

# WORKERS WORLD

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Oct. 8, 2009 Vol. 51, No. 40 50¢

# Massive int'l solidarity crucial as Hondurans resist right-wing coup

By Teresa Gutierrez

Sept. 29—As we go to press, aggression by right-wing forces that can accurately be described as acts of war continues in Honduras.

A vicious fascist coup may be in the making as the de facto illegal government of Roberto Micheletti carries out a reign of terror against the people and Manuel Zelaya, the democratically elected president. The coup plotters—golpistas in Spanish—have denied rights guaranteed in the Constitution and banned gatherings.

These latest assaults took place after President Zelaya quietly returned to his country on Sept. 20 after being deposed in a right-wing coup on June 28.

Zelaya took refuge in the Brazilian Embassy on Sept. 21. He is accompanied there by his spouse, First Lady Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, and many supporters, including members of the Honduran resistance.

At stake in Honduras today is the survival of leaders and a movement that orient in the direction of alleviating the problems of the poor and the working class. The danger is that reactionary class forces oriented to Washington and Wall Street at the expense of the poor and the working class could prevail through military might.

When it became clear that President Zelaya was oriented to goals similar to those of left-leaning leaders in Latin America like Presidents Hugo Chávez and Raúl Castro, the super-rich and pro-U.S. oligarchy of Honduras took action. They kidnapped him in the middle of the night and flew him out of the country.

Upon President Zelaya's return, the illegitimate Micheletti government gave ominous orders to the Honduran police and military: surround the Brazilian Embassy where Zelaya was staying.

Reports confirm that the coup leaders, described as fascist by the resistance, dropped chemical gas on the embassy on Sept. 25 after cutting off water, electricity and food for several days. The gas is known to cause severe respiratory damage.

It was also confirmed that the Micheletti fascists used Long-Range Acoustic Devices on the embassy. LRADs are manufactured in the U.S. and can cause permanent hearing damage.

A photographer captured the use of LRADs, which emit an acoustic beam so painful that it can cause serious damage to hearing. At full capacity, an LRAD emits a 150-decibel sound wave—equivalent to the roar of a jet plane taking off.

This weapon has frequently been used by the U.S. in

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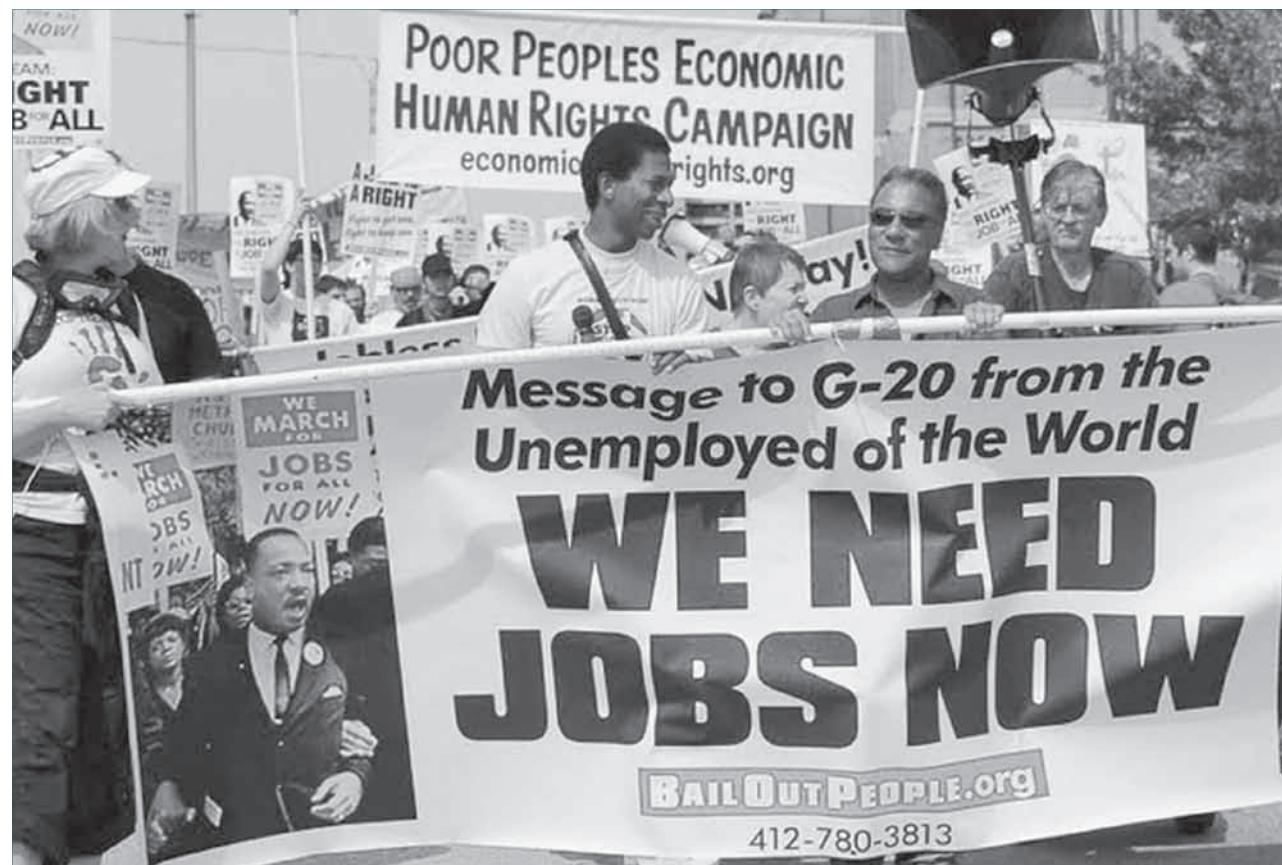
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WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK  
Cindy Sheehan, John Parker and Larry Holmes carry Bail Out the People banner at the front of People's March of 10,000 in Pittsburgh against G-20 summit, Sept. 25. Read more on pages 6-7.

## As youths protest G-20 summit Police riot in Pittsburgh

By Dante Strobino  
Pittsburgh

The following article is based on eyewitness reports. Full reports and more updates, along with a petition supporting the release and amnesty for those arrested, can be found at the [www.bailoutpeople.org](http://www.bailoutpeople.org) blog. According to the Sept. 28 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 190 people were arrested and lawsuits are being threatened against city officials and police.

More than 1,000 young people gathered in Arsenal Park in Pittsburgh on Sept. 24 to resist the G-20 meeting taking place in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The effort was coordinated by the Pittsburgh G-20 Resistance Project.

Protesters began their march through the working-class neighborhood of Lawrenceville towards a bridge leading to downtown. The unpermitted march took over the streets with banners that read "No hope in capitalism," "No bailout—no capitalism" and "No borders—no banks."

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The marchers were eventually stopped by police, who confronted them with high-frequency sound blasts and orders to disperse. The protesters then doubled back and confronted cops again in the middle of a residential community. Anarchists grabbed a dumpster on wheels and sent it rolling down the hill directly into the police barricade, not harming anyone.

The police reacted with more violence, attacking the entire neighborhood with several canisters of OC gas (oleoresin capsicum), a new police weapon meant to

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## Sickness & struggle

# Attacks on Obama plan mirror Clinton health debacle

By David Hoskins

Former President Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992 with health care reform as a key part of his domestic platform. It seemed then that the time was right for comprehensive reform.

The number of uninsured people had already climbed to 40 million. The Democrats were in control of the White House and Congress. A large majority of the public rated health care reform as an urgent priority and voiced support for a universal insurance plan.

In 1993, shortly after taking office, Clinton set up the President's Task Force on National Health Reform. Hillary Rodham Clinton was asked to head the task force and prepare health reform legislation for submission to Congress within the first 100 days of the administration. This was initially viewed as the administration's signal to Congress and the media that health care was a top priority.

Yet when the task force was hastily disbanded on May 31, without having submitted a plan to Congress, this was an early warning sign that the emerging details of the reform plan had failed on two fronts. The insurance industry and right-wing Republicans, who sought to stop any health reform legislation, were not appeased by the plan's concessions.

Union activists, progressive health care advocates and the uninsured were not energized by a weak plan chock full of industry giveaways and loopholes.

### Managed competition, not working-class reform

The Clinton administration claimed that its overriding goal was quality universal health coverage. But rather than eliminate the biggest obstacle to real reform—the profit-driven private insurance industry—the administration proposed a market-oriented plan based upon the principles of managed competition.

The plan sought to develop financial incentives for consumers to choose health care plans based on price and perceived quality. Regional alliances would be established to restructure the health insurance market by serving as the group purchaser for people not receiving Medicare and would offer local residents—employed and unemployed—their choice of health plans. Large companies could act as their own corporate alliance.

A 1994 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association titled "A Better-Quality Alternative: Single-Payer National Health System Reform" provided a contemporary critique of the Clinton plan:

"A managed competition strategy, such as that proposed by the Clinton administration and debated in Congress, while designed to provide universal access, has not demonstrated an ability to contain cost and creates a complex structure with separate and unequal multitiered care. Eschewing the easily enforceable budgetary constraints of the single-payer approach necessitates reliance on potentially damaging financial incentives, wasteful micromanagement, and complicated budgetary regulation to minimize spending. ... No amount of regulation and oversight can breathe quality into a system that is

not based on caring professionals working for patients."

### Health care reform, the Democratic déjà vu

Despite Obama's best efforts to avoid a repeat of the Clinton health reform debacle, the similarities between the push for health care reform in 1993 and now are striking.

Bill Clinton rode a wave of economic anxiety and dissatisfaction over former President George H.W. Bush's first term to win the 1992 presidential election. Clinton's general election victory was solid; he won 370 electoral votes and took states generally outside of the Democrats' reach, such as Georgia, Louisiana and Kentucky.

Fast-forward 16 years and the resemblance is glaring. President Barack Obama rode a wave of economic anxiety and dissatisfaction over the presidency of George W. Bush, son of the defeated 1992 incumbent, to win the 2008 presidential election. Obama's general election victory was stunning in light of his status as the first Black president of the United States. Obama was able to secure 365 electoral votes as he also took states generally outside the Democrats' reach, such as Indiana, Virginia and North Carolina.

Health care reform was named the top domestic priority both by President Clinton during his first year in 1993 and by President Obama during his first months in 2009. Both administrations had solid Democratic Party majorities in the House and Senate at the time they made their respective efforts to push a reform bill through Congress.

Yet both Clinton and Obama backed flawed health reform plans that failed to challenge the private insurance industry, fell short of voter expectations, and ultimately would leave the lives of millions in the hands of corporate bureaucrats. The bill in 1993 went down to a stunning defeat. There are still signs of life for Obama's proposal, although its final form and outcome are undecided.

The 1993 and 2009 Democratic Party's reform efforts have more in common than just the failure of the Democrats to fight for meaningful health reform. Both efforts were the focus of organized attacks by the health insurance industry and an extreme right wing, eager to whip up anti-Obama racism today and sexism against Hillary Rodham Clinton earlier.

President Obama has been the focus of racist attacks, from incendiary comments by conservative radio and television talk show commentators to the appearance of hostile forces at town hall forums, some flagrantly displaying guns.

The intentions of the attacks faced by Obama are similar to those underlying the sexism targeted at Hillary Rodham Clinton when she led the Clinton administration's campaign. The right wing's misogynist slanders toward her, which were repeated by the media, were meant to stop passage of any health care reform legislation.

The health care reform experiences of 1993 and 2009 should serve as an important lesson to organized labor and other progressive backers of the Democrats. Democratic Party concessions do not appease the opponents of reform, nor do they provide a path to victory for universal health care.

*Next: 2003 Medicare changes—corporate giveaway in the name of reform.*

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#### Editor's announcement

Kris Hamel, a long-time leading member of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, has become a managing editor of WW.

—Deirdre Griswold

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Vol. 51, No. 40 • Oct. 8, 2009

Closing date: Sept. 29, 2009

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$25; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [www.workers.org/email.php](http://www.workers.org/email.php).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

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# Tenants win against utility giant, absentee landlord

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire  
Detroit

A major struggle against DTE Energy and absentee landlords has reached a conclusion in Highland Park, Mich., a municipality surrounded by the city of Detroit. DTE Energy shut off the electricity at an apartment building on Aug. 31, leaving more than 150 residents in the dark.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs took action in support of the Highland Tower tenants by holding demonstrations and press conferences and supporting a lawsuit filed by the residents against DTE Energy and the landlords. This series of actions resulted in the restoration of electrical power as well as a settlement that provided monetary and material assistance for all the tenants to relocate to better living facilities.

A court order on Sept. 11 forced DTE Energy to turn the power back on at the apartment building. Two other hearings, on Sept. 15 and 18, created the conditions for DTE Energy and the landlords to cover the costs of moving the tenants to other apartments.

## Tenants, community organize fightback

The residents of Highland Towers were empowered by the struggle waged against DTE Energy and the absentee landlords. On Sept. 3, tenants went to DTE Energy headquarters in downtown Detroit to demand that their power be restored.

When tenants and their supporters occupied the lobby of the building, DTE Energy security officials stated that executives would meet with them shortly. But after remaining there for over an hour, they were told the lobby was closed and no one was available to discuss the situation at their apartment building.

The following day, in the aftermath of an emergency demonstration in front of DTE Energy headquarters, executives met with Moratorium NOW! organizers and tenants from Highland Towers.

The executives told the tenants that under no circumstances would they restore the power. They promised to work with human service agencies to provide other assistance to the tenants. They said that service providers were on the way to their headquarters to meet with tenants. But no one showed up. A car from the United Way drove up outside but the rep-

resentative never entered the building to speak with the tenants.

The Highland Towers apartments had suffered from years of neglect and mismanagement. Residents had paid their monthly rents, yet the funds collected were never used to make repairs or cover the cost of utility bills.

In a Sept. 25 article published on the Detroit Blog of Time.com, LaTanya Lloyd, a Highland Towers tenant and co-plaintiff in the lawsuit, narrated the developments surrounding the struggle at Highland Towers. Lloyd, who also attended the March for Jobs in Pittsburgh on Sept. 20, said in regard to the Sept. 4 meeting with DTE Energy, "When we went to talk with DTE, it was like DTE just didn't ... I hate to say it, but it was like they just didn't give a shit."

Lloyd went on to say, "One of the executives told us that the landlord owed over \$150,000 to DTE. He said, 'No, we're not turning the power back on. This is a business, and we're in business to make money.'"

Lloyd then stated, "A few days after the power went out, Moratorium NOW! approached us. Moratorium NOW! works with people in the community to stop unfair evictions and foreclosures. And that's basically what this was, an unfair

eviction. Once they got involved, things changed real fast. We got hooked up with Legal Aid and Defenders' attorneys, and we took DTE to court."

Lloyd, the mother of two children whose spouse is a graphic designer, continued: "They still kept fighting us! They told the judge lies about giving us notice, things like that. We never saw any notice from them. Our notice was the power going out. We're human beings, and we matter. And we just weren't going to let them do that to us without a fight. And we didn't. And you know ... We won!"

## Broadening the struggle to meet growing crisis

As a result of the struggle in support of the residents at Highland Towers, other human services agencies also became involved. The United Community Housing Coalition, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, Southwest Solutions, the Department of Human Services and others came to the building in order to assist the residents with relocation.

On Sept. 21, a delegation of tenants and organizers for the Moratorium NOW! Coalition attended the City Council meeting in Highland Park. Mayor Hubert Yopp in his report on the situation at Highland

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## A modern-day Fannie Lou Hamer Remembering Vickie White

By Monica Moorehead

Revolutionaries sacrifice much of their personal lives to devote their time, energy and skills to the fight for social justice for their communities and humanity as a whole. One exemplary revolutionary was Vickie White, who tragically passed away at the young age of 46 this past July 1 in New Brunswick, N.J. She died from heart failure arising from complications from deep vein thrombosis.

White was well-respected and loved by all who knew her for being a tireless community and political activist in northern New Jersey. A member of the African-American-based People's Organization for Progress for almost a decade, White was appointed chairperson of POP's Central Jersey branch in 2005. One of her first tasks was to organize mass support of Hurricane Katrina survivors' right to return to the Gulf Coast in 2006. She organized youth from New Jersey to go to New Orleans to assist in rebuilding the then-devastated Ninth Ward.

In 2007 POP helped bring together more than 120 organizations in the Peace and Justice Coalition. The coalition's main goals were to build class solidarity among anti-war, community and labor activists by linking the struggle against war and occupation abroad with the struggle against racism and economic injustice at home. White played a leading organizing role in building the largest Black-led anti-war march and rally in the streets of Newark, N.J., in August 2007. Some of POP's other campaigns include opposing rampant police killings and hospital closings and demanding reparations.

White was an important ally of the New York-based Troops Out Now Coalition, a member of the PJC. She spoke on domestic violence against women at an International Working Women's Day rally



PHOTO: PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

on March 7 this year in New York's Union Square called by the Women's Fightback Network.

At a packed memorial service for White on July 10 in Highland Park, N.J., an International Action Center statement was read by Larry Holmes, one of its codirectors. The following are excerpts from that statement:

"To say that we are heartbroken over Vickie's untimely death is an understatement. It is still so hard for us to comprehend that she is gone at such a young age. Vickie was a tireless leader whom every activist should know about and emulate.

"Her leadership role in People's Organization for Progress and in the Peace and Justice Coalition was enormously important and will be sorely missed. She was always a consistent voice for building unity with all movements and struggles of workers and oppressed peoples in New Jersey, the U.S. and worldwide. The Women's Fightback Network will remember Vickie at next year's International Women's Day event....

"Vickie would want all of us to honor her memory by continuing to organize and unite around all the issues until social justice and equality become a lasting reality for all of humanity. Just like Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Lou Hamer and countless other strong, courageous Black women warriors, we will proudly add the name of Vickie White to this list. Vickie White, ipresente!" □

## Texas rally demands no executions

Austin, Texas, Sept. 26—"As God is my witness, it is hard to believe that we still have modern-day lynchings in this country. We're paying state officials to kill our children. They are dogs, these people. The same cocktail that cannot be used to kill animals because it is too cruel, they want to use it to kill my son," cried Anna Terrell, mother of Reginald Blanton, scheduled to be executed in Texas on Oct. 27.

As protesters filled the sidewalk in front of the Texas Capitol, a militant rally was held in support of Blanton, who has always and consistently proclaimed his innocence. Laura Brady of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty chaired the rally and opened by saying that it was the people who saved Kenneth Foster from execution in 2007 and who can save Blanton now.

Scott Cobb, representing the Texas Moratorium Network, spoke about the news of the vindication of Todd Willingham, who was executed in 2004 for an alleged arson fire that killed his

three small daughters but now has been proven innocent. Delia Perez-Meyer has been fighting for her brother, Louis Perez, for 11 years. She said, "I have an innocent brother on death row and his case is in the last stage now. With the Willingham case on the news every day, all over the world, we must let people know that we're not going to stand for the death penalty any more. We've got to stop it now!" She also told the crowd about a letter from Kenneth Foster, who was hours from execution in August 2007 when the governor commuted his sentence to life. "Kenneth wanted everyone who was out protesting to know how beautiful they are and that he is with us today from his prison cell."

A speaker from the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement told the crowd that the Willingham case, the ethics violations trial of Sharon Keller, Texas' top criminal judge, and the news of a judge and a D.A. having an affair during the capital murder trial of Charles Hood prove more than ever that executions must stop now.

But it was Blanton's mother who had the crowd crying as she told them how her son's case had killed his father and cheering when she said: "My son is innocent! Please give us a chance to prove this. The D.A. shuffled the jury pool three times so they could pick the people they wanted to convict my son. Their all-white jury didn't even listen to his innocence claims. ... It is time for a change. It is time to set my son free!"

The next event for Blanton is set for Oct. 10 in San Antonio, his hometown.

**—Report and photo by Gloria Rubac**



Anna Terrell appeals for the life of her son, Reginald Blanton.

# Stella D'Oro workers take struggle to Wall St.

By Mike Eilenfeldt  
New York

Workers at Stella D'Oro Biscuit Co. are still fighting to keep their plant and jobs in the Bronx, even after a hard-fought, 11-month strike ended in victory and a favorable National Labor Relations Board ruling.

Brynwood Partners, a private equity vulture that bought the plant in 2006, has now sold it to Lance, Inc., which plans to move the company to anti-union Ashland, Ohio.

The workers say this is criminal because it involves moving out machinery that was paid for by \$9 million in New York City tax abatements.

On Sept. 25 a large contingent of fired-up Stella D'Oro workers joined hundreds of chanting supporters in front of Goldman Sachs, a Wall Street global giant in the commercial and investment sector that received billions in bailouts and is the underwriter in the sale of Stella D'Oro.

Its executives are well rewarded for sabotaging the rights of workers, their unions and communities. Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman Sachs CEO, is one of Wall Street's highest-paid executives. Weil, Gotshal and Manges LLP, an international law firm with expertise in acquisition finance deals, which has revenues of \$1.7 billion, has been retained by Brynwood Partners and Goldman Sachs to close the deal. Stella D'Oro workers are facing cold-hearted class enemies—the bailout robber barons.

Mike Filippou, executive committee member of Bakery Workers union Local 50 and the main spokesperson for the workers during their long, hard struggle, spoke to the rally: "We're here at Goldman Sachs for a reason. Goldman Sachs gets so much money from our taxes and from the stimulus package. And what do they do? They're moving the jobs out of the Bronx and out from New York to make a profit. We're here to make everybody know what Goldman Sachs does to working people like us to make a profit. We're here to tell them that we're not going to allow them to do that."

After the protest, Stella D'Oro workers



Workers protest outside offices of Goldman Sachs.

WW PHOTO: MIKE EILENFELDT

led a militant march up Broadway to City Hall, chanting, "We are Stella" and "Keep Stella in the Bronx! Fight! Fight! Fight!"

They carried two huge red banners created in Guatemala in tribute to the heroic 11-month strike, which began in August 2008 and ended in July of this year. That's when the NLRB ruled that Brynwood Partners had committed unfair labor practices, used scabs and refused to bargain with the union. During the strike, not one worker crossed the picket line.

Marchers targeted multi-billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg for his refusal to enforce tax abatement laws that Brynwood and its cohorts on Wall Street have trampled on.

The phenomenal unity of the Stella D'Oro family of immigrant workers from many nations, with the majority women, gradually won support from the community. Workers in solidarity with the community pushed the City Council, the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, local elected officials and even sections of the corporate media to support their cause.

Unfortunately, Richard Trumka, newly elected president of the AFL-CIO, passed up an opportunity to deliver a message of support when he recently visited Wall Street and the Kingsbridge Armory, which is only a few blocks from Stella D'Oro in the Bronx.

George Kahsaay, a strike captain who never missed a day on the picket line, summed it all up: "It's not over till it's over. We're going to fight all the way. Doesn't matter how big they are. We're going to fight them and we're going to win this war."

*Eilenfeldt is a delegate to the New York City Central Labor Council and a member of the Bail Out the People Movement.*

## Tenants win against utility

*Continued from page 3*

Towers never mentioned the struggle that took place against DTE Energy and the landlords and omitted the fact that it was the organizing effort that resulted in the power being restored.

Building residents blasted the city government for not fighting to protect the interests of its citizens. When Sandra Hines, an organizer for the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, rose to go to the podium and speak, residents of Highland Towers applauded. Hines stated that it was the struggle of the people that resulted in the victory against DTE Energy and the landlords.

On Sept. 23, DTE Energy hosted a community outreach program at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit purportedly designed to assist people who were having problems in paying their utility bills. Over 10,000 people showed up at the event, most of whom were not able to receive any attention due to the overwhelming turnout.

This outpouring of people clearly demonstrates that there is a state of economic emergency in existence in the state of Michigan. The Moratorium NOW! Coalition has been calling upon Gov. Jennifer Granholm for over two years to exercise her emergency powers by imposing a halt to foreclosures, evictions and utility shutoffs.

Michigan has an official unemployment rate of more than 15 percent. The city of Detroit's official unemployment rate is nearly 29 percent. Yet the state government and local officials have consistently refused to take action in defense of the people.

The struggle at Highland Towers makes the case even clearer for the imposition of an immediate moratorium on evictions and utility shutoffs. The Moratorium NOW! Coalition plans to reach out to more apartment buildings where tenants are facing threats of eviction and utility shutoffs. □

## ON THE PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

## Hotel workers protest coast to coast

Hotel workers have recently flexed their muscles coast to coast by staging rallies and civil disobedience protests. Represented by the UNITE HERE union, members of Local 26 in Boston, Local 1 in Chicago and Local 2 in San Francisco took to the streets in the thousands. They were protesting layoffs in Boston and demanding decent contracts with full health care benefits in Chicago and San Francisco. Local 26 demonstrated outside Boston's Hyatt Regency on Sept. 18 to protest the firing of about 100 housekeepers, all immigrant women of color. Many had worked at three area Hyatts for years, making more than \$15 an hour plus benefits. According to the Sept. 26 San Francisco Chronicle, Hyatt has \$1.2 billion cash in its coffers, but it replaced these women on Aug. 31 with workers making \$8 an hour and no benefits.

Though the housekeepers are not represented by the union, Local 26 took up their cause. They also are being supported verbally by some local politicians. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick has called for a boycott of the Hyatt chain and, in a show of solidarity, the National Employment Lawyers Association canceled a convention there. (New York Times, Sept. 25) Local 1 took up the Boston struggle on Sept. 24 when hundreds rallied in Chicago and 200 members were arrested for blocking traffic in front of the Park Hyatt. The 6,500-member local, whose contract at 30 Chicago hotels expired on Aug. 31, held the solidarity protest as part of its ongoing struggle for a fair contract. Also on Sept. 24 about 1,700 members of Local 2 rallied at two hotels, and 43 activists were arrested for trespassing inside the Grand Hyatt and 49 were arrested for blocking the street in front of the Westin St. Francis.

The contract covering the 9,000 room cleaners, dishwashers, cooks, bellpersons and other workers at 62 San Francisco hotels expired on Aug. 14. Here, too, the main issue is health care coverage, with the Starwood chain saying it is "unwilling to continue paying the full cost of health care benefits that escalate 10 percent a year." (SF Chronicle, Sept. 26) This demonstration followed Local 2's militant march through downtown on Labor Day.

## One-day strike on 10 U.C. campuses

Thousands of students, faculty members and employees at the 10 University of California campuses marched and picketed on Sept. 24 to protest budget cuts, unpaid faculty furloughs and tuition hikes. The union representing 11,000 professional and technical staff members called the one-day strike, which was supported by many of U.C.'s 19,000 faculty members. According to the draconian state budget, tuition will be raised 32 percent by 2010 and mandatory faculty furloughs will reduce pay by 4 to 10 percent. The problem, according to U.C. Davis professor Joshua Clover, is that these actions will "disproportionately harm those who can least afford it among both the workers and the students." (New York Times, Sept. 25) □

# Autoworkers rally against plant closing

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Detroit

More than 500 workers at Chrysler/Fiat's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, along with labor, community and student allies, protested Sept. 25 against the planned shutdown of their workplace.

Despite receiving \$12 billion in bailout funds, Chrysler-Fiat is intent on shutting down eight plants in the United States, including Sterling Heights. At this plant alone, nearly 1,100 members of the United Auto Workers Local 1700 labor to assemble the Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Avenger vehicles.

UAW members and unionists from metropolitan Detroit and other Midwest locations where plants are slated to close joined in solidarity with the Local 1700 rally. UAW rank-and-file members and elected leaders came in cars, vans and buses from St. Louis; Kenosha, Wis.; Kokomo, Ind.; Twinsburg, Ohio; and elsewhere.

Local 1700 members unfurled a gigantic

banner with pictures of their members and families. It faced the heavy traffic on Van Dyke Street, where the protest was held. For three hours passing motorists honked their support. Locally owned restaurants gave discounts to those attending the rally.

This area has already been hammered with thousands of layoffs at Sterling Heights and other plants over the years. A complete plant shutdown would result in even more home foreclosures, business closings and the loss of millions of tax dollars for numerous cities.

Participants included labor-community-student supporters from the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice; the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs; the Union of Part-Time Faculty-American Federation of Teachers; Southeastern Michigan Jobs With Justice; the Service Employees International Union; Solidarity; Labor Notes; the People's Summit; UAW retirees; and the Bail Out the People Movement. □

# G-20 powers talk reform as more jobs vanish

By Fred Goldstein

The leaders of the big imperialist powers met in Pittsburgh in September to argue over how to protect capital. They didn't put forward one credible proposal to solve the crisis of the hundreds of millions of unemployed and underemployed workers around the world.

At the G-20, countries like China, Brazil, India and South Africa, among others, fought to increase the influence of the underdeveloped world—that is, the majority of the world that has been artificially kept from developing because of the oppressive influence of colonialism and neocolonialism.

But for the imperialist core countries, represented by the heads of state of the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Japan and Italy, among others, the hot-button issues were such matters as bank capital requirements, capping executive pay, regulating financial markets, derivatives and so forth. They even pledged to let governments review each other's policies.

All these issues pertain to putting limits on the degree to which the capitalist banks and other financial institutions can defraud each other in the future, the way they did leading up to this past financial crisis. Banks, corporations and investors of all types are still trying to recover from the massive hyperspeculation and fraudulent mortgage schemes by which they swindled each other into a financial crisis. All their regulatory agencies were complicit in allowing the speculative bubbles.

The leaders of finance capital are basically breathing a sigh of relief that the capitalist system has escaped a global depression. The G-20 had met in April of this year and pledged trillion of dollars in government subsidies to the rich as a mechanism to deal with their crisis.

They are now congratulating themselves for having averted the crisis by injecting massive amounts of money into banks and corporations to hold them up from sinking under the crisis that they themselves had created.

But while they have averted their crisis, the working class and the oppressed have plunged deeper and deeper into unemployment—with no end in sight.

## Job seekers outnumber jobs six to one

Official unemployment in the European Union is at its highest in 10 years—9.5

percent—and is expected to continue rising. It has been held down to even this high number by government stimulus money, which is due to run out before the year is over.

Unemployment in Germany has been held at 8.3 percent because of the "cash for clunkers" program and because of government subsidies to keep corporations from laying off workers, putting them on short hours instead. Similar programs exist in other European countries.

As the G-20 leaders were on their way home, the U.S. Labor Department released statistics showing that the official number of job seekers here was six times the number of existing job openings—the worst ratio since the government began tracking it in 2000.

This shows that the crisis of the capitalist system is deepening in this period. During the last downturn in 2001, the number of jobless people was slightly more than double the number of full-time job openings. By the beginning of this year, the number of job seekers had risen to four times the number of jobs. Now it is six to one.

In a front-page story on Sept. 27, the New York Times commented on the unwillingness of companies to hire even as the business downturn seems to be temporarily slowing. "Even after companies regain an inclination to expand, they will probably not hire aggressively anytime soon. Experts say that so many businesses have pared back working hours for people on their payrolls, while eliminating temporary workers, that many can increase output simply by increasing the workload on existing employees."

The Times quoted Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute as saying: "They have tons of room to increase work without hiring a single person. For people who are out of work, we do not see signs of light at the end of the tunnel." Job openings have drastically diminished across the board, from manufacturing to construction, retail, government jobs and even education and health care.

The Times cites the case of a worker in Chicago, Vicki Redican, who has been unemployed for two years since she lost a \$75,000-a-year job as a

sales and marketing manager in a plastics company. "College educated, Ms. Redican first sought another management job. More recently, she has tried and failed to land a cashier's position at a local grocery store, and a barista slot at a Starbucks coffee shop."

There are officially about 15 million unemployed. Some 5 million of them have been out of work for more than 26 weeks, a record. Furthermore, there are close to another 15 million workers who are working forced part-time hours or who have dropped out of the labor market and are no longer seeking work. This does not count the untold numbers who are surviving through small, miscellaneous jobs.

Given the hiring picture, it is clear that the capitalist system has nothing but massive, long-term unemployment in store for the working class—unless and until the workers mobilize to fight for jobs, as was seen in embryo in Pittsburgh with the recent March for Jobs.

## Fundamentals, not irregularities, behind capitalist crisis

The very premise of the G-20—that the world crisis was caused by financial irregularities—is false to the core. The crisis began with a financial collapse, but its underlying cause is capitalism itself—the profit system.

When the economic experts of the bourgeoisie talk among themselves about the so-called "recovery," they all say they will not be convinced until they see consumer spending start to grow enough to lead the bosses to begin investing on a

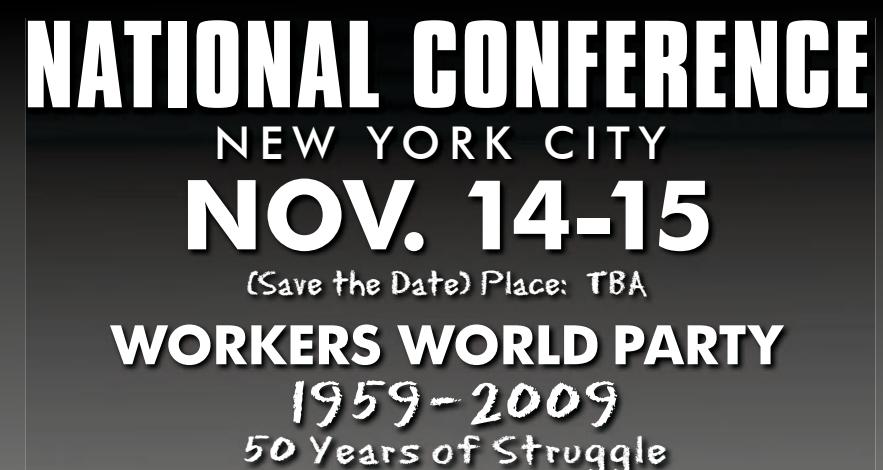
massive scale. Not one of them will confidently affirm that capitalism is really on the road to recovery.

The argument that consumer spending will pull capitalism out of the fire by leading to a surge of investment and the rehiring of tens of millions of workers has no basis in reality. Workers aren't buying because they are broke. The creation of a regime of low-wage capitalism has deepened over the last 30 years and is the background to the current downturn. Now workers are continuing to be laid off or are having their wages pushed even lower as the bosses strive to regain their profitability.

Factories, stores and government agencies are shutting down or downsizing all over the capitalist world because the bosses cannot make a profit selling the products and services created by the workers. These products and services belong to capital, not to the workers who created them. If the bosses cannot dispose of them at a profit, then the workers get laid off. Thus, the capitalists are destroying the market they need to revive production. This is a growing contradiction that flows from production for profit.

It is a contradiction that the bosses cannot overcome. It can only be overcome by getting rid of capitalism altogether. What can replace it? A system where workers are not dependant on some boss making a profit before they can get work; a system based on planning production to satisfy human need, not private greed. That system is socialism.

*Goldstein is author of the recently published book, "Low-Wage Capitalism."*



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## Low-Wage Capitalism

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## Demanding no foreclosures, no evictions

# Tent City residents march on Mellon HQ

By Brenda Sandburg  
Pittsburgh

People from across the country who set up a Tent City in Pittsburgh the week of the G-20 summit marched to the headquarters of Mellon Corp. on Sept. 22 to demand a national moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

The dominant institution in Pittsburgh, Mellon Bank received billions in the government's bailout of financial institutions. In return it was supposed to help people refinance their mortgages so they could keep their homes. But like all the other banks that made huge profits from predatory lending, its sole goal has been to boost its profits.

The protest was called by the Bail Out the People Movement and the Rev. Thomas E. Smith, pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church, who together organized the March for Jobs in Pittsburgh Sept. 20 and set up the Tent City dedicated to the unemployed and homeless. The encampment was located next to the church in the historic African-American Hill district.

Protesters marched from Freedom Corner, where there is a monument to civil rights activists. Chanting, "Housing is a human right! Tell those banks that we're going to fight!" they walked behind

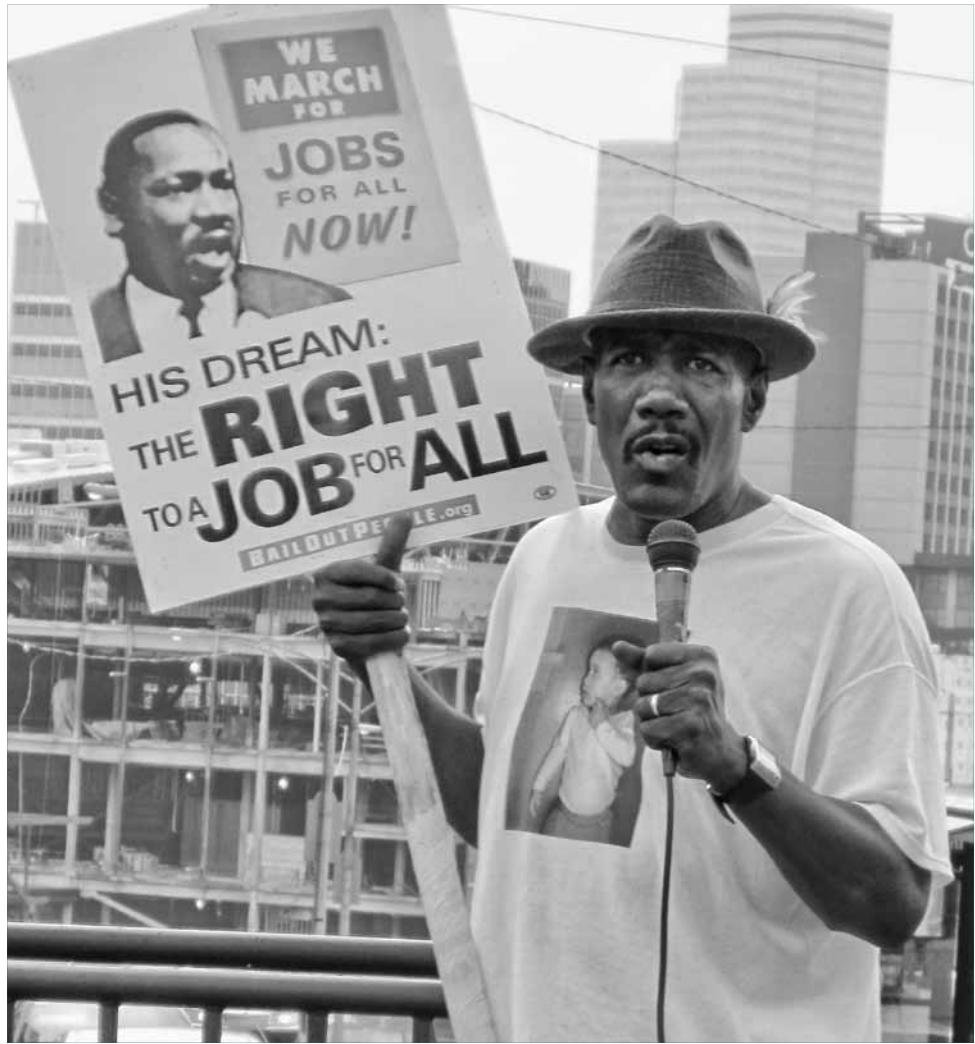
a banner demanding jobs, housing and health care for all. Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan joined them.

"Mellon Bank makes life-and-death decisions every day and pushes people into the streets," Larry Holmes, an organizer of the Bail Out the People Movement, said at the picket line in front of the bank. "It's a crime. Jobs and housing are not just rights for the robber class but for everyone."

John Parker, a Bail Out the People organizer in Los Angeles, said the banks are like the kudzu vines that grow around houses. Their roots deepen and their tentacles "tighten around us," he said. "But if we stand on each other's shoulders we will be much more daunting than that building. We will crush it. We will be victorious."

Many of the protesters had lost their jobs and homes. At a Sept. 21 press conference at the Tent City announcing the Mellon demonstration, Ricardo Adams of Rochester, N.Y., said he had been laid off in January. "I need a job," he said. "I can't be a good father or a good husband without a job." Adams came to the Tent City with his spouse and two little girls.

At the press conference a reporter asked him how he could afford to come to Pittsburgh. He replied, "How could I afford not to come here?" □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG

Ricardo Adams, unemployed worker from Rochester, at Sept. 22 Mellon protest.

## Police riot in Pittsburgh during G-20



Youth march, Sept. 24.



Massive police presence, Sept. 24.

*Continued from page 1*

cause temporary blindness and breathing pain. From then on many different groups broke away in different directions, some marching together back towards Oakland, home of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University.

Armed guards with camouflaged Humvees were stationed at every exit of the beltline around the city, blocking off entry. Most downtown businesses were completely boarded up, following Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's suggestions, putting many out of work for the two days the G-20 met. All buses and trains into and out of the city were canceled during the meetings.

At the universities and museums all monuments were also boarded up or covered with bags to promote an atmosphere of fear.

At one point, protesters stopped police with a stream of projectiles. Police responded by launching beanbags, causing injuries. Protesters defended themselves by blockading the street with a large chain-link fence, obstructing the road.

At 10 p.m. the group Bash Back! organized a protest for LGBTQ liberation in the community of Oakland near Carnegie Mellon University. At the nearby

University of Pittsburgh, students gathered close to the bridge to Schenley Plaza.

Heavy-handed police repression ensued, including the usual electronic dispersal order and teargas, but this only attracted more protesters and onlookers. Soon the crowd numbered close to 1,000.

Over the next few hours cops were chasing students into their dorms, attacking people who were leaving bars, and arresting folks who had not earlier participated in the protests. By the end of the night, more than 60 had been arrested.

### More police repression on Sept. 25

Near the University of Pittsburgh around 10:00 p.m. the next evening, a huge crowd of over 1,000 students, most of whom were not political at all and certainly were not involved in G-20 protests, gathered in Schenley Plaza, where a concert was going on as part of the G-20 protest events.

The police began to occupy the park and forcefully removed everyone. As students began to gather around to check it out, the riot police got more hyped up. There were no chants, no signs, no banners, no folks dressed in black and no provocation, yet the police threw several teargas and smoke bombs at the crowd and pushed

them down commercial streets where there were bars and restaurants. They also began chasing people into the huge dormitory towers and attacking students as they left. Students were hanging out of windows, taking pictures in stunned disbelief.

Forbes Street was blocked off by hundreds of riot cops. Others moved in on the other areas of the campus to corral people. Folks were thrown to the ground and shot with rubber bullets. Members of the media were pepper-sprayed and gassed.

An estimated 150 arrests occurred over the two days. [Later reports raised this figure to 190.] Protesters and students alike were being held in the dorm towers, unable to leave for fear of being arrested. Other students couldn't cross Fifth Avenue to get to their residences without being thrown to the ground.

Several students said they had never seen anything like this in their lives. It was really interesting to hear people say, "F—k the police!"—people you would never have expected to hear this from. Even some more conservative students were really angry and confused.

Sean O'Sullivan, a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, told this reporter, "Most people have been saying that the violence

and any disruption by the protest was a small fraction. Most protesters were peaceful. It was the police who started the violence and ended up finishing the violence.

"It felt like a war zone. The police became more and more violent, taking over more and more of the street. I couldn't get to my house until 3 a.m. on Thursday. I saw multiple people that needed to have pepper spray washed out of their eyes. The police wouldn't let students cross the street or enter their dorm rooms. I saw violent use of police dogs to intimidate."

Jillian Dowis, a sophomore at Ohio University, shared the following experience of her arrest on Sept. 24 in the same location: "People walking by were thrown to the ground, maced and arrested. They put on handcuffs way too tight. They searched us, put us in vans and wouldn't tell us what was going on. They wouldn't read us our rights. They only had snarky comments to say to us."

"We were in transportation vans for about three hours. Then we got to the State Correctional Facility, where we were in the van for another five hours, still with plastic handcuffs on. They turned the air conditioning down to 55 degrees to make us feel as uncomfortable as possible."

## Tent City in Pittsburgh

# Building community-youth-labor solidarity

By Betsey Piette

While capitalist world leaders attending the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh slept in luxury hotels, unemployed, poor and working people from across the U.S. gathered at the Bail Out the Jobless Tent City next to the Monumental Baptist Church in the Hill District in the heart of the city's Black community for six days and nights from Sept. 20-25.

From this historic location, an important March for Jobs of more than 1,000 on the first day drove home the message that working and unemployed people will make their voices heard during the global economic summit.

Bail Out the People Movement national labor coordinator Sharon Black noted: "When we first began our organizing effort in Pittsburgh, a general sense of skepticism and fear had been spread in the community about outsiders disrupting the neighborhood. By the day of the March for Jobs, that fear had melted away."

"Not only did neighborhood residents join the march, but the outpouring of support from workers both on the Hill and in greater Pittsburgh was absolutely stunning. Many workers came straight from their jobs to the Tent City with gifts of water and food. The extent to which this happened proved that when given the opportunity, workers will rise to the occasion and act in solidarity, dispelling the capitalist myth that everyone should just be out for themselves."

"When the working class movement looks back," Black continued, "it will see this gathering as an important beginning for this period. We learned what worked and what didn't, and we are now poised to grow this movement nationally."

"A fighting movement for jobs along with stopping foreclosures, evictions and utility shut-offs and winning health care and defending working-class rights is what is needed. Uniting trade unionists with the community and students is key. Making sure that fighting racism is front and center will ensure our victory."

"There were girls on periods that they would not let go to the bathroom. There were girls in tears because of how bad they had to pee. You can get urinary tract infection or toxic shock syndrome. We were there until 6:30 in the morning. Then they searched us, had us take off all our jewelry—but our hands were swollen from cuffs and they were being real aggressive taking off rings. They didn't answer any questions we had."

The police repression both Thursday and Friday night in Oakland was incredible. This neighborhood houses the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon, two universities with mostly white, mostly middle-class students. As Larry Holmes, an anti-G-20 organizer of the tent city that dramatized the plight of the unemployed and homeless at G-20, commented, on any given normal day the police usually target and harass the Black community. But these two days not only were Black people under normal occupation, but the police were targeting young white folks.

An emergency protest took place on Sept. 26 at the Allegheny County courthouse against the police violence and arrests.

*Strobino is a member of the Raleigh, N.C., branch of the youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST).*

Besides providing a safe refuge for G-20 protesters during the week, the Tent City served as a center for a number of events. On Sept. 21 workshops took place there on Global Solidarity: Unions, Communities and Movements Working Together; Connecting the Issues: Housing Is a Right; and a student and youth discussion.

Shown later that night was a documentary about political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal called "In Prison My Whole Life." Pam Africa from International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal updated the audience on his case.

The next day a discussion at the Tent City focused on fulfilling Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of the right to a job for all amid the global jobless crisis. Following this discussion, BOPM and the Rev. Tom Smith, pastor of Monumental Baptist Church, initiated a demonstration targeting the Mellon headquarters and demanding a national moratorium on foreclosures and evictions.

Later in the evening, a discussion organized by Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty was held in the church on the case of Georgia prisoner Troy Davis.

### Attracting youth, labor

By mid-week the Tent City was clearly growing. More tents had been pitched



WW PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK

Sharon Eolis and Barbara Gaston serve a meal to Tent City residents.

and the number of camp participants exceeded 100 people, mostly youth upset and angry about the G-20 policies.

While Tent City organizers oriented newcomers to the history of the Tent City and the importance of respect for the surrounding neighborhood, community support continued to grow. People in cars dropped off donations of water and food, and residents came on foot to check out what was happening.

On Sept. 23 close to 500 people packed the church sanctuary for the "People's

Voice" forum organized by the United Electrical Workers and Grassroots Global Justice.

The program included Leo Gerard, international president of the United Steelworkers union; Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate economist; Emira Woods, Institute for Policy Studies; and others.

The Honduran coup's closure of airports prevented resistance leader Miriam Miranda from attending.

Gerard struck a note with the crowd when he proclaimed that the time is now for a movement for jobs. Before speaking at the forum, Gerard toured the Tent City of unemployed workers and their supporters.

Later that day, forum participants were given a briefing by Rev. Lucius Walker Jr. from Pastors for Peace on the critical situation in Honduras. Tent City residents pledged to oppose any attempt by the coup government to move against ousted President Mel Zelaya and his supporters.

Tent City residents took part in student and youth protests on Sept. 24, as well as the permitted People's March on G-20 the next day that attracted an estimated 10,000, largely young people. The BOPM contingent and its banner—"Message to G-20: WE NEED JOBS NOW" with photos of Dr. King—led the second leg of the march at the request of march organizers.

BOPM national leader Larry Holmes spoke at the People's March rally. The largely young crowd cheered loudly when Holmes, referring to the large unpermitted demonstrations during the week, said, "Whatever our views are about tactics, we must stand with the young people who are confronting globalism and capitalism, and we must defend them against repression."

Cheryl LaBash, BOPM organizer from Detroit who spent more than three months in Pittsburgh, summed up her experiences in building for Sept. 20-25: "Whether it was chopping vegetables in the kitchen, washing dishes, organizing access to the showers, disposing garbage, keeping things clean and orderly, or staffing the 24-hour greeting and security desk, volunteers stepped up to do whatever the community needed."

"The warm welcome from Monumental Baptist Church pastor Rev. Thomas Smith, the local labor movement and the Hill District community, combined with the participation of young activists from across the country, showed the kind of collaboration that really can revive Dr. King's movement for the right to a job or income for all." □



Pittsburgh Hill residents visit Tent City.

USW Int'l President Leo Gerard at Tent City, Sept. 23.



# General's report spurs debate over Afghan escalation

By John Catalinotto

Gen. Stanley McChrystal has submitted his report asking for as many as 40,000 additional troops for the war on Afghanistan, arguing that they are needed for a U.S. "victory." President Barack Obama has said he wants time for the administration to examine its strategy regarding Afghanistan.

The battle is now on inside U.S. ruling circles over choosing between withdrawal and a possible Vietnam-like quagmire that could drag on for another decade before ending in a debacle for imperialism.

Within the administration, the Congress, the Pentagon and the corporate media, the opposing sides are revealing their serious tactical differences. The key question is whether they will significantly escalate the U.S.-NATO occupation of Afghanistan.

It would be incorrect to think that one side of this argument represents doves and the other hawks, or that one side has consistently opted for peace and the other for war. Some politicians, no doubt, are looking for narrow advantages or are beholden to their local war industry. But as a look at their records will show, there are militarists on both sides within Congress and the administration. Both have campaigned for wars in the past, and what mainly divides them now is a tactical evaluation of what the U.S. faces in Afghanistan.

Any discussion or debate within the

ruling class, especially a sharp one over a key question of war and peace, opens the door for honest anti-war forces to reach the U.S. public with the truth. What is the truth about this war? It is that the U.S. has no right to be in Afghanistan in the first place and that the war is a horrible plague on the Afghans, a burden on U.S. youth who are sent there, and a millstone on working and poor people at home as billions of dollars are handed to the military-industrial complex to be exploded in the mountains of Central Asia.

## Divergences at the top

Republican Party leaders and the more rightist media hacks, with few exceptions, are pushing for more troops. These are the same forces that attack Obama at every opportunity. There is no doubt that should the president pull back from his original wholehearted backing of the Afghan intervention, they will blame him for the "loss" of Afghanistan—in other words, for "losing" Afghanistan to the Afghans.

Joint Chiefs Chair Adm. Mike Mullen supports McChrystal's call for more troops. Apparently this has majority backing at the Pentagon. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates—originally a George W. Bush appointee—has yet to speak publicly on the general's request, but has said he is open to escalation and that withdrawal is no option.

Even among the brass, however, there are dissidents. The Sept. 27 New York Times reported that National Security

Adviser Gen. James Jones opposes the escalation. And Bush's former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a retired four-star general who organized the 1991 war on Iraq and lied repeatedly to provide a pretext for the 2003 invasion there, has reportedly expressed skepticism to Obama regarding the troop increase.

According to the same Times article, opinion at the top levels of the administration is divided. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and special "Af-Pak" ambassador Richard Holbrooke, a prime mover of the aggression against Yugoslavia in the 1990s, advocate escalation. Vice President Joe Biden—who early in the Iraq war pushed for dividing Iraq into three parts—now opposes a troop buildup in Afghanistan, fearing a "quagmire" and considering Pakistan a more important U.S. intervention.

By earlier presenting Afghanistan as the "necessary war"—in contrast with Iraq—Obama has restricted his room to maneuver. The bellicose Washington Post jumped on this, chiding Obama in an editorial for having "second thoughts" and quoting heavily from his early statements to push a pro-war position. With a good section of the Democratic Party opposed to escalation, including some of his closest advisers and most of his popular base, Obama has postponed a final decision.

## Mass dissent from war drive

The workers, poor and oppressed peoples have no interest in the U.S. mili-

tary continuing to occupy Afghanistan. Outside ruling-class circles, the latest USA-Today/Gallup poll in late September showed half the people, and 60 percent of Democrats, oppose sending more troops.

Ominous news from Afghanistan on Sept. 27 only encourages this opposition. U.S., British and other NATO troops are being killed at higher rates this year than ever. A top Afghan minister was nearly blown up. As for the people of Afghanistan, a United Nations report stated that civilian deaths associated with the war reached a record high of 1,500 already this year—and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Many more are dying from hunger and internal displacement, which leads to infant and maternal deaths at childbirth and many other deadly situations. Contradicting NATO's propaganda, the occupation has only brought more suffering to Afghan women.

The next step for people in the U.S., as in the other NATO countries, is to demand a withdrawal from Afghanistan. Unlike the two sides within Congress and the government, the workers and unemployed of all nationalities and genders here have an interest in stopping the bloody war and the gush of money being poured into it.

Demonstrations will take place on Oct. 5, 7 and 17 opposing the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and demanding that U.S. troops be brought home. While the ruling class and its politicians debate tactics, real opposition to U.S. imperialism will be expressed in the streets. □

## 27 years after Sabra-Shatila massacre

# Still no justice for Palestinians

By Joyce Chediac

Beirut, Lebanon

It has been 27 years since the massacre of at least 2,000 unarmed Palestinians and poor Lebanese in the Sabra and Shatila refugees camps here in Beirut.

U.S. imperialism, Israeli Zionism and Arab reaction were all in on the mass murders. The U.S. government left the camps disarmed and vulnerable when it ordered the removal of Palestine Liberation Organization fighters from Lebanon.

The slaughter was ordered by Ariel Sharon. The massacres were committed by the neo-Nazi Lebanese Phalange.

What is life like today in these camps?

Lebanon's Palestinian camps are easy to spot. It's not just the Palestinian flags and pictures of Palestinian heroes. It's the overcrowding, the sewage seeping into the streets. It is the maze of jerry-rigged electric wires that run from building to building and snake through the cramped alleys. It is the bullet-pocked walls and collapsed buildings, testimony to decades of attacks by Israel and right-wing Lebanese militias.

On entering Shatila, this writer could see that while the civil war in Lebanon ended in 1990, the war against the Palestinian camps goes on.

Shatila is smaller than three football fields. My guide, Tayes Nasser from the Palestinian Youth Center, said 17,500 Palestinians live here. At least 8,000 more live in the adjacent Sabra camp, along with poor Lebanese and some Syrian workers.

Palestinians are not allowed to live outside the camps. New floors are added to old buildings to accommodate the growing population: "We have nowhere to



WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAK  
Conditions for refugees are wretched, as this alley in Shatila camp shows.

build but up," Nasser said. Today, there are many seven-story buildings with no elevators. This reporter climbed the stairs and was shown tiny, impoverished apartments in which six or seven people live.

Electricity for these apartments averages \$50 a month, a huge sum, so people jerry-rig the power to keep the cost down. Wires are everywhere. A young man was killed in early September in Shatila after accidentally leaning on a live wire. One or two people are electrocuted in this way each year.

"The living conditions here are not sanitary," Nasser said. "The sewage system is inadequate and one always smells sewage. This is stressful." In the winter, when

it rains a lot, water comes through the cinderblock walls, bringing mold that causes allergic reactions.

We walked through a street market that sells goods of all kinds. Nasser explained that the camp is so overcrowded that merchants have no place to store their goods at night, so they rent rooms in people's houses. Nasser himself rents out one room of his three-room flat to a merchant. The seven people in his family sleep in the remaining two rooms.

We entered Shatila's only school. It has three floors. Forty students study in each cramped classroom. Scores of women stood waiting in the school's common room. The atmosphere was charged. A wealthy Palestinian had donated 80 boxes of food, containing pasta, rice, sugar and other items. Already more than 80 women were assembled. Some would go home empty-handed.

We did not see many young adult men in the camp. Palestinians are not allowed to work at most jobs in Lebanon so the majority of young adults work abroad, sending money home to support their families. Many people think about emigrating to protect their families, Nasser says.

Palestinians have always valued education. However, after years of war the educational level of Palestinians living in Lebanon has dropped. Because they are not citizens, Palestinians must pay more to study at Lebanese universities. Stress, war and an uncertain political situation for Palestinians here have led to a high dropout rate.

Nasser took me to a mosque in the camp's center called the Martyrs' Ceme-

tery. Now the most important building in the camp, it was used as a mass grave for those killed by shells, snipers and disease when the camp was encircled, besieged, bombed and starved by Amal militias and Syrian forces from 1986 to 1987 during the War of the Camps. The mosque now bears the names and pictures of those interred here. It is used for Al Nakba and other commemorations.

"We lost 800 in the War of the Camps," Nasser said. "In the 1982 massacre we lost more. Families here still live with the 1982 massacre." To this day, these Palestinian losses have not been addressed. The victims of these massacres have never been considered entitled to a formal investigation.

Despite the hardships, the Palestinian people in Sabra and Shatila hold fast to their dignity and their determination to return to their original towns and villages in Palestine.

"With all these problems, we don't want money," Nasser said. "We want our land. We are the people who have the right to Palestine. Israel and the Zionist movement can do what they want. They can kill us more and destroy our houses and our land, but we won't give up our right to return."

"I know where my village is in Palestine. I can walk from Lebanon to my village in Palestine. It's that close." Referring to the current as well as former prime ministers of Israel, whose families emigrated from Europe, Nasser asked, "But does Netanyahu know where his village is? Does Sharon know where his village is in Palestine? Does Rabin?"

*Continued on next page*

## Iran and the G-20 meeting

# Creating a crisis to cover divisions

By Sara Flounders

The G-20 meeting in Pittsburgh gathered the finance ministers, top bankers and political leaders of the world's largest economies, ostensibly to take up the most serious economic collapse of capitalism in three generations. Instead, they attacked Iran.

Without proposing measures to ameliorate the suffering of the hundreds of millions of workers who have lost their jobs, without announcing jobs programs or infrastructure construction, U.S., British and French imperialism joined together with bombast to threaten Iran on totally fabricated charges. They have demanded that the United Nations Security Council and members of the G-20 collaborate on a new round of sanctions against Iran.

Emergency economic proposals were not even on the agenda.

In a theatrical press conference on Sept. 25, flanked by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel delayed but on her way, President Barack Obama declared that Iran was threatening the stability and security of the region and the world. Refusal to "come clean," he said, "is going to lead to confrontation."

Sarkozy and Brown denounced Iran and explicitly demanded harder sanctions.

They threatened a military strike, saying that "all options are on the table with regard to Iran."

This whole scenario shows that these bankers, finance ministers and politicians have no solutions for the crisis wracking the globe. They used the summit to justify the bailout of the banks and to give vague assurances of future economic recovery. The trillions of dollars handed over to the banks is the greatest redistribution of national treasures in human history.

Unable to reach agreement on regulating international banking, trade or any aspect of international finance capital, which has spread chaos through the entire world, the imperialists gave the appearance of unified purpose by making ominous threats against Iran. All the corporate media loyally fell in line. No journalists dared to ask about the havoc arising from the capitalist economic system or what solutions the imperialists proposed.

"We want America and other countries that send military aid to Israel to stop, and to stop funding Israeli settlements. America always speaks about democracy. Where is the democracy in the situation of the Palestinians? From America we get nothing—always empty promises. And now, because of current U.S policies, we are paying a higher price during the peace talks than we paid during war. Israel doesn't give us anything for peace—just blood and more blood."

"We want the next generation to know the roots of the Palestine problem. We believe in a democratic life for all people, Jewish or Palestinian, and for all religions. For many centuries Jews and Palestinians lived together, so we have confidence they can work together and live together again. We are not against two states, but one country is better."

"We are patient. We will wait for the time when we have our rights."

*This is the first article in a series that will explore Palestinian conditions in Lebanon, interview Palestinian leaders, and explain how progressive people can support Palestinians waiting to return.*

All the media snapped to attention and joined in demonizing Iran.

### Iran in full compliance

In the face of such an onslaught of war propaganda, it is important to review the facts.

Iran is fully in compliance with all international agreements, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines and reporting regulations. The IAEA is the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty guarantees all nations the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. According to IAEA reports, Iran is enriching uranium to less than 5 percent. At this level of purity, the uranium is useful for peaceful nuclear-based electricity generation but is well below the 90-percent U-235 needed for nuclear weapons. Iran possesses no facility with that capacity. ([www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org))

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh, told Press TV on Sept. 27 that IAEA safeguard agreements call for nations to inform it of the existence of a new enrichment plant at least six months or 180 days before the introduction of nuclear materials into the facility. Iran notified the IAEA on Sept. 21, which is 18 months in advance.

This second, smaller facility outside Qom, Iran, is an empty building. It has no nuclear material at this time and no equipment for enrichment has been installed yet. The small-scale site is meant to house no more than 3,000 centrifuges—many fewer than the 8,000 machines at Natanz, Iran's other enrichment facility.

"It is a very ordinary facility in the beginning stages" and 18 months away from operation, President Ahmadinejad said at a Sept. 25 news conference in New York. "It is not a secret facility. If it was, why did we inform the IAEA ahead of time? ... What we did was completely legal, according to the law," the Iranian president said. "We have informed the agency, the agency will come and take a look and produce a report, and it's nothing new."

The Iranians also said that the facility was hardly clandestine. Nor is it a surprise, as U.S., Britain and France have claimed. These same countries also state that they have known about it for three years. Both the U.S. and the French have presented aerial photos of the construction, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton acknowledged that the U.S. knew of the plant before Iran reported it.

### Is Iran really a threat?

The U.S. still has thousands of nuclear weapons. It is the only country that has ever used a nuclear weapon and the only country that has time and again threatened to use nuclear weapons. The U.S. refused to abide by the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the U.S. Congress has never ratified it.

Israel clearly has uranium enrichment facilities and is estimated to possess 60 to 400 thermonuclear weapons. Israel refuses to abide by any international agreements or any inspections. Yet every U.S. administration has been completely silent on Israel's nuclear enrichment and weapons program.

Thirteen countries presently enrich uranium. Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Australia have also announced plans to begin enriching uranium. Twenty-eight countries have nuclear energy plants, with the largest number of power plants being

in the U.S. Another 10 countries without plants have plans to build one. Yet only Iran and North Korea are ever challenged or threatened.

Iran has consistently supported the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East and proposed the concept in a joint resolution in the U.N. General Assembly.

### IAEA and Iran

Iran has not only agreed to more stringent IAEA inspections than other nations, it has also offered to operate the uranium enrichment facility at Natanz as a multinational fuel center with the participation of foreign representatives. Iran has further renounced plutonium reprocessing and agreed to immediately fabricate all enriched uranium into reactor fuel rods. This offer by Iran to open its uranium enrichment program to foreign private and public participation follows suggestions of an IAEA expert committee.

Despite all these agreements, Washington has insisted that Iran must totally suspend its entire enrichment program.

The IAEA released its own statement on Sept. 17, saying, "With respect to a recent media report, the IAEA reiterates that it has no concrete proof that there is or has been a nuclear weapon program in Iran."

The September-October issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists publishes an interview with IAEA Director General Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei. In the course of the interview he declared: "We have not seen concrete evidence that Tehran has an ongoing nuclear weapons program. ... But somehow, many people are talking about how Iran's nuclear program is the greatest threat to the world. ... In many ways, I think the threat has been hyped." These authoritative statements and words of caution are totally ignored by the wild circus of the imperialist media.

Around the world the imperialist countries are isolated on this issue. On Sept. 16, 2006, in Havana, Cuba, all the 118 Non-Aligned Movement member countries, at the summit level, declared their support of Iran's civilian nuclear program in their final written statement. The Non-Aligned Movement represents a majority of the 192 countries in the U.N.

Again on July 30, 2008, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the continuing cooperation of Iran with the IAEA and reaffirmed Iran's right to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The movement further called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and called for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument which prohibits threats of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In February 2007, lawmakers from 56 member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, addressing Iran's nuclear program at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, urged "full respect for equal and inalienable rights for all nations to explore modern technologies including nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

### Sanctions—a weapon against development

Iranian spokespeople have made it clear that Iran will develop its own facilities to enrich uranium for energy. It has been subject to the most severe series of sanctions and export restrictions on technology for peaceful nuclear technology and for all other forms of development. After decades of violated agreements, contracts

and treaties, Iran cannot trust the U.S. or Europe to consistently provide the nuclear energy fuel to run power plants.

The U.S. provided aid to Iran's original nuclear development during the years of brutal dictatorship of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. At that time Washington was more than willing to give Iran nuclear technology. But after the 1979 Iranian Revolution overthrew this U.S.-imposed dictatorship and reasserted national control over Iran's own oil and gas resources, Washington ended all nuclear cooperation. Since then the U.S. has taken every possible measure to sabotage, strangle and overthrow the Iranian government.

The latest U.S. and European discussion of a blockade of refined gasoline to Iran is just the latest example of efforts to stop Iran's development.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates discussed ways to harm Iran: "There are a variety of options still available, including sanctions on banking, particularly sanctions on equipment and technology for their oil and gas industry. ... I think there's a pretty rich list to pick from." ([bloomberg.com](http://bloomberg.com), Sept. 27)

Washington has used enormous pressure several times to impose economic sanctions through the U.N. Security Council. These sanctions are a form of strangulation, an intentionally brutal weapon applied to developing countries. Sanctions exacerbate social tensions and undercut the support for a targeted government by creating economic havoc. Wildly spiraling, uncontrolled inflation, shortages, long lines, shutting off imports of basic supplies and closing off export markets impact harshly on the most defenseless sectors in every society. Currencies become worthless. Industries are forced to shut down.

Over the last five decades in an effort to extract concessions, different forms of U.S. sanctions have been used against the poorest countries of the planet. They have targeted nine countries in Africa, six countries in Asia, five in the Middle East, three in Latin America and three in Europe.

On Oct. 1 a meeting called the "5 + 1" for the five-member U.N. Security Council plus Germany is scheduled to meet with Iran on its nuclear energy program. The threats restated at the G-20 meeting aim to coerce Iran to accept extremely intrusive controls.

Remember that under U.S. pressure in August 1990, the U.N. Security Council imposed a total blockade on Iraq. The blockade resulted in the deaths of more than 1 million children under the age of 5 from the resulting desperate shortages and preventable diseases. Meanwhile, a hunt for supposedly secret weapons of mass destruction dragged on for 13 years.

In 2003 the Bush administration claimed that Iraq had a secret nuclear weapons program close to completion and posing an imminent nuclear threat. A media frenzy claimed that Iraq was close to producing nuclear weapons. This fear of weapons of mass destruction—WMD—became the main justification for the U.S. invasion and occupation.

All reports from the IAEA confirming that there was no evidence of such a program were ignored. No such weapons were ever found. But after six years of U.S. occupation, a quarter of Iraq's population is dead, disabled or dispersed in the form of dislocated refugees.

Washington's lies must be exposed. Iran's sovereignty and its right to full development must be defended and supported.



## CHINA AT 60

This editorial was written on a Lenovo PC. Lenovo is today the world's fourth-largest manufacturer of computers. The largest share of this Chinese company is owned by the government through the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has been in charge of bringing the world's most populous country into the modern era. How did China get here?

Sixty years ago, it was a very different place. When, on Oct. 1, 1949, Communist leader Mao Zedong looked out over a sea of faces in Beijing's Tienanmen Square and told the world, "China has stood up," he spoke as the leader of an earth-shaking revolution.

After two decades of civil war and anti-imperialist struggle, this great social movement had succeeded in overcoming the resistance not only of the decadent ruling classes of China but also of the imperialists and their collaborators. The People's Liberation Army had defeated the Japanese invaders and then swept Chiang Kai-shek and his U.S.-supplied forces off the mainland.

China had been liberated, but it faced enormous challenges and obstacles. Half a billion people, many of them half-starving, had first to be fed. The cyclical droughts and floods that killed hundreds of thousands of Chinese every year had to be tamed. A mostly illiterate population needed to master China's complicated written language and then get access for the first time to a formal education. Basic health needs had to be addressed. A predominantly agrarian economy had to be modernized to do all this.

Years of struggle had already shown that only the Communists, whose strength came from fighting in the interests of the millions of exploited workers and peasants, could carry out such a transformation of Chinese society.

Red China was born into a world dominated by imperialism. Most of the rest of the world's people were still under the yoke of colonial rule, although these fetters were being challenged by burgeoning national liberation movements. After World War II, the U.S. capitalist class imposed its own form of neocolonialism wherever the exhausted European powers were losing their grip.

Sam Marcy, who later founded Workers World Party in the U.S., wrote in 1950 that the Chinese Revolution was much more than an agrarian reform or anti-colonial struggle, although it incorporated both these tasks. It came at a time in history when the bourgeoisie, represented in China by Chiang Kai-shek, was incapable of liberating the peasants and was completely entangled with foreign imperialism.

Thus the task of liberating China fell to the Communists and the working class—small at that time, but natural allies of China's vast peasantry. And this required that the Chinese Revolution move beyond bourgeois property relations. This is what so frightened the world bourgeoisie.

Under Mao, the rural masses were inspired to go from collective farming to the establishment of communes—where everyone was insured a basic education, health and increasingly modern technology as well as food, shelter and clothing in exchange for their labor.

The masses performed wonders, building great dams, canals and other infrastructure largely by hand in huge brigades.

In the cities, the revolutionary government began to build up industry, where

the workers got the same guarantees. This system was known as the "iron rice bowl." Iron because nothing—droughts, floods, war—could break this basic social security. None of this could have been done without socializing the means of production.

In 1949, the Soviet Union was China's greatest ally. But over time, especially after the Korean War when hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops were right on China's doorstep, followed by the Cold War, the pressures of imperialism caused the Soviet leaders to pull back their support for China. The Chinese Communist Party was faced with having to go it virtually alone, and this eventually opened up a sharp debate within the Party over what road to take to acquire modern technology.

This was the context for a shift to the right in China under Deng Xiaoping and the opening up to the capitalist world market. Many features of China's socialist development, like the communes and the social guarantees for workers and peasants, were abandoned. At the same time, however, Chinese industry grew enormously and so did its once-small working class. Sharp class struggles by the workers against difficult conditions, many imposed by capitalist owners, are now commonplace in China.

Many in the world progressive movement see China today as a capitalist country. However, Workers World begs to differ. The kind of counter-revolution that broke up the workers' states and set back conditions for the workers in Russia, other parts of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has not occurred in China.

The world capitalist economic crisis presents a big challenge to China, especially since much of its economic growth has been geared to amassing capital through selling to the capitalist world. How much of China's economy can, under the direction of the state, be restructured to strengthen its socialist base? This is undoubtedly one of the big questions being debated inside China today.

We cannot analyze in this brief editorial the Chinese economy, which is so huge and so complex. What we can do is celebrate the tremendous gains for the Chinese people that were made possible by its great revolution. And we extend our solidarity to China in its struggle to maintain and develop further the economic structure necessary to establish a higher form of security and richness of life for the masses—that is, a socialist society. □

## Workers World's top 10 reasons Why the G-20 says it won't make its secret meetings public:

1. Because it's none of your damn business, that's why.
2. If we made them public, they wouldn't be secret meetings, Einstein.
3. Why, what's not to trust about central bankers?
4. Here in the U.S., bankers made the most of a stingy \$7 trillion bailout.
5. If people knew what we were discussing, they might get confused.
6. Common people wouldn't understand what we were discussing.
7. They'd demand jobs and stuff like that.
8. People just don't understand the dynamics of the system.
9. It's the trickle down theory: If we get enough profits, some of it trickles down our pantlegs to you.
10. That's capitalism, and we're capitalists, so get over it.

—Paul Wilcox

# Nkrumah and Ghana's independence struggle

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

According to the history books, 100 years ago on Sept. 21, 1909, Kwame Nkrumah, the founder and leader of the African independence movement and the foremost advocate of Pan-Africanism during his time, was born in the western Nzima region of the Gold Coast, later known as the independent state of Ghana.

Nkrumah was the first head of state of an independent post-colonial nation in Africa south of the Sahara, after he led Ghana to national liberation under the direction of the Convention Peoples Party in 1957. Educated at the historically Black college of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Nkrumah became involved in the Pan-African movement in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s as a leading member of the African Students Association, the Council on African Affairs, as well as other organizations.

After leaving the United States at the conclusion of World War II in 1945, he played a leading role in convening the historic Fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England—a gathering that many credit with laying the foundation for the mass struggles for independence during the 1940s and 1950s.

During his stay in England from 1945 to 1947, he collaborated with George Padmore of Trinidad, a veteran activist in the international communist movement and a journalist who wrote extensively on African affairs. Nkrumah was offered a position with the United Gold Coast Convention as an organizer in late 1947 and made the critical decision to return to the Gold Coast to assist in the anti-colonial struggle that was intensifying in the aftermath of World War II.

After being imprisoned with other leaders of the UGCC for supposedly inciting unrest among veterans, workers and farmers in the colony, he gained widespread popularity among the people, who responded enthusiastically to his militant and fiery approach to the burgeoning anti-imperialist movement. After forming the Committee on Youth Organization, which became the best organized segment of the UGCC, Nkrumah was later isolated from the top leadership of the Convention, who objected to his demands for immediate political independence for the Gold Coast.

On June 12, 1957, Nkrumah and the CYO formed the Convention Peoples Party in Accra, Ghana, at a mass gathering of tens of thousands of people. They

were prepared to launch a mass struggle for the abolition of British colonial rule over the Gold Coast. During this same period, Nkrumah formed links with other anti-colonial and Pan-African organizations that were operating in other colonies of West Africa. When the CPP called for a Positive Action Campaign in early 1950, leading to massive strikes and rebellion throughout the colony, Nkrumah was imprisoned by the colonial authorities for sedition.

The executive members of the CPP continued to press for the total independence of the colony, eventually creating conditions for a popular election in 1951 that the CPP won overwhelmingly. In February 1951, Nkrumah was released from prison in Ghana and appointed Leader of Government Business in a transitional arrangement that eventually led to the independence of Ghana on March 6, 1957.

### Vision of Pan-Africanism, socialism

At the independence gathering on March 6, Nkrumah—now prime minister—declared that Ghana's independence was meaningless unless it was directly linked with the total liberation of the continent. This statement served as the cornerstone of Ghanaian foreign policy during Nkrumah's tenure as leader of the country.

George Padmore became the official advisor on African affairs, and was placed in charge of the Bureau of African Affairs, whose task was to assist other national liberation movements on the continent in their efforts to win political independence. In April 1958, the First Conference of Independent African States was convened, with eight nation-states as participants. This gathering broke down the colonially imposed divisions between Africa north and south of the Sahara.

In December later that same year, the first All-African Peoples Conference was held in Accra, bringing together 62 national liberation movements from all over the continent, as well as representation from Africans in the United States. It was at this conference in December 1958 that Patrice Lumumba of Congo became an internationally recognized leader of the anti-colonial struggle in that Belgian colony.

By 1960 the independence movement had gained tremendous influence throughout Africa, resulting in the emergence of many new nation-states on the continent. That same year, Ghana became a republic and adopted its own constitution, making Nkrumah the president of the government.

However, there arose fissures within the leadership of the CPP over which direction the new state would take in its economic and social policies. Many of Nkrumah's colleagues, who had been instrumental in the struggle for independence, were not committed to his long-term goals of Pan-Africanism and socialism. Consequently, many of the programmatic initiatives launched by the CPP government were stifled by the class aspirations of those state and party officials who were non-committal about a total revolutionary transformation of Ghanaian society and the African continent as a whole.

*Next: Nkrumah's challenge to neo-colonialism, the coup that overthrew his presidency and his legacy to African liberation. Also see panafricannews.blogspot.com.*

# Ahmadinejad, the Holocaust and oil

**WORKER WORLD Commentary**

By Fred Goldstein

Since the G-20 meeting the world has once again had to witness a saber-rattling attempt to force Iran to abandon its right to develop nuclear power. It is orchestrated by the great imperialist powers of the world in Washington, London, Berlin and Paris, who themselves are armed to the teeth with thousands of nuclear weapons.

In the course of this campaign these powers, along with their client state of Israel, have resumed their attacks on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad regarding the Holocaust.

Whatever misguided statements Ahmadinejad may have made about the Holocaust in the past, certain important things must be borne in mind by progressive-minded people.

In particular, any references to the Holocaust in the big business press have nothing to do with concern for the suffering of the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazi regime. Nor do they have anything to do with concern for the present security of the Jewish people.

Attacks on Ahmadinejad over the question of the Holocaust are really about the security of the oil companies, the Pentagon, the entire U.S. ruling class and its apartheid Zionist client state of Israel. They have been trying to overthrow the Iranian Revolution since it overcame the CIA-backed shah in 1979, took the country's oil back from U.S. and British oil companies, and ousted the Pentagon from a strategic position astride the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

The greatest enemy of the Jewish people is the anti-Semitic U.S. ruling class, which refused to grant entrance to Jewish refugees from Hitler and pushed them toward Palestine. After the war, Washington used the bourgeois Zionist leadership to establish a military beachhead in the Middle East. Thus Washington pushed the Jewish people, under the dominance of the Zionist Israeli state, into a permanent confrontation with hundreds of millions of oppressed Arab and Muslim peoples—all to serve the interests of imperialism, nothing else.

All the hypocritical talk of the Holocaust out of the mouths of U.S. ruling-class politicians and pundits should not divert attention for one minute from the aggressive aims of Washington. Hands off Iran! □

## Massive int'l solidarity crucial as

# Hondurans resist right-wing coup

Continued from page 1

Iraq and Afghanistan.

President Zelaya reports from the Brazilian Embassy that the people there have been subjected to "bombardments with chemical products and ultrasound waves that provoke illness and make people very nervous."

The aggression by the fraudulent Micheletti golpistas against the Brazilian Embassy is a blatant violation of international law and conventions. The aggression demonstrates that the fascists will stop at nothing to keep the status quo in Honduras.

All indications are that the Micheletti regime aims to kill President Zelaya. Anticipating that they might attempt to make his death look like suicide, he has warned, "I am telling the people, Manuel Zelaya will not commit suicide."

The Honduran people continue to resist. They have valiantly earned the title Los Incansables (the tireless ones) with non-stop actions for more than three months.

On Sept. 27, a delegation from the Organization of American States was denied entry into the country. On the same day, Micheletti issued a decree suspending individual liberties and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, dropping all pretenses of legality.

A curfew was strengthened prohibiting mass gatherings. The next day, Micheletti announced he would lift the emergency decree curtailing constitutional rights such as freedom of expression, travel and gathering in public. But not immediately—only after a "legal review."

Early the next morning, soldiers forced their way into Radio Globo, which reports on the resistance, and destroyed every piece of equipment. Journalists from the radio station and from Channel 36 were arrested. Nevertheless, Radio Globo managed to get back online very quickly.

Repression against the movement is heavy. People are being rounded up and beaten, especially youth. A journalist from El Libertador was captured, beaten and burned with cigarettes. Jessica Sanchez of Feminists in Resistance sent an eyewitness account that police are raiding hospitals every two hours to pick up wounded demonstrators. (Americas Report)

Juan Almendares of the Honduran Center for Torture Prevention told Americas Report that Honduras has become "the largest prison in the world." He said, "There is a permanent state of siege here. Human rights organizations and medics are not even allowed to attend to the tortured and wounded. The office of the Committee for



On Sept. 29, protests all over the world supported the Honduran resistance. Here, New York's Union Square.

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Families of the Disappeared was bombed with tear gas. ... Children and the sick in the hospitals are undernourished since, with the curfew, which is a death warrant, they do not receive food and are dying of hypoglycemia."

A well-known and beloved youth leader, Wendy Elizabeth Ávila, died after a heavy chemical gas attack. The gas triggered her asthma and led to her death.

At her funeral, Juan Barahona, on behalf of the National Front of Resistance against the Coup, told Ávila's family and friends, "Monday, Sept. 28, marks three months of resistance in the streets. This is our month to defeat the golpistas. We have the capacity to solve this political crisis. The OAS has not intervened because they follow the orders of the Yankees, who are always against any people's liberation struggle and that is what is happening here."

Another National Front leader, Israel Salinas, said at the funeral, "We should paralyze this country from Tegucigalpa to San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, El Progreso, Tela, Tocoa, etc. We are convinced of our firm positions. Without Mel, we say no to any elections. Restore our constitutional rights—on to the Constitutional National Assembly and to a new Constitution."

Referring to the wealthy Honduran families, Father Fausto Milla stated: "Wendy's death should become a big example in our country, but we should also not forget the 40,000 hungry children who die because of the Handals,

the Facussés of the country. They just handed me some bad news for the golpistas. Micheletti's daughter was deported by the U.S. back into Honduras. We are not going to deport the golpistas, we want them in prison forever. We are with and we collaborate with the Resistance."

Bertha Cáceres of COPINH, an Indigenous group that is part of the resistance, stated: "In the name of the Indigenous and of the brave Garifunas who are in resistance and on behalf of women we solidarize ourselves with Wendy's family. We say these crimes will not go unpunished. Our people must understand that only we can determine our destiny. We need to break our yoke, so that our natural riches belong to us."

The will of the Honduran people is clear: Resistance and victory are the only option. As Comrade Fidel Castro of Cuba wrote last week, "A revolution is brewing in Honduras."

As with the people of Venezuela who have tasted freedom, imperialism can never erase that no matter how hard they try.

On Sept. 28, the OAS held a day-long emergency meeting on Honduras. Finally,

U.S. delegate Lewis Amselem was caught making snarly remarks, unaware microphones were still live. "We are looking increasingly foolish," he said. "What is the purpose of this declaration? It should've been a simple, short 15-minute project. Should've been to reject the treatment of the OAS officials, the treatment

they received over the weekend," Amselem said, referring to the incident where five OAS representatives were turned away from Honduras.

The U.S. official continued: "Reject the deterioration in human rights, as evidence of the decree of the de facto regime, and call (for) the respect for diplomatic immunity. That should've been it, that should've been it." (cnn.com)

This followed another remark where Amselem called President Zelaya's return to his country "irresponsible and foolish" and claimed it fueled violence.

As usual, the representative of U.S. imperialism turned things on their head, making right wrong and wrong right.

It is the U.S.-backed Micheletti regime that is responsible for the violence and repression in Honduras today. The resistance has it right: only the people of Honduras can determine their own destiny. But solidarity can also be decisive. At this moment in history, it is urgent for the world movement to come out in support of the resistance in Honduras.

Latin Americans and the progressive movement here remember the events in Chile in 1973. A bloodbath must be prevented in Honduras. The people of Honduras must be free to choose their own leaders. Right now they are demanding leaders who will address the social problems. Which way things go will depend on how the movement there coalesces, but solidarity is key in reversing the golpe in Honduras. □

## La lucha por empleos llega a la cumbre de los G-20

Por Brenda Sandburg  
Pittsburgh

Más de 1.000 manifestantes marcharon por las calles de Pittsburgh el 20 de septiembre demandando un verdadero programa de empleos, como el programa público que la administración Roosevelt promulgó durante la Gran Depresión de los años treinta.

Esta fue la primera manifestación relacionada a la cumbre de los G-20, una reunión de oficiales del Tesoro y banqueros centrales de 20 países que tendrá lugar esta semana en la ciudad. La meta de los G-20 es proteger las ganancias de los bancos. La meta de la Marcha por Empleos es revivir el llamado del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. que exigía el derecho de todos/as a un empleo. La marcha fue organizada por el Movimiento pro Rescate del Pueblo/Bail Out the People Movement (MpRP/BOPM) y el Reverendo Thomas E. Smith, pastor de la Iglesia Bautista Monumental y apoyada por los sindicatos de los/as trabajadores/as del acero, United Steelworkers y electricistas, United Electrical Workers.

La marcha obtuvo mucha cobertura e interés por parte de los grandes medios noticiosos, tanto nacionales como locales, incluyendo a Prensa Asociada, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, la Agencia de Prensa Francesa y otros más. Los/as organizadores de la marcha atribuyeron el interés de la prensa al hecho de que la marcha se enfocara en la crisis del desempleo y su devastador impacto en la comunidad negra.

A la marcha vinieron personas de muchas ciudades del país uniéndose a un gran número de residentes de Pittsburgh. Las ciudades representadas incluían a Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland, Akron, Minneapolis, Baltimore, Miami, Nueva York, Búfalo, Filadelfia, Providence, áreas de Carolina del Norte y Boston. Muchos/as habían perdido sus empleos o sus hogares. A pesar de la crisis, la gente tenía un gran espíritu de lucha, sacando fuerzas de la unidad y de participar en la formación de un movimiento.

“En honor a Martin Luther King nosotros continuamos lo que él comenzó uniéndonos a la gente en una campaña de la gente pobre”, dijo el Reverendo Thomas Smith. “Los G-20 están forjando tratos para proteger a las corporaciones y no a los/as trabajadores/as. Ya es hora de que los/as trabajadores/as se unan y efectúen un cambio”.

La gente se reunió en la mañana frente a la Iglesia Bautista Monumental localizada en el histórico distrito africano americano del Hill en Pittsburgh. Un campamento dedicado a las personas desempleadas fue organizado al lado de la iglesia el día anterior. Muchos/as de los/as manifestantes permanecerán en el campamento toda la semana y se espera que más personas se unan cuando comience la cumbre de los G-20.

Antes de que la marcha comenzara a las 2:30 de la tarde, hubo una concentración de apertura. La gente marchó llevando cientos de pancartas con la imagen del Dr. King y gritando la consigna “¡Tenemos el



Marcha por Empleos, Pittsburgh, 20 de septiembre.

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derecho! ¡Tenemos derecho al trabajo!” La marcha terminó en la esquina Freedom Corner, donde en 1963 la gente tomó autobuses para ir a la histórica marcha por los derechos civiles en Washington, D. C.

Larry Holmes, un organizador del MpRP/BOPM dijo que el gobierno anuncia que hay una recuperación sin empleos en el horizonte. Enfatizó que esto es inaceptable diciendo “Una recuperación sin empleos es como un paciente muerto después de una operación exitosa”.

Monica Moorehead de la organización Millones por Mumia habló de los más de dos millones de personas en prisión que no podrán estar en la manifestación. Ella presentó un mensaje grabado del prisionero político Mumia Abu-Jamal.

En la concentración final, Fred Redmond, vicepresidente del United Steelworkers señaló la necesidad de tener cuidado de salud universal y educación accesible, así como puestos de trabajo para todos/as. “Basta ya de que nuestros hijos vayan a la escuela donde hay más ratas que computadoras”, dijo. “Tenemos que asegurar que cada niño/a reciba una educación que les prepare para el siglo 21”.

Otros/as oradores/as en ambas concentraciones incluyeron a Oscar Hernández, un participante en la huelga de la panadería Stella D’Oro en Nueva York que ya lleva 11 meses, Clarence Thomas, del Local 10 del sindicato de estibadores International Longshore and Warehouse Union y del Million Worker March Movement; Brenda Stokely y Jennifer Jones, de la Coalición de la Ciudad de Nueva York en Solidaridad con los Sobrevivientes de los huracanes Katrina/Rita; Rob Robinson, del grupo Picture the Homeless; Rosemary Williams, de la Campaña de los Derechos Humanos y Económicos para los Pobres; Mick Kelly, de la Coalición para el Rescate del Pueblo; Nellie Bailey, del Consejo de Inquilinos de Harlem, John Parker, un organizador del MpRP/BOPM en Los Angeles; Sandra Hines, de la Coalición en Michigan para Frenar las Ejecuciones Hipotecarias y los Desahucios iMoratoria

AHORA!; Rokhee Devastali, Estudiantes Feministas Unidas, de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte-Chapel Hill; la abogada de derechos civiles Lynne Stewart; Larry Hales, del grupo juvenil FIST; Larry Adams, Organización Popular para el Progreso; Pam África, Familiares y Amigos pro de Mumia Abu-Jamal; Víctor Toro, inmigrante chileno enfrentando deportación y miembro de la Coalición 1º de Mayo Pro Derechos de los/as Trabajadores/as e Inmigrantes; Berna Ellorin, Bayan-USA; el padre Luis Barrios, de Pastores por la Paz; Kali Akuno, Red de Derechos Humanos de EEUU; y el senador del estado de Pensilvania, Jim Ferlo.

### ¿Por qué la gente vino a Pittsburgh?

La marcha actuó como un imán atrayendo a la gente; muchas de las cuales viajaron desde largas distancias para participar en el evento. Los huelguistas de la TRW Automotive, una fábrica de cinturones de seguridad en México, habían ido a Detroit para hablar sobre su lucha cuando se enteraron de la protesta en Pittsburgh y se unieron a la comitiva de Detroit. Un miembro del grupo TRW, Israel Monroig de la Coalición por la Justicia en las Maquiladoras, dijo que era necesario forjar alianzas a nivel internacional. “Las empresas que generan miles de millones de dólares al año produjeron la crisis en nuestro país”, dijo. “Hay una falta de puestos de trabajo porque consideran a la clase obrera como robots, como números. Tenemos que apoderarnos de los medios de producción y ser los actores de nuestra propia historia”.

Un grupo de varias personas llegó en carro desde Los Ángeles; una de las personas fue Guy Anthony, un trabajador que en junio perdió su empleo como organizador en el sindicato de Empleados/as de Servicio, SEIU. Ahora vive en su carro y ha viajado alrededor del país, escribiendo un “blog” sobre sus experiencias ([thedistantdrummer.com](http://thedistantdrummer.com)). “No se puede hablar sobre la falta de empleos sin

hablar sobre los desamparados/as (sin techo)”, dijo Anthony. Él se encontró con gente en Seattle que había establecido un “campamento fabuloso” en los predios de una iglesia. También pasó tiempo con gente que había establecido una comunidad de desamparados/as en una parada de la carretera Ruta 280 al sur de San Francisco. “No se pueden encontrar mejores vecinos/as”, dijo. “Nadie sufría de hambre. Fue una comunidad socialista hermosa”. El condado recientemente cerró esa comunidad.

Un gran contingente de la Local 8751 del sindicato de Choferes de Autobuses Escolares de Boston, pertenecientes al Sindicato de Trabajadores del Acero (USW), incluyendo a Gary Murchison quien fue presidente por tres mandatos, y Frantz Mendes, el actual presidente, llegaron tres días antes de la marcha para ayudar a organizarla y para construir el campamento.

Activistas de Detroit que organizaron un campamento muy exitoso en junio, vinieron en un autobús lleno de gente. “Teníamos que estar aquí”, dijo Sandra Hines de la Coalición Moratoria Ahora! “Tenemos que movilizar y organizar a todos/as antes de que nos quiten todos nuestros derechos”. Latonya Lloyd, quien era parte de la delegación de Detroit, recientemente luchó contra los cortes de utilidades en el edificio de apartamentos Highland Towers.

Mary Kay Harris llegó con otras 40 personas en un autobús desde Rhode Island. Miembro de la Acción Directa por Derechos e Igualdad (DARE por sus siglas en inglés), Harris dijo que tan pronto supo de la Marcha por Empleos, decidieron que tenían que estar aquí. Rhode Island, estando que tiene una de las tasas más altas de desempleo en el país, tiene un campamento de desamparados/as. “Creemos que la solidaridad es lo más importante”, dijo.

Activistas de Cleveland también vinieron en un autobús repleto de gente, incluyendo un gran contingente de la Campaña por los Derechos Humanos Económicos de la Gente Pobre. Y un grupo de 18 jóvenes vinieron de Carolina del Norte, incluyendo a Tracy Gill, miembro del grupo FIST. Ella dijo que esta era la primera vez que había asistido a una protesta grande.

Miembros/as de la Coalición para el Rescate del Pueblo vinieron a la marcha desde Minnesota. Angel Buechner dijo que la organización había luchado por una ley el año pasado que hubiera provisto empleos o ingresos y una moratoria en las ejecuciones hipotecarias y en el límite de cinco años de recibir beneficios del estado. Pero el Gobernador Tim Pawlenty derrotó esa propuesta. A pesar de la derrota, Buechner sigue con la lucha.

En la concentración final Holmes anunció, con gran aprobación de los/as asistentes, que el próximo paso será organizar una marcha nacional por empleos en Washington en abril del año que viene para continuar con el sueño del Dr. King. □