Hands Off Venezuela! 6-7

By LeLani Dowell

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

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

“The corporate media — the voice of the Activists along with Venezuelan delegation attend June 3 film New York City showing, ‘The Revolution Will Not Be Televised’ as part of national days of solidarity with Venezuela.

PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

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PHOTO: MARIAH DIXON-WHEELER AND MONTANA MCKIM, WHITMAN & KATZ VISUALS

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Labor defends Puerto Rican Day Parade

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

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

We salute the position taken by Service Employees International Union locals 1199 and 32-BJ, as well as the Labor Committee on Latin American Advancement chapter, in defense of the Puerto Rican community’s right to choose its own heroes. The June 11 parade’s labor contingents also include Communication Workers of America Local 1848’s Hispanic Community Branch, Workers’ Defense of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, and the National Lawyers’ Guild, among others.

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

The class divide is clear when contrasting this to the corporate exploiters who have imposed their logos on the parade in past years, but pulled their financial support last month. Why should any worker side with the likes of AT&T — still defying a good contract to their CWA Mobility workforce; McDonald’s — by exposing the Fight for $15 for its low wages and high rates of sexual harassment; or Coca-Cola — implicated in deaths of Col-ombian unionists?

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

The WV Supporter Program was founded 40 years ago so our subscribers and friends could help build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that is still print ed — as well as on the web. Despite the fact that the paper is produced entirely by the volunteer labor of contributing writers, editors and production staff, the cost of printing and mailing the paper 52 weeks a year is a huge expense. Not to mention the paper is our overhead for our easily accessible Manhattan office. That’s why we’re asking you to join the WV Supporter Program today to help us deliver the worker-oriented, Marxist-based, revolutionary class truth you’ve come to depend upon.

When you join the Supporter Program for $75 a year, you receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. For $100 a year you also get a new publication or book from World View Forum. For $150 ( $12.50 a month) or more, you get your pick of five books. Write checks to WW Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis, or donate online at workers.org/donate/; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. We are grateful for your help in helping build Workers World — for today and for the future!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Le- ninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are national, international, multiracial and multigen erated organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Our analysis 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 au- thority, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved un- der 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.

If you agree with that then you are defending Puerto Rican Day Parade.

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

The revolution is coming!”

Sexual Minorities Archives opens

Solidarity with Venezuela Cuba explains why

Zbigniew Brzezinski and behind the lies on Afghanistan

Filipino women against modern day slavery

Why Nicaragua refused to sign Paris accords

If you want to fight for a way of life based on economic democracy and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you:

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium and format. WWP speak out and take action 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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If you agree with WW that Trump’s mass deportation plan must be stopped.

If you believe the racist establishment — from killer cops to the injustice of the courts — has to go.

If you find the anti-trans ruling by Trump’s Education secretary an outrageous attack on queer children and LGBTQ rights.

If you hate the class system that keeps women and people of color in low-wage jobs.

If you oppose the blatant warmongering targeting Syria, North Korea and Afghanistan.

If you worry that the capitalist crisis is only getting worse under the Billionaire in Chief.

If you’re sick and tired of the bankers and bosses get ting tax breaks while making the workers pay for the crisis they didn’t create.

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Welcome to New York, Oscar!

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

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

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

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

To put a stop to the growing divide between Puerto Ricans, López Rivera wrote to the parade's board rejecting his nomination: "Instead of being honored, I am transferring that honor, as I indicated in a June 1 publication, to our Pioneers who transferred that honor, as I indicated in a June 1 publication, to our Pioneers who lived under this gag, which meant the arrest of thousands. According to the article, 3,000 people were arrested in a single week, including 8-year-olds."

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

Today, most Puerto Rican people reside in the United States as a result of the largest migratory wave in Puerto Rican history, itself caused by the lack of jobs and resources in the archipelago. Now, when the presence of Oscar López represents that desire for unity while seeking a real solution to the immense social, political and economic crisis of the Puerto Rican archipelago, a solution that could only be for the benefit of the people under independence as the only formula leading to true sovereignty, the intention of imperialism is to muzzle the voices of liberation. Joubert-Ceci is editor of the Mundo Obrero page of the weekly Workers World-MO, and a member of the Philadelphia/Cumen Boricua Committee.

'Release Angel Ramos' autopsy report!'

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

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

The protesting group held space at the Solano County Courthouse for three hours until 1:23 p.m. in remembrance of the Jan. 23 date of Ramos' murder.

Ramos' relatives and community advocates have repeatedly requested a copy of the autopsy report, which would provide proof of the officer's wrongdoing. But it was once again not released on June 2. However, the Ramos' family and their supporters alerted the coroner's office that they would continue to protest in greater numbers until the autopsy report is released.

Community members and anti-police brutality activists are concerned about the high level of police killings in Solano County, and they vow to continue demonstrating their opposition to this terror.

— Report by Terri Kay

For Palestine: Hundreds disrupt Zionist parade

Under the slogan “Celebrate Ending Israeli Apartheid,” over 100 activists disrupted the annual “Celebrate Israel” parade in New York City on June 4. Seven people were arrested, including queer Jews, interrupted the parade's LGBTQ bloc with signs saying “No pride in apartheid” and “Queer Jews for a free Palestine.”

Committees and organizations by Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now, unfurled banners, staged sit-ins and blocked the parade. Thousands, including NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and New York state Gov. Andrew Cuomo, marched down Fifth Avenue in the annual parade, which has received Israeli government funding of nearly $800,000 over the last seven years.

Organizers said in a press release that they were responding to “25 years of Zionist terror, oppression and aggression, and expressing support for Palestine. They condemned Israel's “apartheid wall and the more than 600 checkpoints, obstacles and other barriers” to freedom of Palestinian movement. A JVP statement also condemned the "exchange programs" between the New York Police Department and Israeli security forces that harm both communities of color and Palestinians.

— Story by Minnie Bruce Pratt

Bay Area, Calif.

Oscar López Rivera

PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Workers.org June 8, 2017 Page 3
We’re in this to win!’
Fight for affordable housing not in vain

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Without warning, in the early morning hours of June 1, a dozen of Georgia State University police raided Tent City, built at the site of Turner Field, the former home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. They smashed the tents, knocking them over, destroying the contents and threatened people with arrest as they scrambled to get their belongings.

The tents of the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium, along with students at GSU and other colleges, plus anti-displacement activists, had erected a collection of tents on April 1 at the intersection of Hank Aaron and Ralph Abernathy boulevards, abutting Turner Field.

It was a visible sign of the fierce determination of area homeowners and renters not to be ignored and dismissed by the new owners of the property, GSU and Carter Developers, as they planned their multimillion dollar “redo” of the area.

The historically Black working-class area was the site of the state Capitol building that has long been targeted for “urban renewal” schemes, first with the construction of interstate highways that divided the community and separated it from downtown Atlanta, and then with the building of Fulton County Stadium, followed by the Olympic Stadium, which then became Turner Field.

Massive parking lots surrounded the sports arenas, with their concrete surfaces directing rainwater into people’s adjacent homes. Beyond the home games of the baseball season, with its traffic jams and littering, noisy fans, the acroee belonging to Turner Field saw little use and provided the neighborhoods nothing but barren landscapes most of the time.

Immediately upon learning that the Braves were moving to the suburbs and that the city would be selling the property, residents of the Peoplestown, Mechanicville, Summerhill and Pittsburgh neighborhoods, along with other community organizations, began an extensive outreach effort to establish what people wanted from the redevelopment.

Numerous committees were formed; meetings were held for over two years; residents traveled to other cities to see how their process had worked. All this hard work culminated in a document called the “Community Benefits Agreement” (CBA) that outlined areas such as jobs and job training, education initiatives, transportation, green spaces, sidewalk and lighting, and security issues, which would be signed by the purchasing entities and might be included in the new office, retail, housing, university and athletic buildings.

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

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

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

Community, student support

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

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

Continued on page 8

For 63 days, there was a 24-hour presence despite intense heat, soaking rain, tornado-like wind and constant surveillance by police agencies. Senior residents and students from GSU, Morehouse, Spelman, Agnes Scott, Emory and other schools shared stories and food together; there were movie nights and music performances; other organizations held their meetings at Tent City in solidarity.

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

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

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

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

By Anne Pruden
New York

Working-class tenants from Manhattan’s Lower East Side communities protested at City Hall again on May 31. They exposed the collaboration between New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and real estate developers. Their actions are displacing the residents of Chinatown and the Lower East Side, a Latino and African-American neighborhood, by building luxury megatowers for the rich.

Speakers from the Citywide Alliance against Displacement and the National Mobilization for Greek Debt and Evo Morales, called by building luxury megatowers for the rich.

Speakers from the Citywide Alliance against Displacement and the National Mobilization for Greek Debt and Evo Morales, called by building luxury megatowers for the rich.

Residents and English which criticized de Blasio and City Council member Margaret Chin for approving construction by the Extell Development Company of a luxury skyscraper on the Lower East Side — in clear violation of the community’s zoning

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

Starting with a rally at the University of Virginia Rotunda, speakers from Charlottesville, Roanoke, Baltimore and elsewhere denounced the latest actions of the white supremacist movement. Those bigots have been defending the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in one of the city’s main parks. The protest also roundly criticized the actions of police to protect racists and the Jim-Crow-type conditions still prevailing in the city and state, from any police policies to segregated housing.

A strong point was made that money the U.S. government spends on war could be used for people’s needs.

After the rally, dozens of multinationals, all-age and all-gender protesters took the street for their march to “Lee Park,” where the Lee statue still stands despite a City Council vote that it be taken down. A judge recently put a stay on that decision.

Along the march route, the protest, which included many children, was ambushed and attacked by Charlottesville and other police who screamed, threatened mass arrests and rammed vehicles into protesters. A few protesters were temporarly detained and given tickets.

Despite this police terror, protesters marched on to “Lee Park” with their banners and signs declaring “Jebus Not Racism,” “Smash White Supremacy,” “No Human Being Is Illegal” and other slogans. They joined with another people’s rally taking place there that included speakers, cultural events and discussion of future plans to root white supremacists out of Charlottesville and to continue building a broad-based people’s united front movement.
What Mumia means to the youth

The following talk was given by Christian Cobb at a June 1 forum on "Mumia Abu-Jamal Victories and Historic MOVE Conference" in New York City, which also featured MOVE members Pana French, Zulka Francois, and lawyer Robert H. César. The forum was part of a series of events investigating the power of the People, and was organized by Common Wealth Organizing for Race Equity (CWO). The event was held at the_primitive_reform_center

I’m here today to talk about what Mumia Abu-Jamal means to the youth. I will do that by talking about what he means to me. Prior to getting involved with Workers World Party, I had not heard of Mumia Abu-Jamal. When I stepped through those doors at a meeting of the Philadelphia Awake group, I met Mumia Abu-Jamal: from stories of his people’s visits to his court cases to the neatness of his office and the letter denial any “direct involvement” by Castille. The office submitted only 54 pages of court filings already part of the case’s public re-cord, and included nothing that could not be found by perusing existing court records.

In other words the Philadel-phia DA’s office is still hiding the truth. Ronald Castille was as-signed Philadelphia dis-trict attorney at the time of Abu-Jamal’s 1981 trial and also when his office opposed Mumia’s direct appeal in 1988. Under Castille, the infamous “Jack McMahon training tape” was produced with no information contained about this jury train-ing tape or any of the other legal issues in Mumia’s appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Activist attorney and Abu-Jamal sup-porter Rachel Wolkenstein said: “The DA’s response is another attempt to conceal the judicial and prosecutori-al misconduct that resulted in Mumia’s frame-up conviction and death sentence. The papers submitted are simply what was part of the public record. There is no attempt to assert that they looked for draft memos and communications between Castille and his staff; and any public statements Castille made about Mumia’s case during or after his tenure as district attorney of Philadelphia.

Blowing the lid off the Philly cover-up

The latest attempt to deny justice to Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia dis-trict attorney’s office submitted an eleventh hour response to Tucker’s order on May 30. The response included all pre-trial, trial, post-trial and direct appeals proceedings; memos and communications between Castille and his staff; and any public statements Castille made about Mumia’s case during or after his tenure as district attorney of Philadelphia.

I stayed outside, where I learned the -

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Several days ago I received a message from both of our lawyers, Bob Boyle and Brett Grote, informing me that the latest round of DNA tests came in from the Discovery Requests.

And they told me that the hepatitis C infec-tion level is at zero and as of today I’m Hep C free.

This is part in due to some fine lawyering by Brett and Bob, who filed the suit while I was in the throes of a diabetic coma, unconscious and thus unable to file for myself.

And I am also grateful to all the people. Brothers and sisters who supported our efforts, who contributed to this fight with money, time, protests and cram-ming our offices on our behalf, our heart, who prays, who worked, who helped.

I can’t thank you all individually, but if you hear my voice or read my words now you know that I am thanking you, all of you. And I am thanking you for showing once again the Power of the People.

This battle ain’t over for the state’s cruelest gift is my recent diagnosis of cirrhosis of the liver. With your love we shall prevail again. I thank you all. Our lawyers, Bob Boyle and Brett Grote, who told us what to look for, and Joseph Har-ris, who gave me my first diagnosis and who became the star of the courtroom by the making of the mysteries of Hep C under-stable to all. An internist working up in Harlem, Dr. Harris found few thrills better than telling his many Hep C pa-tients that they’re cured.

This struggle isn’t just for me.

Because of your efforts thousands of Pennsylvania prisoners will be free.

And even as of today I’m Hep C free.

Due to the efforts of our lawyers拿出来

I can’t thank you all individually, but if you hear my voice or read my words now you know that I am thanking you, all of you. And I am thanking you for showing once again the Power of the People.

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Facing off against close to 100 angry pro-U.S. protesters who had blocked the entrances of the Organization of Ameri-
can States headquarters in Washington, D.C., supporters of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and the Bolivarian revo-
lution held their ground, chanting “USA, hands off Venezuela!” and “Violence in Venezuela – Murder in the USA!”

The pro-Bolivarian protest was called in response to a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Ameri-
can States, during which OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro planned to pro-
mote sanctions against Venezuela. The U.S. ruling elite, the Pentagon and the U.S. government have used this tactic against countless countries in order to undermine and destroy people’s gains.

The protest also came 10 days after Orlando José Figueres, an Afro-Venezue-
lan, was set on fire on May 21 for allegedly being in favor of the revolution. The racist hate crime has horrified people around the world.

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

Supporters of the Venezuelan revo-
cution carried pictures of the attack and pointed out the class differences between Figueres and those gathered in Maduro. Almost every pro-U.S. support-
er was white and wore designer clothes.

Steven Ceci of the People’s Power As-
sembly pointed out that the majority of that crowd arrived in fancy coach busses. He added, “You can see the class differences also by what they were yelling at all these things. You dirty poor people” and calling us homeless.”

Basma Gregg, an 18-year-old Af-
merican-Muslim woman and Workers World Party spokesperson, stood on the front lines despite taunts by counterrevolutionary protesters. She an-
grily expressed that “if the United States is doing this way, the people of Ven-
ezuela will suffer.”

She exclaimed that young people, par-
ticularly Black and Brown youth, were dying in the streets of the U.S. at the hands of racist police, and that this was what these pro-U.S. supporters were try-
ing to bring to Venezuela: a system that despises the poor and working-class peo-
tle. (tinyurl.com/ylland7875)

Gregg added later in a public post: “I broke down in tears … because of the igno-
rance of the upper-class Venezuelans that were protesting against us. When the Venezue-
lan economy goes completely down the drain because of U.S. interven-
tion, those same upper-class, white-privi-
leged Venezuelans will be safe and sound in this country, while their families suffer and are ripped to shreds by this govern-
ment that they think is ‘oh-so-great.’ Do me a favor, and ask Syria and Puerto Rico how they feel about U.S. intervention.”

She and David Card, another young Workers World activist, pointed out that the opposition are terrorists who are at-
tacl in Venezuela and that Venezuelan people have made through the Bolivarian revolu-
tion, including in health care and educa-
tion, and increases in the minimum wage.

Workers World Party representative Sharon Black added: “We should never forget that Venezuela is the fourth-larg-
est oil-producing country. It is imperative that the poor and working-class peo-
tle stand up together against the fascists.

Sharon Black added: “We should never
forget that the U.S. government perceives as hos-
tile oil-producing country. It is imperative
to hit the world unite to say ‘No’ to inter-
vention in Venezuela and to defend the Bolivarian revolution. This is our battle, too.”

She affirmed that Workers World Par-
ty and others will be continuing our pro-
tests in support of the Venezuelan people and the Bolivarian revolution. A protest is scheduled in Baltimore on June 8. See ia.center.org/4824/venezuela/.

The following excerpts are from a talk given by Faqsun Sells at a May 20 Workers World forum in New York City titled “Black Lives Matter, Trans Lives Matter, USA out of Everywhere!”

Continuing countless imperialist wars; executing dozens of whole coun-
tries (which are all in either Africa or the Middle East); a constant threat to
other nations; exploiting land that doesn’t belong to them (North Dakota pipeline, invading Middle East, etc.); all this is
fair to U.S. “national interests,” among so
many other atrocities that are so numer-
ous, I would lose patience listing them all.

Fortunately, all of the above is making it easier for socialist organizations and parties to attract young people! Accord-
ing to MotherJones.com and splinter.
com, the number of socialist organizing committees and organizations as a whole has nearly doubled since Donald Trump
has been elected. The major contributing factor in this spike in membership is peo-
ple between the ages of 18-34.

Membership of various communist organizations, including Workers World
Party, has increased primarily due to the fascist, sexist, homophobic and racist
positions that the Trump administration represents. It is important to note that when Trump represents, capitalist and impe-
rilateral forces also represent, and young people are taking notice. And they are
fucking tired!

Tired of the tax dollars coming out of our paychecks, which we are already get-
ting shortened out of anyhow working to make the CEOs richer, and funding im-
perialist wars overseas which we did not agree to support or partake in whatsoever.

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

A renewed interest in socialism
Young people are realizing, more and more, that no matter whenever they
 elect, things stay the same. Young people are realizing, more and more, that in or-
der for things to change to their satisfac-
tion, the entire system must be changed!

The renewed interest in socialism and communism among young people is vi-
tal, as we are the ones who will carry the
torch and continue the fight for socialism.

If there is no one to continue our strug-
gle, if there is no one to continue fighting for socialism, then there will be no more
fight for socialism. In that regard, I am personally thankful for the election of
Donald Trump. He is racist and unqual-
ifed as shit, but his fascist, homophobic
views, as well as his being unqual-
ified for the position he was elected to, are
some of the very reasons we have some of
these beautiful young comrades in our presence today.

Now, more than ever, is the time to strike
down the system that oppresses us. Our
forces are expanding. And we will con-
tinue to work as hard as we can to continue
to expand. Imagine if people, in the tens of
millions, filled the streets, powerfully de-
claring that this regime is illegitimate and
demanding that it not be allowed to rule!

The whole political landscape would be
dramatically transformed. Every faction
within the established power structure
would be forced to respond — and all this
could well lead to a situation in which this
fascist regime is actually prevented from
ruling.

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

The imperialist media have joined that in the Venezuelan oil-rich region which supports oppositionists remind us of the worse acts.
I reiterate our solidarity with the Bolivarian Chavista Revolution, with the civic-military union of the Venezuelan people, and with the constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros. For entire speech, see tinyurl.com/3z9d2gq2

Script for plans to develop Bolivarian Revolution written in Washington.
(Guaimaro, May 25)

Breaking the law, creating a parallel government, organizing alternative economic institutions, harassing public utilities, utilizing tax havens, hoarding goods, marching, obstructing social events, boycottings elections, disrupting media, unleashing bands of bands, launching hunger strikes and overwhelming the state administrative systems — are only a few of the 106 methods to overtly resist, overthrowing the government. All these techniques have been practiced in Latin American countries.
Unlike traditional conflicts, non-conventional warfare is based on psychological warfare, spreading facts and fictions, and irregular armed struggle.

The Organization of American States has been the principal body working on behalf of the OAS to launch an international campaign against Venezuela. As a result, Venezuela left the OAS.

Now there is a real danger of a military intervention. Two days after Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos met with U.S.-backed Poroshenko in Washington, Colombian army tanks were mobilized to the border with Venezuela. And armed from abroad, carried out the dirty work on the ground, while NATO provided air support, and the transnational corporate media manipulated the facts presented to the public.

Venezuela, a case study
Despite the defeat of the 2002 coup attempt — by a massive mobilization of the Venezuelan people. Chávez was confronted by protests and sabotages, of different proportions, as he already had his very last days. When the Bolivarian leader died in March of 2013, and his successor, Nicolás Maduro assumed the presidency, they and their foreign advisers activated the most aggressive tactics of their non-conventional war strategy, in hopes of dealing the revolution a final blow.

More than street barricades
The mounting violence of protests takes on escalating proportions in Venezuela because a significant part of the population, to undermine the government, to keep the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

President Hugo Chávez — which has forever changed the reality of this country to benefit the population, to undermine the government’s ability to function, leading to its demise without the use of a foreign military intervention.

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

Venezuela offers oil agreements to member countries, which must pay 60 percent of the cost of oil shipments. Financing takes into account current world oil prices, allowing for more favorable terms when the cost of oil is higher. Countries may also offer goods and services to pay off oil shipments, ranging from food such as beans and sugar to human capital such as doctors. There are now 18 members of Petrocaribe, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Venezuela.

For entire article, see tinyurl.com/gujakka8

What is Petrocaribe?
An article by Rachel Glickhouse on May 10, 2013, published by the Americas Society, offers a detailed perspective on the organization. One can easily see why U.S. imperialism would adopt policies aiming to destroy such an organization as well as other international initiatives by Bolivarian Venezuela that strengthened the sovereignty of the countries south of the United States.
Under the administration of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, an energy bloc emerged to provide low-interest oil sales to nearby countries facing expensive imports. As a region, Caribbean countries spend around 13 percent of GDP on oil imports, while Petrocaribe, the Venezuelan energy cooperation project with its neighbors, would adopt policies aiming to destroy U.S.-based oil companies.

For entire article: tinyurl.com/y9sakl9

Who is this? President Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías.

Dellums Federal Building in the heart of downtown Oakland, Calif., on June 2 to demand “U.S. CIA, hands off Venezuela.” Holding signs in defense of the Bolivarian Revolution and against U.S./OAS threats against Venezuela, the picketers faced jeering chants from a small but vocal group of right-wing Venezuelans. The pro-Maduro forces chanted, “Not U.S. land, not U.S. oil — Hands off Venezuela. No more wars for Big Oil, hands off Venezuela.”

The event was initiated by the IAC, the International Committee for Peace, Justice, and the Latin America Solidarity Committee. Endorsers included the American Friends Service Committee; Arab Resource and Organizing Center; Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition; International League of People’s Struggle; Marcha Patriótica de Colombia/Calles de Esperanza; the Heart of the East Action Network, Francisco County, Santa Cruz County & Sonoma County Peace and Freedom Party; Task Force on the Americas; United World Anti-War Coalition; and Workers World Party.


In New York City, a viewing of the same film on June 3 was attended by a large multinational, multigenerational and multilingual crowd, while the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle of New York, brought a delegation of Venezuelans to the screening, which was sponsored by the Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition.

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For entire article, see tinyurl.com/48hcfap3

National call says: ‘Defend Venezuela!’

Continued from page 1
By the opposition with U.S. aid money, are also involved. The fascist, hateful and racist character of the attacks includes setting people on fire, stabbing and beating them while shouting racist insults.

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Sexual Minorities Archive reopens with Leslie Feinberg Library

By Gary Armsby Holyoke, Mass.

A long after a fight against landlords and banks turned into a victory to “Come Home” to the Sexual Minorities Archive in its new Holyoke, Mass., location. The archive also celebrated the opening of the Leslie Feinberg Library, housed in the SMA’s new Sylvia Rivera Room.

Gathered in the packed house were SMA supporters, community members and activists, including renowned poet and Workers World managing editor Minnie Bruce Pratt, Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse and a delegation from Workers World’s Boston branch.

SMA’s archivist-activist founder, Ben Power, told the group, “We almost lost that precious 43-year-old LGBTQ national archive.” Power explained the reason that necessitated relocating the archive was the “Battle of the Overpass.”

Ford, however, remained unorganized. Henry Ford believed “labor union organizations are the worst thing that ever happened” to his company. Among Ford’s answers used in Feinberg’s research for the book “Transgender Warriors,” a groundbreaking feminist history, was his exploiting and manipulating transgenders and gender non-conforming people to advance his goals.

“LGBTQ history ‘comes home’”

The SMA is a grassroots collection of LGBTQIA historical books, films, photographs, periodicals, letters and more. The SMA “represents the ongoing struggle to take the reality that is in our hearts, the LBGTQ history ‘comes home’ to the Sexual Minorities Archive reopens with Leslie Feinberg Library.”

By Martha Grewat

May 26 marked the 80th anniversary of a bloody example of capitalist violence against unions: the “Battle of the Overpass.” The world was exposed — and not for the first time — to the brutality of a U.S. corporation running roughshod over its workers.

From 1935 to 1937, organized labor was on the march. Hundreds of sit-down strikes had won union recognition in a range of industries. A 44-day occupation of General Motors plants in Flint, Mich., forced the world’s biggest corporation to recognize the UAW as the bargaining agent. A 35-day strike forced Chrysler to follow suit. The organizing of GM and Chrysler, along with smaller auto companies and parts suppliers, brought 400,000 members into the UAW.

Ford, however, remained unorganized. Henry Ford believed “labor union organizations are the worst thing that ever struck the earth.” (Mary Heaton Vorse, “The Battle of the Overpass.”)

Thinking he could cover up his role, Henry Ford claimed “that Ford employee” committed the violence. Photographers and reporters were beaten, their cameras and notebooks confiscated. However, one photographer managed to toss his camera into a vauating car, which sped away from him and dropped the damnning evidence. What became known as the “Battle of the Overpass” was front-page news the next day in Detroit. Ford stopped advertising in Time after the magazine made the battle a feature story.

Leafleting continued even after the May 26 bloodbath. Despite the fascist-like atmosphere inside the plant, Ford workers continued to sign up to join the UAW.

After a hard-fought, sevenstrike day, in which African-American union and community leaders played a critical role, the UAW finally won recognition at Ford in 1941.

By J.J. Kennedy later died of his wounds.

Lower East Side not for sale

Continued from page 4

regulations. The city’s rules mandating an environmental impact study are being ignored in the interests of the rich.

These tenants are challenging the re-entrenchment and “politics” actions, as their movement also defends nearby public housing that is endangered by the same players for the ruling class.

That move was about the time the Chicago City Council passed a law that allowed the city to seize property from non-paying tenants, and the city’s public housing. The SMA Director Ben Power, poet-activist Minnie Bruce Pratt in the Feinberg Library.

SMA Director Ben Power, poet-activist Minnie Bruce Pratt in the Feinberg Library.
Opposing the pro-Soviet Marxist government of President Taraki at the beginning of 1979. On March 28, 1979, the CIA launched a covert action, Operation Tailwind, to overthrow the government of Mohammad Daoud. Yet, despite these admissions by top government officials, the narrative in the U.S. media continues to be that the U.S. set up, armed and trained the “Mujahedin” to counter a Soviet “invasion.” So that the CIA could boast to Congress, it was the real reasons for the U.S. spending billions of dollars and destroying the countries in an effort to bring down the govern- ment of Afghanistan. To answer that question, it helps to know a little about Afghanistan’s history and how it had remained independent for the first two centuries of its history. Each of the foreign invasions by the Soviet Union and the U.S. imperialist powers seized much of Asia, Africa and Latin America as their colonies or neocolonies.

1839-1919: Three British invasions fail to conquer Afghanistan

Britain, which controlled neighboring India, invaded Afghanistan three times — in 1839, 1879 and 1939 — but could not keep a puppet colonial power in power. Each time the Afghan people fought back and drove out the British troops. However, London did force the Afghan government to accept British influence over its foreign policy, and in 1895 the British drew up the Durand line. This supposedly temporary division became the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The last invasion, in 1939, provoked an uprising that overthrew the government of Habibullah, who had capitulated to the British. Inspired by the success of the Russian Revolution, the new regime of Amanollah then signed a treaty of friendship with the Bolshevik government, being one of the first countries to do so. From then until the 1970s, Afghan- nistan would not join any military alliance against the USSR.

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

The People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan was formed in 1965, its program was antifeudal and included land reform, canceling the debts of the peasants and democratic rights for women, including an end to the dowry and establishment of social and health care open to all women and men. By the 1970s, the Afghan government was becoming strong enough to challenge its right in its domestic policy and toward NATO in its foreign policy. The vast and mountainous countryside was under the control of feudal landlords. In Kabul and a few other cities, however, the PDPA had developed much support among students, especially young women, as well as lower-class workers and small shopkeepers.

On April 26, 1978, even as the arch-im- pictor and financier Nelson Rockefeller was on his way to visit Daoud in Ka- bul, the government launched an assault on the PDPA, arresting almost its entire leadership. This came right after a mass funeral for members of the PDPA who had been killed by Daoud’s police. Clearly, Daoud meant to show the U.S. that his regime could repress any oppo- sition that might arise to its pivot toward imperialism.

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

1978: Revolution begins land reform, ends brute-price

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

The version of “Afghanistan — A Coun- try Study” that was published in 1986 con- tains startling admissions that go against the established government narrative about Afghanistan. For example, it says that “when the PDPA took power, it quickly moved to remove any landownership inequalities and usury.” The book added that the PDPA also canceled mortgage debts of agricultural laborers, tenants and small landowners. It set up extensive literacy programs, especially for women, and printed textbooks in many languages spoken in different parts of Afghanistan. Said the Pentagon book, “The govern- ment trained many more teachers, built additional schools and kindergartens, and instituted nurseries for orphans.” Among the very first decrees of the revolution were to prohibit bride-price and to give women freedom in choice of marriage.

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

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

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

One of these contras was Osama bin Laden. Under the excuse that he was defending “freedom of religion,” the U.S. undermined the secular freedoms of the Afghan people and turned an army that opposed the PDPA’s progressive reforms in the name of fighting for an Islamic state.

And since 1978, U.S. imperialism was trying to under- mine the Islamic republic in Iran, which took power in 1979 after a long civil war, and now it is trying to undermine the Muslim government in Pakistan, a puppet that had been put in power by the U.S. and British oil interests, again with the aim of en- compassing many progressive, secu- lar fighters, but the Islamic leader- s had the strongest organization among the masses and proved capable of driving out the Shah and his gang.

Religion is not the real issue

Clearly, the issue of religion is not what motivates the imperialists. Nor do they care about women’s rights. They use any excuse and make any temporary alli- ances as they try to reassert their economic domination of the region. What motivates them are their need to control the resources of the area, especially the areas rich in oil, for the benefit of the billionaire U.S. ruling class. But, when you invade a country, the people will shoot at you and tell you to get out.

That is what has happened in Afghan- stan. Once the Soviet army was destroyed, there was a vacuum of leadership to resist the imperialists, who still occupy the country and hand pick its government officials. The US armed the mujaheddin for years, took the top government officials, used them to control the country, especially the areas rich in oil, for the benefit of the billionaire U.S. ruling class. But, when you invade a country, the people will shoot at you and tell you to get out.

The recent film “War Machine,” made by Deirdre Griswold and released by Netflix late in 2015, is a documentary on the Afghan war. The film provides a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the Pentagon and the CIA, and behind the lies on Afghanistan — a war the U.S. has been on for over two decades. The film explores the reasons why the U.S. has been there, and how the war has affected the people, especially the civilians and the Afghan soldiers and civilian forces who have the means to protect themselves even as they profit from a victory.

The “war on terror” has taken its toll not only on the people of Afghanistan but also on people just walking the streets of major Western cities, who are made to pay the crimes of the ruling classes. It has taken its toll on young soldiers who are told nothing about Afghanistan’s his- tory and who, if they survive deployment to that zone, have to return to just for dec- ent medical care back in the states.

This is not the war in the headlines, even as the world breathes a sigh of relief that the Taliban is on the run. It is the war of a new generation, of young people who have the means to protect themselves even as they profit from a victory.

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It is a universally undisputed fact that the Cleveland Cavaliers’ LeBron James is considered the most important basketball player active today. Among his many unprecedented honors, he has won the National Basketball Association’s regular season Most Valuable Player award four times. A three-time NBA champion, James has won three MVP Finals awards since he entered the NBA in 2003 as the number one draft pick when he was only 18 years old. James is currently playing in his eighth consecutive NBA Finals against the Golden State Warriors, an NBA all-time record.

James, an African American, was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, by a single mother. His brilliant basketball talent has made him a millionaire and a global icon, especially with the help of social media. Now 32 and the father of two sons and a daughter, James has also been outspoken when it comes to racism. He has made him a multimillionaire and a beloved star of the Cleveland Cavaliers, an NBA all-time record.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has never produced an official map of the New York City Subway system that only shows stations with accessibility for people with disabilities. That is because it would be embarrassing. More than 75 percent of subway stations would have to be blacked out due to a lack of accessibility of any city in the United States. While the MTA is considered a “public-benefit corporation,” it is clear who is forgotten and left behind the public: people with disabilities.

Riders with disabilities show righteous anger

By John Steffen
New York City

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has never produced an official map of the New York City Subway system that only shows stations with accessibility for people with disabilities. That is because it would be embarrassing. More than 75 percent of subway stations would have to be blacked out due to a lack of accessibility of any city in the United States. While the MTA is considered a “public-benefit corporation,” it is clear who is forgotten and left behind the public: people with disabilities.

Actions at the May 24 MTA board meeting.

Early that morning, around 60 people with disabilities gathered at the New York City Transit Office to speak during the public comment section of the MTA board meeting. This was not a small accomplishment, as it is considerably more difficult for people with disabilities to get around the city compared to non-disabled riders. From lack of service and chronic delays to packed buses and outright abandonment by the Access-a-Ride system, riders with disabilities go through hell to get to where they are going. It is a common complaint of these riders’ commit-ment to raising their concerns and advogating for their rights, the MTA had no interest in hearing the grievances of those who made it to the MTA office that morning. After a few speakers were allowed to talk about their issues with the transit system and Access-a-Ride program, the MTA essentially forgot the powerful movement to bring pressure from below. And it does not matter whether the victim is as well-known as LeBron James or not, especially when people with disabilities left the meeting in angry protest.

The dozens of riders who hadn’t spoken yet were told they could present at the end. James weighed in, and Access-a-Ride program, the MTA made him a multimillionaire. But regardless of these riders’ commitment to Social Security’s program for people with disabilities.

We do need a transit authority of the people. But what we have right now is a transit authority for the rich. It’s not like lack of service is due to a shortage of money. If so, it would be easier for the MTA how it could spend billions of dollars onигровка к улице 2 degrees Celsius, noting that

Paul Oquist, Nicaragua’s representa-

tive to the United Nations, called the climate deal a "path to failure." One of the primary reasons is that the deal is not binding — in other words, there are no legal consequences that fail to live up to the commitments they make as part of the deal, other than “naming and blaming” them, as critics have put it.

It doesn’t go far enough

There is an understandable agreement on goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius, noting that the emissions targets, as well as the voluntary nature of the agreement, would likely result in increases of more than 3 or 4 degrees Celsius, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Filipino women against modern slavery

The following edited statement was issued by GABRIELA USA on May 18.

The capitalist media have denounced Trump’s pullout from the Paris Accord, saying that the U.S. joins the only other two countries that did not sign — Syria and Nicaragua. This is supposed to ridicule Trump and the U.S. without explanation.

The Filipinos, 60 percent of them women, leaving the country every single day in order to work. This is because of rampant poverty, joblessness, and landlessness inside the country.

The women are hired to apply for positions that do not exist, with promises of legal status and decent wages. Instead, they become undocumented, and are forced to work in debt andလိုအပ်ပါမည်။
Donald Trump has confirmed his right-wing ideological alliance with the ultra-chauvinist Steve Bannon faction in the White House by announcing that he is pulling out of the Paris Accords on combating climate change. His speech announcing the so-called pullout was also a campaign speech for the 2020 presidential election.

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

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

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

Twenty-two Republican senators from oil, gas and coal states signed a letter to Trump urging him to reject the Paris Accords. These 22 senators have received at least $10 million in oil, gas and coal money since 2012. (Guardian, June 1)

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The Paris accord was all about profits and imperialist. It goes beyond protecting military bases and the workers and the oppressed should take note of that. Socialism is the only way out of the imperialists.

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¡Bienvenido a Nueva York, Oscar!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Miembros de la Diáspora Boricua y mu-
chas personas solidarias con la causa de
la liberación puertorriqueña celebran la
presencia del ex presidente puertoriqueño
Oscar López Rivera en la Ciudad de Nueva
York. La junta directiva del Desfile Naci-
onale de Puerto Rico, en coordinación con
la Fundación Nacional de Puerto Rico,
le unieron una voces de esta protesta, incluyendo al actu-
ante relacionado con el II Congreso de la Diá-
spora de los EEUU que fueron removidos
en inconformistamente - había abogado
por la excaeceración de López Rivera.

López Rivera escribe

Para dar fin a la frecuente división entre
las y los puertorriqueños, López Rivera
escribió en el editorial de Workers World
en – incongruentemente - había abogado
por la excaeceración de López Rivera.

López Rivera escribe

Durante las últimas seis décadas, ac-
tividad-antitracistas y por los derechos
civiles han luchado por la eliminación
de símbolos de opresión. Las/Josés
de las banderas que gritan la discriminación
y la xenofobia que experimentaron las
y los primeros boricuas que tuvieron
 considerable paño en sus manos. 30 años
por los derechos de la comunidad y solidar-
dad patriótica dentro de esas frías entradas
neoyorquinas.

Las/os activistas de NOLA contra las
leyes de excepción en los EE.UU. que han sido
imponidas en beneficio del pueblo boricua
-y ha dado el nombre de los orígenes del
Reconstrucción y los poderes económicos
desmantelado después de desafiar la segregación
mientras se ha enfrentado a PR desde la
invasión yugoslava en 1989: la conformación
entre el imperialismo y la dependencia.

La presencia de este héroeo
boricua en el desfile ha resaltado lo que
realmente se perfiló en la nación puer-
torriqueña: la lucha por la sobrevivencia
mismo de la puertorriqueñidad frente al
mundo de capital y el Estado. La Diá-
spora, representado con más impío en
PR por las fuerzas anexionistas a los
Estados Unidos. Vuelve a desarrollarse lo
que siempre ha existido en PR desde la
invasión yugoslava en 1989: la conformación
más de la puertorriqueñidad frente al
en la nación puertorriqueña - hay que recordar los orígenes del
Desfile Puertorriqueño de NY - y a los
puertorriqueños - hay que recordar los orígenes del
Desfile Puertorriqueño de NY - y a los
puertorriqueños, López Rivera representa que
solo podría ser en beneficio del pueblo
bajo la independencia como única fórmu-
la de verdadera soberanía, se pretende
amordazar las voces libertarias.

Joubert-Ceci es redactora de la pági-
a Mundo Obrero del semanario Work-
ers World.