

# To save Mother Earth Change the system

By **Teresa Gutierrez**

Progressive and liberal-thinking intellectuals have noted that the issue of global warming is so critical that it is “the biggest issue of our or any time” and that if environmental catastrophe “isn’t going to be averted, then in a generation or two, everything else we’re talking about won’t matter.” (Counterpunch, Feb. 9)

Despite the climate deniers in Washington, it is absolutely true that the capitalist system’s long war on Mother Earth is creating devastation of epic proportions. A genuine, worldwide humanitarian crisis exists as a result of climate change, and it will only intensify as the planet continues to warm.

Billions of people are and will be affected, primarily people of color, as the oppressed continue to live with the ravishing effects of colonial and imperialist domination.

**What are the immediate tasks activists can fight for to address this crisis?**

Call for disarming the Pentagon; end all U.S. wars of intervention. Hands off Syria, north Korea, Afghanistan and Venezuela.

Money for social services, not war.

Fight for more than the Paris Accords; fight for real sustainability.

Return Standing Rock and all Indigenous land to their original owners.

Support #NoDAPL; demand money for union jobs producing renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

Take the lead from Cuba and China, which incorporate fighting the consequences of climate change and phasing out dependence on fossil fuels into their economic plans.

Full reparations for victims of climate change, including survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; take the money from Big Oil; instead of unnecessary and looting insurance policies, provide affordable, quality housing for all victims of storms, floods and fires, uninsured or not.

March on May Day 2017 and support the call for a strike by immigrants and other workers. No to the wall!

Make the oil corporations and billionaires pay to reverse the terrible damage they have caused.

Fight to change the system; fight for revolutionary socialism!

**Make Doomsday for the capitalists**

In mid-January, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock ahead to two and half minutes before midnight, symbolizing the extreme

danger represented by the Donald Trump administration.

The clock was established in 1947, with “midnight” a symbolic warning that the world is close to a nuclear or existential catastrophe. The clock had been at three minutes to midnight since the early 1980s.

Should activists drop other issues, like the war at home on migrants, police terror or attacks on the working class like Medicaid cuts, to fight for the climate? Should we stop organizing against the Trump administration’s war abroad in Syria, Afghanistan or north Korea?

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BALTIMORE WWP CONFERENCE WW PHOTO

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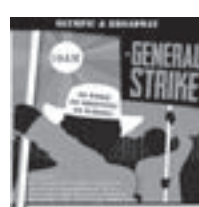
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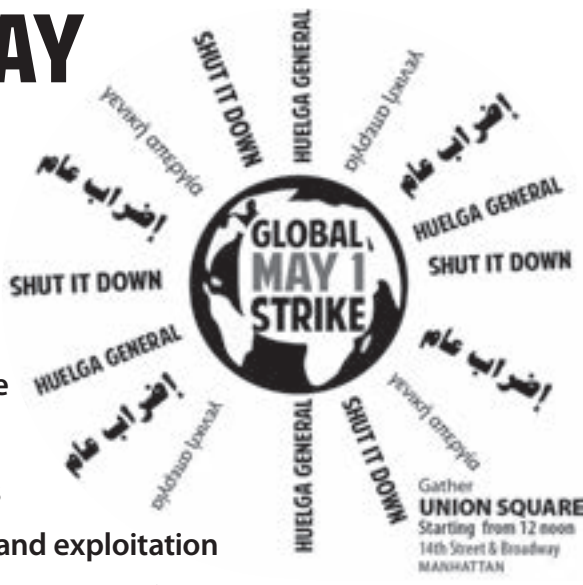
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# ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY

## Build Workers World!



May Day (May 1) is when we:

- 🌐 Honor workers and the oppressed all over the globe
- 🌐 Invite all workers to come out of the shadows
- 🌐 Take our rightful place as the creators of all things
- 🌐 Stand in solidarity against all forms of repression and exploitation
- 🌐 Say that capitalist greed, austerity, misery & war be banished forever
- 🌐 Affirm the need for a revolutionary socialist future

We want what our name stands for — a workers' world where all people are entitled to share in the abundance that this Earth is capable of in peace and plenty.

If this is your vision, your hope, your dream, then join Workers World newspaper in creating that future. Join us in continuing to build a strong, independent, thriving voice that speaks loud and clear for the workers and oppressed around the world. We need your financial support to grow the paper from a modest 12-page weekly printed edition, with daily Web updates, into a more robust paper with color photos, national distribution and greater online capability.

Join the Workers World Supporter Program and help grow the paper. We established the WWSP some 40 years ago so readers could invest in the paper and promote working-class truth needed to make revolutionary

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Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at [workers.org/donate/](http://workers.org/donate/); it's easy to set up monthly deductions. We are grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future!

# WORKERS WORLD

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**ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22 2:30 PM - 7 PM**

**CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF LYNNE STEWART**

At 615 Lexington Ave and 54th St. in Manhattan  
Trains: 6 to 51<sup>st</sup> St.; 4, 5, E, F, N, Q or R to 59<sup>th</sup> St.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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# Baltimore WWP Socialist Conference a resounding success

By Workers World Baltimore Bureau

The atmosphere was vibrant and exciting at the hall packed with young activists attending the April 8 all-day regional conference organized by the Baltimore Chapter of Workers World Party. The themes of the gathering focused on socialism, revolution and fighting national oppression.

Less than an hour into the program, organizers had to set up more tables and chairs at the 2640 Space to accommodate the 120 people who registered. Many expressed interest in joining WWP and attending membership classes.

Participants came mainly from Baltimore and throughout Maryland, Washington, D.C., northern Virginia and the Delmarva Peninsula (includes sections of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia). Delegations from New York City and Philadelphia brought new WWP members.

The conference was an opportunity to discuss revolutionary socialism with the emerging, young, anti-Trump forces who have been marching in the streets. It was also a place to strategize on the next steps given that the gathering was held three weeks before the "Global May Day Strike."

Baltimore NAACP Secretary Sherelle Witherspoon and Archie Slade opened the conference with the Assata Shakur chant. The Rev. CD Witherspoon welcomed attendees to Baltimore. He denounced the two-party system and explained the continuing oppression of the city's poor communities.

## 'Next Step: May Day'

There were two keynote presentations: Monica Moorehead, WWP's 2016 presidential candidate and secretariat member, talked about the revolutionary history of Lucy Parsons, a Black, Indigenous, Mexican labor leader and a founder of May Day in 1886.

Larry Holmes, WWP first secretary, spoke on "Resistance in the Epoch of Trump — Next Step: May Day." Holmes emphasized the need to fight U.S. imperialism, a timely topic since the conference came just one day after the Pentagon missile strikes on Syria.

Rebecka Jackson and Rasika Ruwanpathirana led a special section on "The Artist's Role in Revolution" and previewed "Up. Rise. The Film." Both revolu-



Rebecka Jackson (at mic) with Emily Fields, Women's Fight Back Network

tionary organizers are filmmakers, artists and WWP leaders.

The conference played a special audio message from prisoners incarcerated at Vaughn Prison, site of a recent rebellion in Delaware. Steven Ceci, Baltimore WWP organizer, explained the party's history of supporting prisoners' struggles, beginning with the 1971 Attica prison rebellion.

In addition, there were three panels and floor discussions. The topics were: "Fighting racism, police terror and the war against immigrants — fighting for Black, Indigenous, women's and trans liberation;" "Capitalism is at a dead end, socialism is the future;" and "Stopping the war at home and abroad." Topics included U.S. imperialism and the war on Syria, fighting



Jamie Grace Alexander, transgender activist and poet



Sex Workers Organizing Project organizer GG speaks from floor.

racist and neofascist forces in the U.S., the struggle at home and the impact of governmental budget cuts.

Representatives of Anakbayan-USA, the National U.S. Chapter of Filipino Youth & Students for National Democracy in the Philippines, attended. Obasi, member of Ujima Peoples Progress, spoke from the podium following a special presentation by Cuba solidarity activist Cheryl LaBash, who spoke on "Defending Cuba and Venezuela."

Emily Fields, Towson State University student and Women's Fightback Network representative, and transgender liberation activist Jamie Grace Alexander spoke on the opening panel. Taryn Fivek of WWP gave a presentation on the need to unite anti-capitalist forces, socialists and anarchists against state repression and capitalism. She appealed for support for more than 200 Jan. 20 protesters who face heavy charges stemming from the Washington, D.C., counterinaugural protests.

The floor discussion was lively and interesting. GG, an organizer with Sex Workers Organizing Project, challenged the socialist movement to learn more about sex workers' issues. A student from the Maryland Institute College of Art asked about WWP's definition of socialism versus Bernie Sanders' "socialism." Another young ac-

tivist wanted to know about WWP's view on armed struggle.

## Join Workers World Party!

Students from Johns Hopkins University reported on worker exploitation on their campus and were eager to learn more about socialism. The group connected with a presentation by Jennifer Garrison, of Philadelphia WWP, who spoke on organizing coffee shop workers to participate in the May Day strike.

At the closing session, the audience rose to their feet to applaud the rousing talk given by Tawanda Jones, whose brother was killed by Baltimore City Police. Lee Patterson, Baltimore WWP organizer, told of members' weekly work and stressed the need for regular WW newspaper distributions.

Sharon Black ended this session with an appeal to participants to reject capitalist ideology based on individualism, which only leads to alienation and powerlessness, and to join WWP and the revolutionary struggle. She called on everyone to defend immigrants and fight racism, explaining that when a room of your house is on fire, it is critical to fight that fire or you risk the entire house burning to the ground.

Baltimore organizers reported that even holding the conference was remarkable given that WWP members were in the streets protesting the U.S. missile strikes on Syria the day before the event. They organized two protests, one in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon Metro Station during the day and another that evening in downtown Baltimore.

Everyone agreed: The conference was a huge success! □

# To save Mother Earth: Change the system

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Of course not. These issues are all connected.

The key is to turn these struggles into a struggle against the capitalist system as a whole and to fight to build a new system: socialism. The key is to develop a long-term goal of fighting for the environment while at the same time struggling to change the system.

Climate change may indeed be one of the biggest reasons why the movement must fight for socialism, as it affects every single living species. If we were to rid the world of the profit motive and build and organize society for the people, the quality of life would immediately improve.

One could argue that the fight for socialism here in the U.S. is so important that it is indeed decisive for activists to make their struggle, whatever issue that may be, a class struggle against the capitalist class.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. noted years ago, U.S. imperialism is the "greatest purveyor of violence in the world" — a truth long before Donald Trump came along.

In fact, the Pentagon — the very ones who dropped the U.S.'s largest non-nuclear bomb on impoverished Afghanistan a few days ago — is the world's biggest institutional consumer of pe-

troleum products. The Pentagon is the world's worst polluter of greenhouse gas emissions, yet the generals hovering over the White House have a blanket exemption from adhering to any international climate agreements!

This exemption includes more than 1,000 U.S. bases in more than 130 countries around the world, 6,000 military facilities in the U.S., as well as aircraft carriers and jet aircraft. Also excluded are weapons testing and U.S./U.N.-sanctioned activities of so-called "peacekeeping" and "humanitarian relief." (WW, Sept. 4, 2014)

Unlike the Trumpites, the Pentagon does not deny climate change. But their solution is more militarism, the "survival of the fittest" mentality, instead of defending humanity.

For example, in 2003 the Defense Department issued a report titled "An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security." It stated that the catastrophic effects of climate change compel wealthy nations like the U.S. to "construct defensive fortresses" to shut out climate refugees, of which there are millions and there will be more. It called for more money for the military, which the Trump administration has been happy to provide.

In other words, build walls, not solidarity or renewable energy.

It is the working class and the oppressed who will be most affected by climate change. The rich and powerful capitalist class has its preparations for the Doomsday clock. The working class must also prepare by fighting to change the system.

The rich have their economic cushion to deal with any crisis, including climate change. In fact, CNN recently ran a report titled "Billionaire bunkers: How the 1% are preparing for the apocalypse." (March 20) It reported on companies that are building military-level secure housing, called Doomsday Dwellings, with 9-foot-thick walls and a 161-foot-high protective dome. Some bunkers come with a five-year supply of food for each resident and can be lowered into the ground on a hydraulic pump. Costs run from \$25,000 to \$8 million each.

Some can house up to 5,000 people. The CNN report added that the Texas-based Rising S Company "says 2016 sales for their custom, high-end underground bunkers grew 700% compared to 2015, while overall sales have grown 300% since the November U.S. presidential election alone."

## Rich have the Pentagon; workers have the power

What can stop the oil corporations, the Pentagon and all those who are dev-

astating Mother Earth? Can we appeal to them to stop emitting the gases now warming the planet?

The time to appeal is long over. What is needed is revolutionary change, and that begins by understanding that neither the system nor the capitalist government — whether it's an Obama or a Trump at the helm — can resolve this crisis.

Massive upheaval is the only solution to climate change.

May Day 2017 provides an opportunity to "Shut shit down" in defense of the most targeted workers, like immigrants and the Black community, but also all workers.

Those participating in the People's Climate March on Washington on April 29, who come from more privileged backgrounds, must also come out two days later, May Day, to defend migrants who have risked their low-wage pay by demanding an end to Trump's war against them. Workers who face reprisals for marching on May Day should get support from environmental activists.

It must be remembered that many past climate change actions have been politically ambiguous and have included fronts for the very corporations that are polluting the earth.

In anticipation of the Sept. 21, 2014,

Continued on page 8

## May Day 2017:

# 'We are the ones we have been waiting for'

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The world is reverberating with militant calls for a mass, general strike on May Day — International Workers' Day on May 1. People are rising up because, as the Black poet June Jordan said, we know "we are the ones we have been waiting for."

## GLOBAL MAY 1 STRIKE

Only the people can stop the forces of far-right extremism and of late-stage capitalism wrecking worldwide havoc.

In the U.S., voices are being raised for a May Day strike by all sectors and communities of workers and oppressed people. The cry is coming not just from unionized workers, but from all of us being targeted.

Mass militant May Day actions are being called by groups of people of color, migrants and immigrants, temp and low-wage workers, unemployed and underemployed, LGBTQ+ people, prisoners, women working inside and outside the home, young people and students, people with disabilities who are working or want to and are denied the chance, people who are losing health care and environmental protection, and so much more.

On May Day we can unite to defend ourselves and all those under direct, immediate attack. We can assemble as a revolutionary united front against neo-fascism, capitalism and imperialist war!

Become part of this powerful fight-back! Come out wherever you are for May 1 strike actions happening coast to coast.

Just a few of the marches and rallies include:

**New York City** May Day Strike to Defend Migrants, Refugees & All Workers! Union Square: Gather 12 p.m., March at 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/le8tkxj](http://tinyurl.com/le8tkxj)



**Syracuse, N.Y.** May 1 Strike — Huelga Primero Mayo Perseverance Park: 12 to 3 p.m. Corner of South Salina St. & Washington St. [tinyurl.com/kh3hlmb](http://tinyurl.com/kh3hlmb)



**Buffalo, N.Y.** Unite & Resist! May 1 Columbus Park West: 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/kezxjzm](http://tinyurl.com/kezxjzm)



**Philadelphia** May 1: Un Dia Sin Immigrant, Black & Brown Bodies City Hall: 12 p.m. [tinyurl.com/meg25jy](http://tinyurl.com/meg25jy)

**Baltimore, Md.** May Day Global Strike — Make May Day Resist Trump Day McKeldin Fountain: 3 to 9 p.m. [tinyurl.com/mdyzot4](http://tinyurl.com/mdyzot4)

**Washington, D.C.** March on May Day with the International Working Class! Malcolm X Park: 12 p.m. [tinyurl.com/lla3eoz](http://tinyurl.com/lla3eoz)



Baltimore, Md.

**Roanoke, Va.** No Borders in the Workers Struggle! May 1 Melrose Park: 3 p.m. [tinyurl.com/kus4hxc](http://tinyurl.com/kus4hxc)



**Milwaukee, Wis.** May 1: Day without Latinxs, Immigrants & Refugees 1027 S. 5th St: 12 to 3 p.m. [tinyurl.com/m3hjs8e](http://tinyurl.com/m3hjs8e)

**San Francisco** Un Dia Sin Inmigrantes! May 1, Justin Herman Plaza: 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/hsra8wl](http://tinyurl.com/hsra8wl)

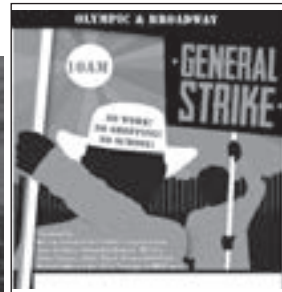


**Durham, N.C.** May Day: Strike! No Work, No School 602 E. Main: 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/l2kvry9](http://tinyurl.com/l2kvry9)

**Raleigh, N.C.** 1 de MAYO: ¡Huelga y Resistencia! Strike & Resist! Moore Square: 10 a.m. [tinyurl.com/n63wp6g](http://tinyurl.com/n63wp6g)



**Oakland, Calif.** May 1: March & Strike for Immigrant and Worker Rights Fruitvale Plaza: 3 p.m. [tinyurl.com/mbhx46j](http://tinyurl.com/mbhx46j)



**Los Angeles** Build Bridges not Walls — Sanctuary Now: May 1 Broadway & Olympic: 10 a.m. [tinyurl.com/msx3l9s](http://tinyurl.com/msx3l9s)

**San Diego** Workers & Community Resist! May 1st/

International Workers Day Federal Building: Rally 3 p.m., March to Chicano Park 4 p.m.



**Atlanta, Ga.** Primero de Mayo Dia Internacional de l@s Trabajadores Mitin 68 Mitchell St., SW: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/n3r2wwo](http://tinyurl.com/n3r2wwo)

**Detroit** May 1: Overturn the Trump Agenda, Grand Circus Park: 5 p.m. [tinyurl.com/ma4lrha](http://tinyurl.com/ma4lrha)



**Chicago** 1 de Mayo: Chicago Fights Back — Chicago No Se Deja/ May 1 Union Park: 1 p.m. [tinyurl.com/mpxlr1r](http://tinyurl.com/mpxlr1r)

**Madison, Wis.** Day without Immigrants and Refugees, Brittingham Park: 11 a.m. [tinyurl.com/krtz23c](http://tinyurl.com/krtz23c)

**Portland, Ore.** May 1: All Power to the People: Rise Up, Resist, Unite Shemanski Park: 12 p.m. [tinyurl.com/mbdzrf5](http://tinyurl.com/mbdzrf5)



## Caravan Against Fear

By Terri Kay

More than 100 people traveled to the remotely located Richmond, Calif., Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center on April 11 to support the Caravan Against Fear's California tour. Calling on everyone to "stand up for immigrant rights," they demanded that ICE "stop separating our families," "Free Yazmin" and "ICE out of California!" They also called on state legislators to vote yes on SB 54, which would make California a sanctuary state.

Yazmin Liliana Elias Obregon, a single mother of three U.S. citizen children and a local focus of the demand against "separating our families," has been de-

tained at West County Detention Center in Richmond for more than a year. (For more information on her case, visit [their.org/free-yazmin/](http://their.org/free-yazmin/))

The caravan states: "We're mobilizing because fear is spreading throughout the U.S. and being used as a tool to promote white supremacy, terrorize communities and break apart families. We believe that defiant protest, coupled with acts of mutual aid, trust and understanding across communities, are vital to combating fear, repelling Trump's attacks on our freedoms and families, and building a lasting civic offensive to defend immigrants and defeat the hate-filled plans of the Trump administration."

The caravan is sponsored by labor,



Protest at ICE Detention Center on April 11 in Richmond, Calif.

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

community, human rights, religious, civic, environmental and other organizations in both the U.S. and Mexico, including the Southern Border Communities Coalition, Rompeviento Television and dozens of other local organizations joined in a diverse and growing coalition of resistance.

The rally was sponsored by the Asian Law Caucus, Bay Resistance, the Contra Costa Alliance of Californians for Com-

munity Empowerment, Causa Justa :: Just Cause, the Contra Costa Racial Justice Coalition, the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, Global Exchange, the National Day Labor Organizing Network, the Richmond Progressive Alliance, Service Employees Local 1021, SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West and SEIU United Service Workers West. □

# On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

# Labor can shut down the war machine!

## IBEW 3 is fighting back

Workers in Local 3 of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have been striking since March 28. The nearly 1,800 workers walked off the job to protest various problems with the nation's second largest internet provider. Charter/Spectrum has refused to negotiate a contract since Time Warner owned it in 2013, and is taking a page from the fat-cat playbook. The company is using divide-and-conquer tactics to pit its workers against workers who are its customers.

Charter/Spectrum promised internet speeds knowing its equipment was old and shoddy, and now blames its workers for all the service calls they have to make in response to slow speeds. Adding insult to duplicity, Charter/Spectrum then has workers install old, refurbished equipment that is still unable to reach advertised speeds.

On the ground there's massive support for the strike on daily picket lines at the Charter/Spectrum office at 120 E. 23rd St. in Manhattan, N.Y. Elected officials in Queens wrote a joint letter to the Charter CEO in support of the union, demanding that workers not "pay for the company's lies and misrepresentations." New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sued the company Feb. 2 for outright lying about internet speeds. (N.Y. Daily News) This is in addition to the multitude of attacks the workers are facing in contract negotiations. The company wants to eliminate pensions, funding for college, dental and other health benefits, and weekend overtime, among other takebacks.

We know the bosses at Charter/Spectrum could easily turn over that portion of the workers' unpaid wages — known as profits — to upgrade the technology to fighting speed. We know that the bosses' surplus could easily fund dental, education and the wealth of benefits every worker on this planet deserves. But we also know that, under capitalism, the boss class only wants to benefit themselves. (local3ibew.org)

## Victory after one-day grievance strike

A one-day grievance strike of 1,700 workers in California and Nevada forced AT&T on March 22 to recognize that it can't force workers to do jobs outside their skill set. Communications Workers Local 9003 won a victory: AT&T now has to assign properly trained staff at job sites and can't make technicians work outside their job spec or job class. In unionspeak, job specs or job classes ensure that bosses can't force you to do more than your expertise while keeping your pay at a lower scale. When the capitalist class tries to sabotage job specs, unions use the sharpest tool in their toolbox — the strike weapon.

Unfortunately, negotiations for a fair contract are still dragging on for these workers. AT&T-owned DIRECTV satellite and warehouse employees, who won a victory last year, are still in negotiations for their first contract. And 21,000 folks in the Wireless and Field Service divisions are working under an arcane rule that AT&T can terminate their contract extension within 72 hours. All this from a company that banked \$41.8 billion in profit last year! (cwa9003.org, March 23)

Last year, these same issues were won by Verizon workers in a historic 45-day strike. This tells you that even though gluttonous companies refuse to negotiate in good faith, unions are still the workers' best defense.

## D.C. roundup

- When racist, misogynist, anti-worker Trump took the podium at the national legislative conference of the North America's Building Trades on March 30, he was loudly booed; some delegates also held "Resist" signs before being escorted out. This surprising show of resistance came from a group of workers whom Trump assumed were in his camp, addressing them as "the backbone of America." (Alternet, April 4) Thanks for defending workers, NABTU!

- Freestate Electrical, a Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26 signatory contractor, sued the Trump organization for failing to ante up \$2 million in payment for its work turning the Old Post Office Building into a luxury Trump hotel. (Fortunately, hundreds of IBEW workers who did award-winning work have been paid.) Four other contractors have also sued over their work on the conversion, for a total of nearly \$5 million in unpaid bills. (ibew.com, March 8) Pay up, Wage Thief in Chief!

- Subcontracted airline food workers and allies marched here for pay equity April 12 from National Airport to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Food workers at 15 airports nationwide launched the Fight for \$15 national campaign that week. They are demanding that airlines ensure fair and equal wage standards for airline catering workers. (dclabor.org, April 13) □

*The following statement was issued by the Labor Fraction of Workers World Party.*

On April 6, President Donald Trump ordered a blatant act of war against the Syrian people. He did it without a shred of evidence that the Syrian government was involved in an alleged poison gas attack that killed civilians.

What advantage would Syria gain strategically by targeting noncombatants, when the Bashar al-Assad government has been winning the war against U.S.-backed terrorist groups — the Islamic State group (IS), al-Qaida, the Free Syrian Army and others? In fact, there is evidence that the gas attack was actually carried out by so-called rebels.

The attack on Syria was followed by the bombing of Afghanistan, employing the most powerful non-nuclear bomb ever dropped in all of world history. A military assault on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea could be imminent.

Working people, organized and unorganized, have no reason to support yet another war. In fact, the chatter in the workplace is that people are outraged that Trump has dragged us into what could be a major war — or wars. There will be mass suffering as a result of billions of dollars of cuts in human services carried out to shift money to the Pentagon war machine. The suffering of the Syrian people, including the nearly five million made refugees by this U.S.-sponsored war, will only worsen.

Organized labor should be outraged! Yet its leaders, AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka and Change to Win President James Hoffa Jr., have said nothing. Silence is the voice of complicity. Their collusion with Trump — and with both Democrats and Republicans — when faced with Pentagon aggression is just their latest betrayal of our class interests as workers since the November

election. These are the same leaders who sold out the heroic water defenders at Standing Rock and the migrant communities who are being rounded up, detained and deported en masse.

### Labor lieutenants of capitalism — a shameful tradition

On Feb. 25, 1967, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said "the bombs in Vietnam explode at home." (tinyurl.com/aertr2e)

While this towering figure of the Civil Rights movement was risking his life by positioning himself against the Vietnam War, rare were the voices from the labor movement striking a similar chord. In its silence, organized labor was complicit in a criminal war of aggression against the people of Vietnam, funded by the poor, the workers and the oppressed people of the U.S.

Fifty years have passed. Yet we see the leaders of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win continuing to act as cheerleaders for imperialist war. They know full well that the union movement has enough muscle to bring the war machine to a halt. Even the ten percent of the working class in unions have a lot of power. Power to stop the transport of goods by truck, rail and air. Power to shut down telecommunications and government. Power to shut down the military-industrial complex at the point of production.

We believe in the old union maxim that "an injury to one is an injury to all." This principle has no borders. When our human family in other countries is subjected to imperialist violence, carried out in our name, labor in the U.S. has no choice but to join the chorus of voices saying, "Hands off Syria, Afghanistan, Korea and the world!" This message must be heard around the world on May Day, International Workers Day, and beyond. □

# Immigrant prisoners strike

By Jim McMahan  
Tacoma, Wash.

Some 750 immigrant prisoners held a united hunger strike against inhumane conditions at the Tacoma Northwest Detention Center from April 10 to April 15. The detainees withstood threats that they would be thrown into solitary confinement or transferred out of the prison. Indeed, some were shipped out to a prison in Oregon.

Immigrant prison conditions, already terrible under President Barack Obama, have worsened under President Donald Trump. Across the country, prisoners are being denied the basic necessities of life, with no due process of law.

The prisoners' demands, which remain unfulfilled, are to change the food menu; lower commissary prices; improve hygiene; increase recreational time; have schoolwork and other activities available to keep detainees occupied; improve medical attention; increase wages for working detainees; and speed up the legal process for detainees.

These are some of the same demands that the prisoners went on strike for in 2014 — a 56-day hunger strike/work stoppage. The exploited prisoners usually receive only one thing to eat: beans. They have little access to health care, and wages are only a dollar a day.

NWDC Resistance, an organization of solidarity activists including former prisoners, is supporting those inside. The group set up tents and canopies just outside the prison fence and coordinated activities 24-7 all week long. These included doing media work, getting legal help for the prisoners and holding support rallies in front of the prison.

A NWDC Resistance "Call to Action" says: "Trump has staffed his immigration force with

openly anti-immigrant officials with links to white supremacist organizations, leaving people detained with little choice but to put their bodies on the line to fight for basic dignity. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' newly released memorandum calling for increased prosecutions of immigrants and their supporters, combined with a rollout where he referred to immigrants as 'filth,' highlights the need for local resistance to the federal detention and deportation dragnet."

At an April 16 Easter Sunday rally at the conclusion of the strike, international human rights activist Nestora Salgado spoke for the immigrant strikers. She stated that the next time those on the inside go on strike, she and others on the outside should also go on a hunger strike — that we should not see ourselves as apart from them. Salgado has herself been imprisoned in Mexico for her community self-defense stand.

Michael Dorsey, a Black representative of Food Justice, said, "On May Day [May 1] we are going to be standing with the people who harvest the food, like many of the workers in the detention center."

Maru Mora Villalpando, speaking for the NWDC Resistance and the prisoners, condemned the prison's lack of health care. She read a statement from the prisoners: "We have ended our hunger strike but this is not the end. More actions will continue. There is no turning back!" She reported that the prisoners were enthused that their actions and message had gotten out in the media around the country and around the world.

Villalpando asked people to call the prison, which is owned by the Geo Group, at 253-779-6000 to insist the prisoners' demands be met. The same message can be given to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Seattle at 206-835-0050. She stated that her committee remains on high alert for more struggle! □

On April 24 –

# Pack the court to win freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

A court hearing on Mumia Abu-Jamal's new Post-Conviction Relief Act petition will be held in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia on April 24, his birthday. Abu-Jamal supporters will demonstrate outside the courthouse and in the courtroom during the hearing, renewing the call for his release from prison. The attorneys for this appeal are Judith Ritter and Christina Swarms with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

The new petition seeks to overturn all of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions on Abu-Jamal's appeals from 1995 to 2008, citing bias and conflict of interest by former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald D. Castille. During Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer, for which Abu-Jamal pleaded innocent, Castille was a senior assistant district attorney. In 1989, as Philadelphia's district attorney, Castille opposed Abu-Jamal's appeal of his conviction and death sentence.

Elected to the higher state court in 1994, Castille ruled against every appeal Abu-Jamal brought before him. Most of these were critical of the actions of the district attorney's office during Castille's tenure in it.

During his campaign for the judicial office, Castille bragged that he had helped sentence 45 men, including Abu-Jamal, to death. He received financial backing from the Fraternal Order of Police, which has

led the campaign to kill Abu-Jamal and once honored Castille as "Man of the Year."

The basis of Abu-Jamal's most recent legal challenge is a June 2016 precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Williams v. Pennsylvania*. The Supreme Court held that "it is a violation of the due process right to an impartial tribunal free of judicial bias if a judge participating in a criminal appeal had 'a significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision' in a defendant's case." ([rachelwolkenstein.net](http://rachelwolkenstein.net))

When Terry Williams was convicted of murder in 1984 it was Castille, serving as Philadelphia district attorney, who approved the prosecutor's request to seek the death penalty. When Williams' appeal for a stay of his execution reached the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2012, then-Justice Castille denied the request for penalty relief and reinstated the death sentence.

As he did in Williams' case, Castille has refused every request Abu-Jamal has filed asking him to step aside from ruling on post-conviction appeals. The Williams v. Pennsylvania decision appears to validate Abu-Jamal's right to not have Castille hear his case.

If Abu-Jamal's new legal action succeeds, he may get to reintroduce several legal challenges to the racist frame-up conviction that has led to his serving nearly 35 years in prison, including 30 years in solitary confinement on death row. If Abu-Jamal wins this appeal, he will get a new trial. A ruling in Abu-Ja-

mal's favor could provide a path to overturning his conviction and winning his freedom.

But Abu-Jamal and his supporters know that the courts don't even play by their own rules or uphold their own decisions, when it comes to his case. Courts have made decisions on other cases that would appear to favor Abu-Jamal, only to reverse the same decision when his case came before them. This happened so often that journalist Linn Washington Jr. coined the phrase, "the Mumia exception rule."

## Mass international protests kept Mumia alive

Abu-Jamal's legal case may be in the hands of the lawyers and the courts, but victories in the fight for his freedom have also depended on a broad and global support movement. For the entire time that Abu-Jamal has been unjustly imprisoned, his family and supporters — now numbering in the millions worldwide — have fought the state's efforts to murder him.

In August 1995, a massive rally of more than 10,000 in Philadelphia stopped the first effort to carry out the death penalty. From then until 2011, when Abu-Jamal was taken off death row to serve life imprisonment, masses filled the streets, attended every court hearing, signed petitions, held tribunals, raised funds for his legal support and continued to educate people about his case.

Unable to legally execute Abu-Jamal, over the last two years the state has tried to carry out a death sentence through



GRAPHIC: EMORY DOUGLAS

medical negligence and intentional medical mistreatment. After suffering from a severe yet untreated skin rash, in March 2015 Abu-Jamal suffered a near diabetic coma that required hospitalization. Subsequent tests to determine the cause revealed that he had untreated hepatitis C.

In August 2015, Abu-Jamal's attorneys, Robert Boyle and Brett Grote, took his case to the Federal District Court in Pennsylvania to demand that the Philadelphia Department of Corrections provide him and thousands of other prisoners suffering from hepatitis C with drugs known to cure the disease. Although the judge who heard his case eventually ruled in Abu-Jamal's favor this January, it took ongoing public pressure to finally force the DOC to begin treatment on March 28.

Protests outside the court on April 24 and an evening program at the Arch St. Methodist Church will also link Abu-Jamal's case with the struggles for immigrant rights, against mass incarceration and police brutality, for Indigenous rights and the broader fight for clean water and air.

For more information contact Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com or call 215-724-1618. For transportation from New York City for the April 24 court hearing, call 212-927-2924. □

## RAMONA AFRICA discusses MOVE, surviving 1985 bombing

By Lamont Lilly

Former U.S. political prisoner Ramona Africa is the Minister of Communication for the MOVE Organization and a Philadelphia-based organizer with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. She is also the only living survivor of the 1985 MOVE bombing, in which the FBI and Philadelphia police dropped two C-4 bombs on her organization's home, killing 11 people. Read along as we discuss the history of MOVE and what it means to be a freedom fighter. This is part 4 of a 5-part interview by Lamont Lilly, the 2016 U.S. vice presidential candidate for Workers World Party.

**Lamont Lilly:** Do you remember the exact year you joined [MOVE]?

**Ramona Africa:** Yes. It was 1979.

**LL:** It sounds like you found a higher level of thinking and self-fulfillment. It sounds like MOVE really provided a new sense of wholeness and purpose for you.

**RA:** Yes, for me, but my mother had some issues. She was a beautician by trade, and obviously the first thing that struck her was my hair. She had a problem with my hair because from the time I was knee-high, she would quote "do my hair" by washing it, pressing it, straightening it and curling it. So, when I let my hair grow and lock on its own, oh my goodness. [laughing] She wasn't too happy about that.

This was after the Black Power Movement and long before the current period of being Black and unapologetic. ([tinyurl.com/l3nuqbt](http://tinyurl.com/l3nuqbt)) A lot of sisters are rockin' "naturals" now, but that wasn't the case in 1979 and 1980. She also took issue with me not going to law school. I didn't even

go to my graduation at Temple University when I finished undergrad.

**LL:** You mentioned "the system" earlier and what it had done. Can you take us back to May 13, 1985? What happened that day?

**RA:** The first thing that people should be aware of is that the bombing took place on Monday, May 13, but the cops came out en masse, surrounding our home, on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. They laid siege on our home, supposedly because neighbors were complaining about us. What MOVE was saying was that we weren't denying that some neighbors had complaints about us, but name one community in this entire country where some neighbor doesn't complain about the other.

Not only that. When has this government ever cared about Black folks complaining about their neighbors? When did that start? Anyone who believes that is foolish. All you have to do is talk to the Osage residents who still remain there on Osage Avenue. Ask them who they're



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

complaining about now. They've been complaining about the government for the last 31 years because the U.S. government did them wrong. And they're still pissed about it. Obviously, the U.S. government does not care about Black folks complaining about their neighbors or anything else for that matter. So that "complaining" excuse was just a lie.

They came out there in May of 1985 to kill us, to kill MOVE — to silence our righteous protests, our unrelenting fight concerning the unjust imprisonment of our family members, the MOVE 9. [They were arrested under the false charge of killing a cop on Aug. 8, 1978.] That's why the cops came out. ([tinyurl.com/lotfuf9](http://tinyurl.com/lotfuf9))

They started just like they did in August of 1978, with the fire department [who take an oath to run into burning buildings and save lives]. But in May of 1985, they worked with the cops to kill off life, to kill off the MOVE organization. Firefighters turned on water hoses against us, with each hose pumping out

## PART 4

10,000 pounds of water pressure per minute. They had four of those hoses; that's 40,000 pounds of water pressure per minute. This water was being pumped out for hours, but there was no fire.

When that didn't drive us out, they breached 3-inch holes in the connecting walls of our house. They wanted to blow holes into the walls to insert tear gas. At least that's what they said. When they finished exploding what they claimed were 3-inch holes in the wall — the whole front of our house was blown away. So, when they started inserting tear gas, a lot of it was just coming right back out. That's when they opened fire on us, and according to them, shot 10,000 rounds of bullets in on us in the first 90 minutes. They had to send to their arsenal for more ammunition.

We were all in the basement. We heard this loud noise that shook the whole house. There was still a lot of tear gas in the house that had not found its way out yet, and it started getting a little warmer in there.

As the smoke and gas got thicker, we were like, "Wait a minute, this is something else." We were listening and could hear the tree in the back of our house crackling as if it were on fire. That's when we realized that our house was actually on fire. We immediately tried to get our children, our animals and ourselves out of that blazing inferno. But at the point that we were trying to come out and could be seen trying to come out, the cops opened fire on us, forcing us back in.

We tried several times to get out, but each time we were shot back into the house. This was a clear indication that they didn't

## Victim of police brutality

# Justice for Ramarley Graham

Two demonstrations were held March 27 in New York City to protest the white New York Police Department cop who killed an unarmed Black teenager, Ramarley Graham, in front of his grandmother and brother on Feb. 2, 2012, in the bathroom of their Bronx home.

The cop, Richard Haste, decided to resign on March 26 rather than face being fired on March 27. What many in the movement are asking is: Why didn't a grand jury indict Haste and his partner, Morris McCoughlin, for Graham's murder? Haste chased Graham into his home without a warrant, claiming to be looking for "drugs" before fatally executing the 18-year-old.

Graham's mother, Constance Malcolm, responded to this development, saying, "Mayor de Blasio has once again shown his unwillingness to hold police accountable to our communities with his administration giving deference to Richard Haste in allowing him to resign. This is not accountability after de Blasio and the NYPD dragged their feet for years, especially while all the other officers involved in the killing of my son continue to be employed by the department, enjoying pay raises every year." (New York Daily News, March 26)

On the anniversary of Ramarley's 24th birthday, April 12, his family filed

a lawsuit against the NYPD for refusing to comply with the state's Freedom of Information Law to release police files about his death. Malcolm stated, "With this lawsuit, we are demanding that the de Blasio administration and NYPD stop hiding the truth of what happened to my son and release the names and files related to the many officers who were responsible for misconduct. For over five years, it seems there has been a continued effort by the NYPD to cover up what really happened to my son and protect the officers involved from accountability." (Amsterdam News, April 13)

—Report by Monica Moorehead



## Family demands justice after police kill 16-year-old



Ebbie Mondragon.

By Terri Kay

A number of family members and supporters from the Anti Police-Terror Project packed the chambers of the Hayward, Calif., City Council on April 11. They were there to demand truth and real accountability in the killing of Ebbie Mondragon.

Unidentified Fremont, Calif., police detectives, who were driving an unmarked car in Hayward, shot and killed 16-year-old Mondragon on March 14 as she rode as a passenger in a car with four other people in the middle of an apartment complex. The police have concocted a very suspicious story to justify killing an innocent girl.

One by one, family members and supporters spoke to the council. They demanded any video footage leading up to, during and after the shooting; a full autopsy report plus any and all medical records; and any and all information about what happened to the car the police were following. They asked: Did Fremont police have permission to be conducting surveillance and following a car in Hayward? Was the Hayward Police Department at all aware of this operation? Many of the family members were so overwhelmed by grief that it brought many of the audience to tears.

After family and supporters had spoken, the council president invited Hay-

ward Police Chief Mark Koller to respond. Koller claimed that there was no video of the shooting and that the detective, who had a body camera, "was unable to turn it on." This frequent excuse is offered by many police officers after they shoot someone.

Koller stated that the investigation as to any criminal wrongdoing on the part of the police was being led by Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley. O'Malley has yet to prosecute a single killer cop in Alameda County.

The Fremont Police Department's use of force policy dictates that officers should not shoot into moving vehicles. (East Bay Express, April 12) □

## Uniece Fennel's death—an act of state violence

This statement was issued April 3 by Durham, N.C., organizations.

On March 23, we, as a community and family, lost 17-year-old Uniece "Niecey" Fennel to the Durham County [North Carolina] jail, and just two days later in Raleigh, 18-year-old José Humberto Lara-Pineda was also killed behind bars.

As thousands of Black and Brown girls go missing from their families and com-

munities across the nation, we are coming together to say unequivocally that they are not only missing, they are also missed. Niecey had a family that loves and misses her, and a community that will fight for her. We will not turn our back on young Black and Brown girls despite a State that constantly criminalizes them, locks them up, and always puts them on trial for the traumas they endure.

Uniece Fennel will be loved and missed, and we will not allow her to be put on trial for her own death when we know that Sheriff Mike Andrews and the Durham County jail are the only killers in our city that threaten the safety of our community and children.

**We don't believe the sheriff: suicide or not, the system is guilty**

Black and Brown girls are never free to be teenage girls. Talking back and staying out late, offenses that might cost other girls a grounding, often land Black and Brown girls in jail cells. North Carolina is one of the only states that still tries 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, a practice which an authoritative majority of legal scholars across the board object to.

Uniece Fennel was being wrongfully held as a child in an adult facility without a trial. Nobody deserves to die in a cage, and we will not be distracted by speculations about her charges. We do not and will not believe the State's attempts to wipe their hands clean of Niecey's blood or the blood of Matthew McCain, Dennis McMurray or José Humberto Lara-Pineda — detainees in N.C. county detention

centers who were killed behind bars.

We support the demand for an immediate independent people's investigation of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Uniece Fennel and José Lara-Pineda, including independent autopsies if possible. While we do not believe Uniece's death was a suicide as the State claims — her mother and friends spoke to her hours before her death and she was laughing and in good spirits — we hold the State responsible for her death, whether it was a suicide or not. We have no reason, however, to believe that jail officials would not outright kill a detainee. This wouldn't be the first time.

**The Durham County jail is killing our loved ones**

Death by suicide in the Durham County jail is death by medical neglect and State violence. The Durham County jail is unsafe and lethal by virtue of being a jail, but even as jails go, the Durham County jail is, and historically has been, one of the most dangerous facilities in the South.

Durham County jail detainees have historically suffered extreme medical neglect for issues of physical health. Detainees, who work long hours for less than 50 cents an hour and sometimes for free, are forced to pay \$20 and wait hours on end for any type of medical attention, even to request an aspirin.

The Durham County Sheriff's Office quotes the number of attempted suicides in the county jail as 15 in 2015, 12 in 2016, and refuses to provide statistics for 2017 thus far. Uniece had the right to

comprehensive mental health care, which includes not being locked up. Uniece is the fourth person since 2015 to die in the Durham County jail under the direction of Sheriff Mike Andrews.

The Durham County jail does nothing but isolate, abuse, neglect and kill our friends and family. Though we don't know the exact circumstances of Uniece's death, we do know that no one should ever die in jail. Because this jail has already killed so many, and before it kills even more, we say: No more jail deaths, no more jail.

**In-person visitation for detainees is a right**

As the Durham City Council attempts to strip jail detainees of their right to in-person visitation with their loved ones, we are speaking out in defense of in-person visitation rights for jail detainees. Connection to loved ones and the outside world is incredibly vital to the health and well-being of those incarcerated and those on the outside who love them. If these rights are stripped from detainees, there will likely be an increase in suicides and suicide attempts by detainees.

We will also be resuming weekly demonstrations outside the jail on Fridays to defend in-person visitation, and we invite those in the community who have loved ones who are locked up to join us outside the Durham County Detention Center.

**Durham Beyond Policing  
Workers World Party Durham Branch  
Youth Organizing Institute  
NC Queer TROUBLMakers**

intend for any of us to survive that attack. But finally, like the third time, we knew that we would either choke to death and be burned alive, or we were going to be shot to death. So, we made one more attempt at it, to get out. I was closest and got outside the door. I got Birdie out. Everybody was lined up to come out after us.

It was not until they took me into custody and to the local hospital that I was looking for the rest of my family, but nobody came in. I'm in the hospital and wondering what was going on. I didn't find out until I left the hospital and was taken to the police administration building [to the homicide unit]. Only then did I find out that there were no other survivors other than me and my young brother, Birdie Africa. ([tinyurl.com/kfyym5n](http://tinyurl.com/kfyym5n)) The police were contemplating charging me with the murder of my family.

Lamont Lilly was a 2015 U.S. delegate at the International Forum for Justice in Palestine in Beirut, Lebanon. He is also an activist and organizer in the Black Lives Matter movement.

# Workers World Party attends DPRK reception

A Workers World Party delegation attended a reception on April 12 hosted by the U.N. Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in New York City. The occasion was the 105th anniversary of the birth of the first president of the DPRK, the late Kim Il Sung. The delegation expressed to the DPRK representatives the party's unwavering soli-

arity with their country and government and its right to self-defense, especially in light of U.S. imperialism's growing threats against its sovereignty. U.N. delegations represented at the reception were from Vietnam, Cuba, Laos, Russia and other countries.

— Report by Monica Moorehead

PHOTO: DPRK UN MISSION

Left to right: DPRK Counselor Kwon Jong Gun, Brenda Ryan, Steve Millies, Monica Moorehead and WWP First Secretary Larry Holmes.



## Solidarity with north Korea

The following statement from Workers World Party was issued April 14.

Comrade Kim Jong Un

Chairman of the Workers Party of Korea

Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK  
Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Dear Comrade Kim Jong Un,

Workers World Party conveys to the Workers Party of Korea its continued firm solidarity and support on the 105th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

First as a political organizer, then as a revolutionary guerrilla commander, and ultimately as leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean People's Army, Kim Il Sung achieved incredible victories in the struggle to liberate Korea from imperialist domination, inspiring the masses of people to build and defend a strong, independent socialist nation.

Kim Il Sung's example lives in the determination of today's leaders of the DPRK not to yield to the war threats being hurled right now by the criminal agents of U.S. imperialism. The DPRK has every right to arm in self-defense against this brutal gang of exploiters, who have shown again and again that they respect no international laws and can be restrained only by a show of force.

U.S. out of Korea! Long live the revolutionary spirit of Comrade Kim Il Sung!

Comradely,

Deirdre Griswold

For the Secretariat of the National Committee,  
Workers World Party

## New Yorkers protest MOAB bombing in Afghanistan

More than 40 people came to the Times Square military recruiting station in Manhattan, N.Y., on April 14 to demand that U.S. imperialism get out of Afghanistan.

Called on with less than 24 hours' notice by the International League of People's Struggle, the rally denounced war criminal President Donald Trump's dropping of a 21,600-pound bomb on Afghanistan. Among the member organizations represented were BAYAN-USA; the Committee to Stop FBI Repression; NYC Students for Justice in Palestine; Samidoun: the Palestinian Political Prisoners Network; and the International Action Center.

Workers and tourists stopped to listen to speeches that cut through corporate media lies. Michela Martinazzi from the Committee to Stop FBI Repression told onlookers about Palestinian political prisoner Rasmia Odeh, who was tortured by Israel and then framed on immigration charges by the U.S.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ann Wright, who resigned from the State Department to protest the invasion of Iraq in 2003, attacked the U.S. war against Afghanistan.

Representing the International Action Center, Steve Millies reminded people that 32 years before the U.S. dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb in Afghanistan, the Pentagon, FBI and local police dropped a bomb on the MOVE house in Philadelphia, killing six adults and five children. Millies pointed out that the first mission of the U.S. Army Air Corps, which was scrubbed at the last minute, was to bomb striking coal miners in West Virginia.

—WW Staff

## Meetings denounce THAAD deployment in south Korea

A larger than expected crowd of 75 people attended a **Philadelphia** meeting on April 11 about the south Korean movement against the deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, a new U.S. missile system. Speakers were the Rev. Sounghey Kim, of the Seongju Residents Committee to Stop THAAD, and Hyun Lee, of the Solidarity Committee for Democracy and Peace in Korea. Lee is also on the editorial team of Zoom in Korea, an online media site that provides updates and critical analysis of news related to the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. and south Korean governments are trying to deploy the THAAD missile system in south Korea despite daily protests against it by villagers in Seongju and Gimcheon whose farms, homes and livelihoods are endangered. Expert opinion is that the system will probably not work, and may have potentially dangerous radiation impact. Political activists say rather than a defensive weapon, it is an offensive one aimed against the People's Republic of China.

The meeting was part of a tour April 4-17 that included meetings in Berkeley/Oakland and Los Angeles, Calif.; Huntsville, Ala.; Boston; Rutgers University in New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; and Fairfax, Va. The tension at later meetings was heightened by awareness that the Pentagon had sent a battle group to the sea off Korea, which included missile-armed destroyers and an aircraft carrier.

Endorsing organizations included the American Federation of Teachers Local 2026, Answer Philadelphia, Asian Americans United, Brandywine Peace Organization, International Action Center, Philadelphia Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and Workers World Party.

A meeting with the same agenda and main speak-



ers took place April 13 at New York University in **New York City**, filling an auditorium there. Videos showed the determination of the people of south Korea and presented a talk by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's military analyst Theodore Postol. Not only did he outline the military weaknesses of the THAAD system, but he confirmed that the missile system is aimed at China.

— Report by Joe Piette and John Catalinotto

## To save Mother Earth: Change the system

Continued from page 3

climate march in New York and other cities globally, activist Chris Hedges pointed out that The Climate Group, which endorsed the march, included among its members and sponsors BP, Dow Chemical, Duke Energy, HSBC, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase.

"The Environmental Defense Fund," wrote Hedges, "which says it 'work[s] with companies rather than against them' and which is calling on its members to join the march, has funding from the oil and gas industry and supports fracking as a form of alternative energy.

"These faux environmental organizations are designed to neutralize resistance," he concluded. "And their presence exposes the march's failure to adopt a meaningful agenda or pose a genuine threat to power." (altnet.org, Sept. 8, 2014)

A demonstration of 500,000 can become a nice walk in the sun with that kind of program, while a demonstration of 5,000 — if it has revolutionary class politics — can be more of a threat to the capitalist class

if its goal is to shut the system down.

**Socialism the answer to climate change**

The #1 sustainable country in the world is revolutionary socialist Cuba. It is so not because the Cubans love their beaches or coral reefs, which are 1,000 percent healthier than those in Florida.

The Cubans do love their beaches, but that's not why it is a sustainable country. It is because it is a socialist country, with revolutionary leaders who are guided by Marxism. The banks do not dictate policy; the masses do. The Cubans don't drop bombs abroad; they send doctors.

The website publication The Daily Good ran an article on April 7 titled "While America Launches Missiles, China Quietly Leads on Climate Change." Among other things, it stated: "China has gone from perpetual climate scapegoat to a major leader in the global transition away from fossil fuels. ...

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# Trump & the Wall Street-Pentagon coalition

By Fred Goldstein

There has been much buzz in the capitalist media recently about Donald Trump's "flip-flopping." He has changed his positions 180 degrees on a whole variety of issues within a few weeks' time.

Among the issues on which he has switched are:

- He has bombed Syria after having opposed intervention.
- He says China is not a currency manipulator after calling China "the world champion" of currency manipulators.
- He has floated the idea of negotiations with north Korea after saying that he would never negotiate with that government.
- He says that NATO "was once obsolete; it is no longer obsolete."
- He says he likes Janet Yellen, the head of the Federal Reserve Board, and her low interest rates, after claiming she and "other global special interests" had ruined life for middle America.
- He says it turns out that "lots of small companies are really helped" by the Export-Import Bank, after having opposed it.

These are just a few of his reversals. They have all brought him more in line with the fundamental needs of U.S. imperialism.

Numerous explanations for Trump's reversals have been put forward by the big-business media. For example, it is said that Trump adopts the position of the last person he has talked to. Or, Trump has no ideology and he can shift positions easily. Or, he listens to his daughter Ivanka Trump and her spouse Jared Kushner. And so on.

All of these things may be true. But they mask the deeper reason for the so-called flip-flops.

Trump has been leaned on by the Pentagon and Wall Street to shift from demagoguery to policy based on the reality of the core needs of U.S. imperialism.

Trump is surrounded by four generals, three former bankers from Goldman Sachs and other financiers, not to mention Rex Tillerson, former CEO of ExxonMobil, the largest private oil company in the capitalist world. This is a veritable coalition of Wall Street, the Pentagon and big business. And, for the moment, they have reined in Trump and subordinated him to their needs. Whether he will stay in harness remains to be seen.

Trump removed ultra-rightist Steve Bannon from the Principals Committee of the National Security Council, thus bowing to the pressure of the Wall Street-Pen-

tagon coalition, led in this instance by Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, his national security adviser. In doing so, he denied that Bannon had been his strategist. "I'm my own strategist," declared Trump.

The problem with that statement is that Trump does not have a strategic cell in his brain. He can't think politically beyond what he said yesterday.

Trump's previous positions have been the result of blustering election demagoguery. He has uttered positions that no serious imperialist politician could possibly follow through on. The applause lines that gratified his ego and won over gullible voters during the election campaign have now clashed with the hard realities of the problems of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. However, Trump is so dense and so vain that he clung to these positions for dear life. Finally, he had to be put straight by the capitalist establishment.

## Tweeting baloney

Take Trump's belligerent, war-like posture toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Trump tweeted recently about the DPRK and its drive to obtain an intercontinental ballistic missile that can be armed with an atomic warhead.

"That's not going to happen," tweeted Trump. In another tweet Trump said the DPRK is "looking for trouble" and he warned that "if China decides to help, that would be great. If not, we will solve the problem without them." (New York Times, April 17)

These were clear threats to use force against the DPRK. To underscore the threat, the Pentagon sent an aircraft carrier squadron, accompanied by Aegis missile ships, off the coast of the Korean peninsula. Washington made vague but menacing threats to "take action" if the DPRK carried out a nuclear test.

Trump — and Obama before him — has adamantly refused any negotiations with the DPRK unless it shows signs that it will give up its nuclear weapons program.

## Brass rethinking negotiations

But listen to National Security Adviser McMaster speaking on a recent Sunday talk show: "It's really the consensus with the president, our key allies in the regions ... that this problem is coming to a head," said the general. "And so it's time for us to undertake all actions we can, short of a military option, to try to resolve this peacefully." (ABC News This Week, April 16)

Take the position put forward by Vice President Mike Pence while visiting the demilitarized zone in south Korea on April 17. According to the New York Times, Pence blustered that north Korea should not test "the strength of the armed forces of the United States in this region." Yet he also noted that Washington was seeking security "through peaceful means, through negotiations."

Whether or not the peaceful language of McMaster and Pence was meant as a gesture to China without expressing real White House policy remains to be seen.

But the socialist government of the DPRK did precisely what Pence warned against. The government of Kim Jong Un defied all the blustering war-mongering of the Trump White House and the Pentagon, proudly staging a massive military parade on the 105th birthday of the founder of the DPRK, Kim Il Sung, complete with an array of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

## Pyongyang stands up to Trump and Pentagon

The DPRK stood up to military threats

and the presence of a U.S. naval armada in its waters. The leadership has taken into consideration the lessons of Iraq and Libya. The U.S. imperialists used the pretext of looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to plan a massive attack, which ended in the murder of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The DPRK is also well aware of the lesson of Libya, whose leader Moammar al-Gadhafi gave up his nuclear program; Libya was later invaded and he was brutally murdered by pro-U.S. forces.

The New York Times noted: "North Korea could hardly drop these [nuclear] programs without understandably fearing an attack. Disarmament, in this view, would invite annihilation." (New York Times, April 17)

This also speaks to the fraudulent slogan of a "denuclearized Korean peninsula," which Washington and its allies are always promoting. The only nuclear weapons actually on the Korean peninsula belong to the DPRK. The U.S. does not need nuclear weapons in south Korea. The Pentagon has surrounded the DPRK with a "ring of fire," including nuclear-armed submarines, nuclear-armed planes on aircraft carriers and nuclear-capable bombers at bases from Japan to Guam to Hawaii, as well as island bases throughout the region. A "denuclearized peninsula" means a disarmed DPRK.

So Trump's flip-flop on the DPRK, as espoused by McMaster and Pence, is rooted in hard military reality. Trump tweeted that the U.S. would "deal with" the DPRK. But the military explained to him that there is no good option for U.S. imperialism in north Korea so long as Pyongyang remains steadfast in the face of nuclear blackmail.

## Trump and China

Trump has publicly declared that the Chinese government is going to "help on north Korea," so he pulled back from naming China as a currency manipulator. Such a declaration was part of his anti-China campaign. He also promised to slap tariffs on Chinese goods sold in this country. This was when he was preaching to his followers about how China was "stealing jobs" and "cheating on trade."

The truth is that he has been forced to reject his own and Bannon's anti-China line by financiers like Gary Cohn, head of Trump's National Economic Council and president and CEO of Goldman Sachs for 10 years. Cohn and his Goldman Sachs cohorts, Deputy National Security Adviser Dina Powell and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, have also explained to him that Janet Yellen, head of the Federal Reserve Board, is a favorite of Wall Street. She has funnelled billions of dollars to the banks, allegedly to "save the economy."

Said Reuters on April 16: "Apparently paying more heed to Cohn and other moderates on his team, Trump last week said he was open to reappointing Janet

Yellen as Federal Reserve chairman when her term is up and he also held back from naming China a currency manipulator.

"Both stances marked a reversal from his campaign when Trump criticized Yellen and vowed to label China a currency manipulator on 'day one' of his administration, a move that could lead to punitive duties on Chinese goods.

"Chinese authorities, faced with an insult from a foreign leader as the ruling Communist Party prepares for elections of top positions later this year, eventually would have slapped steep retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exporters that send more than \$100 billion a year of goods to the Asian country. U.S. manufacturers' profits and stock prices would take a big hit."

The designation of Cohn from Goldman Sachs as a "moderate" paints him with a kindly brush. Finance capital in general, and Goldman Sachs in particular, is just as aggressive and ruthless in pursuit of profit as the Pentagon is in pursuit of conquest. They are two adventurist arms of the same ruling class.

Cohn, meaning Goldman Sachs, told Trump it would not be a good idea to start a trade war or a currency war with the second-largest economy on earth. The Chinese economy is growing at an annual rate of 6.9 percent, while U.S. capitalism can barely eke out 2 percent growth.

## China and Korea

As for China helping the U.S. on "taming" the DPRK, it is worthwhile noting that for the Chinese People's Liberation Army, it is impossible to ignore the contrast between south and north Korea.

The north is not threatening China militarily one bit. But the south Korean puppets of U.S. imperialism are enthusiastically and hastily rushing to deploy the Pentagon's THAAD anti-missile system. THAAD has powerful radar that can reach into China and spy on Chinese missile installations. The Chinese government has vigorously warned against this deployment and has said it would upset the "strategic balance" in the region. Seoul and Washington have ignored China's concerns.

In Beijing the military and the political high command must be truly worrying about the possibility of having a pro-imperialist regime on their border. In the long run, China cannot afford to undermine the DPRK. It will be compelled to resist U.S. aggression against the government of Kim Jong Un.

The crisis in Korea, like the economic and geopolitical crises for U.S. imperialism around the globe, cannot be tweeted away nor can they be overcome by military means. U.S. imperialism is a colossus with feet of clay. Trump is finding that out the hard way.

*Goldstein is author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End," available at all online booksellers.*

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"China plans to spend more than \$360 billion on renewable energy sources like solar and wind, a plan that is projected to create more than 13 million jobs by 2020. Roughly 3.5 million Chinese workers are already employed in the renewable energy sector — nearly half of the global total and represents nearly four times as many clean energy jobs as exist in the United States."

In fact, the Chinese government has carried out groundbreaking projects to deal with this problem that should shame the U.S. government.

This is what can happen if the workers — not the Pentagon or Wall Street — dictate society.

It is capitalism that created the climate crisis; it is capitalism that must pay the bill. It is time for us to collect. □



## TURN THE GUNS AROUND Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

"If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, John Catalinotto's 'Turn The Guns Around' would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans' movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup."

— Pvt Larry Holmes GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen's Union 1972-74.

Available at online booksellers

## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# Abolish the death penalty

At least seven death-row prisoners were sentenced to die by lethal injection in the state of Arkansas, with the executions set to begin on April 17. But a federal judge's ruling put a temporary halt on the executions on April 14. Arkansas had not carried out any executions since 2005.

These death-row prisoners, who have received a temporary reprieve from dying cruelly on a gurney, are Don Davis, Stacey Johnson, Jack Jones Jr., Ledelle Lee, Bruce Earl Ward, Kenneth Williams and Marcel Williams. An eighth prisoner, Jason McGehee, had already gotten a reprieve before the April 14 ruling.

Protests have been held in Little Rock, Ark., the state capital, against the executions, led by those who have been exonerated from death row.

What was the basis of the ruling? The use of the drug, midazolam, which is supposed to render its victim unconscious before other lethal drugs are injected to stop the heart from beating.

Judge Kristine G. Baker of Federal District Court in Little Rock stated in her ruling, "The threat of irreparable harm to the plaintiffs is significant: If midazolam does not adequately anesthetize plaintiffs, or if their executions are 'botched,' they will suffer severe pain before they die." (New York Times, April 15)

Before he was elected president in 1992, then-Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas carried out the first executions in that state, starting in 1990. These included the infamous execution of Ricky Ray Rector, a Black man with severe mental disabilities.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstat-

ed the death penalty in 1976, 498 Black people have been executed (34.5 percent), 120 Latinx (8.3 percent) and 807 white (55.6 percent), according to deathpenaltyinfo.org. Black people make up only 14 percent of the general U.S. population, but are more than double that number on death row. These numbers don't reflect the growing number of people who die while in police custody, including Black women like Sandra Bland, Raynette Turner, Joyce Curnell, Ralkina Jones and Kindra Chapman, to name a few.

Just recently, a former prison guard was charged in the death of an inmate, 25-year-old Janika Edmond, who committed suicide at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Pittsfield Township, Mich., in 2016. Edmond warned the guard that she was going to commit suicide, and requested a protective restraint. Her plea was completely ignored.

Hundreds of immigrants, legal and undocumented, have died in horrendous detention centers, run by Immigration, Customs and Enforcement or private corporations, mainly due to medical neglect for treatable and untreatable diseases.

The U.S. death penalty, legal and extralegal, reflects the depths of systemic white supremacy, sexism, anti-poor and anti-worker oppression under capitalism. The racist death penalty, like police brutality and murders, is a tool of terror that only serves to protect the interests of the 1% — the billionaire ruling class.

On May Day 2017, a demand needs to be "Abolish the Death Penalty." Like Black Lives Matter, it is a workers' issue. □

## 100 years ago

# Lenin's April Theses

*Abridged from a talk by Deirdre Griswold, Workers World editor in chief, at a WWP meeting April 6 in New York.*

There were two revolutions in Russia in 1917. The first was called the February Revolution and the second the October Revolution, although the date falls on Nov. 7 by our calendar.

Between February and October 1917 there was an extraordinary period in Russia, when the great masses of people were awakened to the possibility that they could fundamentally change the conditions of their lives.

The first revolution in February started with a huge demonstration of women textile workers who struck on International Women's Day. Within weeks, the people overthrew the czar and ushered in a period of democracy. Over the next eight months, millions became active in organizations that would shape the future of the country. They were called soviets, which is the Russian word for people's councils. We might call them people's assemblies. There were soviets of workers, peasants, soldiers and sailors.

The soviets were both an arena for political debate and a place where the people could express their will in democratic votes — and attempt to carry out what they voted for.

What drove the people to a passionate desire for change?

First were the terrible conditions of exploitation, in the workplaces and on the land. Then there was the brutal oppression by the czarist regime and its secret police.

But on top of all that, which had been going on for years, was a huge new factor: war.

The Russian ruling classes went into World War I for the same reasons as the other capitalist powers: to grab territory and riches for themselves. They expected

to come out of the war immensely fattened by taking over resources and land from the losing side. Their primary foe was Germany, whose rulers had the same objective.

But of course it wasn't the rulers who fought and died in the war. It was the workers and peasants, and they died by the millions.

There was a Socialist International in Europe at that time, made up of parties in all the different countries. Before the war started, these socialist parties had met several times and passed resolutions opposing the coming war.

### Imperialist 'patriotism'

But when the war came, almost all these socialist parties capitulated to the pressure of "patriotism." Where they had elected deputies in the parliaments, particularly in Germany, Britain and France, these deputies voted for war credits — that is, they voted the immense funds for war that the governments requested, although the war did cause splits in some of these parties.

What followed was four years of the greatest slaughter Europe had ever seen, with 17 million dead and 20 million wounded, all for the benefit of the ruling classes.

But there was one small group of European socialists who in 1914 had refused to support this inter-imperialist war. The leading figure in it was Vladimir Lenin, head of the Social Democratic Party in Russia, known as the Bolsheviks.

The Bolsheviks' opposition to the war meant jail or exile for many of the leaders. But as the war dragged on, deepening the misery of the people, the Bolshevik Party won respect for its principled stand.

By 1917, the people of Russia — and especially the soldiers — had become thor-

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# French election: Class struggle confronts reaction

By G. Dunkel

Like many other European countries and the United States, French society is tottering, reeling under a range of attacks. The government has imposed austerity and reduced many social services, including in education and health care programs. The poorest and most oppressed people have been hit with the worst cutbacks.

Last year, the working class and youth activated a sustained response to these attacks with several general strikes and occupations, called "Nuits debouts" (night protests). The new "labor law" was the target of the general strikes. The so-called Socialist government of President François Hollande had accepted the French ruling class's demands to reduce the power of the French workers. Using an undemocratic maneuver, they got the new labor law through parliament without a vote.

Once it became clear that the labor movement had been defeated in its struggle against the new labor law, the struggle of the French working class turned toward the elections.

The French president is chosen in two rounds of voting. The first round on April 23 presents a wide spectrum of candidates. The second round on May 7 — a

contest between the two candidates who get the most votes in the first round — is a vote "for the lesser of two evils," or a "vote utile." There are no electoral college delegates, proportional lists or single-member districts with just one round of voting. The candidate who gets a majority of the votes in the second round wins the election.

Four candidates — Emmanuel Macron, François Fillon, Marine Le Pen and Jean-Luc Mélenchon — have a realistic chance of making it to the second round, according to recent polls. The "Socialist" Party candidate, Benoît Hamon, is far behind the four leading contenders and is fading fast.

Interpreting poll figures is tricky since a substantial number of French voters intend to abstain. Many others are unsure about who will get their vote, even the week before the election.

Emmanuel Macron set up his party En Marche! (Forward!) about 18 months ago while minister of the economy in the Hollande government. He proclaims it is "neither left, nor right." Macron was the main political force behind the new anti-worker labor law. The party represents the Eurocentric wing of the French bourgeoisie.

François Fillon is the candidate of Les Républicains (The Republicans),

France's main center-right party. Under many names, it and the so-called Socialist Party have alternated in running the French government since the late 1950s. Fillon started the campaign season as the favorite, but his popularity declined after he was officially charged with paying his spouse and children for no-show jobs. He was also charged with accepting gifts of suits worth \$13,850.

Marine Le Pen has spent her life as a member of the Front National (National Front), which her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, founded in 1972. He began his career as a French Army intelligence officer in the Algerian war for independence. As such, he was in charge of torturing Algerian freedom fighters.

In 2011, Marine Le Pen removed her father as president of the National Front and deleted some of its openly fascist and anti-Semitic rhetoric, but left intact its racist and fascist principles. This party appeals to the most reactionary elements of France's rust belt, who have faced austerity attacks on their jobs and social services.

The National Front has dangerously attacked and scapegoated refugees for the country's economic problems, whipping up Islamophobia and racism. Out of desperation, these migrants have trav-

eled from the Middle East and Africa, including from former French colonies, fleeing wars, extreme poverty and unemployment. This far-right party has used attacks on the public as a pretext to call for stopping all immigration.

### 'A reproach I find totally tolerable'

Jean-Luc Mélenchon is running as a candidate from France Insoumise (France Unsubjugated), an electoral coalition put together for the 2017 election. The French Communist Party endorsed his campaign. When the Fillon campaign charged him with being a "revolutionary communist," he replied at an April 16 rally of 70,000 supporters in Toulouse, "It's a reproach I find totally tolerable." (New York Times, April 16)

Mélenchon started the campaign season far behind in the polls. However, his ability to draw large, diverse crowds to his rallies, based on his policies which are particularly directed to solving youth unemployment and which attack the French ruling class, have increasingly brought him much support from youth, among others.

Many analysts, including Adam Nossiter of the New York Times, have raised the possibility of a Mélenchon-Le Pen contest in the second round. This would be a nightmare for the French ruling class which is pushing for a candidate who represents their interests. Neither Le Pen nor Mélenchon would do that: Le Pen opposes a united Europe from the right, and Mélenchon, is against government austerity cutbacks from the left. □

# Lenin's April Theses

Continued from page 10

oughly anti-war. After democracy was proclaimed in the February revolution, the people hoped and expected that Russia would pull out of the bloody conflict still raging in Europe. But the government that took over, headed by Alexander Kerensky, was weak. It stayed in the war and became increasingly unpopular.

This was the situation when, in early April 1917, Lenin returned from exile in Switzerland. He was able to come back by negotiating with Germany, which allowed him to cross Germany in a sealed train so there was no chance of him agitating the population against the war.

As soon as he arrived in Russia, he immediately gave a speech to the All-Russia Conference of Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies on April 4. It was then published in the party newspaper, Pravda.

Lenin spelled out in detail exactly what the party should do:

## 'The April Theses'

"1) In our attitude towards the war, which under the new [provisional] government of Lvov and Co. unquestionably remains on Russia's part a predatory imperialist war owing to the capitalist nature of that government, not the slightest concession to 'revolutionary defensism' is permissible. ...

"In view of the undoubted honesty of those broad sections of the mass believers in revolutionary defensism who accept the war only as a necessity, and not as a means of conquest, in view of the fact that they are being deceived by the bourgeoisie, it is necessary with particular thoroughness, persistence and patience to explain their error to them, to explain the inseparable connection existing between capital and the imperialist war, and to prove that without overthrowing capital it is impossible to end the war by a truly democratic peace, a peace not imposed by violence. ...

"2) The specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that the country is passing from the first stage of the revolution — which, owing to the insufficient class-consciousness and organisation of the proletariat, placed power in the hands of the bourgeoisie — to its second stage, which must place power in the

hands of the proletariat and the poorest sections of the peasants.

"This transition is characterized, on the one hand, by a maximum of legally recognized rights (Russia is now the freest of all the belligerent countries in the world); on the other, by the absence of violence towards the masses, and, finally, by their unreasoning trust in the government of capitalists, those worst enemies of peace and socialism.

"This peculiar situation demands of us an ability to adapt ourselves to the special conditions of Party work among unprecedentedly large masses of proletarians who have just awakened to political life.

"3) No support for the Provisional Government; the utter falsity of all its promises should be made clear, particularly of those relating to the renunciation of annexations. Exposure in place of the impermissible, illusion-breeding 'demand' that this government, a government of capitalists, should cease to be an imperialist government.

"4) Recognition of the fact that in most of the Soviets of Workers' Deputies our Party is in a minority, so far a small minority, as against a bloc of all the petty-bourgeois opportunist elements ... who have yielded to the influence of the bourgeoisie and spread that influence among the proletariat.

"The masses must be made to see that the Soviets of Workers' Deputies are the only possible form of revolutionary government, and that therefore our task is, as long as this government yields to the influence of the bourgeoisie, to present a patient, systematic, and persistent explanation of the errors of their tactics, an explanation especially adapted to the practical needs of the masses. ...

"5) Not a parliamentary republic — to return to a parliamentary republic from the Soviets of Workers' Deputies would be a retrograde step — but a republic of Soviets of Workers', Agricultural Laborers' and Peasants' Deputies throughout the country, from top to bottom.

"Abolition of the police, the army and the bureaucracy.

"The salaries of all officials, all of whom are elective and displaceable at any time, not to exceed the average wage of a competent worker.

"6) The weight of emphasis in the

agrarian program to be shifted to the Soviets of Agricultural Labourers' Deputies.

"Confiscation of all landed estates.

"Nationalization of all lands in the country, the land to be disposed of by the local Soviets of Agricultural Laborers' and Peasants' Deputies. The organization of separate Soviets of Deputies of Poor Peasants. The setting up of a model farm on each of the large estates. ...

"7) The immediate union of all banks in the country into a single national bank, and the institution of control over it by the Soviet of Workers' Deputies.

"8) It is not our immediate task to 'introduce' socialism, but only to bring social production and the distribution of products at once under the control of the Soviets of Workers' Deputies.

"Convene a new party congress and change the program to include the points above.

"Change of party's name: Instead of 'Social-Democracy,' whose official leaders throughout the world have betrayed socialism and deserted to the bourgeoisie, we must call ourselves the Communist Party."

Well. That is a program for a real revolution.

We study these points today not because they are a timeless blueprint for a revolutionary program. Not at all.

There is no such blueprint. Marxism above all recognizes that everything is in a process of change, of coming into being, and passing away. We must analyze what is the current reality and base our program on that.

Lenin himself constantly updated his analysis of what had to be done. When he delivered his speech on April 4, he stunned a lot of the leaders in his own party.

In fact, one of his points of difference with Leon Trotsky back in 1905 had been over what would be the various stages in the revolutionary process in Russia. At that time, Lenin had believed it necessary for Russia to go through a period of bourgeois, capitalist development before the working class and the poor peasants could think of taking power and

reorganizing society on a socialist basis.

## The war changed everything

But the war had changed everything. When Lenin introduced the "April Theses," it was two months after the overthrow of the czar and the establishment of a democratic government — democratic in form, but still dominated by the capitalist bourgeoisie. In those two months, the bourgeois democrats had shown themselves incapable of getting Russia out of the war, incapable of breaking up the landed estates, incapable of reorganizing the economy and incapable of setting up a state apparatus strong enough to fight off attempts at a counterrevolution by the monarchists and aristocrats.

All this called for a new understanding of what had to be done.

Trotsky, since 1905, had argued that the workers must take the power in Russia in order to carry out even bourgeois democratic reforms. So now he and Lenin were in agreement.

But Trotsky also changed his views in early 1917. Earlier, he had differed with Lenin on the question of what kind of party was needed to carry out the revolution. He was won over to Lenin's views on the need for a disciplined, combat party based on democratic centralism.

It was on the basis of the "April Theses" that Trotsky and his grouping joined the Bolshevik Party and played an important role preparing for the revolutionary seizure of power in October.

The masses of the people, seen especially in the constant shifts to the left in the Soviets, pushed ever harder for a revolutionary change that would take the power away from their oppressors.

At times the Bolshevik Party even had to hold back the workers in key cities like Petrograd, so that those elsewhere in the country who were slower to understand what was happening could catch up — and join the revolutionary movement, which they did.

In studying the past, we can gain a better understanding of what a revolution is, how it happens and, most important, how it can succeed. □



## Attack on Odessa workers remembered

The United National Antiwar Coalition held a picket line on April 10 outside the Ukrainian Consulate on Bush Street in San Francisco in conjunction with the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Odessa. Demonstrators went inside to present a letter to consulate officials with the following demands: "Stop the repression against relatives and supporters of the 47 people murdered on May 2, 2014!" "Free Alexander

Kushnarev, Anatoly Slobodyanik and all political prisoners in Ukraine!" and "No to fascism in Ukraine and all over the world!" The Odessa Solidarity Campaign, Socialist Action, Workers World Party, the Freedom Socialist Party and United Public Workers for Action also sponsored the solidarity rally.

— Report by Terri Kay

## WORKERS WORLD MUNDO OBRERO

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y había herido a 100 más". Este ataque rompió las conversaciones y toda posibilidad de elaborar un plan de paz.

## RPDC y China también objetos del bombardeo contra Siria

El ejército se apresuró a atacar a Siria con el fin de entregar una significativa bofetada diplomática a la República Popular China en el mismo momento en que el presidente chino Xi Jinping se reunía con Trump en su Casa Blanca de la Florida. Trump no le habló del ataque hasta que terminó la reunión.

El ataque también pretendía amenazar a la República Popular Democrática de Corea.

Para dar seguimiento al ataque en Siria, el Pentágono está enviando un portaaviones con fuerza de ataque hacia aguas coreanas. El portaaviones Carl Vinson, acompañado de misiles y fragatas, está navegando allí desde Singapur para llegar a tiempo para el 105 aniversario del histórico líder comunista coreano Kim Il Sung. El 15 de abril es celebrado en la RPDC como "el día del sol".

Trump le ha dado a los militares una correa larga. Él está fomentando los

## Detrás del ataque a Siria

planes de venganza de los militares contra la RPDC, que derrotó a la fuerza invasora estadounidense en la Guerra de Corea. El ejército estadounidense nunca se ha repuesto de esta pérdida.

El gobierno de Trump ha dejado que el Pentágono envíe más tropas a Siria, bombardee a un gran número de civiles en Mosul y aumente los ataques de aviones no tripulados en Yemen y Somalia, todo sin que la Casa Blanca firme estas operaciones. Ha habido una gran escalada en la matanza de civiles por los militares estadounidenses en virtud de estas nuevas normas.

Al militarizar el gobierno, Trump ha dado más prioridad a la batalla perdida del Pentágono y del imperialismo estadounidense de superar la disminución de la posición de Washington en el mundo. La verdadera consigna de la política exterior de Trump es: "Hacer que el imperio militar de EUA vuelva a ser grande". Pero este bufón autoritario, racista, misógino y prejuiciado no tiene otro talento que fanfarronear dando órdenes. No puede ver que este peligroso curso sólo puede terminar en un desastre para el imperialismo estadounidense. □



# Detrás del ataque a Siria

Por Fred Goldstein

“Usted proporciona las imágenes. Yo proporcionaré la guerra”. El editor William Randolph Hearst en 1898, preparando las bases para la guerra de Estados Unidos contra España y la invasión de Cuba.

El ataque de la administración Trump contra la fuerza aérea siria fue dirigido primero a Rusia, así como al gobierno de Bashar al-Assad. China y la República Popular Democrática de Corea fueron objetos secundarios del ataque.

El ataque de armas químicas en Siria, suponiendo que no estaba totalmente escenificado por los enemigos del gobierno de Damasco, tenía por objeto forzar al presidente Donald Trump a desviar su orientación política de reconciliación con Rusia— y mantener la presión militar centrada en su objetivo a largo plazo, el derrocar al gobierno de Assad. Washington no sólo quiere derrocar a Assad, sino que también pretende poner un gobierno complaciente en Damasco que expulse por completo a los rusos de Siria y el Mediterráneo.

El ataque militar imperialista de Estados Unidos ocurrió cinco días después de que la embajadora de Trump en la ONU, Nikki Haley, dijera: “La política diplomática de Estados Unidos sobre Siria por ahora ya no se centra en hacer abandonar el poder al presidente del país, Bashar al-Assad”. (Reuters, 30 de marzo) La publicidad en torno al supuesto ataque con armas químicas fue diseñada para revertir esta política de Trump.

## Cargos sin evidencia

Las acusaciones en contra del gobierno de Assad han sido unánimes y tempestuosas en los medios de comunicación capitalistas, el Congreso y los militares. Todo esto ha sucedido a pesar de que no hubo ni un atisbo de investigación ni un elemento de prueba convincente de que Damasco tuviera algún papel en el supuesto ataque. El gobierno sirio ha negado categóricamente los cargos, pero sus negativas no han recibido publicidad en los medios capitalistas.

En total, esto es lo que es cierto: el gobierno sirio no tenía ninguna razón para llevar a cabo tal ataque. Ha estado ganando la guerra sin usar armas químicas y no tiene el menor motivo de todas las partes implicadas para llevar a cabo ese ataque. Los ataques perjudicaron al gobierno sirio y ayudaron a los imperialistas y sus grupos de clientes reaccionarios dentro de Siria.

En cualquier investigación criminal lo primero que se busca es el motivo, los medios y la oportunidad de llevar a cabo el crimen. Las partes con los motivos, los medios y la oportunidad para hacer tal cosa son el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y los reaccionarios en Siria que están perdiendo la guerra. Los de este último grupo han intentado sin éxito derrocar a Assad y tratar de atraer al gobierno de Estados Unidos a la lucha militar.

## Los neoconservadores del New York Times en el caso de Siria

El New York Times lideró la acusación acusando instantáneamente al gobierno

de Assad. El Times asignó a dos de sus propagandistas anti-Siria más comprometidos para cubrir la historia - Michael Gordon y Anne Barnard.

Gordon fue coautor con Judith Miller de los artículos de Times que promovieron la idea de que Irak tenía armas de destrucción masiva al fraguarse la invasión EUA-Britania en el 2003. Miller finalmente perdió su trabajo por mentir sobre la existencia de estas armas en Irak. George W. Bush usó estas aseveraciones para reforzar el pretexto de la invasión. Barnard escribe como publicista para los grupos reaccionarios sirios.

El escritor progresista y fundador de consortiumnews.com, Robert Parry, explicó el 5 de abril: “Gordon durante años, ha estado en las primeras líneas de las estrategias de los neoconservadores para los ‘cambios de régimen’. Es coautor de la infame historia de tubos de aluminio del Times del 8 de septiembre de 2002, que dependía de fuentes del gobierno estadounidense y desertores iraquíes para asustar a los estadounidenses con imágenes de ‘nubes tipo hongo’ [de explosión nuclear] si no apoyaban la invasión del presidente George W. Bush contra Irak”.

Resultó que los tubos de aluminio estaban destinados a las armas convencionales.

Seymour Hersh, reportero investigador que expuso la masacre de 1968 en My Lai en Vietnam, informó en 2015: “En la primavera del 2013, la inteligencia estadounidense se enteró que el gobierno turco, a través de elementos del MIT, su agencia de inteligencia nacional y la Gendarmería, una organización militarizada de aplicación de la ley, trabajaba directamente con al-Nusra y sus aliados para desarrollar una capacidad de guerra química”.

Hersh continuó: “La Agencia de Inteligencia de Defensa (DIA) y otros agentes de inteligencia han informado a nuestros altos oficiales de que el sarín fue suministrado a través de Turquía, que sólo pudo haber llegado allí con el apoyo de Turquía. Los turcos también proporcionaron la capacitación para producir el sarín y manejarlo”. (reportado por Robert Parry, consortiumnews.com, 16 de septiembre de 2015)

Tras el ataque de gas químico en 2013, el Times informó que los expertos siguieron el camino de los misiles que transportaban el gas, y trazaron su origen a Damasco. Más tarde resultó que los misiles tenían un alcance que no podría haberlos lanzado desde Damasco. La distancia real era la distancia desde el territorio controlado por los rebeldes.

(Consortiumnews.com, 29 de diciembre de 2013, vinculado al artículo de Times)

## Objetivo de la clase dominante: Forzar Trump oponerse a Rusia, Assad

Incluso durante la campaña electoral estadounidense y desde que Trump ganó, el Pentágono y la clase dominante en general han intentado socavar el intento de la administración Trump de cambiar la política exterior estadounidense hacia una mayor cooperación con el presidente ruso Vladimir Putin. Las imágenes horribles del presunto ataque químico en

Siria fueron calculadas para encajonar a Trump y no dejarle otra alternativa que atacar al gobierno sirio.

Los tambores de guerra contra Siria llegaron implacablemente de casi todos los cuarteles de la clase gobernante, desde moderados del Partido Demócrata hasta reaccionarios republicanos. Trump, que ha sido el blanco de ataques, de ridículo y de bromas en los medios de comunicación corporativos, fue momentáneamente catapultado desde el estatus de bufón torpe a la posición de líder decisivo. Esta alabanza, sin embargo, es sólo temporera. Los militares y sus portavoces en el Congreso, como los senadores John McCain y Lindsey Graham, están presionando a Trump a ir más allá y explicar lo que sigue.

## Militarización del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional

En toda la celebración sobre la repentina demostración de liderazgo de Trump, lo que se omite es que él ha militarizado la cúpula del gobierno. Él recibió muchos elogios cuando expulsó a Stephen Bannon del comité más poderoso del gobierno, el Comité de Directores del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional.

Bannon es un ultra-extremista de derecha con una visión apocalíptica de la guerra en Asia y está contundentemente opuesto a la civilización islámica. Pero los aplausos por el retiro de Bannon han ahogado alguna respuesta al cambio en el Comité de Directores. Ahora hay cuatro generales en el consejo - y son extremistas con armas.

Bajo Trump, el principal cuerpo de política exterior del gobierno capitalista ha pasado de tener la fachada de un gobierno civil, a un abierto control militar de la política exterior. El ataque a Siria debe ser visto en esa luz.

El secretario de defensa de Trump es James “Mad Dog” (perro rabioso) Mattis, un ex general de Marina. Mattis supervisó las operaciones de Oriente Medio como jefe del Comando Central hasta su jubilación en 2013. Entre las muchas citas coloridas de Mattis está: “Sea cortés, sea profesional, pero tenga un plan para matar a todos los que vaya conociendo”.

Mattis se opuso al acuerdo del presidente Barack Obama con Irán. Él dirigió el ataque a Fallujah en 2004, que destruyó esta ciudad iraquí de 300.000 personas. Ese ataque utilizó municiones venenosas y radioactivas de uranio empobrecido y causó masivas bajas civiles. Sus tropas masacraron a 24 civiles en la ciudad de Haditha en 2005. (democracynow.org, 26 de enero de 2012) Mattis rehusó disculparse. Ha sido un verdadero extremista militar.

El jefe del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional es el marino jubilado John Kelly, un halcón de seguridad fronterizo que estaba a cargo de las operaciones del Caribe y Sudamérica como jefe del Comando Sur de los Estados Unidos. Se opuso a los planes de Obama de cerrar la prisión de Guantánamo y ha alimentado los temores levantando el espectro de que terroristas ingresan al país a través de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

El consejero de seguridad nacional de Trump es el teniente general H.R. Mc-

Master, que sigue en servicio activo y es un ex comandante de tanques en Irak y Afganistán. McMaster reemplazó al General Michael Flynn cuando Flynn fue derrocado. McMaster desempeñó un papel clave en expulsar a Bannon del Comité de Directores del CSN. Los militares destituyeron a Bannon, el ideólogo ultra-derechista, para evitar que interfiriera o escuchara sus planes.

También en el comité está el Teniente General de Marina Joseph Dunford, presidente del Estado Mayor Conjunto. Fue comandante durante la invasión de Irak en 2003 y comandante de las fuerzas de la OTAN en Afganistán en 2013. Dijo al Comité de Servicios Armados del Senado en 2015 que Rusia es la “mayor amenaza para los intereses de Estados Unidos”. (Washington Post, 9 de julio de 2015).

Los militares estadounidenses planean tener un enfoque amplio que incluya a Rusia, China, la RPDC, Siria, Irán, Yemen, Somalia y Libia. Especialmente se esfuerzan por mantener la hostilidad contra Rusia ahora porque a Washington le interesa Ucrania y está indignado de que los rusos se movieron rápidamente para frustrar una total toma imperialista de ese país. El Pentágono le da un firme respaldo al régimen fascista en Kiev y planea alimentarlo con armas más poderosas. Todo esto está vinculado a su campaña anti rusa.

## Washington a Putin: Somos el jefe

El año pasado y a principios de este año, un grupo de trabajo conjunto ruso, turco e iraní debatió cuestiones sobre una solución política para el conflicto sirio en conversaciones en Astana, Kazajistán. (Reuters, 16 de febrero) Estados Unidos no participó en las conversaciones.

Washington y el ejército EUA rechazaron la participación política del gobierno ruso en la solución de la cuestión siria. Los ataques aéreos estadounidenses en la base aérea de Siria tenían la función de mostrar a Putin quien es el jefe de la región.

El mismo escenario se puso en marcha en 2016 cuando el entonces Secretario de Estado John Kerry se entrevistó con el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Rusia, Serguéi Lavrov, para trabajar en una coordinación militar y conversaciones de paz sobre Siria. Después de una maratónica sesión de negociación el 8 de septiembre, Kerry calificó el acuerdo de “un potencial punto de inflexión” en el conflicto, si se implementa. (CNBC, 9 de septiembre de 2016)

Sin embargo, apenas una semana después del anuncio de Kerry, el New York Times informó el 17 de septiembre: “Estados Unidos reconoció el sábado [17 de sept.] que sus aviones de combate habían llevado a cabo un ataque aéreo en Siria que resultó en la muerte de tropas del gobierno sirio. Funcionarios militares estadounidenses dijeron que los pilotos en el ataque, en la provincia oriental de Deir al-Zour, creían que estaban dirigiéndolos contra el Estado Islámico”.

El artículo decía que “el ministerio de Defensa de Rusia dijo que el ataque de EUA había matado a 62 soldados sirios

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