Mass protests planned
FIGHT TRUMP!

By Stephen Millies

Jan. 1 — People are organizing all over the United States to go to Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 20, and spoil Donald Trump’s “inauguration.” The racist, sexist predator threatening to ramp up the nuclear arms race will be met with mass protests at #J20Resist.

J20 organizers are calling for people to gather at what they are renaming “Anti-Columbus Plaza” in front of D.C.’s Union Station at 6 a.m. on Jan. 20. A march on the White House will begin at 10 a.m.

The cops and agencies of the state are trying to stop people from saying “No to Trump!” Racist cops love Trump, who called Mexican immigrants “rapists” and who wants to crush the Black Lives Matter movement.

Ludicrous limits are being set to attempt to stop demonstrators. Among the items the cops are trying to prohibit at checkpoints are backpacks, balloons and even signs larger than 8 by 6 by 4 inches — about the size of half a sheet of typing paper!

“Many restrictions are vague, all-encompassing, contradictory and open to police interpretation,” said New York J20 organizer Taryn Fivk. “All are intended to restrict people’s freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of expression.”

Organizers not deterred by restrictions

But none of these police state measures are stopping organizers from filling buses. J20 organizer Nate Peters says

Continued on page 6
From a Pennsylvania prison: The torture chair

By Sehu Kessa Saa Tabansi

Dec. 26 — Power to the people! Since this has been the holiday season of consumer shopping frenzies and enlarged corporate profiteering, I thought it would only be fitting to offer a present of my own to the millions of workers out there who rarely get a glance inside the U.S. Torture Centers to see firsthand the American torture devices right off the assembly line. So here is an exclusive expose to the masses who read Workers World newspaper.

Here is the clever publicity photo of just one of numerous U.S. companies pushing a sanitized, sterilized version of the so-called “Compliance Chair.” This product’s big Pharma prices, profits soar. It has been designed for “imprisonment.” The machine may not appear too threatening. At a quick glance or to the inexperienced public, it would be easy not to see the enormous pain inflicted by this sadistic device. But it is this monstrous machine that prison plants nationwide have co-opted and adapted into a torture device where human beings are strapped in for hours of severe pain.

Hate capitalism! Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stronghold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 58 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stronghold over the means of production.

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The crisis in drug costs, Part 1

Big Pharma prices, profits soar

By Betsy Piette

Affecting all population sectors in the U.S., the costs of prescription medicines are skyrocketing, fueled by the pharmaceutical industry's greed and monopoly control of the drug market.

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging recently released a 330-page report detailing how four pharmaceutical companies enriched themselves by acquiring drugs with patents that had expired decades ago and then drastically increasing the price to consumers, just because they could.

The four companies — Retropixl, Rodeolis Therapeutics, Turing Pharmaceu-
ticals and Valeant Pharmaceuticals International — invested nothing for re-
search or development. They had no real incentive in the cost of production or dis-
tribution. However, all four drastically spiked the cost of their drugs to consum-
ers — from 2.5 percent to an incredible 5,000 percent.

The study noted that the four com-
panies were able to take advantage of the U.S. health care system to enrich themselves, often at taxpayers' expense. While private insurers have restricted reim-
bursements on many drugs in re-
cent years, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services provides reimburse-
ment for any medication covered by Medicare.

The study concluded that more pharmaceutical companies need to be investigated.

One in 10 seniors cannot afford drugs

In the richest country in the world, 1
in 10 seniors cannot afford prescription medicines. In 2013 the average cost for a year's supply of a brand-name drug was $8,800, with seniors on average taking 4.5 different medications.

Half of all people on Medi-
care make $24,150 or less a year, while one in seven survive on income below Supplemental Poverty Measure thresholds. Basic Medicare does not cover prescription drugs — you have to purchase Medicare Part D.

Without that coverage, seniors would need to pay $4.5 prescriptions on average per day, $26,100 — consider-
ably more than their annual incomes.

Quantifying the scope of this crisis, the AARP Public Policy Institute re-
ported on Dec. 14 that the "total cost of brand-name drugs most commonly used by older Americans rose more than 130 percent between 2011 and 2015." While the AARP study con-
centrated on brand-name drugs, there is also growing concern about huge price increases for generics.

Generic drugs, which account for 80 percent of all prescriptions, are used to be considered one of the few health care bargains. But an August 2015 AARP study found that around 27 percent of ge-
ceric prescription drugs were also experi-
encing serious price increases.

Decreased competition fuels price increases

The reports found no change in pro-
duction costs to account for these sudden and in many cases drastic price spikes. But they did find a growing number of mergers and acquisitions in the drug in-
dustry that decreased competition.

For example, when the number of manu-
facturers of one heart medication decreased from around $2.5 million to more than $22 billion, the cost of the drug soared from $1,000 per year to $34,000.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch, while defending the sharp increase in the Epi-
Pen's cost, saw her own annual salary grow from around $5.5 million to more than $18 million. Martin Shkreli offered to raise funds to defend Bresch.

People die from curable diseases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in May that across the U.S. hepatitis C now claims more lives than HIV/AIDS, despite the existence of drugs that can cure the disease. The CDC found that by 2033 "hep-
aivirus-related mortality surpassed the total combined number of deaths from 60 other infectious diseases, including pneumococcal disease and tuberculosis.

Globally, from 350,000 to 900,000 people die every year due to complica-
tions stemming from untreated hepatitis C. These deaths did not have to happen.

In 2013 the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-
istration approved the new, direct-acting antiviral drug Sovaldi with a 90 percent cure rate. In 2015 Gilead Sciences ac-
quired this drug through a takeover of Sovaldi's developer, Pharmasset. While initially sold for $1,125 per pill for a 12-week course of treatment, in 2016 Gilead introduced a slightly mod-
ified version called Harvoni, with a 95 percent cure rate, at the increased cost of $64,500 per treatment course. Gilead's profits skyrocketed.

The crisis in drug costs, Part 2:

From a Pennsylvania prison: The torture chair

Continued from page 3

are the "waist restraint straps," which pull the pelvis and abdomen in such a manner as to cause an arch in the spine between the shoulder blades and the lower ba-

The paralyzing effect of the plastic-coat-

Straps guarantee that the victim of this torture is unable to move, often for peri-

The "wrist restraint straps," and they cut off the blood circulation to both hands. The arms are tied in place, the victim's hands behind the back. The "ankle restraint straps," which, like the wrist restraints, cut off the blood circulation to the lower extremities. When the agents of repression assemble these plastic-coated straps around the ankles, there is no space left between the ankle straps and the skin, thus no blood circulation to the feet. The human being tortured in this fashion will feel their feet swell, turning blue, green and purple, causing incredible pain.

For the victim of this torture device, there can be no movement from head to toe to the point that even the slightest movement of the wrist or ankle straps guarantee that the victim of this torture is unable to move, often for periods of eight to 14 hours or more.

On the other hand, there are two planes of plastic with straps. These are called the "waist restraint straps," and they cut off the blood circulation to the feet. The pain is so unbearable that, over time, they would feel their feet swell, turning blue, green and purple, causing incredible pain.

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ified version called Harvoni, with a 95 percent cure rate, at the increased cost of $64,500 per treatment course. Gilead's profits skyrocketed.

At the 2016 Glasgow HIV Congress, Dr. Chris Hylegore presented his 10-fold mark-up in the price of drugs for HIV, HCV and cancer in high-income coun-
tries, including the U.S. He also cited the wide disparity between the produc-
tion cost of new antiviral drugs for hep-
atis C — about $37 per treatment course — and their astronomical market price in the U.S. (The Body Pro, Oct. 24)

Next: Abundant gov't investigations but no end to crisis.
Retrial set for killer cop
By Gene Clancy

In Charleston, S.C., on April 4, 2015, Michael Slager, a white cop, killed Walter Scott, an African-American man, by shooting him five times in the back after a “routine” traffic stop. The incident was caught on cellphone video by a bystander, who also filmed Slager planting his own Taser near Scott’s lifeless body.

Despite this clear, incontrovertible evidence, and after hearing from 55 witnesses — over five weeks, one African-American and 12 white detectives were unable to come to a unanimous verdict. The judge declared a mistrial on Dec. 5. Slager has denied killing Scott. In the state of South Carolina would retry the case remained moot until Dec. 30, when the state’s Ninth Circuit solicitor, Scarlett Wilson, announced she would retry the case beginning March 1.

The state is not required by law to retry this or any other case ending in a mistrial. In fact, in some cases to carry on with the true mission of acting on behalf of the ruling elites, the state’s reprisal apparatus makes use of what in legal terms is called “discrimption.” In practical terms, this means that the entire judicial system — the cops, the prosecutors, the judges — can pretty much do whatever they want so long as they have it done to the goals of their capitalist masters.

Like the actions of infamous Dylann Roof, who in 2015 targeted the State taking life doesn’t fall.

A crack in the wall of death
By Mumia Abu-Jamal

For Dylann Roof, the next few days and weeks of his young life will prove his most significant and important. That’s saying something, considering the slaughter of nine sweet souls in a Black Charleston church.

For, in the next few days and weeks, a jury will convive to decide whether he gets a death sentence or life.

As someone who lived a lifetime on Death Row, my opposition is unequivocal. Even in a case such as this, my oppo-

sition to the State taking life doesn’t fal-

ter. Even in this case, of a witless white supremacist, a killer of nine Black Chris-
tian souls. If I know anything, it’s Death Row. I’ve seen it drive most death rowers mad. That said, my opinion carries no real weight in this case, for unless I miss my guess, no juror will ever hear these words. They will decide Roof’s fate after they deliver his own closing arguments, which will hardly endear him to his jurors. A death verdict for Roof strengthens the repressive powers of the State, and gives it the false patina of “justice.” If a death sentence falls, it helps show the inherent injustice of the death penalty. It would help all the men and women on Death Row.

My decision to oppose death for Roof wasn’t an easy one, but I believe it’s the right one.

No matter his beliefs, decades on Death Row, as well as in solitary, are mind-frying experiences. Nothing he has experienced in his brief life can prepare him for such outcomes.

For life, in prison, is no picnic:

Palestinians celebrate release of hunger striker Bilal Kayed
By Joe Catron

Over 1,000 Palestinians gathered Dec. 12 in the town of Asira ash-Shamaliya, near Nablus in the occupied West Bank, to welcome Bilal Kayed and celebrate his hard-fought release from an Israeli prison after 15 years.

Kayed, a leader in the prison branch of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, had been imprisoned by Israel since 2001 on charges of membership in the Popular Front’s Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades and armed struggle during the first Intifada. A PFLP statement marking Kayed’s freedom said, “His victory is one for the entire Palestinian people and the pris-

oners’ movement who will only strength-

en the prisoners’ spirit of confrontation against the jailer and its tools of repres-

sion” (pflp.ps).

Kayed’s 14-and-a-half year sentence expired June 13, but the morning of his expected release, he instead was ordered into “administrative detention” — indefi-

nite internment without charge or trial — by secret decree of an Israeli commander.

The night before, Kayed launched a hunger strike to demand his freedom.

Unprecedented mobilization

His fast, lasting 71 days, mobilized both Palestinian and solidarity activists, ultimately forcing Israel to agree to a deal securing his release.

Kayed and his supporters feared that by ordering him into “administrative de-

tention,” Israel sought to establish a new precedent for internment Palestinian polit-

cical prisoners beyond the fixed sentences issued by Israeli military courts.

The unabashedly political nature of his case energized Kayed’s defenders and spurred an unprecedented global campa-

ign for his release.

In Palestine, the PFLP mobilized in-

side and outside Israel’s prisons, with hundreds of prisoners from different factions joining Kayed’s hunger strike, as thousands of supporters filled public squares across the occupied country.

Internationally, Samidoun: Palestin-

ian Prisoner Solidarity Network coordi-

nated repeated days and weeks of action, with over a hundred demonstrations and educational events across the world.

In New York, Samidoun organized nine rallies for Kayed, while joining pro-

tests by Students for Justice in Palestine groups outside the Israeli Consulate and the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. It also participated in educational events, including a packed gathering in the Malcolm X and Dr. Bet-

ty Shabazz Center, and a panel at the New York City Students for Justice in Pales-

tinian members at the Solidarity Center only hours before Kayed ended his strike.

Samidoun also held a vigil outside of the main events in Amman, Amsterdam, Athens, Beirut, Brussels, Copenhagen, Istanbul, Malmo, Vancouver and Lebanon’s Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp, while coordinat-

ing the visit of a delegation of European parliamentarians to Palestine.

Other events, including in Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Chile, the Czech Republic,

France, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Por-

tugal, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia and the United Kingdom, made the mobiliza-

tion one of the largest in support of the Palestinian prisoners’ movement.

Political prisoners showed their sol-

irdy, from a three-day fast by Leba-

nese revolutionary Georges Abdallah and six other Arab and Basque prisoners in France, to a statement of support by Black activists, including Mumia Abu-

Jamal and Sundiata Acoli.

‘An incomplete happiness’

The effort to free Kayed spurred fresh gains for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. The Brit

ish-Danish security conglomerate G4S, a contractor with Israeli prisons, has been targeted by many protests in support of Kayed. On December 2, G4S finalized a deal to sell its main Israeli unit. This has been the state of South Carolina to agree to a deal to sell its main Israeli unit. This was a victory for Kayed and the Palest-

inian prisoners’ movement, whose hun-

ger strikes and prison struggles inspired campaigns against G4S across the world.

In a letter to supporters, released by

has received so much publicity because it is extremely rare for cops who shoot civilians to be charged with homicide.

In a 1991 study, about half of the discretionary decisions made by criminal justice agencies were found to be made by police. (National Institute of Justice, nij.gov)

In a racist, oppressive society, the consequences of this “discrimption” — the power to arrest and even kill people with impunity — falls most heavily on the Af-

rican-American community. A 2016 study conducted by the Washington Post found: “Of all the unarmed people shot and killed by police in 2015, 40 percent of them were Black men, even though Black men make up just 6 percent of the nation’s population.” (Washington Post, July 11)
Las Vegas hotel workers beat back Trump — finally

After a vicious, two-year struggle, 500 workers at Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas emerged victorious Dec. 21, winning their first four-year contract. The contract guarantees annual raises, job security, health care and pensions.

The majority are Latinx women workers, who joined UNITE HERE Culinary Workers Union Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165, and stood illegal anti-union retaliation, intimidation and even physical assault by management. According to the Huffington Post, Donald Trump’s hotel spent over half-a-million dollars on consultants to try to stop employees from unionizing. The unions countered by exposing hotel co-owner Trump as a racist and anti-worker. Throughout all of this, the hotel’s top brass showed that even up against a rich, powerful, racist enemy, worker solidarity and fighting spirit can def defeat the rich.

UNITE HERE Local 25, which represents workers at Trump’s Washington, D.C., hotel, also signed a separate agreement Dec. 22. Workers at the hotel are organizing a campaign. “Far from acting in good faith, the hotel reveals its minimal willingness to comply with existing labor laws. Local 25 could still expect a fight from Trump and company.” (panawirenews.com, Dec. 21)

Employees denounce IBM CEO for reaching out to Trump

When news broke that Trump was elected president, people of color, women, immigrants, LGBTQI individuals, people with disabilities and low-wage workers flocked to the streets and social media to express their disgust and fear. IBM, the tech giant IBM, saw only dollar signs. In a Nov. 14 letter, she offered IBM’s solutions to help Trump “advance [his] national agenda.” IBM founder Thomas Watson, who received the Nazi Merit Cross of the German Eagle for collaborating with Hitler’s regime, would be proud. (theguardian.com, Feb. 18, 2016)

IBM workers, however, objected. An online petition signed by current and former employees denounced the idea that IBM would help create a national Muslim registry and asserted “our right to refuse to participate in any U.S. government contracts that violate constitutionally protected civil liberties.” The petition also called on IBM to expand diversity programs “targeting women, people of color and LGBT people with the goal of doubling recruitment of these groups in 2017.” As of Dec. 23, the petition had collected over 500 signatures. (ibmpetition.org)

A Dec. 19 Intercept article noted that the IBM petition is similar to the “Never Again Hedges,” signed by about 1,700 tech workers from various companies agreeing to never “participate in the creation of databases of identifying information for the United States government to target individuals based on race, religion or national origin” and “to minimize the collection … of data [to] facilitate ethnic or religious targeting.” (neveragain.tech)

Airport workers: strike in D.C., win contract in Minn.

“Are we on strike today to send a message that we mean business,” said baggage handler Marvin Lynch on Dec. 14 at Washington, D.C.’s National Airport. The workers at both National and Dulles airports were protesting poverty wages and lack of respect from their contract employer, Huntleigh Corp. Contracted airport service workers are excluded from the airports’ living wage law and earn as little as $8.77 an hour plus tips. Workers are de-manned and cut in pay when they work $15 an hour. (delabor.org, Dec. 15)

Meanwhile, contract workers at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport won union representation on Nov. 14. Service Employees Local 26, which began organizing them in 2013, will negotiate on behalf of 600 mostly East African, Haitian workers. The contract statement noted that their campaign aims to “eliminate Minnesota’s racial economic inequalities” and is part of the national Fight for $15 movement for contracted airport workers. Now “$8.77 an hour for workers nationwide have won wage increases or other improvements, including health care, paid sick leave and worker retention poli-cies.” (seiu26.org, Dec. 5) For more about this ongoing struggle, see airportworkersunited.org.

25 minimum wage victories in 2016; 34 planned for 2017-18

A Dec. 21 study by the National Employment Law Project reported there were more minimum wage victories in 2016 than in any year since the Fight for $15 campaign was initiated by fast food workers and other low-wage workers four years ago. Twenty-five states, cities and counties raised their minimum wages in 2016. Workers in another 21 states and cities will receive raises in 2017, and new campaigns are underway for 8 minimum wage increases in at least 35 states and cities during 2017-2018. (For detailed data, see nlwp.org)

On visits from San Diego to Tijuana, Mexico, I was able to learn from Makada Makossa and Professor Wilner Metelus about the se-rious humanitarian crisis facing more than 5,000 Haitian and African refugees stranded in Tijuana as they attempt to seek asylum in the United States. The two activists pointed out the horrors facing the refugees and the efforts to assist them.

Makossa is the heroic founder and developer of San Diego’s World Beat Center (WBC) in the city’s historic Balboa Park and of the Casa del Túnel across the border in downtown Tijuana. Both are important progressive venues in their respective cities.

Makossa has devoted much time and en-ergy to raising awareness about the serious humanitarian crisis just over the border. She makes frequent trips to Tijuana’s Casa del Túnel-Cultural Arts Center, where she re-cently made contact with some of the 5,000 or more Haitian and African refugees stranded on the border with few resources, but hop-ing to be able to enter the U.S. eventually.

Makossa transports food, clothing, blank-ets, sleeping bags, toys and other needed supplies donated by individuals and organi-zations in the U.S. Making that journey is no easy task. She has to pass through a highly militarized border, coming and going, and many times her van is subjected to searches by the Mexican authorities.

My first trip to Tijuana with Makossa and the WBC family was on Dec. 22. I visited a Haitian refugee shelter located in El Alacrán, an impoverished neighborhood in Tijuana. The Mexican authorities are relocating migrants from Tijuana to see for themselves what is going on. Bring people to Tijuana to see for themselves what is going on. Bring people to Tijuana to see for themselves what is going on. Bring people to Tijuana to see for themselves what is going on.

GV: How did the Haitian migrants get to Tijuana from Haiti?

PM: They did not come directly from Hai-ti. They came from Brazil or Colombia, for example. They came by foot, by bus — encoun-tering corrupt police — lots of money paying guides — predatory smugglers — rob-bery, rape, murder — finally reaching Tijuana only to be housed in shelters not prepared or equipped for this influx.

GV: What can we do to help?

PM: Let people know what is going on. Bring people to Tiju-ana to see for themselves what is happening. This is a crisis. African Americans should join in making an appeal to the U.S. government to take some action in regard to this crisis. Join the efforts of [Makossa] … and help the Haitians to become self-suf-ficient, to get jobs and begin their lives where they are.
Black GIs resist ‘riot-control’ duty, 43 arrested

By John Catalinotto

Anger radiated through the barracks when orders reached the Black troops of the 1st Armored Division that they would be sent to Chicago on riot-control duty. GIs spread a message throughout Fort Hood, Texas, on Aug. 23, 1968: They would meet on the grassy area at the main intersection of the fort to start an all-night discussion. More than 100 GIs showed up to plan what to do. It was more than a rap session. It was a protest.

To the generals and colonels whose orders allowed no refusal, it was mutiny. Some of the GIs had won medals for bravery. Some had been wounded. After a year of heavy combat in Vietnam, the fed-up Black troops were outraged at being ordered to occupy African-American neighborhoods in Chicago.

What these soldiers believed — and it was true — was that the government feared a Black uprising and planned to use the U.S. Army to shoot down their sisters and brothers.

Some of the Black GIs had been among those sent to Chicago in April 1968 to do “riot control” after Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination triggered a Black rebellion. Chicago’s Mayor Richard Daley told them then that they should “shoot to cripple anyone looting.” (chicago68.com)

Chicago’s Mayor Richard Daley told them then that they should “shoot to cripple anyone looting.” (chicago68.com)

Now Chicago was the venue for the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Rebellious youth were coming by the thousands to protest the Vietnam War. “Bos’ Daley wanted federal troops on hand to shoot down Black people should the anti-war protest spill over into the Black community.”

With their midnight meeting, the Black GIs were saying, “No way!”

GIs revolts in Vietnam — and the U.S.

A week earlier, on Aug. 13, Black Marines at the Danang brig in Vietnam tore the place apart and burned a cellblock. It took a force of MPs firing shotguns to crush the rebellion among the 218 unarmed men.

Also in Vietnam, at U.S. Army prison Long Binh Jail on Aug. 20, a band of prisoners rushed the gate between the medium security section and the main administrative part of the compound. Then they broke through. They proceeded to burn down the building, which contained all their records, and nine other large buildings. Black soldiers led this revolt.

Back in the U.S., the Black GIs at Fort Hood were rising up. They knew they would be ordered to shoot their own people if sent to Chicago. During the July 1967 mass rebellion in Detroit’s Black community, Michigan Gov. George Romney had ordered in the Michigan National Guard and President Lyndon Johnson deployed the 101st Airborne. Some 17,000 troops fired 125,000 rounds at the population, killing most of the 43 people who died during the struggle.

That same month in Newark, N.J., the National Guard entered the city and was responsible for most of the 26 deaths there.

At Fort Hood, as Black GIs met all night resisting orders, the commanding officer of the 1st Armored Division, Maj. Gen. John Boles, tried to talk the men back to their barracks. That failed. The provost marshal, Lt. Col. Edwin Kulo, came out among the troops several times between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. and “instructed” them to go back to their barracks for their own good.

The Black GIs stayed strong: No commands from an officer would change their decision to refuse to kill their people. Hours passed. Orders went out to the military police: “Arrest them at dawn.”

At 6 a.m., two MP companies were ordered to clear the grassy area where the soldiers were meeting. They arrested 43 soldiers and took them to the post stockade and then to the stockade annex. When the troops refused orders to enter this prison, MPs attacked and beat them, in

For more information about buses leaving from your area, or local anti-Trump actions in your city, go to J20resist.org

For information on New Orleans contact contact oakland contact apptopoksen.council@gmail.com

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Boston 617-522-6626

Detroit 313-680-5508

Huntington, W.V. 304-690-6048

North Carolina J20resist.org

Philadelphia 610-931-2615

Rochester, N.Y. 585-436-6458

Mass protests planned

FIGHT TRUMP!

Continued from page 1

that 100 people have already signed up to go from New York City. Buses are leaving from 147 W. 24th Street in Manhattan at midnight on Jan. 19. The deadline for NYC ticket sales is Jan. 11.

Baltimore activists at the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center are organizing a Martin Luther King Jr. march on Saturday, Jan. 14, to kick off a week of action leading up to J20. The MLK Day march will link the student and youth movement against Trump with the movement by community residents. It will demand an end to police terror; jobs, not jails; and a $15 minimum wage with union rights.

The Baltimore and Maryland Organizing Committee for J20 Resist will also be getting people on MARC trains to go to D.C. for J20. Tickets are $8.

Buses will be going from Charlotte, Durham and Raleigh in North Carolina. Departure time in Charlotte will be 11 p.m., Jan. 19, while buses will leave from Durham and Raleigh at 1 a.m. on Jan. 20. Go to J20resist.org and look for Charlotte, Durham or Raleigh under the tab “Get Organized!” Click on “Buy bus ticket online here.”

A van is coming from Huntington, W.Va.; some seats are still available.

“Don’t give racist, fascist, union-hating Trump a chance” is what Philadelphia activists are saying. Workers World Party is organizing buses with tickets at $80. Go to J20resist.org and look for Philadelphia under “Get Organized!”

A fundraiser for the Philadelphia bus will be held at Service Employees Local 688 hall at 9242 Spring Garden on Jan. 6, starting at 8 p.m. Good music from local bands will be featured with a $7 to $10 donation. No one will be turned away for a lack of funds.

The International Action Center in Rochester, N.Y., is sending a bus to protest Trump. It leaves Rochester at 11 a.m. on Jan. 19 and returns by 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 21. Seats are $60; ask about scholarships and subsidized seats.

Activists in New Orleans are organiz-
Women say ‘No to misogyny!’

By Monica Moorehead

Millions of women were shocked, outraged and disgusted when the extremely misogynistic and racist Donald Trump was selected by the Electoral College to succeed Barack Obama as the next U.S. president. Many of those women had voted for Hillary Clinton, who won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes over Trump. The undemocratic nature of how a president in the capitalist U.S. is elected was once again on full display in the 2016 and 2012 elections of the first Black president.

Let’s go on the record now that Clinton is not and never was a feminist. She is an all-out imperialist — check out her record of interventions in Honduras, Libya, etc., as Obama’s secretary of state — as well as the candidate that most of Wall Street backed for president.

In the days following the election, tens of thousands of people, many of them women of all ages, spontaneously poured into the streets from high schools, college campuses and workplaces, to protest Trump under the popular Twitter hashtag #NotMyPresident.

Then on Nov. 21, a national press release announced a Women’s March on Washington for Jan. 21, the day after Trump is inaugurated. ‘Defend the most marginalized’

Backed by more than 70 endorsers, including Planned Parenthood, the NAACP, Global Women’s Network, the Anti Police-Terror Project in Oakland, Calif., “ramping it up in preparation for Trump.” They’re beginning a “week of action with a Reclaiming King’s Radical Legacy March” and say this will be “120 hours of autonomous direct action in resistance to the fascist Trump agenda.”

This year we are focused on immigrant rights, protection of our Muslim brothers and sisters, women’s reproductive rights, loving our LGBTQ sisters, brothers and siblings, and the defense of Black life.

Beyond J21

First called the “Million Woman’s March,” the organizers of the Women’s March on Washington issued an official apology to Dr. Phil Chaconas, an African-American woman who initiated the original MWM, where more than 2 million, majority Black women and other women of color flooded the streets of Philadelphia in 1995 under the banner of unity and sisterhood in the aftermath of the Million Man March in 1995.

The J21 call recognizes other important past demonstrations like the 1963 March on Washington, which merged the Civil Rights Movement with the fight for economic justice; the 1965 March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam; and the four marches on Washington for the rights of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people in 1979, 1987, 1993 and 2009.

In early December, J21 organizers announced that permits had been approved by various D.C. agencies for a gathering near the U.S. Capitol at Third Street SW and Independence Avenue at 10 a.m. for a march and rally. Local and statewide Facebook pages have attracted tens of thousands of people mobilizing for the march. Nationally coordinated J21 solidarity protests have also been called for those unable to travel to Washington.

A very important question about the Women’s March on Washington concerns whether or not J21 will be used to try to divert more women into the Democratic Party. Or will this movement really attract the most oppressed and marginalized women? These are the women who are involved in and leading struggles such as the ongoing Fight for $15 and a union; against police brutality and killings; the right to health care including reproductive justice; for housing and quality education; and an end to all forms of sexism and patriarchal attitudes.

One thing is clear: Women of all ages, nationalities, gender identities and expressions, and range of abilities will be descending upon Washington or gathering in their cities on Jan. 21 to be seen and heard, many for the first time, which is a progressive step forward.

The intervention of the left wing of the big-business Democratic Party, which J21 will definitely reflect, makes it all the more important for the progressive political movement to be there in solidarity with the many women who not only want to protest the Trump administration, but who will be interested in building and leading a long-term, independent, multi-national, multigender, grassroots movement for real social and economic change.

Moorehead was the 2016 Workers World Party presidential candidate and is a co-coordinator of the International Working Women’s Coalition in New York City.
Chicago transit workers take to the streets

Continued from page 6

By the end of the weekend we had civil- ian attorneys for the GIs and were sending out the first press releases. We managed to visit the six ‘ringleaders’ on Sept. 7 and get their stories before the MPs ran Stapp and me off the base. They served Stapp with an order barring his return.

Four days later, Stapp and two other ASU staff GIs, Bill Smith and Richard Wheaton, were arrested by the local sheriff in Killeen, Texas. They were fined the $600 they had with them after being found guilty of ‘vagrancy.’ (This sum was roughly equivalent to $4,000 in 2016.)

The trial of the six ‘ringleaders’
The military officers running Fort Hood knew they had a problem with the 43 Black GIs arrested: if they just let everyone go, it might encourage further resistance. But a hard crackdown could arouse sympathy, bring more publicity and spark further resistance.

They made a quiet concession. Fort Hood’s courts-martial allowed the defense to use a legal technicality to get many of the troops off without serving time. Some others got sentences ranging from three to 11 months.

The military told the press that some of the GIs were in an automobile and thus couldn’t hear the order to disperse. During different courts-martial, a couple dozen GIs were ‘placed’ in that car.

Stapp couldn’t venture into Fort Hood without facing arrest and six months in prison. The Bond’s Vietnamese editor Bill Smith, journalist Ellen Catalinotto and I had visited in September. Pfc. Ernest Frederick, Sgt. Robert Kennedy, Rucker and Spc.4 Tollie Royal.

For their attorney, the ASU lined up Michael Kennedy, one of the most effective defense attorneys for political cases at the time. During the 1960s and 1970s, Kennedy represented Black Panther leader Huey Newton as well as members of the American Indian Movement involved in the epic 1973 struggle at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

To avoid the Killeen sheriff, our ASU delegation stayed at the on-base home of the GI and his spouse who had called in the names to the ASU. This hospitality was a sign of support for the Black troops among the other soldiers on the base, including some of the white troops.

Life Magazine and the New York Times had reporters at the trial, and our delegation covered the court-martial for The Bond and Workers World newspaper.

Ellen Catalinotto wrote in the Nov. 10, 1968 issue of WW:

“[In statements to the courtroom,] Pfc. Guy Smith … told the court, ‘I demonstrated against Army policy here and in Vietnam. … There is racism and prejudice here. General Boles said he would do something about it, but nothing has been done. ... There are clubs in Killeen [the base town] where Black GIs can’t go. ... The Black man has been held back because of his color. Your convictions add to the injustice.’ …

“The court-martial of six Black GIs who demonstrated along with 100 others against racism and riot control duty ended here tonight after four days. Thirteen men were acquitted, two got sentences of three months hard labor and the others received bad conduct discharges. The sentences, considerably less than the maximum, were an indication of the Army’s fear that harsher punishment might backfire and lead to open rebellion.

‘Moral was high as the men left the courtroom, shaking hands and gathering around the jeep that was to take Henry to the stockade. The relatively lenient sentences were a victory — not of justice, but of the strength and determination of the Black soldiers not to be used against their brothers.’

Kennedy, the six GIs and the ASU delegation celebrated the successful outcome. Even the GIs who had to spend a few months in the stockade said they felt they had won.

For the Pentagon, what the Black GIs did was a direct challenge to the chain of command.

The goal of the founders of the ASU was to break the chain of command by forming an organization that represented the rank-and-file soldiers. ASU organizers knew that in 1968 they would most likely find command-defying attitudes on a mass scale among Black soldiers who identified with the Black Panthers or other Black Liberation organizations backing national liberation struggles worldwide.

The ASU not only endorsed the rebellion of the Black troops. To further shatter ties to command, the ASU succeeded in convincing others, including white GIs, to express solidarity with Black resistance.

The lesson for the Pentagon was that the conscripted Army, especially one politicized by an unpopular war, might be used less as an instrument of the imperialist state and more as allies in the African-American communities in the United States.

The lesson for revolutionaries was that it was possible to weaken the main repressive organ of the imperialist state, the U.S. Armed Forces.

Based on a chapter in Catalinotto’s, “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” available Jan. 1 at online booksellers.

Black GIs resist ‘riot-control’ duty, 43 arrested

AUGUST 1968

Black transist workers take to the streets

Bus and rail operators, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 whose contract expired over a year ago, picketed Dec. 22 at three sites to demand the Chicago Transit Authority bargain seriously toward a new contract. The CTA instead has proposed no wage increases, fewer holidays, an 8 percent increase in health insurance premiums and conversion of many full-time to part-time positions. Chanting “They say cutbacks; We say fight back,” the workers showed powerfully that effective bargaining must sometimes be done in the streets.

Story and photo by Jeff Sorel

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

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

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

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

Available at online booksellers

TURN THE GUNS AROUND
By Chris Fry

The Syrian military has successfully lib- erated the entire city of Aleppo, which, up until the current conflict broke out in 2012, was the largest city in Syria. For more than four years, much of Aleppo had been occu- pied by rebel- and U.S.-supported “rebel” forces, in- cluding groups tied to al-Qaeda, and many thousands of non-Syrian mercenaries. The people of Aleppo are jubilant. Christians, who make up 10 percent of Syria’s population, were able to conduct a religious Christmas ceremony in Aleppo for the first time in five years.

Dr. Nahil Antaki, a physician who stayed and served his patients in western Aleppo through the war, told a reporter: “The situation in Aleppo is now much better than it was in the last four years. It is now almost liberated from the rebel-els-terrorists. The inhabitants of Aleppo have a feeling of safety, there has been no mortar shelling in the last few days as it was daily during the last four years.

The inhabitants of East Aleppo are free now from the terrorists, who used them as human shields.” (tinyurl.com/jpt337; Zenon, Dec. 28)

Many Aleppo residents have returned to inspect homes that were damaged or destroyed by the intense warfare. Some 400,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict. Another 4.8 million Syr- ians have been forced to flee the country, 6.1 million of them into another country of their own, and a one-modern infra- structure has been largely destroyed. (worldvision.org, Nov. 15)

On Dec. 28, the ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey was announced in Moscow. Negotiations for a political set- tlement to the war are scheduled for Jan- uary in Kazakhstan’s capital city of As- tana. Turkey had been a main conduit of the Pentagon and CIA’s billions of dollars of weapons and training to the “rebels,” that is, the reactionaries. The agreement came just days after the shocking assassination of the Rus- sian ambassador to Turkey, Andreï Kar- lov, by a Turkish police officer. Karlov had previously been the ambassador to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. If this was an attempt to torpedo Syrian peace negotiations, of which Karlov was a key participant, it backfired.

U.S. imperialism out of negotiations

U.S. imperialism, ignoring the terrible su- ffering of Syrian workers, has caused for the Syrian people, has tried to overturn the elected government of President Bashar al-Assad and install a regime tailored to serve Western (BMP), the oldest bank in the world and the third largest bank in the world, is in dan- ger of founding if it isn’t bailed out. Not just BNP but other banks, too, are prob- ably shaky.

WolfStreet, a website concentrating on

In 2014, one euro at its highest bought $1.33. By the end of 2016, one euro trad- ed for $1.04. While only 19 out of the 28 EU countries use the euro as their official currency, which amounts to 357 million Europeans, the currency is officially used by EU institutions and four other Europe- an countries. It is second to the U.S. dol- lar as a reserve currency throughout the world. It began circulating Jan. 1, 2002.

Greek crisis

The Greek economy is about 27 per- cent smaller than it was in 2008 and is still shrinking. (Forbes, Dec. 28) Almost all of the eurozone’s “bailouts” that the Greek government has received since 2008 have gone to pay debt service, that is, to subsidizing German and French banks that lent Greece money. Very little was used to preserve the Greek people’s living standards. The EU didn’t even reduce the interest the Greek government had to pay — which was 22.5 percent in 2012, according to Stiglitz.

Greece’s debt is around 35 billion euros, which is 180 percent of gross do- mestic output this year, according to the latest EU data. The International Mon- etary Fund, no friend of the poor and oppressed, has made it clear that Greece won’t be able to pay off its debt if banks don’t reduce the total. Leading up to a general strike at the beginning of December that all the Greek unions supported, the General Confeder- ation of Greek workers issued a statement: “We are reacting to repressive austerity, poverty and destitution. . . . Once again we face absurd demands by [Greece’s EU] IMF creditors” (AFP, Dec. 6, 2016) Greek unemployment was officially figured at 23.1 percent in September 2016 and has gotten worse since then.

The new budget that the general strike was called to protest contains around 1 billion euros from new taxes on items like cars, fixed telephone service, pay TV, fuel, tobacco, coffee and beer. Public spending on salaries and pensions will also be cut by 5.7 billion euros.

These figures reveal the deepening misery of the Greek people, forced into hunger and homelessness to pay the big banks.

Italian banks

Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena Spa (BMP), the oldest bank in the world and the third largest in Italy, is in dan- ger of founding if it isn’t bailed out. Not just BNP but other banks, too, are prob- ably shaky.

WolfStreet, a website concentrating on

the seamy side of Wall Street, pointed out in July: “The total exposure of French banks … to Italian government debt ex- ceeds 250 billion euros. Germany holds 42.3 billion, the UK (29.8 billion) and Japan (27.6 billion).” (JPMorgan Chase, a major U.S. bank, has won a very profitable contract from the Italian government to organize and manage the bailout of BMP. It is gener- ally conceded that if a major bank like BMP fails, contagion could take down much more, banks, not only the whole Ital- ian banking system and, with it, banks throughout the eurozone.

The euro’s creation and institutions like the European Central Bank, which was designated to manage it, reinforced French and German economic domina- tion of Europe. Rather than sustaining and improving the living standards of all European workers, it has turned into a tool to increase their exploitation and oppression.

Workers’ struggles should have no borders. On the other hand, the national bourgeoisies of Europe have erased some of their borders to better control their workers.
December 25 marked the 29th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Two historic centennial anniversaries will take place this year. Next month will usher in the 100th anniversary of the February 1917 Revolution in Russia, which started with a great demonstration of workers and farmers of the former Russian Federation in support of the All Working Women’s Day, and which within five days overthrew the czar. The second anniversary is May 25, recognized throughout the czarist empire, culminating in October of the same year (November by our calendar) with the uprising of women and men who forced the Russian ruling class into opening up to the democratic demands of the great masses of the people spiraled downward, out of control.

What followed the pulling down of the Soviet Union was a full-blooded counter-revolution. Foreign capital and corrupt former Soviet officials joined in a feeding frenzy to snatch up what had been state property, while the material conditions of the great masses of the people spiraled downward, out of control. The liberal capitalist party in Britain who attacked the unities there and gutted social programs, was the first to openly give imperialism’s blessings to the changes in the Soviet leadership when she said in 1984, “I like Mr. Gorbatchev. We can do business to the grid.” (tinyurl.com/z52pxot)

The economic sanctions block Russian exports for employment, retirement income, paid vacations and other advantages enjoyed by Soviet workers.

Rampant alcoholism, drug abuse and prostitution reflected the desperation of millions who had been thrown to the wolves while “entrepreneurs” created profitable new markets in the trafficking of women and addictive drugs. Conditions in other parts of the former Soviet Union became at least as bad as in Russia, if not worse.

During this period, Russia was considered a “friend” of the United States. We watched as Guido and Yeltsin, who went along with this vicious dismantling of what the workers had built, were embraced, no matter how venal and even buttfoosh they became.

It was only after Russia, now an openly capitalist country, was able to take back control of some of its vital resources, like oil, and consolidate a political and economic structure that put the interests of Russian development ahead of the demands of the imperialist banks and corporations, that the attitude of the U.S. ruling class changed. In the current period, unfettered by the mass movement, proved, and even the imperialist media have to acknowledge that Vladimir Putin is popular compared to those who sold out the Soviet Union.

Now, most of the U.S. ruling class establishment are openly hostile to Putin, going so far as to denigrateally blame Russia for Trump. Maybe the incoming U.S. president thinks he can charm the Russian ruling class into opening up to the U.S. whole. Trump’s hire was a statesman, luxury hotels and casinos. But that won’t stop the Pentagon from building new bases in Eastern Europe and moving more troops to the border there.

In future issues, we’ll write about the great revolutions that allowed the Soviet Union to develop into a world power and spite all the efforts of the imperialists to crush it.
U.S. imperialism foments conflict in Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A group claiming to be in solidarity with the Al-Fatah Revolution of Sept. 1, 1959, headed by Col. Muammer Gaddafi in Libya — who imperialism overthrew and had murdered in 2011 — diverted an Afriqiyah Airways A320 flight to Malta on Dec. 24. No passenger was injured.

The two hijackers who requested asylum in Malta were making a profound political statement that the imperialists in Washington, London, Paris and Brussels, along with their allies in Ankara, Turkey and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, were responsible for Libya’s destruction.

The so-called “Arab Spring,” which had begun in neighboring Tunisia in December 2010 with a mass rebellion, general strike and the eventual seizure of power by the military and security forces in January 2011, was later replicated in February 2011 in Egypt. Unfortunately, the military and police took charge of the transitional process there, effectively nullifying any revolutionary potential.

Nearly six years ago in February 2011, a counterrevolution was launched against the Libyan government under the guise of a fight for “freedom and democracy” as part of the “Arab Spring.”

Nonetheless, it was clear to anti-imperialists that the assault on Libya constituted renewed neocolonialism in North Africa. The imperialists were willing to ignore the African Union’s March 8 peace proposals to halt a planned bombing campaign led by France and the U.S. which started on March 19.

The Pentagon bombed the country again during 2012 under the pretext of fighting Islamic State group strongholds in Sirte and other coastal areas of the oil-rich nation. However, Washington, under outgoing President Barack Obama’s administration with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was hell-bent on destroying Libya, thereby creating con- flict. The U.S. and European Union-led Group of States (Group 15) in North Africa as war also did in Iraq and Syria. Today Libya is wracked by internecine conflict.

The Obama Doctrine in Africa and West Asia has been an unmitigated di- saster for the peoples of both regions. The U.S. is an aggressor nation that has killed, injured and displaced tens of mil- lions in pursuit of its neocolonialist aims.

The Horn of Africa

Although the previous administration of President George W. Bush created the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) in early 2008, the military operation in the Horn of Africa has been expanded under Obama. The operation fulfills Washington’s failed Africa policy over the last eight years.

Even though various neocolonial-domi- nated African states such as Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti currently have deployed up to 22,000 troops, sta- bility and prosperity have not returned to Somalia. In early 2016 the European Union (EU) supported African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), leaving the future of the operation unclear.

Not only has AMISOM been occupi- ng Somalia, but the Pentagon and the CIA maintain a strong presence in the country and neighboring countries. At Camp Prometheus in Djibouti, thousands of Pen- tagon and French troops are stationed, facilitating U.S. and French operations in the Horn of Africa throughout the Arabian Peninsula and in the Persian Arabian Gulf.

A war against Yemen

A war against the people of Yemen, the poorest and least developed state in the region, has killed over 11,000 people and displaced several million since 2015. Yet it started not from the ‘outside,’ but from the occupation of Somalia and other Horn of Africa states. Off the coast of Somalia, the Pentagon and other naval forces are patrolling the Gulf of Aden against “piracy,” though that’s not been a problem for several years.

These military campaigns funded by the U.S. military-industrial complex, a multi-tril- lion-dollar business subsidized by the tax dollars of working class and oppressed people in the U.S.

As long as the American public can be convinced that their principal enemy is “Islamic terrorism” or “communism” then the existence of the U.S., the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic Peo- ple’s Republic of Korea, Cuba, etc., and not the billionaires of Wall Street and the Pentagon chiefs of state who order weapons like regular people order consumer goods, the political status quo will be maintained.

The incoming administration of Pres- ident-elect Donald Trump has appointed leading neocons, military magnates, fast food low-wage slave drivers, conspir- acy theorists and white supremacists to his administration, ensuring the situation will only worsen.

Ethiopia is essential

In Ethiopia, where a socialist-orient- ed government was overthrown in 1991, the continuation of U.S. dominance is es- sential to imperialist imperatives in the Horn of Africa.

The Dec. 24 Washington Post wrote: “It is difficult to overstate the importance of Ethiopia to Africa’s stability.” Noting Ethiopia’s growth, the article continued, “But [its] rapid economic expansion has resulted in strains, especially when new factories and commercial farms are be- ing built on land tilled by peasant farmers.”

One of the cornerstones of the Ethiopi- an Revolution of 1974-91 was its land re- forma program which took control of large segments of the country from the monarchic rule. Yet today, at the aegis of imperialism, the land is being turned over to multi- national corporations for profit-making enterprises.

The same Washington Post article re- ported: “Protests erupted there in No- vember over corruption and labor dis- crimination in the local government and lack of services such as running water, electricity and roads.”

A government-imposed state of emer- gency was lifted in December, along with the release of 10,000 people arrest- ed during the unrest. Nonetheless, the Western media and the local establish- ments are nervous about the future politi- cal situation in the region.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, where another Obama project pushed for the 2011 partitioning of the country, the two main factions of the government and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army have been split over the last three years.

The United Nations, which already has 12,500 troops and other personnel form- ing a parallel government, is insisting on deploying yet another 4,000 soldiers. The government in Juba and its U.S. sponsors.

Before its partition, Sudan was emerg- ing as an oil-producing state indepen- dent of Western-controlled petroleum conglomerates. The People’s Republic of China had substantial oil concessions in the country. Today, both the North and the South are suffering from their depen- dence on imperialism.

The government in Khartoum is now following the lead of Riyadh, having joined the Saudi Arabian and Gulf Co- operation Council proxy war against Iran by participating in the bombing and foreign force deployment of the Ansarullah (Houthis) and their growing influence in Yemen.

Imperialist war against Africa continues

After eight years of the Obama admin- istration, it is quite clear to any objective analyst that the conditions for the peo- ples of Africa and West Asia are far worse than at any time in the post-World War II period. The U.N. Refugee Agency says that the number of displaced people in the world is the highest ever recorded in human history, some 65 million.

These developments have not hap- pened spontaneously. They are part of a calculated but failed U.S. policy of main- taining world dominance.

The recent unilateral military interven- tion in the Democrat- ic Republic of Congo, opposition groups staged violent demonstrations aimed at toppling the regime of Joseph Kabila. Despite over 20,000 U.N. troops stationed in the vast miner- al-rich Central African state, the Catholic Church intervened to negotiate an agree- ment to end the violence. President Kabila- la will remain in office for at least another year until elections can be organized.

A Government of National Unity has been created with Prime Minister Samy Badjanga as its leader. This has been a source of instabl- ity since its national independence from Belgium in June 1960. Its first elected Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, was killed by the Belgian administration and subsequently over- thrown, abducted, tortured and executed by the CIA in January 1961.

As long as Africa is divided, the impe- rialists will be in a position to dictate the terms of political developments on the continent. Therefore, a total break with the Western program of neocolonial dependency.

The coming months of 2017 will prove crucial as the future role of the unchartered waters of the Trump ad- ministration, the instability in Britain and the European Union stemming from the EU’s financial disarray with the Omni- Market, and the collapse of the war of genocide in Syria, Africa must develop its own political and economic relations to re- main in perpetual impoverishment and tutelage.
Los retos que plantea la ofensiva de la derecha en América Latina

Esta es la mitad de una exposición presentada por Olmedo Beluche, Analista y autor marxista panameño, profesor de sociología de la Universidad de Panamá y miembro del Polo Democrático. Beluche, hizo su presentación durante un foro titulado “La situación de las Izquierdas en América Latina,” organizado por la Fundación Friedrich Ebert en la ciudad de Panamá el 25 de agosto del 2016.

Por Olmedo Beluche

Hoy no se puede explicar lo que sucede en ningún país del mundo, menos en un continente como el Latinoamericano, ni de las relaciones entre las clases sociales y sus partidos políticos, si no se parte por tener claro el contexto gen- eral que marca la dinámica de todos los fenómenos: la gran crisis del sistema capitalista mundial, que es de tal grado y abarca factores tan diversos, que ha sido definida como crisis civilizatoria o crisis de desintegración humana.

Estamos ante una profunda crisis económica de superproducción (como la definía Marx) que se bonifica con una crisis agudizada de la renta mundial, que hemos visto en la desigualdad de los ingresos y otros indicadores de la crisis económica. Esta cronicidad nos remite más que a la “astucia de la razón”, que Nahuel discutía hace cien años, países capitalistas depen- dientes mono exportadoras de materias primas, que desarrollan su economía de las mismas, y su lucha por controlar los recursos naturales, manifiesta como polarización política y económica. En este caso, el acci- diente limitado en la economía actual lleva a que, en gran medida, consolidemos una nueva fase de la crisis económica: la cronicidad de un capitalismo en un callejón sin salida (Fred Halliday).

En el caso particular de América Latina y los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en decenas de países, estamos ante una crisis que se debe a la crisis de América Latina y los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en decenas de países, y que se ha profundizado con la crisis económica de superproducción. La crisis económica se manifiesta como polarización política: la crisis económica se traduce en una situación social, que encuentra su expresión en el auge de las movilizaciones y la aparición de nuevas formas de lucha.

La crisis económica se caracteriza por un aumento de la precariedad laboral, un aumento de la pobreza, un aumento de la precariedad social, un aumento de la desigualdad, un aumento de la inseguridad y la calidad de vida, un aumento de la corrupción, un aumento de la violencia, un aumento de la criminalidad, un aumento de la inmigración, un aumento de la desigualdad económica.

En este marco, los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en América Latina y los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en decenas de países, están en situación de crisis, que se manifiesta en la crisis económica que se vive en la región.

La crisis económica se caracteriza por una crisis de la demanda, una crisis de la inversión, una crisis de la producción, una crisis de la renta, una crisis de la inflación, una crisis de la desigualdad, una crisis de la pobreza, una crisis de la corrupción, una crisis de la inseguridad, una crisis de la violencia, una crisis de la criminalidad, una crisis de la inmigración, una crisis de la desigualdad económica.

En este marco, los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en América Latina y los gobiernos “progresistas” que se han asentado en decenas de países, están en situación de crisis, que se manifiesta en la crisis económica que se vive en la región.

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