Hurricane hammers Florida

Gov’t protects property, not people

By Devin Cole
Pensacola, Fla.

Convoys of relief supplies provided by a left and community coalition effort headed from this city to Panama City, Marianna, Parker, Mexico Beach and other locations devastated by Hurricane Michael on both Oct. 12 and Oct. 14.

The Pensacola trans organization STRIVE (Social Trans Initiative) coordinated with the local NAACP chapter and with local members and candidates of Workers World Party, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Green Party of Mobile, Ala., to organize supplies.

With $300 from STRIVE and another $1,000 from an Oct. 12 fundraiser, the convoys were able to take desperately needed supplies — tarps, blankets, storage containers, bottled water and canned food, mosquito repellent, high SPF sunscreen, baby wipes and diapers, Depends, menstrual pads, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other supplies.

The convoy also carried cooking grills and charcoal to set up stations to feed people since no power and no water have been available in destroyed areas.

The convoy brought supplies on Oct. 14 to Glenwood, a lower-income, predominantly Black neighborhood where a local church and two nightclubs facilitated distribution.

This reporter, travelling with the convoys, witnessed first hand that city governments, the state of Florida and federal agencies are far, far from “handling” the catastrophe.

Panama City Beach and Panama City are completely devastated. The towns between Panama City and Mexico Beach are gone. Buildings and homes are flattened, powerlines snapped in half, roads are blocked by trees.

Category 4 Hurricane Michael is the strongest hurricane on record to

Puerto Rico

Ready to put the U.S. on trial

Ramona Africa
Harriet’s granddaughter

A fierce debate is raging within the environmental movement. It comes very late, but it is here now and that must be applauded. It was summed up by a large banner stretching across a boulevard in Paris during a recent demonstration: “Change the system, not the climate.”

This is not the first time that marchers at a large protest over climate change have denounced the capitalist system for the dangerous rise of heat-trapping carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere. Many of the hundreds of thousands who clogged Fifth Avenue in New York City on Sept. 20, 2014, for the huge People’s Climate March carried signs and stickers attacking the profit system.

But the main message from speakers or slogans for that event was not “change the system.”

They appealed to the capitalist government to take measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions. These measures were supposed to modify the market economy in

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Puerto Rico

Put the U.S. on trial for colonial crimes in

Puerto Rico

Saturday • Oct 27 • 9 am

all day until verdict

Hollywood Church/ Iglesia Santa Cruz
717 W. 7th St. • New York City • 10018
A RastaTribunal!

Puerto Rico

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Disability, racism & cops

Migrant activists sit in

Prisoners denied books, letters

Three ‘yes’ votes

What is Socialism? part 3

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What is Socialism? part 3
Harriet Tubman Center in the struggle

By Workers World Los Angeles bureau

The Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice is a hub for progressive activists in Southern California. Located in Los Angeles, on Pico Boulevard between Fairfax and La Brea, the Center has been a home base for Los Angeles branches of Workers World Party, the International Action Center, FIRE (Fighting for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere), the Prisoners’ Solidarity Committee, Radio Justice LA (radiojustice.org), a progressive podcast network and the hub of the local movement, is also at home at the center. Various organizations at the forefront of the struggle, including RAYAN, CISPEP, Union Unbor- rido and #MeToo International have hosted events there.

When WWP member John Parker ran as a socialist for the California State Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket, the center served as his campaign office. That revolutionary political campaign exposed the phony elections of the ruling class, as well as continuing repression on the center’s walls and taped flyers promoting the center’s organizing and preparing for future actions. One-time donations of any amount are welcome, as well as continuing contributions, on Venmo @HarrietTubmanCenterLA.

If you are in the Los Angeles area, the center invites you to visit or volunteer to join the struggle. When you dare to struggle, you dare to win. Power to workers and oppressed people.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even get to make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth targeted by unidentified right-wingers who ripped down, shredded and defaced many flyers posted in the community to publicize solidarity events.

Despite these attempts to stop the center’s organizing, the culminating Sept. 27 Puerto Rico event was a tremendous success. The evening started with the playing of a taped speech by Puerto Rican independence leader Pe- dro Albizu Campos, given in the 1950s. Educational videos and a Press TV documentary on U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico and the Islas del Duende independence struggle were screened, and a comprehensive and insightful anti-colo- nial discussion followed.

The center will not be intimidated by attempts at re- pression. We will continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Syria. We will continue to stand in solidarity with the Puerto Rican people and fight the injustice of U.S. colonial crimes.

Continuing to advance the struggle

This is not the first time these types of at- tacks on the center have occurred. For in- stance, reactionaries opposed to resum- nation and peace on the Korean Peninsula have held demonstrations opposing the organizing efforts of the International Action Center, based at the center.

The answer to these attacks is to continue and increase this very important work. The center welcomes solidarity with its figures, its wins and its actions to counterstamp up charges from the state on center-affiliated organizers of an action shutting down an ICE detention center, and to oppose the injustice of the U.S. imperialist, settler-colonial capitalist system. The Harriet Tubman Center is launching a fundraising campaign to help support the cost of current organizing and prepare for future actions. One-time do- nations of any amount are welcome, as well as continuing contributions, on Venmo @HarrietTubmanCenterLA.

Workers World is the richest country in the world, but no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even get to make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth

Los Angeles: Harriet Tubman Center in the struggle

In the U.S.

Hurricane Hampers Florida

Los Angeles: Harriet Tubman Center in the struggle

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly by the Workers World Party, Inc., P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

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Closing date: Oct, 16, 2018

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, Inc., 147 W. 27th St., Fl. 2, New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Workers World

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Disability, racist profiling and the cops
By Lyn Neely
Portland, Ore.

Police shot and killed Samuel Rice, a 30-year-old man with a history of mental disabilities, here on Oct. 10.

That’s the third Portland police killing in just two months — two Black men, Jason Washington and Patrick Kimmons, and a person known by the cops to have mental health problems.

In 2012, the Portland Police Bureau was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice and found guilty of using excessive force against people suffering from mental health problems. The DOJ made key recommendations to the police to minimize their use of force.

At an Oct. 4 reportback conference on the PPD’s compliance with those rec-ommendations, the DOJ found that improvements were made in the speed at which those events were “written up” and documented, but there were still many instances where police force could have been avoided or minimized.

Six days after the conference, Rice was fatally shot in the head by a police sharp-shooter. Rice had been holding his female partner hostage in a local motel when he was killed. Witnesses said Rice had been talking “nonsense” to the police, who had taken Rice and his partner to mental health treatment facilities in the past.

There are now several studies showing that Black men and people with mental disabilities are shot and killed by police at disproportionately high rates nationwide.

Since the dawn of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2013 and the murder of Freddie Gray in 2015, several studies have tracked the number of police killings in the U.S. Similar results from the Washington Post (“Fatal Force”) and the Guardian (“The Counted”) show that Black men are between 9 and 16 times more likely to be killed by police than other people. In 2017, Black men, just 6 percent of the population, made up 22 percent of those shot and killed by police. Nearly half of the police killings in the U.S. are of people with mental health or other kinds of disabilities, according to several reports, including those from the Ruderman Family Foundation and the Treatment Advocacy Center. They show that media coverage neglects to focus on disabilities and mental health considerations and that police use lethal force in cases where urgent care would be a better solution.

The link between disability and racial and economic justice has been receiving more attention since the consecutive police murders of three Black men, all of whom had a disability: Laquan McDonald, Philip Coleman and Quinntonio Legrier.

“Police Killings: The Price of Being Disabled and Black,” a June 2017 Guardian article, used information from the Ruderman study. However, the authors add that most current studies rely on anecdotal information and search reports from national newspapers. These cannot give the full story as police are resistant to tracking their use of force, and police killings in small, oppressed neighborhoods are underreported.

A recent audit by the city of Portland shows that “gang patrol” officers disproportionately target African-American people. However, the report notes it is not definitive because, like most police bureaus, the Portland Police are not keeping reliable data. The city’s recommendation to the PPB is an obvious one: Start collecting more data.

But better numbers will simply mean a greater accountability of law enforcement. Only mass outcry and organizing against police brutality will stop the accumula- tion of the deadly data of injustice.

Mass pressure cancels fascist speaker
By John Steffin

James O’Keefe, a fascist provocateur fueled by the Trump regime, was sched- uled to speak in groups, in an attempt to nor- malize fascist ideas, tried to host speak- ers on college campuses under the guise of “free speech.”

The invitation to O’Keefe by the uni- versity’s College Republicans was part of this project. The groups had already shown their fascist colors last year when they invited Tommy Robinson and Mike Cernovich to campus. These men are nor- torious for their white supremacist, male chauvinist, anti-Muslim and anti-Jew- ish views. O’Keefe is no different.

O’Keefe’s organization, Project Veritas, claims it is dedicated to exposing corrup- tion and misconduct in public and pri- vate institutions. But all his targets just happen to work for the benefit of work- ing-class and oppressed people. Some of these include Planned Parenthood, ACORN and the New Jersey Teachers Union. In 2017, O’Keefe also played a role in the frame-up of left-wing activists who protested Trump’s inauguration.

The fascist campaign to make beach- heads on U.S. university campuses now appears to be failing. From California and Washington state to Michigan and New York state, fascist speakers have faced mass resistance from campus communities. Last year at Columbia, hundreds came out to protest Robinson and Cernovich. Today, a fascist speaker didn’t even show up.

The anti-fascist movement, however, cannot rest on its laurels. The university is just one front while fascist organizing continues. As anti-fascists were celebrat- ing O’Keefe’s cancellation, three left-wing activists were attacked in Manhattan on Oct. 12 by members of the Proud Boys, a fascist group.

Wherever they are, fascists must be stopped.

Immigrant family risks arrests to end deportation orders
By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

After almost ten months of taking sanctuary in the basement of a Philadel- phia church, Carmela Apolonio Hernán- dez was ready to take direct action to stop deportation orders against her family.

On Oct. 10, Hernández and her 14-year-old daughter Keyri risked arrest and pos- sible deportation to visit U.S. Sen. Bob Ca- sey’s (D-Pa.) office. The request to Casey was that he pressure U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to grant a stay of deportation and introduce a private bill in the Senate on behalf of the family.

Hernández refused to meet Casey’s staff in a basement conference room be- cause her family is tired of living “underground, in the shadows.” Once in Casey’s sixth-floor office, they sat down to work on a plan to allev- iate her family’s desperate situation, she was offered candy.

These two refugees were not alone in risking arrest for im/migrant rights. Two Black women and longtime activists, Dr. Wende Marshall, community organiz- er and Temple University professor, and the Rev. Renee McKenzie of the Church of the Advocate, joined them inside Casey’s office. Other supporters, including Pastor Robin Hynicka of the Arch Street United Methodist Church, also conducted real solidarity by occu- pying the office with them. Over two dozen people participated simultane- ously in the daylong action by occup- ying the building’s lobby.

After sitting in at Casey’s office for four hours with no satisfactory response from his staff, Hernández, her daughter and eight supporters went down to the build- ing’s main doors. These they blocked with a banner and their bodies, risking arrest again.

Standing before the banner reading: “Casey, whose side are you on? Introduce private bill now!” Pastor Hynicka was arrested first. Cops tried to arrest Keyri next. Hernández yelled, “You’re arresting a child?” The crowd chanted, “Shame on Casey!” and some activists yelled, “Why are counterterrorism police here?” Under the additional glare of media cameras, the cops backed off.

Traumatized with arrest and told her daughter would be separated from her in jail — bringing to mind all the children isolated in ICE prisons — Hernández even- tually decided to walk away, and her sup- porters followed suit. She told the crowd: “My daughter did not let me be arrested. Nor did I let her be arrested. ... This is not over. I’m going to keep fighting.”

Hernández added: “He [Casey] is fight- ing for my freedom, so that my family is well and safe. So that they can stay alive.” (“Full statement at ti- nyurl.com/y85yswa7.”)

Taking sanctuary to avoid deportation
Hernández and her children — Fidel, Keyri, Yoselin and Edwin — took sanctu- ary in the Church of the Advocate, a his- toric Black church in the heart of North Central Philadelphia, on Dec. 13, 2017. “I am taking sanctuary to fight for my family, so that my family can stay alive,” explained Hernández on her GoFundMe page: https://bit.ly/2tUSChc. Hernández and the children were iso- lated in a family order of deportation after their asylum petition was denied in 2017 by Judge John B. Carle. He has a denial rate 64 percent higher than the average
By Workers World Boston bureau

Oct. 12 — Chanting “7 a.m. wake-up call!” and “Don’t check in, check out!” 900 Boston hotel workers on the tenth day of the national strike against Marriott International shut down rush hour traffic for half an hour tonight. Represented by UNITE HERE Local 26, housekeepers, cooks, bartenders and bellhops walked off the job as part of a now 7,800-worker-strong national strike.

Workers also walked out Oct. 3 in San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland and San Jose, and on Oct. 7 in Detroit, while Waikiki, Maui and Seattle workers struck the morning of Oct. 8.

As in Boston and many places it operates, the five Hawaii hotels owned by Kyo-ya were bought out by Marriott, the world’s largest hotel company that netted $4.4 billion in 2017. According to today’s Boston Globe, the city’s largest hotel, Sheraton Boston, generated $28.4 million in operating profits last year, while Westin Copley made $31.5 million.

All amid this wealth, hotel workers, among the 2.8 million workers across the country forced to hold multiple jobs to barely keep their heads above water. They are demanding: “One Job Should Be Enough.” (MadameNoire. com, October 2016).

Marriott is cutting back hours by hiring temps and using technology to replace workers. It is shutting down restaurants, bars and room service to increase profits and outsource jobs to the gig economy. Uber, Lyft and UberEats have cut into the livelihoods of tip-dependent hotel food service workers and door workers who traditionally securely pay for customers.

An often-discussed issue on the picket lines is to “make a Green Choice Program.” Cashing in on people’s genuine desire to help save the environment, the program gives points and rewards to customers for refusing housekeeping services. UNITE HERE in its report, “Marriott’s Dirty Choice,” said the program reduces housekeeper hours and leads to more injuries.

Housekeepers report that this program results in rooms filled with days of filth that require backbreaking labor and heavy lifting as well as use of stronger cleaning chemicals. As UNITE HERE Local 26 President Richard Trumka said: “This is a labor-reduction program masquerading as an environmental program. Union housekeepers have seen their (hours) reduced 15 to 20 percent because of the program.”

This deceptive marketing has also been followed with outright lies by the company that posted an anti-union letter claiming to have met worker demands. Management’s effort to cut union power to keep hotel workers has been met with determined effort and loud picket lines in front of empty lounges and in the streets.

**Strategies to win**

To win this struggle, however, UNITE HERE workers need more support now, especially from communities. Concrete solidarity came this week in Boston from the local progressive Asian American and Pacific Islanders community who owed the union’s picket line at the Westin hotel. AAPI is fighting to protect affirmative action for Black and Latinx students at Harvard University. They were outraged that the right-wing, anti-affirmative-action think tanks Students for Fair Admissions and their cronies crossed the picket line.

“Marriott is about to strike dangerous point as it ends its second week,” Harvard Local 26 Chief Steward Ed Childs explained to Workers World. “Marriott owns 10 percent of its market in the world, so this is a fight not just in the U.S. But in this country, the attack against UNITE HERE is a national effort from Washington and Wall Street, along with National Right to Work, eued by the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees court decision; the termination of temporary protected status [for Caribbean and Central American workers], DACA [Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals]; and attacks on affirmative action — all stacked against workers. UNITE HERE has responded with a national campaign, and we’re fighting not just for our union but for workers in general.”

“Generalize, mobilize yourselves. Raise this in your union meetings. Talk about it with your co-workers. We’ve never faced anything like this. This is an attack on you, too.”

Childs cited the Wisconsin protests of 2011 as a source of valuable inspiration. “The unions had built the offensive, the Democrats sold them out.” While Creative 2011 occupied the State House for weeks with their general strike, the Democrats sold them out. “There’s no recall effort, but then running the racist, pro-life mayor of Milwaukee as their candidate. That split the movement.”

Childs observed that people in Madison at the time were very responsive and supportive, easily seeing through the deceptive “right” rhetoric that like “Green Choice” is just a foil for corporate take-backs.

“Unfortunately, we never made it to the offense,” Childs added. “A general strike in Wisconsin would have been taking the offensive and could have defeated the right-to-work campaign. Continuing the campaign to contemplate a general strike may be what is needed today to defeat the attack on the unions by Wall Street, Marriott and the Trump forces.”

“Bring the hotel strike to your unions and community. Let the people from workers that it’s important for the whole workers’ movement to train leaders. Show up at the line. Give any support they can. But the unions then need to go on the offense and call for a general strike.”

**Hotel workers strike**

Three Latinx workers from Stationary Engineers Local 39 (shown here) are striking at the Book Cadillac hotel as part of the nationwide hotel workers’ strike. One of the workers, Javier, stated: “This is a labor-reduction program explicitly targets ‘sanctuary’ cities such as Philadelphia.

The current administration has stripped young people, refugees, asylum seekers and other populations of their domestic relief programs. Temporary protected status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), even when applied for them this year, have been made so complex of people displaced from their countries of origin by violence and poverty exacerbated by foreign policy.”

Casey and the Democratic Party blame Trump for the dire situation im/migrants find themselves in. “The Trump forces.”

Hernández and the Sanctuary Advocate Coalition, in a Oct. 7 press release headed “Four days to go!” say, “Blaming Trump is not enough.” They demand Casey and the Democratic Party take action “to stand up for the rights of people to live without fear of death or separation.”

The Sanctuary Advocate Coalition includes Decarcerate PA, the Free Migration Project, Juntos, the Media Mobilizing Project, Reclaim Philadelphia, Stadium Stompers and the Youth Art & Self-Empowerment Project.

By Martha Grevatt

Detroit

Some 160 hotel workers, including bartenders, servers, cashiers, bellhops, and housekeepers at the Book Cadillac hotel at downtown Detroit’s Book Cadillac hotel joined the strike against Marriott on Oct. 7. Since then, members of UNITE HERE Local 24 have been walking the picket line round the clock. Altogether there are over 7,800 workers on strike against the Marriott chain, which operates Book Cadillac.

“I’ve been here for almost nine years. In that nine years, I received a 60-cent pay raise,” Javier David Fraspetto told demonstrators at a rally Oct. 9. “That was six years ago. Six years ago!” (Detroit News, Oct. 10)

The theme of the strike is “One job should be enough.” Other union members at the rally explained that the pay at Book Cadillac is so little they have to work a second job. They complained that the Renaissance Center Marriott, tied to General Motors world headquarters, pays its workers $2 more an hour for essentially the same work.

With room rates starting at over $500 a night, this hotel can well afford to pay workers enough money to allow them to get by with just one job.

These Detroit workers are carrying on a long tradition of hotel workers on strike. In 1937, after the victory of the Flint sit-down strike against GM, workers at the Book Cadillac and other swanky downtown hotels won union recognition by employing this militant tactic. The bosses had to post a notice in the newspapers stating that the sit-downs had forced them to close their hotels.

Strikers are determined to stay out until their demands are met.

**Immigrant family risks arrests**

Continued from page 3

in the Philadelphia court system.

Should Hernández and her children be deported, their lives would be in imminent danger.

They came to the U.S. in 2015, fleeing the violence of the U.S.-backed drug wars in Mexico. These had claimed the lives of three of her closest family members, and led to physical assaults on Hernández and her oldest daughter.

While Sen. Casey claims he supports the immigrant struggle, he ignored the Hernández family’s request for concrete action for over nine months.

So, after ten months in sanctuary in the church born and raised in El Salvador, her daughter Keyri took a chance to confront Casey to stay their deportation and gain the private bill to protect them.

The case is important not only because of the number of members of the support group, the Sanctuary Advocate Coalition.

Deportations continue to wreak havoc in immigrant communities across the U.S. The Trump administration has increased immigration arrests by 45 percent. The federal administration explicitly targets “sanctuary” cities such as Philadelphia.

The current administration has stripped young people, refugees, asylum seekers and other populations of their domestic relief programs. Temporary protected status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), even when applied for them this year, have been made so complex of people displaced from their countries of origin by violence and poverty exacerbated by foreign policy.”

Casey and the Democratic Party blame Trump for the dire situation im/migrants...
On the Mass. ballot
Voting YES for worker rights, trans rights

By Workers World Boston bureau

Three Massachusetts ballot questions this November need a YES vote. They present an unusual opportunity for people to mobilize through the political process in practical defense of progressive aims — even if people can’t push the Democratic Party machinery to drive this struggle.

Many workers and oppressed people in Massachusetts are cautious about political participation that starts and ends with voting for politicians. This is true despite the much-touted promise of “change” Democrats insist will result from their control of Congress.

The Democratic Party has a tight state-wide grip on the electorate here, even though the governor is Republican and there have been notable mutinies in the heart of Boston’s significant Black and Latinx communities. In those neighborhoods, cultural workers, Party elites were ousted in this year’s primaries by progressive young Black women candidates with grassroots community support.

In the majority of the state’s congressional districts, candidates are cookie-cutter careerists, who appeal more to their corporate donors than to the people.

Though voters are right to feel cautious about participating, the three ballot questions call out for a YES vote.

Patient safety and union rights

Question 1 is a proposal, drafted by the largest union representing nurses in the state, Massachusetts Nurses Association, to improve patient safety by establishing procedures for the number of patients assigned to nurses in various types of care environments. It’s also an important example of workers demanding to have input and offer solutions to a crisis in their working conditions.

Union nurses should be able to achieve these solutions through the collective bargaining process, rather than through a highly politicized state-wide referendum.

Yet because of the erosion of union rights, including measures that have eliminated the nurses’ right to withhold their labor as a bargaining tool, they must instead use the ballot and appeal to the whole population.

An overwhelming YES vote on question 1 should be a no-brainer in Massachusetts, a “blue state.” Yet hospital CEOs, nursing management and corporate health care lobbyists have poured unprecedented resources into the campaign to defeat the question, Nursing executive managers, donning scrubs (nurses’ work clothes), which they would never wear in their corporate office suites, appear in television ads and spread the lie that "real nurses say NO to question 1."

The MNA and thousands of rank-and-file nurses are fighting a hard battle to defeat the campaign of confusion about Question 1. They explain that a YES on 1 is a vote for safe staffing of nurses in hospitals and health center units, which are plagued with daily incidents directly related to understaffing and overstressed, overworked, overtired nurses.

It is a vote for evidence-based research on patient care.

Politically, a YES vote is a vote against corporate health care for profit. It is also a vote for union rights — especially the right of workers who best understand the life-and-death risks of their work to offer solutions to fix unsafe conditions. That’s much better than having those conditions subject to management whims.

People power v. “Citizens United”

Question 2 challenges the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision. That ruling extended First Amendment free-speech protections to corporations, allowing them to spend unlimited resources to influence elections and laws.

Question 2 aims to create a commission of unpaid volunteers to help better understand and challenge the ever-growing behemoth of corporate political power. Recent statewide polls show there is overwhelming support for such a people’s commission to defend our democratic state laws and a federal constitutional amendment to limit corporate money and influence in the political process.

A YES vote on Question 2 is a vote against corporate dictatorship over the vast majority of people.

Nonnegotiable rights for trans and nonbinary people

Question 3 is aimed to defend an already-in-place Massachusetts law that provides some basic protections against discrimination for transgender people using public accommodations like restaurants, hotels, restaurants and gyms.

Opponents of Question 3 want to overturn the existing anti-discrimination laws and instead rely on draconian definitions of who is a woman and who is a man. Overturning the laws would allow any bigot to complain to a manager or call the cops when they encounter people in public facilities whose appearance or gender expression makes the bigot uncomfortable.

The Massachusetts Nurses Association urges nurses to vote YES on Question 3 — for MA Safe — the ballot question’s primary opponent — tries to hide its backward ideas about trans, nonbinary and gender-and nonconforming people being human.

On the heart of Boston’s significant Black and Latinx communities, they directly challenged Wolf before his campaign fundraiser, several demonstrations were held and given to the recipient, before copies of the mail is being sent to prisoners. Originals are destroyed, while scanned copies on the outside. Under the regulations, prisoners’ mail is being sent to a private company in Florida, where it is opened, scanned and emailed to the prisons before copies of the mail are printed and delivered to prisoners. Originals are destroyed, while scans are kept in a searchable database by the PA- DOC. Mail legal is copied and given to the recipient, with the exception — highly sensitive — documents kept on file for 15 days.

New regulations require that prisoners must order ebooks through a prison-controlled kiosk and can only access them by purchasing an expensive ereader. Free ereaders from family and friends, Boooks Through Bars are denied, forcing prisoners and their families to pay high rates for electronic substitutes chosen from a limited, censored range of books.

The fate of access to newspapers and other periodicals remains in question. The ability of over 800 Pennsylvania prisoners to receive free subscriptions to Workers World newspaper could be threatened by the new rules. Since early 2017, the PADOCS has frequently banned issues of Workers World that they consider “too subversive,” including an issue that urged support for the fight against white supremacy. Several members of the Philadelphia branch of Workers World, a Marxian revolutionary group, were dropped for their participation in a protest against colonial rule driven into death and ob- the whole population.

In Philadelphia on Oct 18, prisoner solidarity groups protested new harsh, exploitative regulations in Pennsylvania prisons.

Philadelphia
Protest of draconian state prison policies

By Betsy Piette

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is back-dragging draconian measures to restrict mail, books and periodicals available to prisoners. On Oct. 10, over 100 protestors in Philadelphia demonstrated against the new policies, which were adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections last month. Gathering outside the Yards Brewing Company, where Wolf was holding a campaign fundraiser, several demonstrators managed to get inside. They directly challenged Wolf before they were forcibly removed.

The protest was called by Books Through Bars, the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, the Amistad Law Project, Life Lines Project, the Human Rights Coalition PA, Decarcerate PA and You Vote, We Vote, We win. This is Project.

The new PADOCS policy will cost over $3 million, while at the same time the state has cut back on funding for edu- cation, claiming budget shortages. The measures represent yet another avenue for corporations to profit off the suffer- ing of prisoners and their families, who already pay excessive prices for phone calls and commissary purchases. “Health care” for the PADOCS has been supplied by for-profit interests for years.

The new policies also increase the vi- olation of prisoners’ rights, restrict ac- cess to educational materials and inter- rupt people’s correspondence with loved ones on the outside. Under the regulations, prisoners’ mail is being sent to a pri- vate company in Florida, where it is opened, scanned and emailed to the prisons before copies of the mail are printed and delivered to prisoners. Originals are destroyed, while scans are kept in a searchable database by the PA- DOC. Mail legal is copied and given to the recipient, with the exception — highly sensitive — documents kept on file for 15 days.

New regulations require that prisoners must order ebooks through a prison-con- trolled kiosk and can only access them by purchasing an expensive ereader. Free ereaders from family and friends, Boooks Through Bars are denied, forcing prisoners and their families to pay high rates for electronic substitutes chosen from a limited, censored range of books.

The fate of access to newspapers and other periodicals remains in question. The ability of over 800 Pennsylvania prisoners to receive free subscriptions to Workers World newspaper could be threatened by the new rules. Since early 2017, the PADOCS has frequently banned issues of Workers World that they con- sider “too subversive,” including an issue that urged support for the fight against white supremacy. Several members of the Philadelphia branch of Workers World, a Marxian revolutionary group, were dropped for their participation in a protest against colonial rule driven into death and ob- security the existing gender-crossing and gender nonbinary practices and identi- ties in non-European societies.

The legacy of this patriarchal and col- onial abuse is at the root of today’s re- lentless rate of homicide of trans women of color. This persists in the sexist, racist and anti-immigrant behavior and mi- cro-agressions that make many institu- tions, workplaces and interpersonal re- lationships a minefield for most women and oppressed people. Class patriarchy and colonialism are the source of all the reactionary ideas that sow mistrust of trans and nonbina- ry people among cisgender people. They also sow disregard of LGBTQ people by straight people. Ballot Question 3 at- tempts to de-mean this struggle.

The right of any historically margin- alized or oppressed group to protections from discrimination should never need to be up for public debate or referendum. And yet, once again, this is the reality in the U.S. That is why a YES vote on Ques- tion 3 is not the answer to this long-standing dis- crimination and the rising tide of re- port. Colonialism, rooted in Europe, fur- thered this violent exploitation by subju- gating whole peoples across the oceans. Colonial rule drove into death and ob- security the existing gender-crossing and gender nonbinary practices and identi- ties in non-European societies.

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Philadelphia
Protest of draconian state prison policies

By Betsy Piette

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf is back-
RAMONA AFRICA: Harriet’s granddaughter

Workers World Party joins thousands around the world in the call to help our sister, Ramona Africa, fight for her life.

Ramona Africa is the last survivor of the 1985 firebombing of the MOVE home in Philadelphia on May 13, 1985. She was severely burned, arrested immediately after the bombing and falsely charged in the incident. She served seven years in prison. After being released, she returned to Philadelphia and continued to work with MOVE as minister of communications.

Ramona was diagnosed with lymphoma and federal agencies. Africa returned to Philadelphia on Oct. 12, around 100 people attended a “Night for Ramona” to honor, celebrate and raise money for civil rights icon Ramona Africa. Speakers included (left to right) Gabe Bryant, Pam Africa, Johanna Fernandez, Emanor-Johnson (Ramona Africa’s mother), Mike Africa, Tony Monteiro and Marc Lamont Hill.

At Uncle Bobbie’s Coffee & Books in Philadelphia on Oct. 12, around 100 people attended a “Night for Ramona” to honor, celebrate and raise money for civil rights icon Ramona Africa. Speakers included (left to right) Gabe Bryant, Pam Africa, Johanna Fernandez, Emanor-Johnson (Ramona Africa’s mother), Mike Africa, Tony Monteiro and Marc Lamont Hill.

—— Report and photo by Joe Piette

New York

Celebrating Ramona Africa

Over 100 activists attended an Oct. 13 cultural fundraiser in New York City for Ramona Africa, a leader of the MOVE family in Philadelphia. She is the only adult survivor of the bombing of the MOVE house on May 13, 1985, by Philadelphia police and federal agencies. Africa suffered a stroke in August 2017 and now faces tens of thousands of dollars for medical care and rehabilitation.

Cultural artists and activists paid tribute to Ramona Africa throughout the evening as she watched from her hospital bed via a web link. Following the program, DJs provided music for dancing.

‘Night for Ramona’

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‘Night for Ramona’

Wanted posters: On her wanted poster, Julia Keleher is described as a ruthless mercenary hired to kill public education画画者 to be completely ignorant about the Puerto Rican values, culture, history, literature and language of the children under her mandate.

David A. Skeel: ‘A board appointed by congressional mandate could get away with attacking public employees unions and cutting pro-grams and benefits.’

Hurricanes Irma and Maria devastat-ed Puerto Rico in September 2017. But over a year earlier, in June 2016, President Barack Obama unleased econom-ic devastation in the island/archipelago when he signed into law PROMESA – the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act. The legislation triggered a new phase in class struggle on Puerto Rico, and eliminated any doubt that it is a colony of the U.S.

In essence, PROMESA is a collection agency to serve Wall Street bondholders. For that purpose, it created a dictatori-al Financial Control Board referred to as the “Junta” by Puerto Ricans. The FCB is headed by insurance broker José Carrión III. Board members include Andrew G. Biggs of the American Enterprise Insti-tute in Washington; financier Carlos M. García and banker José R. González, both with connections to Santander Bank; Arthur J. González, retired chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York; and David A. Skeel, Jr., a professor of corporate law at the Uni-versity of Pennsylvania.

Skeel, who teaches bankruptcy law, lives and works in Philadelphia. Philadel-phia native Julia Keleher was hired by the FCB to serve as Puerto Rico’s “Education Secretary” despite her lack of education experience. Both have been targeted by a “wanted poster” campaign in Philadelphia exposing their service to rich Wall Street bondholders.

In summer 2018 the wanted posters began to appear on the University of Pennsyl-vania campus, including one posted on Skeel’s office door. Demonstrations were held there to call attention to Skeel and Keleher’s roles in the theft of Puerto Rico’s resources.

Skeel responded in a Sept. 13 op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. He noted the posters claimed he was a “mercenary who demands the blood of Puerto Rican people to pay rich Wall Street bondholders.”

Skeel’s defense? Simply that “PROMESA instructed the oversight board to help achieve fiscal responsibility and access to the capital markets.” But the record of Skeel, a legal bankrup-pty specialist, shows why the posters describe him as a “mercenary.” In a 2014 Wall Street Journal article, he argued that management of the debt crisis in Puer-to Rico could be a test case for attacking workers’ rights. He cited parallels to U.S. states facing similar hardships, such as Illi-nois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and cities like Philadelphia.

In the article Skeel noted that, unlike lo-cal officials reluctant to make drastic cuts because they are subject to reelectitions, a board appointed by congressional mand-ate could get away with attacking public employee unions and cutting programs, jobs and benefits.

He wrote: “There may be a silver lining in these financial clouds.”

All-out class war on workers and poor

So who gets to line their pockets with that silver, obtained through the “restructuring” of Puerto Rico’s debt? The members of the FCB, appointed by the U.S. president and chosen by leaders of the House and Senate, were given broad powers to serve the inter-est of bondholders, with no accountability to the people of Puerto Rico.

The FCB’s powers include instituting automatic hiring freezes and reducing the minimum wage of workers under 25 years old from $7.25 to $4.25.

Layoffs, cuts in basic services and in-creases to the cost of living then exacer-bated hunger and poverty, worsening after Maria struck. Foreclosures of mortgages on homes and repossessions of automo-biles became widespread.

Under the pretext of “stimulating the economy,” the Labor Transformation and Flexibility Act, passed in 2017, stripped workers of hard-won gains, including the
Labor support for Puerto Rico was strong on Oct. 13 at the Union Hall of Service Employees Local 721. That night, the SEIU Latinx Caucus sponsored and chaired a meeting on solidarity against U.S. colonial crimes in Puerto Rico.

Lawrence Reyes, a former Young Lord, now part of the Puerto Rican Alliance, spoke on solidarity with members of Puerto Ricans in Action and the local Puerto Rico Tribunal committee. A video call was livestreamed from an organizer on the ground in Puerto Rico building for the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico in New York City on Oct. 17. There was also a performance by the Conga Poet, Julio Rodríguez, who will be part of the Los Angeles delegation to the Tribunal.

— Report by Workers World Los Angeles bureau

Exposing U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico

By Workers World Boston bureau

Sept. 29 — Puerto Rican independence activists and allies gathered in Boston for a forum hosted by the Boston chapter of Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere (FIRE) on the history of Puerto Rico and its continued status as a U.S. colony. A delegation from Western Massachusetts, Boricuas for the Liberation of Puerto Rico, traveled several hours to build unity in the movement for Puerto Rican liberation.

Roberto Torro, a writer, spoke to the need for the upcoming International Tribunal on Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico in New York on Oct. 17, relating the devastation of Hurricane Maria to the austerity imposed by the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico and 120 years of U.S. colonialism.

Alberto Barreto of Workers World Party noted the economic aspect of colonialism, leading countries to “consume what they do not produce and produce what they do not consume.” He also spoke about the destruction of culture and language as a tool of colonialism to press resistance. But, he noted, this tactic has failed in Puerto Rico.

Other speakers included Bishop Felipe Teixeira, a long-time immigration activist, and Sam Ordóñez of FIRE. Both focused on the need to link the Puerto Rican struggle with struggles in Latin America and Africa, especially with the struggle of migrants displaced by U.S. imperialism.
Lessons of the Paris and Shanghai communes

By Deirdre Griswold

Lately, great interest and support for the idea of socialism has developed in the U.S., especially among younger generations — a marked departure from the fearful and stultifying days of red baiting unthinking McCarthyism. Anti-imperialism against the then-existing bloc of countries trying to build socialism. But how does it really work?

The Paris Commune of 1871 and the Shanghai Commune of 1927 briefly showed the world what workers’ governments looked like.

Back in the 19th century, capitalist development in Europe and the United States skyrocketed, much of it fed by the boom-and-bust cycles of the capitalist world order surrounding them. Even as the utopian socialists were unable to gain ruling-class neutrality, let alone support, for their reforms, another ideological current was developing. As early as 1848, the need to overthrow the capitalist ruling class was advocated by two young Germans, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. They wrote in “The Communist Manifesto”: “The modern bourgeois societ...”

As Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels not only gave voice to the deep, burning needs of the working class, they also foresaw the possibilities of future revolutions. Marx and Engels first came together in Paris in 1843, and in the years to come, their ideas and writings would influence millions around the world. Their vision of a classless society where workers could govern themselves and build a better world for all was a stark contrast to the existing political landscape.

The Paris Commune of 1871

While that struggle was basically for the working class had the opportunity to abolish class privilege and divisions.

On March 18, 1871, the Central Committee of the Commune had issued a manifesto: “The proletarians of Paris, amidst the failures and treasons of the ruling classes, have understood that the hour has struck for the annihilation of the state and for the transformation of society for the first time in its own hands. They have seized the government power. And they did...

In May 1871, shortly after the Commune had been crushed, it was decided to found a new state. This was the so-called Second French Republic. The new government was made up of conservative politicians, who were determined to restore order and put an end to the revolution.

The rise of socialism

New political organs of power

The workers of Paris had to create new organs of power. And they did.

They effectively defended Paris from the Prussian siege of the city in the fall of 1870 by establishing a National Guard made up mainly of workers. One of the first decrees of the Commune was for the suppression of the old standing army and its replacement by the armed people.

The Commune was made up of municipal councillors from all the city’s wards, chosen by universal suffrage. Their short terms could be revoked if the people were not satisfied. It was a working body with both legislative and executive powers. All officials, including the police, magistrates and judges, were to be agents of the Commune, could be recalled at any time and paid the same wages as regular workers.

The Commune forgave all housing rents accumulated from October 1870 to the time the government had been paid, that was to be deducted from future payments. It also stopped all sales of items held in the city’s pawnshops.

The Commune introduced free education and material privileges for the Catholic Church, still officially the state religion. The priests, said Marx, “were sent back to the recesses of the church and onto the platforms of the faithful in imitation of their predeces- sors, the apostles.” The Commune’s newspaper, Mot D’Ordre, exposed the church’s crimes against the workers, and its editors were incarcerated and even tortured by priests. Church control over schools was ended, science triumphed over dogma, and education was free to all who wanted it. The Commune needed to do in order to transform society from one based on class oppression to one based on class independence and freedom.

On April 7, the Commune ordered the guillotine be used only for criminals, to be overthrown, as it was a symbol of unchristian and mutual hatred among the nations. This was accomplished on May 1. It has since been restored.

On the 16th of April, the Commune issued an order for a statistical account of all factories and workshops which had been closed by the employers, for the elaboration of plans for their management by the workingmen themselves. The order stated: “Now used that state power mercilessly and ostentatiously as the national war instrument for the purpose of the proletariat.' Well, gentle sirs, would you like to know how this dictatorship looks? Then look at the Paris Commune. That was the dictatorship of the proletariat. Yes, it was a dictatorship, but one that was victorious over the despots who had been thrown by the working classes into cooperative societies for the purpose; and, also, for the federation of these societies into one great cooperative organization; and, finally, for the establishment of workers’ rule in all the nations. This was accomplished on April 27.

Women at the barricades

At a time when women had few rights of any kind, the Commune was strengthened by the formation of a Women’s Union des Femmes, which was headed by women socialists. They demanded the right of women to take up arms in defense of the revolution and fought heroically on the barricades when the French bourgeoisie, in collusion with the French military that had Paris under siege, attacked the Commune.

Women’s organizations were established in various parts of the world, and the struggle for women’s rights continued.

The Commune lasted less than two months — enough time to show the world what workers’ government could do.

The Chinese Revolution

Lessons of the Paris and Shanghai communes

The Chinese Revolution had suffered a terrible blow, but it was not defeated. The strategy of the Communist Party of China at the end of the civil war was to win the support of the masses. It was a struggle for power, for the victory of the workers and peasants over the bourgeoisie was inevitable. The Chinese workers and peasants were united in their struggle for freedom, and they were determined to build a new China.

The Chinese Civil War

In 1927, the Chinese Revolution suffered a terrible blow. The Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek, which had supported the Communists in the previous war, now turned against them. The Communists were forced to flee to the countryside, where they continued to fight for the revolution.

The Shanghai Commune of 1927

On March 28, 1927, the Shanghai workers went on strike. The strike was in response to the Shanghai massacre of 1926, in which hundreds of workers were killed by the Shanghai Municipal Police. The strike was a call for the overthrow of the Nationalist government of the warlord Chiang Kai-shek.

The Shanghai Commune was established in May 1927, and it lasted for only two months. The Commune was able to carry out its plans for a new society within this brief period of time. The Commune was able to satisfy the needs of the workers and peasants, and it was able to create a new society in which the workers and peasants were masters.

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First imperialist world wars end, November 1918

Part One The Revolt of the Kaiser’s Blue Youths

By this time 100 years ago, World War I — fought mainly among the imperialist powers in Europe and rightfully called “The Great Slaughter” — was finally drawing to a close, its efforts and its results would prove destructive.

Lessons of commununes

Continued from page 8

The 4,000-mile Long March to the hinterlands was workers and intellectuals who survived the crushing of the Shanghai Commune and other mass struggles in the coastal cities. There they won the support of millions of peasants who joined the rebellion against the hated landlords, bloodsucking usurers and capitalists.

They were confident of the justic of their cause — enough to sustain them for two more hard decades of fighting the world wars, the bankers and the Japane-

• If you’re sick, sick, sick of the U.S.’s endless wars — the lengthy occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, the ongoing warmongering in Syria, and all the armed conflicts in the U.S. — so what? Can Saandi Arabia can wage its genocidal war in Yemen.

• If you want to be a better worker, you can support the Black Workers Movement campaign to be shot and killed by cops who are rarely put on trial, let alone face guility.

• If you’re really angry at Congress after con- multiple issues and free subscriptions to give to friends.

We plan to keep issuing a printed edition to hand out to people we meet on demonstra-tions, picket lines and street corners.

We invite you to sign up today!

For the past 41 years, WW subscribers have helped maintain the paper by joining the WW Supporter Program. For a dona-tion of at least $75 or $100 or $200 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends.

Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 174 W. 23rd St., and Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate; it’s easy to set up monthly donations. Know that we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future. 

• If you’d consider yourself lucky to still have a job.

because it’s deregulating laws when you want to heal the environment and pro-mote human life from the cradle to the grave.

• If you don’t trust ruling-class bankers and CEOs because you’re a member of the working class and know you’re oppressed by this system based on capitalist private property.

• If you believe from reading WW that capitalism is at an end.

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• If you consider yourself lucky to still have a job.

because it’s deregulating laws when you want to heal the environment and pro-mote human life from the cradle to the grave.

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Continued from page 1

ways that would make carbon-based energy less profitable.

That appeal and approach have proved fruitless, especially with the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris Accords on climate change, a weak agree- ment to begin with, and the virtual de- stuction of the Environmental Protec- tion Agency, putting top executives from the polluting fossil fuel companies in key govern- ment positions.

It’s now four years since that big march and, despite the impassioned efforts of many sincere environmentalists, there has been no improvement in the fore- cast. On the contrary, the world’s leading scientists have come up with their most dire scenario ever for what the future will be like.

In a recently released U.N. report on climate change, scientists say that unless drastic changes are made to the world economy within the next 12 years, we will be doomed to live on a permanently hotter and much more dangerous planet.

This message resonates with the hun- dreds of millions of people who have suffered from increasingly powerful hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, floods, mudslides, droughts, earthquakes, vol- canic eruptions and tsunamis all over the planet.

Yes, scientists now believe that the in- creased intensity of all these “natural” di- sasters is related to climate change.

We already knew about the dangers from storms. But now they say that the melting of the great glaciers and polar ice caps, along with rising sea levels, is shifting the weight on the earth’s sur- face, causing the tectonic plates to move and trigger earthquakes, which in turn can cause tsunamis like the one that just killed thousands of people in Indonesia.

From Puerto Rico to Haiti to the Car- olinas and the Gulf Coast of the United States, the islands of the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Carribean islands in the Pacific, tragedy is striking, and it is always the poorest who suffer the most. Rich people have greater wealth re- sources may lose property, but they can save their skins by jetting away from the howl- ing winds and raging waters.

‘Capitalism will not safeguard our planet’

Neither the rich nor a “kinder, gentler capitalism” will save the planet or the people living on it.

Do the capitalists know this? Here’s a quote from Marx: "Either the economic system is based on production and distribution, and it is the most important need to be satisfied at the same time. If it is not, the revolution will come."

Alternatively, the system is to be defended by the exploitation of the working class, and its destruction is always the result of the loss of the means of production.

Movahed continues: “Firms are con- stantly threatened by market compe- tition to cut costs and optimize profit. The environment thus falls prey to the complicate market behavior of the cap- italist mode of production. Without the intervention of non-market entities such as the state, international organizations and social forces, capitalism as an eco- nomic system simply will not safeguard our planet.”

Very well put. But appealing to such a group as the World Economic Forum is like asking tigers to be vegetarians!

Capitalists, whether educated about the grave dangers facing humanity or not, are still capitalists, driven by the need for profit at any cost.

Instead, what is needed is to alert the working class that the planet — and the people on it — will die under capitalism. The working class is the only social force with the capability of bringing down capital- ism and building socialism — the alter- native to capitalism.

Though workers in many countries are already anti-capitalist, huge sections of the working class in this country have never heard anything positive about socialism.

Right now, workers are being told that building a more efficient infrastructure — one that is not based on exploitation and profits from catastrophe, the words of Black Panther and prison activist George Jackson are instructive: “The capitalist economic system is perpetuat- ed beyond the stage of decadence in spite of its dire consequences. It’s seem- ingly remarkable ability to return from crisis is not proof of natural durability. Rather it is proof of a destructive will to power at any cost.”

Socialist Cuba weathers hurricane with planning and com- munity, usually with no loss of life and with preservation of basic systems for survival, but the capitalist U.S. wrings its hands on "chaos" it allows and then prevents.

In this context, the words of Mao Ze- dong, the great Chinese communist rev- olutionary, are also helpful: “What we need is an enthusiastic but calm state of mind and intense but orderly work. … To link oneself with the masses, one must act in accordance with the needs and wishes of the masses. All work done for the masses must start from their needs.”

RE: STRIVE WordPress plugin is continu- ing to coordinate relief supply efforts with the left coalition. Contributions can go to paypal.me/strivepensacola.

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On Oct. 12, (left to right) Jamal Davis (Jamal Steele), Penacola rapper; Leshia Roke, Penacola resident; Dr. Gloria Horning, environmental activist; and Mary Williams, member of the CP organizing committee, meet with STRIVE members to sponsor fundraising and collect materials for a convoy of disaster relief supplies.

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Getting SERIOUS about the environment

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Historic hurricane hammers Florida

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ever hit the Florida Panhandle, and the fourth-strongest landfalling hurricane in the contiguous U.S. in terms of wind speed.

People are posting Facebook appeals for help for their neighbors trapped in their homes with no food or water. One message noted: “Chainsaws haven't been allowed to allow them to get out. … If any- one is heading that way with supplies (or some way of moving this tree),”

Yellowhammer Alternative sent a Facebook alert: “Dozens of people are being thrown out of condemned, hurri- cane-damaged housing in Panama City. Tenants are not being refunded rent moneys paid eight days ago and are be- ing given ONE day to leave. These are folks with no power, no internet, limited access, and are survivors of a historic hurricane that has devastated this area completely.”

Cops guard property, people go hungry

As the convoy pulled into Panama City on Oct. 12, grown people who had lost everything were running in the streets to the convoy cars, asking for food because they couldn’t feed their children.

But cops were parked at every single grocery store still standing, ensuring that “looters” couldn't get to the food and water that’s desperately needed. In fact, cops and military police are patrolling the streets, arresting anyone out past the curfew. On social media, people identi- fied with both major capitalist parties, Democrats and Republicans alike, are calling for “looters” to be shot.

One of the convoy members comm- ented later on Facebook: “Seeing cops outside of a grocery store that was de- stroyed, so people couldn’t take food they needed. … All of that food [can be] writ- ten off as an insurance thing. It’s just going to be thrown away — but even if it wasn’t, the survival of people should be most im- portant, not money.”

Someone had raised a U.S. flag high above the ruined landscape where noth- ing is being done to help the poor and suf- ferers, while rich politicians and corpo- rate owners shrug their shoulders and say, “Panama City Strong!”

The opening for far-right wing re- actionary abuse and violence is great. On the ground, this reporter re- ceived word that the Border Patrol had been spotted doing surveillance in Altha, Bayview and Panama City. As the Altha police gave out food, the Border Patrol was parked across the street, ready to grab people.

The League of the South, a white sup- remacist group, has posted social me- dia announcements that it is sending a “team” into the disaster area to “help out” in the aftermath.

STRIVE issued a Facebook alert about the League: “As we know, cops and Klan work hand in hand, so [the League] will be assisting police in working against ‘looters.’ We need to be extra vigilant and do what we can to prevent their entry.”

At the year’s anniversary of Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico and in- tensified U.S. oppression there, a broad swathe of the southeast U.S. also strug- gles to recover after the impact of two monumental hurricanes. As we confront the economic system that both causes and profits from catastrophe, the words of Black Panther and prison activist George Jackson are instructive: “The capitalist economic system is perpetuat- ed beyond the stage of decadence in spite of its dire consequences. It’s seem- ingly remarkable ability to return from crisis is not proof of natural durability. Rather it is proof of a destructive will to power at any cost.”

Socialist Cuba weathers hurricane after hurricane with planning and com- munity, usually with no loss of life and with preservation of basic systems for survival, but the capitalist U.S. wrings its hands on “chaos” it allows and then prevents.

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WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero

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Excerpt: "Last October, Colin Kaepernick, the African-American former quarterback for National Football League’s San Francisco 49ers, was asked after a game why he was wearing a Malcolm

Lo de Puerto Rico se usa contra Venezuela. Primero vino la campaña de desestabilización. Luego, la OEA se convocó con píldoras anticonceptivas; un laboratorio de militarización, como Venezuela no es el enemigo. Estas conversaciones y en las redes sociales en toda América Latina son parte de las invasiones de Santo Domingo. Roselló y Rola Saleh, a social worker who aids refugees in the city of Chemnitz, site of recent neo-Nazi assaults on immigrants, told the German broadcaster Werte, "The rally at the gobernador. La indignación continua la delegación no quiere reconquistar a Venezuela. Primero vino la campaña de desestabilización. Luego, la OEA se concentró en Venezuela, Estados Unidos imponer juntas de control fiscal, como la economía bolivariana. La indignación continúa expresándose en programas de radio, en conversaciones y en las redes sociales en contra de poner los intereses de los Estados Unidos por encima de las necesidades de Puerto Rico. Venezuela no es el enemigo. Estas hermanas y hermanos ofrecieron alivio de huracanes que fue rechazado por el gobernador debido a la condición de PR como colonia de EUA. Venezuela ofreció un carguero de diesel gratuito para los tan necesitados generadores. Uruguay, México y Cuba ofrecieron solidaridad, que también fue bloqueada.

La gente está en contra de lo que está haciendo el gobernador. La indignación contra esa declaración de prensa y el movimiento progresista, y luego otros se dirigieron inmediatamente a las redes sociales diciendo que se oponían a la declaración y la acción del gobernador. Se realizó una manifestación en solidaridad con la venezuela bolivariana. La indignación continua expresándose en programas de radio, en conversaciones y en las redes sociales en contra de poner los intereses de los Estados Unidos por encima de las necesidades de Puerto Rico. Venezuela no es el enemigo. Estas hermanas y hermanos ofrecieron alivio de huracanes que fue rechazado por el gobernador debido a la condición de PR como colonia de EUA. Venezuela ofreció un carguero de diesel gratuito para los tan necesitados generadores. Uruguay, México y Cuba ofrecieron solidaridad, que también fue bloqueada.

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El Tribunal Internacional de Emergencia sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos de Puerto Rico se llevará a cabo el 27 de octubre en la ciudad de Nueva York. La reportera de Workers World/Mundo Obrero Cheryl LaBash entrevistó a Berta Jouber-Ceci, una boricua y organizadora central de este evento en Nueva York. La reportera de Workers World/Mundo Obrero.org, autora de “Indonesia: El secretario de la ONU en la lucha contra la violencia sexual hacia las mujeres”, habló sobre la importancia del tribunal y la necesidad de un marco internacional de derechos humanos que haga posible el enfrentamiento de acciones ilegales.

**Por Cheryl LaBash**

**12 de octubre**

El Tribunal Internacional de Emergencia sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos de Puerto Rico es un evento histórico, para saber los últimos acontecimientos. Para lograrlo primero tenemos que saber qué somos. ¿Somos norteamericanos, africanos, asiáticos, indígenas, puertorriqueños? Somos todos. Somos un pueblo de una América que ha sido colonizada por los EE.UU. Desde el pasado siglo, los EE.UU. han sido los principales agentes de la colonización de América. Los EE.UU. han sido el principal agente de la colonización de América, y han sido responsable de la explotación de los recursos de los países sometidos a su control.

El gobierno de los EE.UU. ha sido el principal agente de la colonización de América, y ha sido responsable de la explotación de los recursos de los países sometidos a su control. La explotación de los recursos ha sido la clave para el éxito económico y político de los EE.UU. Los EE.UU. han sido el principal agente de la colonización de América, y han sido responsable de la explotación de los recursos de los países sometidos a su control.

**27 de octubre**

Notables anticoloniales obtendrán audiencia en Tribunal sobre PR

El gobernador de PR, Ricardo Rosselló, acaba de anunciar que el tribunal de Puerto Rico se convertirá en una institución de derecho internacional con el fin de que el pueblo puertorriqueño pueda defender sus derechos. El tribunal será el primer paso hacia la soberanía de Puerto Rico.

**EnNYC 27 de octubre**

La lucha contra Kavanaugh


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