrote that Candia was "accused of having promoted repression against leaders of peasant organizations and popular movements. Candia's nomi-

nation to Attorney

General in 2005 was approved by the then Ambassador of the United States, John F. Keen. Candia was responsible for an increased control by USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] of the Public Prosecutor's Office and was accused in the early days of his government by Fernando Lugo for conspiring against him to remove him from office."

The U.S.-based transnational giant Monsanto is implicated in the events in Paraguay. Monsanto planned to introduce a genetically modified seed for commercial use in the country. Under Lugo's administration, Paraguay's National Service for Plants and Seeds Quality and Health (SENAVE) refused to approve the seed's use.

The right-wing oligarchs favor the dissemination of Monsanto seeds, while the peasantry has been demonstrating against it. The Union of Associations of Producers, a landowners group tied to Monsanto, was preparing a demonstration for June 25 against Lugo to benefit the giant transnational and the "liberalization" of its genetically modified seeds. Obviously, they do not need to protest at this point.

## International diplomacy on both sides

The U.S. State Department called on the Paraguayan people to remain calm. Imperialist Germany and the Pope sent representatives to greet Franco on his first day in office.

Even Latin American countries like the pro-U.S. regimes of Chile, Mexico, Panama and Colombia have expressed concerns about the illegality of the speedy trial against Lugo.

The ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas) countries have released strong condemnations that do not recognize the new government.

Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and many others have recalled their ambassadors. As of June 25, Venezuela said it would cut the export of oil to Paraguay. Foreign ministers attending the Rio+20 conference in Brazil went to Paraguay in an effort to negotiate with the Paraguayan Senate during the hearing, but received a cold shoulder.

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza also went to Paraguay, but the coup-

plotters dismissed his efforts at mediation. The Paraguayan Senate has been the only opposition to the entrance of Venezuela to Mercosur since the economic and political alliance of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay was first proposed in 1991. And now Mercosur has blocked the new Paraguayan government from attending its upcoming summit in Argentina.

UNASUR (Union of South American Nations), an even broader regional trade and coordinating body, whose current temporary president was provided by Paraguay, does not recognize the new government. This international association will transfer the presidency to Peru, where the next meeting will be held on June 27. On June 26, the foreign ministers from the OAS will also meet.

The countries in UNASUR and CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), in an alliance that promotes integration regardless of dissimilar political currents, have been working hard to rely more on their associations and looking less to the U.S. for instructions.

The impact of their response creates problems for Franco. Trade and relations with its neighbors are important for the economy and health of Paraguay.

## Paraguayan people's resistance

Even though the Lugo's administration failure to implement crucial programs, especially strong agrarian reform, had cost him support among the masses, the peasantry is defending the process for which they voted in 2008.

This is a sign of these times. Although an individual can be important, it is not the person behind the presidential office that is the main force behind progressive changes. The popular movements, their resilience and their aim to change their destiny away from imperialist oppression are what marks this new century in Latin America.

Paraguayan forces are regrouping and forming the Front to Defend Democracy, which met June 25 to plan a course of action. They held a press conference with Lugo after the meeting to announce their actions: Starting mobilizations on June 26 at a national level with the intention of eventually converging in Asunción; distributing flyers with information; having a presence in the streets and plazas; and organizing events, etc. They also set up a web page. [paraguayresiste.com](http://paraguayresiste.com).

Already in several parts of Paraguay people have set up roadblocks or taken other actions. The workers of the National Public TV, which was invaded by the new government's forces that shut down production, have set up a "Micrófono Abierto" ("Open Mic") in the street where the people can speak about the situation in the country.

The website [desdeparaguay.com/tvpublica](http://desdeparaguay.com/tvpublica) can be viewed live via the internet, where moving testimonies are given, including Lugo's. It recalls the first few days of the Honduran coup against President Zelaya. Even a popular slogan chanted in Honduras is repeated here: "Si este no es el pueblo, el pueblo dónde está" ("If this is not the people, where do you think the people are?")

The people of Paraguay have the immense solidarity of progressive movements all over the world. Statements of solidarity are constantly received through the internet.

¡El pueblo vencerá! The people will win!



# The U.S. & Syria: Facts you should know

By Joyce Chediak

*The following timeline reviews the progression of U.S.-NATO intervention in Syria and counteracts the Big Lie in the corporate media aimed at preparing open imperialist military aggression against the Syrian people.*

## Sanctions follow establishing opposition

- Washington has funneled money to a right-wing Syrian opposition group since at least 2005. (Washington Post, April 16, 2011)
- The U.S. reopened its embassy in Damascus in January 2011 after six years. This was no thaw in relations. The new ambassador, Robert S. Ford, who served until October 2011, is a protégé of John Negroponte, who organized death squads in El Salvador in the 1970s and in Iraq while ambassador there in 2004-05. There terror squads killed tens of thousands. Ford served directly under Negroponte at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.
- Ford “played a central role in laying the groundwork within Syria as well as establishing contacts with opposition groups.” Two months after he arrived in Damascus, the armed insurgency began. (Global Research, May 28)
- Armed opposition to Bashar al-Assad began in March 2011 in Daraa, a small town on the Jordanian border. Mass protest movements usually start in large population centers. Later, Saudi Arabia admitted sending weapons to the opposition via Jordan. (RT, March 13)
- The U. S. and its NATO allies used grassroots protests in Egypt, Syria and elsewhere as a cover to build support for right-wing insurgencies whose goal was not to help the Syrian people but to bring Syria into the pro-imperialist camp. Any excesses or mistakes by the Assad government were not the real issue.
- The Arab League, European Union and U.S. begin imposing economic sanctions, a form of warfare, against Syria in November 2011 on the pretext of stopping state-sanctioned violence against protesters. Stepped-up sanctions and freezing of Syrian assets caused the value of the Syrian pound to drop by 50 percent against the dollar, with the cost of necessities often tripling.
- Exiles who received U.S. funding became part of the Syrian National Council. SNC’s Burhan Ghalioun said he would open up Syria to the West, end Syria’s strategic relationship with Iran (and with the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance), and realign Syria with the reactionary Arab regimes in the Gulf. (Wall Street Journal, Dec. 2, 2011)

## U.S. & NATO escalate involvement

- Ex-CIA agent Philip Giraldi admitted that the U.S. was involved in Syria and laid out the U.S. plan: “NATO is already clandestinely engaged in the Syrian conflict, with Turkey taking the lead as U.S. proxy. Ankara’s foreign minister, Ahmet Davitoglu, has openly admitted that his country is prepared to invade as soon as there is agreement among the Western allies to do so. The intervention would be based on humanitarian principles, to defend the civilian population based on the ‘responsibility to protect’

doctrine that was invoked to justify Libya.” (theamericanconservative.com, Dec. 19, 2011)

- Giraldi continued: “Unmarked NATO warplanes are arriving at Turkish military bases close to ... the Syrian border, delivering weapons from the late Muammar Gaddafi’s arsenals as well as volunteers from the Libyan Transitional National Council who are experienced in pitting local volunteers against trained soldiers. ... French and British special forces trainers are on the ground, assisting the Syrian rebels while the CIA and U.S. Spec Ops are providing communications equipment and intelligence. ...
- “The frequently cited United Nations report that more than 3,500 civilians have been killed by Assad’s soldiers is based largely on rebel sources and is uncorroborated. Likewise, accounts of mass defections from the Syrian Army and pitched battles between deserters and loyal soldiers appear to be a fabrication, with few defections being confirmed independently. Syrian government claims that it is being assaulted by rebels who are armed, trained, and financed by foreign governments are more true than false.”
- The “Free Syrian Army” has rear bases in Turkey, is funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and is made up of defecting Syrian soldiers. Spiegel Online sites a source in Beirut who reports seeing “hundreds of foreign fighters” who have attached themselves to the FSA.” (Feb. 15)
- The U.N.-mandated commission of inquiry, in its February 2012 report, documented torture, taking of hostages, and executions by armed opposition members.
- The first heavy fighting in Syria’s capital, Damascus, started in March. Pipelines were blown up, and huge explosions ripped through intelligence and security buildings in Christian areas on March 16, killing at least 27 people. The Syrian government charged then that terrorist attacks supported from abroad have been responsible for eight car bomb attacks since December, killing 328 and wounding 657. This got little Western media attention.
- Human Rights Watch on March 20 accused armed Syrian opposition members of “Kidnappings, the use of torture and executions ... of security force members, individuals identified as members of government-supported militias, and individuals identified as government allies and supporters.”
- In the Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs, the armed opposition has formed its own laws, courts and death squads, according to Spiegel Online. Abu Rami, an opposition commander in Baba Amir, interviewed by Spiegel, said in the city of Homs his group has executed between 200 and 250 people. (March 29)
- In 2004, Annan gave U.N. approval to the U.S., French and Canadian intervention that deposed Haiti’s President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Annan’s stated reasons were the same then as now in Syria: an alleged impending “humanitarian catastrophe.” Annan provided a similar U.N. cover for France to tighten its colonial grasp on the Ivory Coast in 2006. In Syria, Annan’s calls for a Syrian government ceasefire and for outside “humanitarian” aid are really calls for foreign intervention.
- Syria agreed to an Annan-brokered ceasefire March 27. The opposition refused. While the Western heads of state and the corporate media heaped blame on Assad for “not honoring” the ceasefire, the West kept arming the opposition.
- What the U.S. government really thought of the ceasefire was revealed by Robert Grenier, former director of the CIA’s Counter-Terrorism Center, who called upon those who would “help” Syria “to climb metaphorically into the ring and dirty themselves,” adding, “what the situation needs is not high-minded sentiments, but effective, lethal aid.” (Al Jazeera, March 29)
- As the imperialists “climbed into the ring,” they continued to blame Assad. Speaking at an anti-Assad “Friends of Syria” meeting in Istanbul on April 1, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Assad had “defiled” the ceasefire. She called for Damascus to unilaterally stop fighting and withdraw from areas of heavy right-wing infiltration. She said the U.S had pledged at least \$25 million in “nonlethal” aid to the Syrian opposition, which included satellite communication equipment.
- By May, the reactionaries “have begun receiving significantly more and better weapons ... paid for by Persian Gulf nations and coordinated ... by the U.S.” (Washington Post, May 15) “The Syrian rebels have received their first ‘third generation’ anti-tank weapons. They are supplied by Saudi and Qatari intelligence agencies following a secret message from President Barack Obama.” (debkafile.com, May 22)

## The Houla massacre

- Right before a scheduled visit to Syria by Annan, news broke of a horrible massacre of 108 people in Houla on May 25, which included whole families and as many as 48 children. Headlines worldwide blamed the Syrian government, and all Western capitals called for increased sanctions and more international pressure on Assad.
- By May 27, the imperialists had coordinated their “international outrage” and expelled Syrian diplomats from the U.S., the Netherlands, Australia, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and Canada.
- The U.N. Security Council reacted to the massacre — with no investigation as to who was responsible — by unanimously condemning Syria for allegedly using tanks and artillery after agreeing to a ceasefire. Ignored were statements from the Assad government that it was not responsible. A closer look showed this was the case.
- Marat Musin, reporting for Russia’s ANNA News, was in Houla and interviewed witnesses right after the massacre. Musin determined that the massacre was committed by the so-called Free Syrian Army, not the Assad forces. His report concluded: “The attack was carried out by a unit of armed fighters from Rastan, in which more than 700 gunmen were involved. They brought the city under their control and began with a cleansing action against loyalist [pro-Assad] families, including elderly people, women and also children. The dead were presented to ... the U.N. and the ‘international community’ as victims of the Syrian army.” (May 31) The conservative German newspaper, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, corroborated the ANNA report on June 7.
- Residents knew many of the killers by name and identified them as local criminal elements now working for the FSA. (Syria News, May 31) Anti-Assad forces then posed as villagers and invited the U.N. observers in. Some put on uniforms of the Syrian soldiers they had killed and said they were defectors.
- A widely shown photo of dozens of shrouded bodies, which the BBC first presented as the aftermath of Houla, was really taken by photographer Marco di Lauro in Iraq in March 2003.
- BBC world news editor Jon Williams admitted in his blog June 7 that there was no evidence whatsoever to identify either the Syrian Army or Alawite militias as the perpetrators of the May 25 massacre. United Kingdom’s Channel 4 senior reporter Alex Thomson said June 7 that the opposition led him into a line of fire and tried to get him killed by Syrian military forces so it would “look bad” for Assad.
- There has been no independent investigation of Houla to date, yet at a June 7 meeting, Annan and current U.N. General Secretary Ban Ki-moon again made statements putting the responsibility for the Houla massacre on Assad.
- Major General Robert Mood, head of the U.N. Supervision Mission in Syria, suspended patrols of the 300-member team on June 16, citing “spiraling violence in restive areas.” The suspension was right before the G-20 Summit in Mexico, providing another opportunity for imperialism to criticize Assad.
- In initial remarks, Annan called the Houla massacre the “tipping point.” The deaths at Houla have been used by the U.S. and NATO to more aggressively and openly organize for Assad’s overthrow. U.S. officials and Arab intelligence officers admit that the CIA is in southern Turkey funneling weapons to the FSA. It is also there to “make new sources and recruit people.” (New York Times, June 21)
- As a result, “The onetime ragtag militias of the Syrian opposition are developing into a more effective fighting force with the help of an increasingly sophisticated network of activists here in southern Turkey that is smuggling crucial supplies across the border including weapons, communication gear, field hospitals and even salaries for soldiers who defect. The network reflects an effort to forge an opposition movement ... that together can not only defeat ... Assad but also replace his government.” (New York Times, June 26)

## U.N. steps in

- Former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan went to Syria in March at the behest of the U.N. and Arab League to put together a peace proposal. But Annan and the U.N. are not impartial. Annan is an architect of the “responsibility to protect” doctrine, cited by former CIA agent Giraldi as the planned pretext for intervention in Syria. The U.N. endorsed this doctrine under Annan’s tenure.

**WORKERS WORLD**  
 editorial

# Immigrants & the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has upheld the most onerous part of Arizona's 2010 punitive law on immigration — the part that authorizes police to check the immigration status of anyone they stop or arrest if they have reason to suspect that person is here without documents.

Everyone knows that this means racial profiling. Even President Barack Obama said as much, and is being attacked for it by the right-wing. In Arizona, it means you are "profiled" if you look like you come from Mexico or other parts of Latin America.

But there is another aspect to this that's not often mentioned. It also means looking like you're a worker. While it is certainly possible that a racist cop might harass a person driving an expensive car or eating in an expensive restaurant for "looking Mexican," that's not the main purpose of this decision.

The court's decision is aimed at the working class in this country, which has been under vicious attack and losing ground to union-busting, wage and benefit cuts, a shift to part-time and "temporary" work — and many other practices meant to squeeze the greatest profits out of the fewest workers. An organized, militant response is the only way to stop this race to the bottom. The bosses know this, and this is where their repressive state comes in.

Laws like the one in Arizona are meant to terrorize the most vulnerable workers, those who are so horribly exploited that they would be in revolt were it not for the threat of jail and deportation, affecting not only them but their families, too. Even with all this repression, however, immigrant workers have been in the forefront of some of the most militant class struggles of the last decade. They can be found in union-organizing drives, plant takeovers, the revival of May Day to celebrate the workers' struggles around the world — and the bosses hate that.

What is the Supreme Court anyway, that it should have such power? It is the leading body of one of the three branches of the U.S. government — the executive, the legislative and the judicial — that supposedly balance each other out,

thus keeping any one arm from being too powerful. Often called "checks and balances," this is praised as the best of all possible political systems, a paragon of democracy.

In reality, it is a system well suited to the rule of the super-rich capitalist class, which imposes its domination over the working class through the capitalist state, especially its "armed bodies of men" — the courts, the police and the military.

This Supreme Court ruling on immigration comes during a year when both the presidency (the executive arm) and most of the Congress (the legislative arm) are up for election. The strategists for both capitalist ruling parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, know that the Latino/a vote is very important in determining the outcome. Even though the Obama administration has deported more people than ever before, Obama has taken several steps recently considered favorable to immigrants, like allowing some undocumented young people brought here by their parents to stay for a number of years.

And even Mitt Romney, who has baited Obama on immigration, attacking the president from the right, has softened his rhetoric recently.

It is all with an eye to the elections.

So the third arm of the capitalist state — the Supreme Court — has stepped up to attack immigrant workers for them. Why the Supreme Court? Because its nine members are not elected, they're appointed for life. They can carry out the will of the ruling class and not worry that they'll be dumped in the next election. It is the most undemocratic body imaginable, and it can play the role of defending the vital interests of the capitalist class in critical moments because it is accountable to no one.

Five out of eight Supreme Court justices signed onto this ruling — including those considered more "liberal." (A ninth member of the court didn't participate.) This shows once again that all the time, energy and money that so many unions and progressive organizations spend on electing Democrats has little effect.

The mass struggle is the only thing the ruling class and its representatives listen to — because they have to.

## Guevara – A Poem

Author, poet and filmmaker Nadja Tesich submitted the poem, "Guevara," translated from Serbian, for publication in *Workers World*. We know Tesich from our common work attempting to defend her homeland, Yugoslavia, from an unrelenting assault by the imperialist governments of Western Europe and the United States.

Tragically for most of the peoples of the Balkans, these years ended with the imposed disintegration of a once-sovereign socialist country into a half-dozen mini-states, now neocolonies of the NATO powers.

Tesich, whose family emigrated from Yugoslavia to the U.S. when she was a young teenager, has had four novels published: "Shadow Partisan" in 1996, "Native Land" in 1998, "To Die in Chicago" in 2010 and "Far from Vietnam" in 2012.

It is particularly striking to read "Shadow Partisan" and "To Die in Chicago" one after the other. The novels contrast on a close and personal level a hopeful coming-of-age in newly socialist Yugoslavia in the late 1940s with a clear-eyed immigrant's view of U.S. racism and a consumer-driven society without a future in the 1950s.

The poem "Guevara" has been published in *CubaNews*.

### GUEVARA

If death comes  
 may it be welcome,  
 others will replace me  
 he said once.  
 His beautiful face  
 killed by U.S. mercenaries and CIA  
 in Bolivia, La Higuera.  
 Yet his face  
 is all over América Latina  
 next to Christ  
 in every peasant hut.  
 Che never died,  
 in death he grew  
 and grew and grew.



Nadja Tesich

## SOMALIA

# U.S. issues bounties for resistance leaders

## White House 'kill list' grows while scrutiny of drone attacks deepens

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

U.S. military intervention in Africa has been further exposed for the imperialist project that it truly is when in early June the State Department issued bounties for the capture of several leading resistance figures in Somalia. The U.S. is backing the Transitional Federal Government based in Mogadishu, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

The African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) is largely staffed by Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti and Sierra Leone troops, which have been trained, armed and coordinated through the U.S. Africa Command (Africom). Their goal is to take control of Somalia from the al-Shabab Islamic organization that has been battling the U.S.-armed and – supported armies for more than five years.

In addition to AMISOM, the Ethiopian military and the Kenyan Defense Forces have entered the theater of war in Somalia through the central and southern areas of the Horn of Africa nation. U.S. drone attacks are aimed against Somalis under the guise of "targeted assassinations" of suspected "terrorists."

Hundreds have been killed this year in drone attacks, which murder more civilians than purported combatants from organizations the White House deems as "terrorists." Drone attacks are also being utilized in Yemen, Afghanistan and Pakistan under the same pretense.

The U.S. is offering bounties on key Somali resistance leaders in its attempts to foster even more aggressive tactics in the war. On June 6, the U.S. State Department's "Rewards for Justice" website offered \$7 million for Ahmed Abdi aw-Mohamed and \$5 million for Ibrahim Haji Jama, Fuad Mohamed Khalaz, Bashir Mohamed Mahamoud and Mukhtar Robow. This shows that Washington is fully committed to the policy of targeted assassinations.

Robert Hartung, an assistant director at the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, said, "This is the first time we've had key leaders of al-Shabab as part of the 'Rewards for Justice' program. Every time we add someone to [this] site, that is a signal that the U.S. government is saying that it takes the fight against ter-

rorism very seriously." (Reuters, June 6)

In the same dispatch, Karl Wycoff, deputy assistant secretary of state, claimed, "What we're about in Somalia is a comprehensive broad effort with a variety of partners in the region and around the world to bring stability to Somalia."

The resistance movement responded to the bounties put out on al-Shabab leaders by putting forward their own rewards — of chickens and camels — for the capture of U.S. leaders, including the president and the secretary of state.

### Drone attacks kill 39

Press TV reported that drone attacks killed 39 people in Somalia on June 22. The deaths took place when two of these unpowered weapons struck a strong al-Shabab training base at Harweyne in Elasha Biyaha, outside Mogadishu.

The strike on an al-Shabab training facility is part of an offensive which was launched against the organization in 2011, as AMISON expanded and Kenya, France, Israel and Ethiopia intervened in the conflict.

This drone attack follows a similar pattern of such deadly assaults, which are carried out regularly in Somalia hitting internally displaced persons camps and other civilian areas.

On June 25, Press TV reported that Jo Becker and Scott Shane wrote in the *New York Times* that the U.S. president maintains a list of who is to be killed by drones, in consultation with counterterrorism adviser, John O. Brennan.

Although the U.S. is not legally at war with Somalia, Yemen or Pakistan, through a congressional act, these killings continue. Since 2004, 300 drone strikes have been launched in Pakistan and untold numbers in Yemen.

Despite election year claims of winding down the imperialist war in Central Asia, drone attacks are escalating. Anti-war organizations in the U.S. have taken up this issue but much remains to be done to apply pressure on the government and Congress to stop these deadly and illegal acts of war. □

"With the capitalist system demonstrably unfair, it is useful, indeed refreshing, to see a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on working people. Fred Goldstein does exactly that."  
 —Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*

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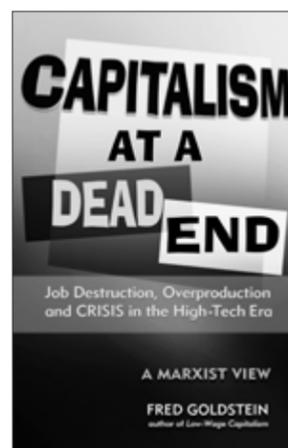
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## Rio+20 Summit

# No agreement on sustainable development

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

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, hailed as the largest U.N. conference ever held, ended on June 22 after more than a week of speeches, but with no specific timetables or achievable goals.

Held in Rio de Janeiro 20 years after the first Earth Summit in the same city, the conference, informally called Rio+20, was supposed to tackle the formidable problems of climate change, now an acknowledged fact.

It was attended by more than 45,000 people from around the globe, representing 190 countries. At least 100 heads of state articulated their views on the environment, economic development and the balance of power between the industrialized capitalist states and the so-called developing countries.

But a 49-page document entitled “The Future We Want,” which was released after the summit, did not commit to any concrete solutions.

At the end of the Copenhagen climate-change summit of 2009, African countries walked out to protest the inability of the developed states to take responsibility for global warming and its impact on the continent.

### ‘Talk shop’ fails to address poverty

This time many nongovernmental organizations and so-called civil society groups condemned the event as another talk shop that would not bring about any tangible improvement in the conditions of poverty and underdevelopment inflicting billions of people around the world.

The two most militaristic imperialist

powers, the United States and Britain, did not bother to send their top leaders to address the conference. Barack Obama, who sent Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, was busy trying to assure his reelection. David Cameron, who sent his Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, was submerged in the worsening sovereign debt crisis in Europe that threatens to engulf the continent and other parts of the world in another capitalist downturn, with even graver implications than the one from 2007 to 2009.

When Clegg appeared on a giant screen at the food court outside the gathering, his image was met with hisses and boos — an indication of the anti-Western sentiment at the conference.

Bo Normander, European director of Worldwatch Institute, said, “I want more of the future than this agreement’s long list of platitudes and feeling-good rhetoric.” (Irish Times, June 25)

In regard to the section on the “green economy” included in Chapter 3, Normander noted that “the description is ambiguous, unambitious and immeasurable [and] there are no specific targets or commitments which can bind countries to do something. The EU should not have accepted it.”

The document does not contain any commitments to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, worth an estimated \$1 trillion internationally. Justin Kilcullen, director of the Irish charity Trocaire, devoted to working for a just world, pointed out that levying taxes on financial transactions, “which could generate billions in revenue each year to eliminate poverty and tackle climate change,” was not mandated.

Over the last two decades conditions related to the environment and the class

divisions between rich and poor have worsened. The Earth Summit of 1992 put forward significant ideas exposing the problems of climate change and biodiversity as well as the need to eradicate poverty and achieve social justice.

Nonetheless, since 1992, global emissions have increased by 48 percent, while the world population has grown by 1.6 billion, with no real plans to provide food, water, shelter, education and economic resources for these people. Over the last several years, more uncertainty has developed due to the multi-trillion-dollar debt crisis, the rise in unemployment and the many NATO and U.S. military interventions in Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

### Alternative approaches from Africa & Latin America

However, two speeches, delivered by the presidents of Zimbabwe and Cuba, did shed light on the current crisis as well as show a way forward for the majority of people throughout the world.

President Robert Mugabe of the Republic of Zimbabwe said that the imperialist states are almost in denial about the severity of the current situation. He called for “the complete overhaul of the global economic and financial governance structures so that they are more responsive to the needs of poor states, particularly those that are more vulnerable.”

President Raul Castro Ruz of Cuba observed: “What could have been considered alarmist, today constitutes an irrefutable reality. The inability to transform unsustainable models of production and consumption is threatening the balance and regeneration of natural mechanisms which sustain life forms on the planet.”

(Granma International, June 22)

President Castro continued, “The effects cannot be hidden. Species are becoming extinct at a speed one hundred times faster than those indicated in fossil records; more than 5 million hectares of forests are lost every year; and close to 60 percent of ecosystems are degraded.”

The Cuban leader concluded by emphasizing, “The only alternative is to build more just societies; to establish a more equitable international order based on respect for the rights of all; to ensure the sustainable development of nations, especially those of the South; and place advances in science and technology at the service of the salvation of the planet and human dignity.”

### Capitalism is unsustainable

It is the world capitalist system that is causing monumental problems throughout the globe. These abuses, involving exploitation and oppression of both human society and the natural environment, which are largely dictated by the developed capitalist states, affect the overwhelming majority of the world’s people, especially those in the developing countries.

The problems of environmental degradation, poverty and hunger will not be overcome without the overthrow of international finance capital and its surrogates. The profitability of capitalism is derived from these very problems that imperialists claim they are committed to alleviating.

Inside the industrialized states, the workers and oppressed must work vigorously to bring about fundamental economic change. □

## Petitions Hague court

# Group charges NATO with crimes against African peoples

By **Dolores Cox**  
The Hague, Netherlands

A delegation of the Pan-African Solidarity Hague Committee from throughout the African Diaspora made a historic trip to The Hague on June 18 to present a legal petition to Fatou Bensouda of Gambia, the newly appointed chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

The petition demanded that the ICC investigate and prosecute the United States, Britain, France, Italy and other NATO countries for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Africa and its Diaspora, committed in violation of international laws. A press conference was held on the steps of the ICC informing the media of the delegation’s mission.

The petition charges these countries with the following crimes: the 2004 U.S.-led overthrow of the duly elected president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide; the U.S./NATO-led invasion of Libya and the overthrow and assassination of its leader, Col. Moammar Gadhafi; sanctions levied on Zimbabwe to punish its president, Robert Mugabe, for returning to the Indigenous people land stolen by white settlers; France’s intervention in Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) to capture and arrest its president, Laurent Gbagbo; and the institutional racism inflicted upon the Black population of the U.S., specifically in regard to racial profiling, stop-and-

frisk and incarceration rates.

At a July 2011 forum in New York City, a campaign had been launched by the December 12th Movement International Secretariat to expose the West’s campaign to recolonize Africa and Africans and to seek peace and justice. This was followed by a successful International Peoples Tribunal, which convened at Columbia University’s School of Law in January 2012.

At that tribunal, evidence of political, economic and military assaults facing Africa and the Diaspora, primarily in Libya, Haiti, Côte d’Ivoire, Zimbabwe and the U.S., was presented in the context of war crimes and violations of international law and the Geneva Convention by the Western powers.

A panel of judges ruled that a prima facie case had been made against the U.S., Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Spain, et al. Specific charges included the coup d’état against President Aristide and the occupation of Haiti; the invasion of Libya and the assassination of Col. Gadhafi; the overthrow of the government of Côte d’Ivoire; and the illegal sanctions against the government and people of Zimbabwe. The tribunal findings were the basis for the petition submitted to the ICC.

Following delivery of the petition, the delegation held an African-American International Conference at Erasmus University’s International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, sponsored by the

December 12th Movement, the International Association Against Torture and the university’s International Relations Committee.

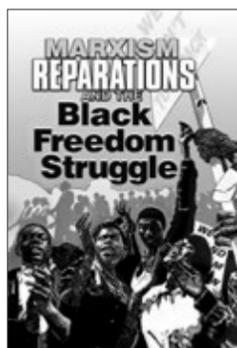
The conference addressed the question of the ICC becoming another weapon in the Western countries’ campaign, under imperialist control, to recolonize Africa and African people; the apparent immunity of NATO’s “peacekeepers” for war crimes and other willful violations of international law; and the role played by the media regarding social justice from an African perspective. The matter of the ICC seeming to be about power and politics, not justice, was also discussed. During its 10-year history, the ICC has prosecuted only Africans.

Presenters at the conference included attorney Roger Wareham, international secretary-general for the International Association Against Torture; minister Akbar Muhammad, international affairs

specialist of the Nation of Islam; attorney David Comissiong, president of the Barbados Clement Payne Movement; Baffour Ankomah, editor of New African magazine; and attorney Richard Harvey, United Kingdom international law specialist.

While in The Hague, the delegation participated in a large rally held by supporters of President Gbagbo, who had come in busloads from Paris. They expressed concern about whether he was still alive, since his capture and imprisonment in The Hague. That day was the date of Gbagbo’s expected hearing. However, the hearing was postponed until August. They plan to continue their protests and to organize globally.

The December 12th Movement plans a campaign in support of Gbagbo and in defense of the sovereignty of his country. The group will also soon hold a community reportback in New York on the trip to The Hague that will include a discussion of which way forward. □



## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.  
Edited by Monica Moorehead.

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## Obama reacciona a la lucha de inmigración

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

El Presidente Barack Obama hizo un anuncio importante sobre la política de inmigración el 15 de junio.

Obama anunció que había firmado una ley de postergación de deportaciones que podría permitir a decenas de miles de jóvenes indocumentados/as permanecer en los Estados Unidos sin temor a una deportación y concederles el derecho a solicitar permisos de trabajo. Esta normativa podría proporcionar alivio de deportación a cerca de 800.000 jóvenes inmigrantes.

Según una hoja informativa del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, para poder ser elegibles bajo esta nueva acta las personas deben:

- Haber llegado a los Estados Unidos antes de la edad de 16 años
- Haber residido continuamente en los Estados Unidos antes del 15 de junio y estar presente en los Estados Unidos en esta fecha
- Estar actualmente en la escuela, haberse graduado de escuela secundaria, tener un certificado del GED, haber sido dado de baja honorablemente de la Guardia Costanera o de las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos.
- No haber sido condenado/a de “una felonía, un delito menor significativo, múltiples delitos menores o plantear una amenaza a la seguridad nacional o seguridad pública”
- No ser mayor de los 30 años de edad

### ¿Qué llevó a este anuncio?

La acción de Obama fue el resultado de la lucha de los/as Soñadores/as (Dream-

ers), los/as miles de jóvenes indocumentados/as que por más de 10 años han venido organizándose para que se apruebe la ley DREAM. Esta pieza de legislación federal proporcionaría la legalización a los/as niños/as que habían llegado a Estados Unidos antes de los 15 años de edad y cumplieren con otros criterios.

Los/as Soñadores/as han salido a las calles audaz y valientemente presentándose como “indocumentados/as y sin miedo”. Han celebrado mítines y manifestaciones, participado en paros laborales y se han encadenado a oficinas; han celebrado simulacros de ceremonias de graduación y han hecho grandes sacrificios para obtener la atención del gobierno así como del movimiento por los derechos de inmigrantes.

Aunque el anuncio de Obama trajo una reacción instantánea de la derecha sobre la concesión de “Amnistía” a los/as indocumentados/as, los/as activistas pro derechos de los/as inmigrantes fueron cautelosos sobre el anuncio.

Muchos/as señalaron que otros anuncios favorables a los/as indocumentados/as, como la declaración del año pasado sobre el uso de “la discreción en el enjuiciamiento”, realmente no han sido aplicadas. De hecho, los/as inmigrantes dicen que sólo alrededor del 1 por ciento de los casos fueron cerrados como resultado de tal discreción.

Y es un año electoral. Muchos/as cuestionan los motivos tras el anuncio.

El Consejo de Liderazgo Juvenil del estado de Nueva York declaró en un comunicado de prensa: “Hasta que Obama no firme un decreto verdadero que detenga inmediatamente la deportación de todos/as

los/as jóvenes indocumentados/as, los/as jóvenes en toda la nación continuarán ocupando oficinas exigiendo que el Presidente Obama firme la orden. La recomendación de La Discreción en el Enjuiciamiento lamentablemente fue una gran decepción para nosotros/as. Por demasiado tiempo los/as jóvenes indocumentados/as han servido como peones en juegos políticos partidistas”. (nysylc.org, 15 de junio)

Los/as derechistas, Glenn Beck y muchos/as republicanos/as inmediatamente utilizaron el anuncio del Presidente Obama para intensificar la retórica antiinmigrante. Durante la Conferencia de prensa donde Obama hizo su anuncio, se le permitió a un blogger conservador acosar a Obama, gritando, ¿“Y qué de empleos para los americanos”?

Esto es una hipocresía, pues la extrema derecha está utilizando la terrible crisis de desempleo como un pretexto demagógico para dividir a los/as trabajadores/as. A pesar de la retórica de la extrema derecha, el anuncio de Obama no significa la legalización para los/as 800.000 jóvenes que podrían verse afectados/as.

Una declaración emitida por la Coalición del Primero de Mayo por los Derechos de Obreros e Inmigrantes de Nueva York dice: “Los/as más de 14 millones de indocumentados/as en este país se han ganado la legalización. La política exterior y económica de EE.UU. es primeramente la causa principal de la migración forzada desde América Latina, el Caribe, Asia y África. Y este anuncio viene mientras esperamos el resultado del fallo de la Corte Suprema sobre la ley SB1070 de Arizona, que es el uso del perfil racial al extremo. No se espera un fallo favor-

able [para los/as indocumentados/as]; esa decisión forzaría a que los/as indocumentados/as se condujeran aún más a la clandestinidad y estarían expuestos/as a una explotación más extrema como por ejemplo el robo de salario masivo”.

La declaración continúa diciendo: “El anuncio del Presidente también se da mientras continúa la militarización de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, resultando en más muertes en la frontera. Y nuestra juventud sigue siendo objeto de ataques, incluyendo muertes como la de Trayvon Martin y Anastacio Hernández-Reyes. (Para obtener una copia de la declaración o para informarse más acerca de la coalición, visite [may1.info](http://may1.info)).

El lema “Sí se puede” (“Yes, we can”) se convirtió en un grito de guerra nacional en 2006 como resultado del aumento masivo de inmigrantes marchando por sus derechos. “Sí se puede” sigue siendo una demanda hoy. Se debería aunar a “la lucha continúa” dado que los/as inmigrantes y sus simpatizantes están decididos/as a ganar no sólo la legalización de todos/as los/as indocumentados/as, pero también los derechos de todos/as los/as trabajadores/as — no sólo para la juventud que busca entrar a la universidad, sino también para cada jornalero/as, trabajadora doméstica o trabajador/a de la construcción alrededor del país. Claramente se necesita urgentemente un enorme movimiento de Poder Popular que una a todos/as los/as trabajadores/as en una lucha por su vida.

Gutiérrez es co-coordinadora de la Coalición del Primero de Mayo por Derechos Obreros y de Inmigrantes de Nueva York. □

## Día Nacional de acción en solidaridad con Honduras

### 28 DE JUNIO

El Colectivo Honduras USA Resistencia-Libre y el Comité de Solidaridad con América Latina y el Caribe del Centro de Acción Internacional están apoyando un llamado de la Red de Solidaridad con Honduras para un Día Nacional de Acción el 28 de junio. La fecha marcará tres años de resistencia al golpe de estado de 2009 en Honduras contra el Presidente Manuel Zelaya.

En la ciudad de Nueva York, los/as activistas se reunirán el 28 de junio a las 4:00 de la tarde en Times Square, en la Calle 41 y la Séptima Avenida para luego marchar a las 5:00 pm a la Misión de Honduras en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas en la Primera Avenida y la Calle 48. Las demandas incluyen poner fin a las violaciones de los derechos humanos y la impunidad bajo el régimen represivo de Lobo Sosa y la salida del imperialismo estadounidense de Honduras.

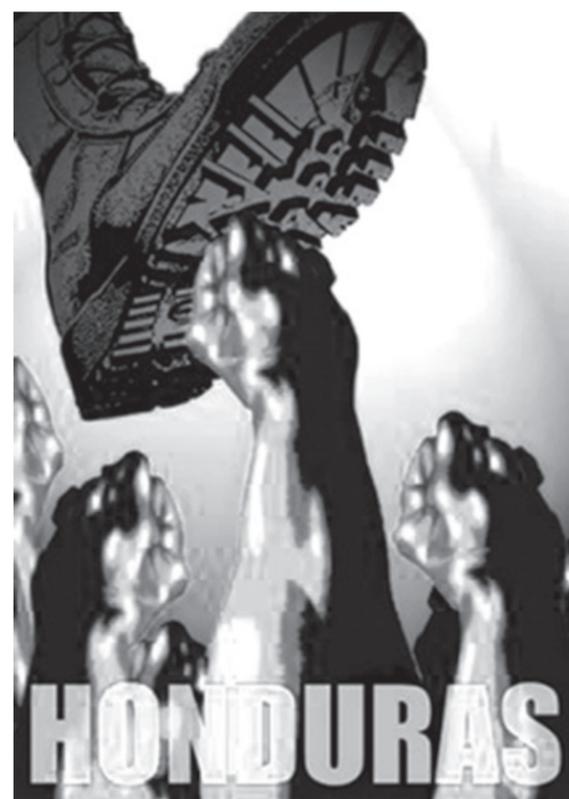
Las siguientes son partes de la declaración de la Red de Solidaridad con Honduras:

“Tras el golpe del 28 de junio de 2009 en Honduras que derrocó al presidente Manuel Zelaya, democráticamente elegido, surgió un valiente movimiento unitario para luchar por la democracia y la justicia en Honduras. Este movimiento ha continuado después de las elecciones falsas en 2010 que resultaron en ‘seleccionar’ al defacto presidente Pepe Lobo.

“Nosotros/as en los Estados Unidos tenemos una responsabilidad especial de tomar acción dado el vergonzoso apoyo del gobierno [de EE.UU.] al golpe de estado ilegal y su involucramiento en la terrible militarización, violencia e impunidad que no solo continúan sino que se han intensificado. Mientras los sindicatos, estudiantes, campesinos/as, y maestros/as siguen luchando

por la justicia, y el nuevo partido político de la resistencia, LIBRE (Partido de la Libertad y la Refundación), se está organizando para competir contra los golpistas y la oligarquía en las próximas elecciones, están aumentando las violaciones de los derechos humanos y la violencia contra el pueblo.

- Más de 50 campesinos/as han sido asesinados/as en la región del Aguán en la costa norte desde las elecciones de 2010.
- Por lo menos 12 profesores/as de la oposición han sido asesinados/as o desaparecidos/as desde el golpe de estado.
- Más de 23 periodistas y por lo menos 42 GBLTI [gay, bisexuales, lesbianas, transexuales e intersexuales] han sido asesinados/as desde el golpe de estado.
- Continúan los asesinatos políticos de los/as activistas de la resistencia. El 1º de mayo, un miembro de la organización del pueblo indígena Lenca, COPINH, Santos Alberto Domínguez, de 24 años, fue asesinado por las tropas de la Policía Nacional en San Bartolo. El 20 de mayo, Jesús Pineda, miembro del FNRP (Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular) y del partido LIBRE, fue asesinado en San Pedro Sula.
- Siguen las amenazas de muerte contra defensores/as de los derechos humanos. Desde febrero hasta fines de abril, Dina Meza, miembro de la organización de derechos humanos COFADEH, recibió numerosas amenazas de violencia sexual, y el proyecto estadounidense de acompañamiento por los derechos humanos (PROAH-HAP) también recibió amenazas de muerte a través de mensajes de texto.



- La participación de EE.UU. está creciendo. El 11 de mayo una operación estadounidense antidroga (dirigida por la Agencia Antinarcoóticos de los EE.UU.) en la región de Muskitia abrió fuego contra pobladores locales que estaban en una lancha, matando a cuatro personas, incluyendo a dos mujeres embarazadas, e hiriendo a otras. Estados Unidos provee capacitación, entrenamiento, equipamiento y dinero a la policía nacional y al ejército hondureño que están involucrados en violaciones de los derechos humanos”. □