By Kris Hamel

The end-of-the-year holiday season in the United States did not slow down the “Black Lives Matter” demonstrations demanding justice for the victims of racist police brutality and killings.

Since the exonerations of cop Darren Wilson, killer of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and cops in Staten Island, N.Y., for their murder caught on videotape of Eric Garner, protests have continued across the U.S. Protesters in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, Oakland, Calif., Atlanta, Cleveland, Detroit and Houston linked these and other cases of police killings and racist atrocities around the country.

‘No business as usual’ for shoppers, cops

On Dec. 20, the largest megamall in the U.S., Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., was taken over by several thousand protesters who crowded the main rotunda on one of the busiest shopping days of the year. They chanted, “No justice, no shopping!” and “While you’re on your shopping spree, Black people can’t breathe,” in reference to Garner, along with “Hands up, don’t shoot,” recalling the murder of Brown.

Quickly, the mall went into partial lockdown, closing its north and east entrances and locking about 80 stores, trapping some customers inside.” (Associated Press, Dec. 20) Riot-clad police arrested 26 people, most for misdemeanors, while the Bloomington city attorney has announced she will seek charges against the leaders of Black Lives Matter, which organized the demonstration. (mprnews.org, Dec. 29)

Actions took place across the U.S. on New Year’s Eve. Protesters in St. Louis planned a sit-in inside the lobby of police headquarters. They shouted and pushed their way through the doors “only to be met by a line of aggressive police and pepper spray.” (stltoday.com, Jan. 4) The demonstrators posted an eviction notice demanding the cops vacate the premises and relinquish power. About two dozen activists were cited for various alleged acts associated with the protest.

Ferguson activists: ‘Reclaim MLK’

The Ferguson Action Team held a national planning meeting by conference call on Jan. 3. “The main focus was on a national effort to reclaim MLK Day weekend in the rebellious spirit of Dr. King and the movement behind him,” said participant Monica Moorehead, representing the Peoples Power Assembly. “Ferguson activists asked for everyone’s renewed efforts this year to ensure their demands for justice are met.”

She reported that FAT leaders stated, “This means sustained actions, deeper commitments, and further outreach to everyone in our communities. Let’s make 2015 a ‘Year of Resistance for Black Lives.’”

Activists around the U.S. are focusing on three dates

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‘Reclaim MLK Day’

Resist killer cops in 2015

Mall of America, Bloomington, Minn. Dec. 20.

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Youth activists condemn police state

Four leaders of the youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together spoke at a joint forum sponsored by FIST and Workers World Party on Jan. 2 at the Solidarity Center in New York City. The forum was em- titled, “Smash the low-wage police state.” The main presentations were given by (from left to right), Nick Maniaci on “Hollywood’s racist attack on the Korean revolution”; Ramiro Fines on “Wall Street’s street to prison pipeline”; Claudia Palacios on “A brief history of police in the United States”; and Caleb Maupin on “Low wages, police terror and the need for revolution.”

These four talks can be viewed at: youtu.be/TlUoxXXwFOU, youtu.be/5bfYhXru8co, youtu.be/jG5eN62Rq7p and youtu.be/r3Pskjw1A.

— Photo and caption by Monica Moorhead

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And thank you!
Mario Cuomo's hidden legacy: 30 prisons

By Stephen Millies

Former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who died Jan. 1, had more jails under his authority than all the other New York state governors put together. All 30 jails built during his administration are concentration camps for poor people. That's not the legacy emphasized in the fawning obituaries of the capitalist media, but it's Mario Cuomo's real legacy as New York governor from 1983 to 1995.

Most of these prisons were built hundreds of miles away from the state's population centers of New York City and Buffalo. Families of prisoners—if they can even afford the trip—have to spend many hours and even days behind the loved ones locked up inside.

These prisons were also largely built in poor white areas, like Ogdenburg, where factories and other workplaces had closed. Their local economies began to revolve around locking up Black and Latino/a men and women.

Capitulating to racism in Queens

Mario Cuomo first came to public attention in 1972. A racist mobilization had been organized in New York City. The city administration of Mayor John Lindsay, backed by the federal government, was imposing the construction of Queens against the construction of public housing. The leader of the bigots was real estate shark Jerry Birbach.

Youth Against War and Fascism, the then youth organization of Workers Party, organized demonstrations in Forest Hills against these bigots. At stake was whether public housing would continue to be located only in segregated areas. Often public housing built next to dangerous railroad tracks, like Curries Woods in Jersey City or the Fresh Houses in Baltimore.

Mario Cuomo was appointed by New York City Mayor John Lindsay to negotiate with the racists. Cuomo capitulated to them by cutting in half the size of the development, which was turned into a publicly owned cooperative. Sixteen years later only one-seventh of the co-op's residents were Black.

Lindsay and Cuomo stymied Simeon Golar, the first African-American chairperson of the New York City Housing Authority, in the back. Golar had fought valiantly for integrated housing.

Mario Cuomo ran against Ed Koch in the Democratic primary for New York City mayor in 1977. That July, a rebellion broke out against racism and poverty. The wealthy class wanted revenge. Apparently, Koch's lawyers demanded that the electric chair be brought back. To his credit, Cuomo was against the death penalty and as governor vetoed bills that would have reinstated it.

But suddenly during the 1977 campaign, signs appeared in Queens with the gay-baiting slogan, "Vote for Cuomo. Vote for the Homo." Koch still beat Cuomo in the primary and went on to be elected mayor.

The money this was stolen from the state's Urban Development Corporation, which had been set up to build low cost housing. The legislative act that established the UDCC was deliberately passed on the day of Ed Koch's funeral, to help him.

Cuomo, instead, split on Dr. King's memory and built 30 prisons. Mario Cuomo essentially confirmed Reagan's appointment of Antonin Scalia to the U.S. Supreme Court. Scalia is a fascist who claims torture isn't unconstitutional.

Cuomo's prison bill was confirmed in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 98-0. Scalia may have been the decisive vote in denying Georgia death-row prisoner Troy Davis a reprieve from the death penalty in a case that many, including the NAACP, believed was unproven. By helping to get Scalia on the Supreme Court, Mario Cuomo also helped to execute Troy Davis on Sept. 21, 2011.

Cuomo betrayed his fellow Democrat David Dinkins by helping to put super racist Rudy Giuliani in City Hall. Cuomo authorized a referendum on whether Staten Island should secede from New York City on the same day as the mayoral election in 1993.

Holding this phony referendum on Staten Island guaranteed a massive turn-out of white racists to vote for Giuliani. David Dinkins, the only African-American mayor in New York City's history, was narrowly defeated for re-election. Dinkins won every borough except Staten Island.

The following year the Republican Giuliani endorsed the Democrat Cuomo for re-election as governor. But he still lost to Republican George Pataki.

Atrocities of being victimized by the "establishment" media it was naive of me to hope that I might finally get the opportunity to tell "my side of the story." Instead, my interview with me, which took place was a "staged media event" in three parts, full of distortions, inaccuracies and outright lies. NBC purposely misrepresented the facts.

Like most poor and oppressed people in the United States, I do not have a voice. Black people, poor people, people in the U.S., have no real freedom of speech, no real freedom of expression and very little freedom of the press. The Black press and the progressive media have historically played an essential role in the struggle for social justice. We need to continue and to expand that tradition.

We need to create media outlets that help to educate our people and our children and not annihilate their minds.
How capitalism ravaged Detroit

Excerpt from talk by Jerry Goldberg at the national WWP conference in New York City, Nov. 15-16, 2014.

If anyone has any doubt that this system is overripe for a socialist revolution, we owe it to our comrades in Detroit and look at what capitalism has done.

When our branch was founded in 1970, Detroit was a city where the Black Liberation struggle was at a very high level. The Black Panthers had a hard time forming a Marxist organization; Marxists were elected to the City Council and as judges. We had a mayor who, although he was bourgeois in many ways, ran for office showing his defiance of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Detroit was a center of revolutionary struggle. And that is why it was targeted by the bourgeoisie for an unrelenting war on the workers.

In the 1970s and 80s when the auto companies introduced their restructuring with robotics and automation, they shut down virtually every assembly plant in the city. The bankruptcy and the courts were able to take direct control over cities, countries, and states. They were able to take direct control over the city government, and giving the banks the power to dictate who can fight, and we need more of them. And that's just come from activism. It comes from openly declaring that socialism is the answer, and openly recruiting for the party, bringing that message wherever we can.

Let's overthrow this rotten system! Build a communist organization! Build Workers World Party!

Jerry Goldberg

Without that revolutionary, anti-capitalist, socialist, the unions and community groups eventually capitulated and went after pensions, which will now set a precedent all over the country when Wall Street and the banks decide to go after pensions.

The real target of the emergency manager was the workers’ pensions. So they took the city into bankruptcy. Michigan has the strongest constitutional guarantee of pensions in the country, but bourgeois legality means nothing when the banks want to go their own way. So the bankruptcy judge said the state guarantee doesn’t apply here.

On Nov. 7, the court approved a “plan of adjustment” for Detroit, dissolving $7.8 billion of debt. $5.8 billion of that comes from the pensioners, who’ve virtually lost their health care and are suffering cuts amounting to 40 percent to 50 percent of their deferred wages owed to them for their years of labor.

The role of revolutionaries

Now how did the capitalist system get away with that in Detroit? They did so because there was no opposition. There were a few union leaders and community people who joined the Stop Theft of Our Pensions committee and organized a grass-roots group of pensioners who fought the city and banks to the bitter end. The cuts to the pensioners would have been a lot greater if it wasn’t for the role of our comrades and those who joined them.

It’s revolutionaries and communists who can fight, and we need more of them – we need to organize them. What will trigger the big jump at the top? It’s appeals to the top. Grass-roots organizers – communist organizers from the bottom. A revolution that fights the banks doesn’t just come from activism. It comes from openly declaring that socialism is the answer, and openly recruiting for the party, bringing that message wherever we can.

Let’s overthrow this rotten system! Build a communist organization! Build Workers World Party!

Jerry Goldberg

Demonstrating respect

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from a Dec. 23, 2014, audio column posted by prisonradio.org

Throughout much of a modern African American history, the seasons of mass demonstrations have been earth-moving and surging, the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s and 1970s, the anti-Vietnam War protests, the Black Panthers, the Watts riot, the Kent State shootings, the peace protests for the war on Iraq, the Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

Look at old black and white photos of the anti-war, civil rights and Black Power demonstrations of the 1960s and 1970s, or at the young people, or the people of color in peace rallies, or the Black Lives Matter marchers, or the Black Transgender marchers, or simply dressed in shirts and jeans. The dress reflected the ease of the weather.

Like in old military theory, the ground (or terrain) is important when planning battles. Now, look at today; hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people amass in biting cold; in wind, rain and even snow. This is thus something new in social movements, perhaps enhanced by social media, but strengthened too by a deep sense that change must come to an intolerable situation: police violence against unarmed Black men and boys.

For, at the very core of every meaningful movement of the 20th century, has been the beating hearts of Black people, and let’s face it, Black folks aren’t fond of the cold. This should give us some sense of how deeply these issues resonate in Black minds. Now, after the shootings of two cops in New York come calls from politicians to “suspend” demonstrations, out of respect. The question arises, who respects whom?

Aren’t cops killed Mike Brown, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice, who showed respect for them? Brown was literally demonized by his killer, Garner, we were told, was too fat to survive the chokehold, and Brown, and should just be made to cooperate. The attack on his life, Tamir, a child, was “big for his age” and “scared” cops, they said. Amazing.

According to police bagging. and then apartments, and Eric Garner’s killer was a “model officer,” an Eagle Scout and “just doing his job.”

Yeah – choking a man to death for suspicion of selling a cigarette. Real respect, eh?

(By the way, the verb “lynch” comes from the Iroquois word “flint,” meaning “to break” and “to strike.”)
New York funeral demonstrations

Massive show of ruling class support for cops

By Fred Goldstein

New York

Jan. 4 – Over the past nine days, two police funerals in New York got massive coverage in the media, showing ruling class support for the cops. Both funerals were also political demonstrations by the police, demanding to continue their policy of un-restrained and brutal attacks against oppressed people.

The first, on Dec. 27, for Officer Rafael Ramos, had the character of a state funeral. The White House sent Vice President Joseph Biden to represent President Barack Obama. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio took the podium, as well as Police Commissioner William Bratton.

A week later, the funeral of Officer Wenjian Liu, FBI head James Comey represented the Justice Department. Cuomo could not come because his father, Mario Cuomo, had just died. But de Blasio and Bratton both spoke.

Both times, CNN reported, more than 1,000 people lined up, and some 60,000 attended the services. The politicians and the police commissioner vied with each other to manufacture sympathy for the cops. The media did their best to boost police on the general.

It is worth noting that on Dec. 13, over 40,000 people had demonstrated against the New York City for nine hours in the cold.

No pomp and ceremony for the victims

Of course, JetBlue did not offer to fly free of charge those people who marched under the banner #BlackLivesMatter to the funeral of Michael Brown or Eric Garner. Unarmed African Americans who are gunned down, like so many others, by the cops apparently do not merit it. Neither is it an option to admit that the police are not merit the glowing, saccharine sympathy poured out by capitalist politicians occupying the highest offices, nor the hundreds of thousands of dollars raised for the families of the police for to pay mortgages and children’s education.

But there were other aspects about the funerals for the police. First of all, they were meant to undercut the mass resistance to the anti-police killing of Black Lives movement, which has mushroomed with unprecedented energy and determination from coast to coast, North to South, in cities large and small.

The media falsely painted the random killing of the two cops by a troubled individual as retribution for the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. This was meant to push the movement back and undercut the growing sympathy it had come to enjoy.

The aim was to blot out the searing image of Eric Garner being choked to death on video by New York Police Department Officer Daniel Pantaleo, backed by a gang of accomplices; to put into the background the image of Michael Brown being shot with his hands up, after which his body lay down on the ground for four hours.

The ruling class publicists used the funerals for all they were worth to drown out the suffering of the oppressed and rush up the crimes of the cops — mere servants who occupy the oppressed communities.

This country is mired in an economic crisis. The last thing the ruling class wants is for the workers and the oppressed to pay the political price for what is being called upon in the future to defend the capitalists and put down uprisings of the oppressed.

Struggle between de Blasio and the cops

The funerals also became an arena for the struggle of the cops against civilian authority and any attempt to restrict their racism and brutality. The focus of attention was on the way cops turned their backs on Mayor de Blasio during the Ramos funeral. During Liu’s funeral, the number of cops turning their backs declined to several hundred, according to the media. This came after Bratton issued a memo disapproving of Liu’s funeral, the number of cops turning their backs on Mayor de Blasio during the Ramos funeral. During Liu’s funeral, the number of cops turning their backs declined to several hundred, according to the media. This came after Bratton issued a memo disapproving of Liu’s.

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Autopsy confirms police murder of Ezell Ford

By John Parker
Occupying LAPD Headquarters
Los Angeles

After four months and an order from a judge to respond to pressure from protests organized by groups like “Communty Control Over the Police” and “Black Lives Matter,” an autopsy report was finally released by the Los Angeles Police Department. The report makes civilian witness accounts of the killing of 25-year-old Ezell Ford, an African American, more credible than the official police version. The killing looks more and more like an execution by the LAPD, occurring Aug. 11, just two days after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

The LA Times reported that the autopsy information that was released Dec. 29, just two days before Mayor Eric Garcetti’s deadline for the cops’ report, showed that Mr. Ford was shot three times: once in the right side, once in the right arm and once in the back at close range. The Ford family and their attorney argued that the report showed the shooting was unjustified.

Immediately after the shooting of Ezell Ford, witnesses were reportedly contradicting the police assertion that the shooting was the result of a struggle in which Ford allegedly grabbed for one of the officers’ guns. Dorene Henderson, interviewed by the LA Times, witnessed part of the incident and “saw no struggle between the officers and Ford.” Henderson said that neighbors began yelling at the officers: “He’s got mental problems.” (Aug. 13)

Ford’s parents said he was diagnosed with depression and later schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Another witness told the Times: “They laid him out and for whatever reason, they shot him in the back, knowing mentally, he has complic-ations. Every officer in this area, from the Newton Division, knows that. The excessive force…there was no purpose for it. The multiple shootings in the back while he’s laying down? No. Then when the mom comes, they don’t try to consol-e her… they pull the billy clubs out.” (Aug. 13)

In response to the police report, Black Lives Matter set up an occupation of the LAPD headquarters right across the street from the previous occupation of City Hall. This reporter went to that site to get reactions to the report. Jhsun Edmonds, one of the occupiers, responding to the fact that Mr. Ford — like Michael Brown and many other victims of police killings — had medical attention delayed by the cops after the shooting, said: “It’s almost like the old days with a lynching, and you allow the body of the victim to be out there as a sign to others. It’s used as a terrorist tactic to stir fear in the community, like putting a head on top of a spear.”

Melina Abdullah, a leading organizer of Black Lives Matter in Los Angeles, said that they were willing to “stay out indefinitely.” Responding to the autopsy report, she said: “They murdered Ezell Ford probably laying face down in the street with a point blank shot to the back. I think police who kill people shouldn’t be allowed to be on the payroll and walk the streets. It’s now January 4th, so Ezell Ford was killed 5 months ago. Those police officers have been on paid vacation for all of that time and that can’t happen anymore. So, we’re going to be here as long as it takes for them to be fired.”

Protests continue across U.S.

Here are abbreviated reports from Workers World Party activists in several cities.

Chanting “Hands down, fists up!” hundreds in Houston marched to the courthouse on Dec. 29 demanding justice for Jordan Baker. The 26-year-old unarmed Black man was murdered by a Houston cop who was not indicted on Dec. 23 for the shooting.

Baker, a college student, worker and father, was shot and killed on Jan. 16, 2014, when he was riding his bicycle through a shopping center three blocks from his house. His family contends he was killed for being black and wearing a hoodie. The Harris County grand jury’s “no bill” has led to several marches, rallies and calls for justice.

Every single police officer who has shot a resident since 2004 has had his case cleared by a Harris County grand jury. Last year 47 officers were not-billed by grand juries, which included 20 cases where civilians died. Cops were never found guilty in the these cases. (Houston Chronicle, Jan. 3)

Declaring “All Black Lives Matter,” Atlanta protesters on Dec. 20 afternoon blocked a busy intersection where two of the largest upscale shopping malls in the city are located. The multinational group of most- ly young people spread large banners on the pavement and then, chained together in a series of lock boxes, laid down on the street, bringing traffic to a stop for some 90 minutes. Thirteen people were arrest-ed.

Organizers noted the inconvenience to thousands of motorists, but stated that as long as Black and Brown people, particularly youth, could not walk safely to avoid police terror, there could be no business as usual.

The previous evening, a die-in was held inside a suburban Atlanta mall as dozens of people lay down on the floor, chanting “Black Lives matter.”

There were actions Dec. 27 for Akai Gurley at Pink Houses in East New York, Brooklyn. Gurley, unarmed, was killed Nov. 20 by police in a dark stairwell at that location. The protests included three rallies, a march of some 500 in the streets and demonstrations at two police pres-cincts. There, people turned their backs on the cops and yelled for the ones on the roofs to “Jump!” A “lie-in” was also held at the second precinct.

A rally speaker from Malcolm X Grass-roots Movement stated, “Gurley’s murder was not an accident. It’s the paramilitary approach to policing our community. We refuse to be policed based on race and economics. We charge genocide! We will end this geno-cide!”

There was no business as usual in downtown Newark, N.J., on New Year’s Eve as students of color from the Elev-eracy Coalition at Essex County College and their supporters, Action Center, Peoples Organization for Progress, Veterans For Peace and faculty mentors, shut down three major intersec-tion at 3 a.m. Heavy, early-rush-hour, pre-holiday traffic was stopped for 15 minutes at each intersection. Activists marched in the street from one intersec-tion to the other. Some passerby joined the protest.

Most drivers understood the students’ message about police violence, racism, the capitalist system and “Black Lives Matter” and waited patiently for the pro-test to move on. Many honked their horns in support — especially young and female drivers — while others raised clenched fists in solidarity.

In Boston on Dec. 31, the “First Night Against Police Violence” die-in took place. “First Night” is a New Year’s Eve blowout that includes fireworks, ice sculptures and a parade. A couple hundred demonstra tors received wide media coverage because they refused the pleas of the mayor and police to stay away from First Night. Michael Kramer, for the Mathieuzeit, Tony Murphy, Anne Pruden and Gloria Rubac contributed to this report.

Resist killer cops in 2015

Continued from page 1

for actions: Jan. 15, the date of King’s birthday, as a day of mass resistance, Jan. 18 as a day of reflection, with special emphasis on faith-based outreach; and Jan. 19, a day of direct, mass actions on the of-ficial King holiday. Actions on other days are also welcomed.

For a listing of upcoming actions related to MLK, including a link to add actions, go to forgereasonresponse.tumblr.com. To sign the “New Year’s Revolution pledge to make 2015 the Year of Resistance,” go to engagefergusonaction.com/pledge-new-years-revolution. To promote MLK anti-racist actions on Twitter, use the hashtag #ReclaimMLK.
Wisconsin activists vs police terror: ‘Black lives matter’

By Workers World Staff
Milwaukee and Madison, Wis.

The youth-led fightback against racist police terror and Wall Street austerity continues to escalate in Wisconsin.

Immediately following the Milwaukee County district attorney’s Dec. 22 announcement not to indict Christopher Manney, the cop that murdered Donte Hamilton, protests organized by the Coalition for Justice and supported by numerous allies took place in Milwaukee with hundreds hitting the streets in other locations.

Protesters led a die-in of about 100 people at the Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa, Wis., Dec. 23 and a protest of hundreds at Red Arrow Park in Milwaukee — the site where Donte Hamilton was killed — followed by a militant march in downtown Milwaukee.

“Occupy the Hood Milwaukee” held a Dec. 27 community protest in the heart of the Black community to demand an end to police terror, for living wage jobs and other demands.

Protest actions continued throughout the holiday season. Two of these included a press conference at the 5th District police headquarters to demand that police and other repressive state agents stop “investigating,” labor and community activists and a counterprotest at a pro-cop rally in Wauwatosa.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition in Chicago joined the Hamilton family for a Jan. 2 press conference at the Federal Courthouse in Milwaukee. They announced that the U.S. Department of Justice will review the Hamilton case to determine whether federal civil rights laws were violated, an effort supported by Jackson and the Hamilton family.

“We are the leaders of the new civil rights movement,” said Nate Hamilton, Donte’s brother, at the press conference. “We are the beginning. We will continue to fight. We will continue to stand up.”

“We have nothing to lose but our chains…”

Over a hundred protesters marched on the East Towne Mall in Madison and participated in a 16-and-a-half minute die-in occupation at the mall’s food court on Dec. 27. The time denoted how long it took the police to choke to death Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y.

The action was sponsored by the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition in Madison and supported by numerous labor-community organizations including organizing the revolutionary youth group “Fight Imperialism, Stand Together” or FIST, the Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement and Veterans For Peace. Members of Workers World Party from Chicago; Detroit; Milwaukee; Janesville, Wis.; and Rockford, Ill., participated.

The multinational protesters of all ages marched in the streets adjacent to the East Towne Mall and repeatedly stopped traffic at multiple locations along busy Highway 151. Then protesters marched into the mall chanting various slogans, including “Michael Brown! Michael Brown! Shut it down! Shut it down!” and “Black lives matter.”

Numerous workers and shoppers — Black, Brown, Asian and white — expressed their solidarity with the anti-police terror protesters, who also demanded that living-wage jobs should be brought to the Black community, not another planned jail for the city.

Wisconsin has one of the highest incarceration rates for people of African descent in the United States. Other demands included justice for Donte Hamilton and for others murdered by the police.

“You can’t have capitalism without racism. Many businesses in this mall underpay their employees. Many businesses in this mall use prison labor. This mall is symbolic of what is wrong with America, with capitalism. This is about the right to live, to love, to be creative. People, it’s time to wake up. All power to the people!” said Brandi Grayson of the Young Gifted and Black Coalition during a speakout in the food court after the die-in.

The protest concluded with a quote from Assata Shakur that ends with the words “We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

The Young Gifted and Black Coalition joined protesters Jan. 2 in Milwaukee to support the Hamilton family and to build statewide solidarity in the fight against police terror and austerity.

Numerous future protests in Madison, Milwaukee and elsewhere are in the planning stages.

The Young, Gifted and Black Coalition has weekly protests. Go to facebook.com/Justicefordontre and wibailoutpeople.org.

On DR. KING’S BIRTHDAY

• Thursday
• January 15

City-Wide Strike AGAINST RACISM

In New York City
8 am - 12 noon Neighborhood Direct Actions
1 pm Assembly @ African Burial Ground National Monument Dyane St. between Foley Square & Broadway

On Jan. 1 — On the sixth anniversary of the murder of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old African American, by Johannes Mehserle of the Bay Area Rapid Transit police, the Oscar Grant Foundation held a vigil today at Grant Station (the Fruitvale BART station at which Oscar Grant was killed). Several hundred people came to honor him and celebrate his life. Speakers included his mother, Wanda Johnson, and his uncle, Cephus "Uncle Bobby" Johnson.

— Terri Kay
Massive struggle to raise minimum wage

By Abayomi Azikiwe, Editor, Pan-African News Wire

During 2014 many Western-based financial institutions and the Federal Republic of Nigeria had surpassed the Republic of South Africa as the largest economy on the continent. Nigeria relies on oil exports to generate its foreign exchange earnings. Minister of Finance Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala had to address Nov. 17 indicating that the rapid decline in oil prices would cause the government to reduce its aid to the business sector. Oil price declines impact on African economies. The price of financial publications declared that the financial press is necessary to fight against capital accumulation. It is necessary to fight as an entire class; in this period is its global character and it has atomized workers in a majority of the working class. In fact, it has to be a mass movement. The Indonesian Communist Party and its progressive mass organizations, were slaughtered in an operation conducted by the military and endorsed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

To succeed in even the smallest fight, it is necessary to fight as an entire class; in this period is its global character and it has atomized workers in a majority of the working class. In fact, it has to be a mass movement. The Indonesian Communist Party and its progressive mass organizations, were slaughtered in an operation conducted by the military and endorsed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

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Jan. 5 — For tens of millions of members of the working class in the United States, a car is a necessity. They have no access to safe public transportation to get to work, shop, go to school, see a doctor or get a little recreation.

For the multinational working class, and especially the unemployed or those stuck in low-wage and part-time jobs, the recent drop in gasoline prices has come as a huge relief.

However, the impact of this steep decline cuts many ways.

The price of oil has long been considered volatile, especially in comparison to the prices of commodities like automobiles and housewares. However, the decline over the last six months is of historic proportions. The benchmark figure, based on the price of Brent crude oil, has dropped by more than half, from $127 a barrel in June to $53 a barrel as of Jan. 5.

Biggest drop since 2008
This is the biggest drop in oil prices since the 2008 financial crisis, when the collapse of the housing bubble in the U.S. triggered a financial crisis that swept throughout the capitalist world.

While Wall Street recovered from that crisis — thanks to the infusion of over a trillion dollars of government money into the banks — working class countries continue to be hit by the effects of that crisis.

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This is a huge component in the aggregate drive of U.S. big business, especially in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In this way, it should be remembered, is the world’s largest consumer of oil.

These are the material realities behind the posturing of U.S. imperialist politicians, who talk about “human rights” and “spreading democracy” while they do the dirty work of extracting oil and selling it to the Pentagon, it should be remembered, is the world’s largest consumer of oil.

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By Deirdre Griswold

Workers challenge Amazon

By G. Dunkel

The Christmas spirit doesn’t suspend the class struggle. German workers and their union, Ver.di, want a higher minimum wage and better working conditions.

Amazon management times its “pick-and-pack” form has Amazon management indicated that the workers would not be unionized. Investment in renewable energy is already beginning to have an effect. The result is a glut of oil and a steep fall in prices.

Some industries that require a lot of petroleum products, like airlines and trucking, can benefit — at least temporarily. But overall, this struggle is a symptom of a growing crisis that can drag down the whole financial architecture of the capitalist world.

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Ebolaa, socialism & imperialism

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A standing-room-only crowd in New York City at a Jan. 3 program commemorating the 56th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and the first line is papers and off the broadcast media. But the Ebolaa epidemic remains a continuing threat in areas of Africa and an ongoing threat that requires worldwide attention and action.

By Cheryl LaBash

The Cuban revolution values education. According to World Bank statistics, no country uses more of its gross domestic product for education than Cuba. Nearly 13 percent of the total value of all the goods and services produced in Cuba over a year, or one of every eight euros, is used to pay for health care workers to Africa to equal the Cuban effort.

From the beginning of the outbreak, the U.S. and its allies have attempted to politicize the Ebola crisis. Volunteers from private agencies who traveled to West Africa from the U.S. have often found themselves not as heroes, but virtual pariahs upon their return.

In response to the Nov. 11 editorial, “The wall & counterrevolution,” published on the 25th anniversary of the end of the Cold War, long-time WW reader and correspondent Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, sent us the following letter:

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If Hitler had won in the USSR, he would have continued occupying territory. The USSR did not insist the East Germans.

From the very beginning of the 1970s, the corporate-owned media in Russia against the “Tsarist and capitalist regime, the U.S. and all the leading capitalist countries of Europe ganged up on Russia to put down the November Revolution.” The World for more than 34 years.

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Regime change packaged as ‘free expression’

By Chris Fry

The Obama administration issued new sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on Jan. 2, targeting senior officials in China and Russia and claiming the DPRK was behind the hacking of Sony Corp.

“The fastest way to North Korea’s at- tack that aimed to create destructive finan- cial effects on a U.S. company and to threaten artists and other individualists without the U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit declared such assassination attempts were illegal. Later, President Ronald Rea- gan even issued Executive Order 12333, declaring such assassination attempts.” (archives.gov, Dec. 4, 1981)

Long history of U.S. assassinations of world leaders

Sony’s movie is war propaganda, not “free expression.” Sony and the film’s cre- ators consulted with high officials from the U.S. State Department while pre- suring the film, particularly the graphic scenes simulating the assassination of DPRK leader Kim Jong Un. The officials all gave their stamp of approval.

But that was for public consumption. No government official ever obstructed U.S. imperialism in any way from using assassination of targeted world leaders to forward its own banking and corporate interests.

When NATO bombers dropped three bombs on Milosevic’s private villa in 1999, then Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder — now attorney general — called it legal. “There has been no attempt by the part of the United States to target any particular individual. (It is legal to Kill Qaddaffi? — Probably So,” foreignpolicy.com, June 6, 2011)

Release of “The Interview” came short- ly after the Senate released its report on the CIA’s worldwide torture campaign. It was also timed to coincide with a new U.S. campaign charging the DPRK with “human rights” violations.

But there’s greater resistance to this kind of pro-war propaganda than there is to the U.S. campaign charging the DPRK with “human rights” violations.

With figures like Alíbíra Campos, Lo- li La Hernández, Rafael Cancel Miranda and so many others, The colonizers always penalized those fighting for independence. Local police, FBI and all U.S. repressive forces target independence activists. We will never forget how in 2005 an FBI team was sent to the island to kill Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, the leader of Los Macheteros, an independence group. On a special day for the independence movement, Sept. 23 – known as Grito de Lares – the FBI and the state’s racist police, the FBI and all U.S. repressive forces target independence activists. We will never forget how in 2005 an FBI team was sent to the island to kill Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, the leader of Los Macheteros, an independence group. On a special day for the independence movement, Sept. 23 – known as Grito de Lares – the FBI and the state’s racist police, the FBI and all U.S. repressive forces target independence activists. 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Narco guerras en México: Hechas en USA

Por Jim McMahan

Una pobreza devastadora se impuso a la población rural de México en 1994 con el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte propulsado por Washington. Sus disposiciones destruyeron la economía rural y terminaron los medios de subsistencia de muchas/os agricultores al comenzar la invasión de corporaciones y mercancías estadounidenses. Esto fomentó el auge de los carteles de la droga. Otro factor en su ascenso ha sido la demanda por drogas y las ganancias de tráfico procedentes del lado estadounidense de la frontera.

La intervención forzada de los traficantes de armas de Estados Unidos y las fuerzas represivas mejicanas ha dejado a millones de personas hacinadas en la frontera, que ha dejado a millones de personas hacinadas en la frontera.

Las leyes de control de armas son una gran mayoría en México en que los EUA tienen el monopolio de gran calibre o pistolas de alta potencia, consideradas como armas de guerra, no pueden ser propiedad legal de ciudadanos civiles.

El Tratado de Libre Comercio de Américas nunca ha tratado de detener el flujo de armas desde el Norte, con el Rep. Darrell Issa a la cabeza, ha utilizado el tema de tráfico de armas como una farsa, como "Condado Cheat-em" [nota ed: el nombre de un condado en Michigan traducido].

Pero estos programas no intentaron mejorar o proteger sus vidas. Al imperio estadounidense sólo está interesado en detenerlo – no importa cuán sangriento sea para las/os trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos.

Washington mantendrá las fuerzas represivas en México para asegurarse que las ganancias corporativas estadounidenses sigan fluyendo del trabajo de los pobres de México. Hay miles de soldados y agentes militares y policiales extranjeros. Los funcionarios quieren evitar que esto salga a la luz pública. No sorprende que ninguna de estas relaciones haya detenido o disminuido la guerra del narco.

En realidad, EUA contribuye a la guerra en México y en todo el país. A pesar de oficiales de inteligencia estadounidenses, estas relaciones haya detenido o disminuido la guerra del narco. No obstante, en una "nueva iniciativa de seguridad" para combatir el tráfico de droga llamada la Iniciativa Mérida/Plan Méji- co, a un costo de $8 mil millones. Cada viva aviones pilotados y drones estadounidenses vuelan sobre México, no sólo a lo largo de la frontera. Y Washington entreme na a miles de soldados y agentes de segu- ridad mejicanos.

De acuerdo con oficiales de inteligencia EEUU, Washington colabora con agentes escogidos de seguridad meji- cana. Todo esto no es muy conocido porque la Constitución mejicana prohíbe operar en México a agentes militares y policiales extranjeros. Los funcionarios quieren evitar que esto sea una luz pública. No sorprende que ninguna de estas relaciones haya detenido o disminuido la guerra del narco.

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