Racism, imperialism
Behind Paris killings

By Fred Goldstein

On Sunday, Jan. 11, a massive demonstration took place in Paris in sympathy with the staff members of the satirical cartoon magazine Charlie Hebdo who were killed on Jan. 7, as well as a Muslim police officer and four patrons of a Jewish grocery killed in two armed attacks that week.

The primary target of the killings was the staff of the cartoon magazine. The magazine had repeatedly published cartoons insulting Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. They were in the process of designing another offensive cartoon when they were killed.

The French authorities have identified the attackers as Said Kouachi, 34, his brother Cherif, 32, and Amedy Coulibaly, 32. The brothers were French citizens of Algerian descent and Coulibaly was of West African descent. Of course, all the information on these attacks is in the hands of the French police and intelligence authorities. Nothing they say should be automatically accepted.

On the other hand, while some think that the attack was a set-up engineered by Paris, the movement has to deal with this as a political matter and not rely on conspiracy theories, unless significant new information comes to light.

The killings have, of course, been condemned day and night by the big business media in France, across Europe and in the U.S. But also condemning the killings have been the head of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, as well as Hamas. Both resistance groups have been heroic in their struggle against the Zionist state of Israel and its imperialist backers. Hamas, of course, has led Gaza in its struggle against Israeli occupation.

For progressives and revolutionaries, the events pose several questions and difficulties. Should we condemn the killings? Should the attack be called a massacre, when you consider that, on average, every day last summer for 51 days, four times as many people were killed in Gaza by Israel? But the media and political leaders did not call that a massacre.

Terminology itself is a weapon in the struggle, and the language used by the ruling class cannot be automatically adopted, lest we be misunderstood.

How do we oppose the killings without seeming to chime in with imperialism or lend any tolerance politically to the cartoonists’ attack on Islam, which constituted what many would consider hate speech?

To be sure, the kind of attacks carried out in Paris did not advance the struggle of millions of oppressed Muslims, in either Europe or the Middle East. In fact, they made it easier for the imperialists to mobilize their own population to support Islamophobic repression and militancy.
Selma: A phenomenon amid a resurgent movement

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The movie “Selma,” which chronicles the 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, was distributed nationally on Jan. 9 and has already been viewed by millions across the U.S. and the world. The Associated Press reported Jan. 11 that “Selma” came in second at the weekend box office, garnering $11.2 million.

The film has generated a tremendous degree of mainstream and social media interest. Directed by Ava DuVernay with talk show host and network owner Oprah Winfrey serving as producer and depicting Annie Lee Cooper in a supporting role — the movie is the first feature film that depicts a key chapter in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. A made-for-television miniseries made in 1978 featured Paul Winfield as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Cicely Tyson as Coretta Scott King.

Despite the movie’s success, the Golden Globes on Jan. 11 recognized it in only one of four categories it was nominated for. Songwriter and producer John Legend and hip-hop artist Common were given the top prize for Best Original Song entitled “Glory.”

DuVernay tweeted on Jan. 11, “We’ve already won! We made a film we believe in, and it’s now in theaters and moving in the world!”

Accepting the award, Legend said, “I’m so honored to be part of this amazing film that honors such amazing people… and is so connected to what’s happening right now. We still are in solidarity with those who are out there fighting for justice right now. We’re so grateful to write this song, hopefully as an inspiration to them.”

Controversy over historical accuracy

Some of the most widely publicized disagreements over the film’s accuracy surround the role of then President Lyndon Johnson. The film suggests that Johnson, over the film’s accuracy surround the role of then Pres -

Running out of time

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Young rejected outright the notion that the campaign, which brought SCLC to Dallas County in January 1965, was Johnson’s idea. He said that Johnson did not believe voting rights legislation could make it through Congress only months after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In a Jan. 5 interview with Roland Martin, Young noted that he had traveled with King to Norway when the Civil Rights leader was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1964. Later the group went to Washing -

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Lynne Stewart reflects a year free from prison

By Dolores Cox
New York

New Year’s Eve marked the one-year anniversary of the release of people’s lawyer Lynne Stewart, who was imprisoned for “aiding and abetting a terrorist organization.” Her client in the case was Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rah- man, whom the U.S. government labeled a terrorist and convicted. On Dec. 31, 2013, Stewart was granted a compassionate release due to her metastatic cancer.

On Dec. 31, 2014, Lynne Stewart commemorated her year-long freedom by returning to New York City’s Manhattan Correctional Center, where she had been jailed prior to being transferred to Federal Medical Center, Carswell, a maximum security federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2004. The convictions came together with great enthusiasm and dignity to celebrate the indelible life of Samiya “Goldii” Abdullah Jamal, daughter of Wadiya Jamal and Mumia Abu-Jamal, in Philadelphia.

Very sadly, the deeply beloved daughter of the Jamals died on Feb. 18 after a long struggle against breast cancer. She leaves behind two lovely daughters, affectionate-ly nicknamed Dolly and Puddy, 11 and 4 years respectively.

In her too-brief yet remarkable life, Gol- dii had also become an accomplished mu- sician, rapper with a message and strong advocate for political prisoners, especially on behalf of her world-famous and falsely imprisoned father, Mumia Abu-Jamal, starting at age 4! Goldii had recently earned a master’s degree with honors in school and mental health counseling from the University of Pennsylvania as well.

The event, organized by MOVE; the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Goldii’s mother, family and friends; unsung com- munity organizers; music-loving individuals; and local artists and musi- cians, was held at the historic Kingsessing Recreation Center in the evening and was very well-received. The Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (New York City) was also in attendance.

Well over 100 people gathered for this “Celebration of Life and Fundraiser” for the Goldii’s children. The slamming’ fire, atmosphere, spoken-word performances, testimonials and dynamic music were most belting for the occasion, and in- cluded the participation of large numbers of children of all ages as well.

Participants included Tim Hics; Jade and Ice, with two backup singers; and a poet named Sekos, who gave a moving tribute to Goldii, Dolly and Puddy and expressed deep love to them. An on- the-spot portrait painting of Goldii was created and a beautiful blanket for the girls with a picture of their mom on it was unveiled, to the prolonged applause of the audience for each presentation. The Jamal sons played key roles in making this hom- age a singular success.

In spite of her grief and loss, Sister Wadiya Jamal was most gracious to all well-wishers and sympathizers, as she ac-knowledged her presence and contribu- tions as well as her own pain.

While a sad occasion in some respects, the celebration of the life of Goldii was a moving tribute to a most courageous and loving woman, whose high respect for life, justice, humanity and her dad is best ex- pressed in her own words: “He is an innocent man and the com- monwealth has always known this, but being too black, too smart and too strong. ... The government will silence anyone that possesses the power to open the minds of the people.” Right.

Hagins is a co-chairperson of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC).

• If you’re convinced from reading WW that capitalism is at a deadlock.
• If you’re sick and tired of the bankers and bosses skimming profits off workers’ wages while millions are unemployed.
• If you hate the racist police terror and economic injustice this system imposes upon people of color.
• If you want to fight for a far superior way of life based on economic planning and equitable distri- bution of wealth.

Then invest your hard-earned dollars in Workers World and help us put out one of the only remaining progressive weeklies in the U.S. It’s printed as well as posted on the Web. We’re de- determined to keep issuing a printed edition to hand out to people looking for answers at “Black Lives Matter” protests, fast food workers’ picket lines and street corners.

For a $10 monthly donation, WW subscribers have helped maintain the paper by joining the WW Supporter Program. We invite you to sign up today! Write checks to Workers World Fund Drive. Send them to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., and floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address. Or donate on-line at workers.org/articles/donate/

It’s also possible to contribute there by joining the Workers World Supporter Program and giving either a lump sum or a monthly donation. Be sure to check it out.

And thanks!

• If you want to fight for a far superior way of life based on economic planning and equitable distribution of wealth.

‘Selma’
Continued from page 2
White House.

However, the crisis created through arrests and beatings in Selma during January and February, followed by the police shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson in neighboring Marion on the night of Feb. 18, 1965, led to a march from Selma to the state Capitol in Montgomery.

During the first attempt, the Alabama state troopers responded by using tear gas, making vicious attacks using clubs, cattle prods and teargas on 600 demonstrators at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, known as “ Bloody Sunday.” The beating of the demonstrators prompted a national mobilization in cities throughout the country. The march to Selma two days later for yet another confrontation.

Amid legal challenges over an injunc- tion against marching to Montgomery, King and the SCLC decided to turn 2,000 demonstrators around and headed back to Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, the center of the campaign. This move caused con- fusion and debate within the movement as some felt the mobilization should have been dispursed.

Affirming the Selma Campaign, was severely beaten by white racists in Selma and died of his injuries the following day.

A favorable federal court ruling several months after affirming a constitutional right to peaceful protest paved the way to John’s right to nationalize the Alabama National Guard, which provided protection so demonstra- tors could initiate and complete the final march from March 21-25.

On the day the march concluded, Viola Liuzzo, a volunteer activist from Detroit portrayed in the film, was killed after her car was rammed in her vehicle while transport- ing demonstrators through Lowndes County. It was later revealed that she was killed by a Ku Klux Klan command.

In late February, Johnson came out in favor of new legislation, which worked its way through Congress over the next five months.

Despite a few historical inaccuracies and other minor problems, many feel the film is a powerful depiction of the resilience of the anti-racist struggle, manifested through rebellions and mass demonstrations in response to the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y., and Tamir Rice in Cleveland.

If some of the movie’s events unfolded five decades ago illustrates how far the struggle against national oppression has to go in this country. At the same time, the last 10 years or so, this country’s months reveal the capacity of African Americans and their allies to create new methods of agitation aimed at the state and the corporate structures of the racist capitalist system.
abortion rights in the U.S. on the 42nd
Reproductive justice in the age of austerity

tremely hostile. 2010, 22 states were hostile, with five of the women of reproductive age (15-44) in situations in the last four years. More than half of states have passed 231 abortion restric-
sions in the first week of 2015, says that while abortion was used as a tool to control three states as hostile; in 2010, 22 states were hostile, with five of them extremely hostile; and in 2014, 27 states were hostile, with 8 of them extremely hostile.

Nine million poor women (one in seven women of childbearing age) who are eligible for Medicaid coverage are denied abortion coverage, although they have coverage for other reproductive health care, including sterilizations. They are in addition to millions of women in 23 states that have refused to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Given the restrictions passed in those states, which include medically unnecessary procedures, and facilities' physical requirements — millions of low-wage women workers, particularly women of color and disabled women, many of whom are single mothers, do not have ready access to abortion, even though it is the law of the land. If we expand our vision beyond abortion rights to reproductive justice — the concept that women's human rights, including all social, economic and political, cultural aspects of life, must be respected and honored in law and practice — then the vast majority of women in this country do not have the quality of life they deserve. Only the richest of women, whose rights are not bound by what money can buy, may have such luxury — and their reproductive rights are otherwise bound by patriarchal demands.

The promise of Roe v. Wade, envi-
sioned by the millions of young women who fought for that legal right to abortion in the early 1970s, was to expand women's right to control their bodies, to allow them to decide whether or not to have children and to help them achieve equality in all aspects of life. That goal is now a distant memory for those who fought for it.

New challenges to legal abortion

Given the increasing inequality be-
 tween those who work for wages and those who own the rich-as-Croesus cor-
 porations, it's no wonder white women are still making only 77 percent of what white men make while women of color or make even less than what Black and Brown men make. The obstacles are only too easy to buy Republican Party shills to impose austerity on working people and the oppressed. The primary cugeth Congress has over worked for wages for women of color. The keystone of the anti-choice agenda is a federal ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, which the House passed in 2013. Groups supporting the ban claim a fetus of life has to be born in 20 weeks, though major medical associ-
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Autoworkers picket Detroit auto show

By Martha Grevatt
Detroit

For the seventh year in a row, rank-and-file United Auto Workers mem-
bers and supporters picketed outside the North American International Auto
Show in Detroit on Jan. 11. This year, the theme of the protest, sponsored by Au-
toworker Caravan, was “People Before Profit.” The NAIAS is the biggest auto
show in the country and is where the auto bosses tout their billions in revenue
profits and car sales, which have exceeded pre-recession levels.

In September, the contracts between the UAW and Ford, General Motors and
Chrysler expire. Workers are tired of givebacks and want to see an end to two-tier pay; a pay raise, which many have not seen since the pre-recession; the elimination of temporary work; and an end to inhu-
man “alternative work schedules” that undermine the eight-hour day.

In addition to addressing contract issues, the picketers drew attention to the fact
that the profit motive has compromised vehicle safety, resulting in hundreds of
deaths. As in previous years, Autoworker Caravan called the industry for contrib-
uting to climate change and called for the reopening of closed plants for green jobs,
demanding that people be put to work making solar panels, wind turbines and products for mass transport.

Solidarity with Colombian GM work-
ers was also recent. Why were they injured on the job was a theme, as it has been
since 2012, when the president of their
association conducted a 72-day hunger strike here in Detroit.

There were many chants on a variety of issues. Some mentions of Socialism: “Solidarity is the way!” linked the strug-
gles of the past, present and future.

At a get-together after the action, con-
versations focused on how to bring a cam-
paign inside the plants to make ending
division of jobs a reality that is raised.

Watch the video of the protest at

WWP supports higher wages for workers with disabilities

By Edward Yudovich

This article is based on a talk by Yude-
vich at the 2014 Workers World Party National Conference.

I am a person with emotional and
sensory disabilities. Since childhood I became active in the Workers World Party People with Disabilities Caucus in 1984 when I took part with Comrade Betsy Gimbel in the Disability Rights Workshop at the All-Peoples Congress in Detroit. Gimbel, who was secretary of the group “Disabled in Action,” led the fight that forced New York City buses to have wheelchair lifts.

I am a proud member of a union of 8,000 New York City administrative workers, mostly women and people of color, and I am co-chair of my union’s Committee on People with Disabilities. In October 2003, when the People’s Power Assembly held a rally in New York for the campaign to raise the U.S. minimum wage to $15 an hour on the 75th anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established the U.S. minimum wage, I was wearing my union uniform.

I am very much aware of the need to include people with disabilities in this de-
mand, because that law excludes many of us from that right. It also excludes pris-
oners, immigrants and domestic workers.

Attica prisoners fought for
people with disabilities

When the Attica prisoners rose in re-
bellion in September 1971, they had five demands. The first was: “Apply the New York state minimum wage law to all state institutions” and “Stop slave labor.”

U.S. prisoners in federal prisons have a maximum wage. It is $6.12 an hour. The U.S. has the largest incarceration rate on the planet and many of the estimated 2.4 million U.S. prisoners are people with disabilities who are regularly subjected to abuse, beatings, torture, and denial of properly prescribed medication and ac-
commodations to their disabilities.

Attica’s prisoner, Larry Mugruder, a
South African-American and mentally disabled veteran who was baked to death in the prison’s own oven, wrote: “I believe
while on anti-psycho and anti-psycho
medication, which made him more vul-
nerable to the over-100 degrees heat in his cell. Mugruder had been passed
passing in the stairwell of a city housing
project to escape the cold.

In the U.S., slave labor is also legal for people with disabilities. Goodwill Indus-
tries pays workers with disabilities as lit-
tle as 22 cents an hour, yet their top exec-
utives get over 837 million.

The National Federation of the Blind

10 most dangerous jobs

Guess who’s in the top 3?

By Deirdre Griswold

Facts are very stubborn things. Very
often they contradict what is consid-
ered general knowledge. Which raises
the question: What is general knowl-
dge? Isn’t it the opinions and attitudes
from the people through the domi-
nant media? It takes big social up-
heavals to unseat the widespread lies that
conveniently justify the status quo.

Take the question of danger jobs. We
hear a lot these days about certain oc-
cupations being very dangerous. I won’t
tell you which ones. You already know, if
you are alive and watch television or read
the corporate newspapers.

So let’s look at the official government figures on the 10 most dangerous occu-
pations in the U.S. in 2011, the most recent year of data released by the Bureau of La-
bor Statistics. These are, in descending order, starting with the most fatalities per 100,000 workers in that occupation. Also listed are the total numbers of deaths that year in that category, as well as the median salaries for the type of work.

1. Fishing: 127/100,000, 42 fatalities, $23,470 median salary for that type of work.
2. Logging: 104/100,000, 6 fatalities, $32,870
3. Pilots and flight engineers: 36/100,000, 7 fatalities, about $100,000
4. Refuse and recyclable material col-
lectors: 34/100,000, 30 fatalities, $35,230
5. Roofers: 34/100,000, 60 fatalities, $34,220
6. Structural iron and steel workers: 30/100,000, 18 fatalities, $44,540
7. Helpers, construction trades: 28/100,000, 15, about $25,000
8. Farmers, ranchers, agricultural man-
agers: 26/100,000, 268, $60,750
9. Truck drivers: 25/100,000, 485, $36,200
10. Natural resources and mining: 22/100,000, 721, $54,020

Did you notice something about this list? Something missing?

Well, actually a lot of people did notice.

Protest Goodwill

We are inviting everyone in the confer-
cence to march with us to a demonstration against Goodwill Industries. We will show
the utmost solidarity with and sensitivi-
ty to our good workers, who deserve good jobs at decent wages.

I received an email from Rose Sloan, government affairs specialist for the NFB, recognizing our protest today. “Thanks for raising awareness about this issue!”

hope your event goes well!

Did you notice something about this list? Something missing?

Equal pay for workers with disabilities

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Did you notice something about this list? Something missing? Equal pay for workers with disabilities
The profound disconnect between the ruling Democratic and Republican parties and the African-American mass is starkly revealed last year when vote-counts were made in a sea of thousands of people demonstrated in the streets against police terrorism and the racial criminal justice system. These vote-protect and urban rebellion were not planned by the mainstream civil rights organizations, but grew out of the objectives and the police. The voting tens of millions of oppressed people.

Entering 2015, we see that right-wing ideology dominates the political superstructure of the U.S. Oppled ignorantly are the growing demands by millions for advancement of a public sector, including in munici-
al decades.

The Democratic Party, which appeals to the workers and oppressed during election years seeing their votes, is not advancing any concrete programs to alleviating the suffering and impoverishment of growing numbers of people. Unemployment, underemployment and poverty rates remain extremely high. The decline in the labor participation rate conceals the real magnitude of the problem. A Pew Research Center study entitled “Black unemployment rate is consistently higher than that of whites” for 2013, to mark the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. It reported, “In 1954, the earliest year for which the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has published unemploy-
ment data by race, the black rate averaged 5% and the white rate averaged 3.6%. Last year, the black unemployment rate among whites was 6.6%; among blacks, 12.6%. Over that time, the unemployment rate for blacks has averaged about 2.2 percentage points above that of whites.”

Such statistics illustrate that despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, funda-
mental social, economic and political inequality has not been reduced. The refusal of the federal government and the corporate elite to en-
act any national jobs program means that these unemployment figures will continue at the same rate or become even more disparate between African Americans and whites.

The U.S. poverty rate sharply reflects these disparities. Overall, it stood at 15 percent in 2013. When race is considered, whites had a poverty rate of 9.7% while the rate for African Americans—17 percent higher. The Latino/a poverty rate was 24 percent, just three points below African Americans.

These figures are posted under “Pover-
ty Rate by Race/Ethnicity” at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation blog, using data issued in March 2014 by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Consequently, it is not surprising that African Americans are expressing mass opposition to the status quo. The struggle of this oppressed majority of the U.S. has paved the way for all significant contemporary democratic and working-class movements.

50 years after Selma

A “white backlash” against the demonstra-
tions demanding voting rights led Eric Garner, Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and other-
ervicemembers of racist police violence is already in evidence. Police organizations, backed up by politicians are denying any public sympathy expressed toward African-American and other oppressed people who are being gunned down in the streets by the cops.

These developments are taking place 50 years after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other members of the Southern Christian Leadership Confere-
cence went to Selma, Ala., to escalate an existing struggle for voting rights. Since then, African-Americans have been elected to public office and have entered job categories from which they had been previously excluded.

However, the fundamental contradic-
tions between the majority of African Americans and the capitalist ruling class remain. Most African Americans have been negatively impacted by the economic system's restructuring over the last several decades. The housing crisis and the deterioration of the public sector, including in munici-


In the country, who does not know the work of the Working People's Party? They are the most intimate collaborators with the police and in some cities actually control the police. Who does not know that almost all the strike-breaking agencies in the country work hand in glove with the police? Both are in the service of the industrialists as some sort of police force, depending on an independent move of their own.

Army of occupation in oppressed communities

In the Black and Brown communities, the police play the role of a foreign occupa-
tion force, a source of cruelty and brutality which differs only in degree from the U.S. occupation army and practice a form of cruelty and brutality which differs only in degree from the U.S. occupation army in Viet-

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lions whose ultimate effect is to strengthen those forces that are separate and independent activities and the masses against the parasitic regular police functions.
By Dianne Mathiowetz

The town of Valdosta, Ga., witnessed, on Jan. 10, the kind of militant protest march that charmed much of the Black Lives Matter movement across the country. The crowd of city residents and out-of-town supporters, including several youth activists from alternative schools, came to demand justice for Kendrick Johnson. They surged into the lanes of a major city street and were undeterred by the orders of police to move. They were acting, including several youth activists from alternative schools, came to demand justice for Kendrick Johnson. They surged into the lanes of a major city street and were undeterred by the orders of police to move. They were acting.

The complete footage, which the Cleveland Plain Dealer pushed the police to release, also shows Loehmann and Garmback denying Rice first aid. Additionally, it has come to light that Rice’s mother and brother were kept from the dying youth’s bedside by Metro General Hospital police. Unfortunately, the only public record of this case has revealed the hideous collusion of the Cleveland Division of Police — whose consistent policy of covering up brutality with lies and other forms of disinformation — has served them well in the top to bottom — with the courts and the professional associations of police wrongly characterized as union, who defend their own in each and every case of misconduct, including murder.

In the aftermath of the shocking killings of Malissa Williams and Timothy Loehmann, who died immediately after coming upon him playing with a toy gun.

Newspaper reports suggest that the death was due to blunt force trauma to the head, and that Rice was immediately declared an “accident” by Lowndes County Sheriff Chris Prine, who closed the case.

Johnson’s parents suspect foul play and have worked tirelessly to win a thorough investigation to find out who killed their son. They had to fight to exhume their child’s body for a second autopsy, which revealed that blunt-force trauma to the neck had contributed to his death.

The ex-assembly also revealed that all of Johnson’s vital organs were missing, including his tongue and larynx. His body had been stuffed with newspaper.

For two years now a daily vigil in front of Lowndes County City Hall demanding justice for Kendrick Johnson has been sustained by family, friends and supporters. As a result of public pressure, the Department of Justice has been investigating his death for months. Johnson’s parents deserve answers.

In front of the school where their son died, Kendrick Johnson and Jacquelyn Johnson vowed not to stop fighting for the truth — because Kendrick Johnson mattered.

By Betsey Pippete

MOVE 9 member Phil Africa died in prison on Jan. 10 under what family members are calling “suspicious circumstances.”

It’s been two years since the body of 17-year-old Kendrick “KJ” Johnson was found in a rolled-up gym mat at the school. This most suspicious death was immediately declared an “accident” by Lowndes County Sheriff Chris Prine, who closed the case.

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While the police strikes as well as the general police insurgency comes after a consider- able period when they have been engaged in actual civil war against the Black and poor people. The police are now the biggest enemy and not confuse it with a struggle.

The police have also become more vocif- erous in demanding the so-called lenient judges and demanding that the govern- ment “take the handcuffs off the police.”

This cry is nothing but a fascist demand for the right to unrestricted use of physical force and violence against the civil population.

It is in this context that we must view the police strikes as well as the general historical role that they play in the class struggle.
1961 Paris massacre exposed ‘freedom of press’

By John Catalinotto

On Jan. 11, the French imperialist bourgeoisie mobilized and manipulat-
ed a massive demonstration in all the country’s major cities under hypocrit-
ical slogans extolling Western civiliza-
tion’s “freedom of speech.” Their goal — which they share with U.S. and European imperialism — is a reactionary modern crucible against co-
lonial peoples, mostly Muslims, in the guise of a “war on terror.”

One piece of French history that clashes with this ruling-class argument concerns the Paris massacre of Oct. 17, 1961. If you don’t know about this massacre, it is because the imperialist derevatives in France have made every effort to keep it secret.

Between 1954 and 1962, French im-
perialism waged a bitter colonial war to hang on to its North African colony of Algeria. As is often the case with peo-
ple in an imperial colony, many Alge-
rian immigrants and their descendants were victimized by U.S.-backed French imperialism. Many sympathized with the National Liberation Front’s struggle for indepen-
dence for Algeria.

On Oct. 17, some 30,000 took to the Parisian streets in an unarmed demon-
stration to protest a curfew in Algeria by the occupation forces on “Muslim Al-
gerians” in the colony. (Francec24.com, Oct. 18, 2012)

Some 7,000 heavily armed French police — following direct orders of Par-
is prefect Maurice Papon — brutally attacked the peaceful demonstrators, firing at the men, women and children who were killed on the streets.

In the course of this massacre, which the French authorities shut down em-
basies, cultural centers and schools in about 20 countries anticipating a vi-
olent reaction of the workers.

The editor, Stephane Charbonnier, who was killed Wednesday, was intran-
sigent and had been under police guard for the last week but refused to com-
mit the two dead, several wounded and 7,500 to insult a billion oppressed people with-
out restriction or inhibition.

The massacre continued to the end. “In the past, Charbonnier vowed that his cartoonists would keep poking fun ‘until Islam is just as banal as Catholicism.’ ... [In] its raucous, vulgar and sometimes com-
devolved effort to offend all everyone Islamically guilty ... Charbonnier held was in the vanguard of opposition to conservative Islam.”

Charbonnier put an equal sign be-

Two of the best-known Paris daily papers were the Liberation and Libération, which has made Islamophobia and restric-
tive action program if everyone was just less far right, right-wing racist to carry out dis-
humanity and anti-Islamic actions.

The second-largest party in France’s last election and a menacing force is the National Front, a fascist organization that has made Islamophobia and restric-
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Prophet Mohammed. The magazine was out an extra run of cartoons featuring Muslims or the Prophet Muhammed. Even prayer meetings among the 2,000 deaths in the Israeli assault of Gaza this past summer? Don’t those lives matter?

Charlie Hebdo assassinations strengthen the hand of the state, which is using them in an ideological offensive, even if the state had a role in arming and training the perpetrators.

Why are other murders not mourned, not respected, not even reported — even the murders of other journalists? A crucial role of the corporate media is to try to shape the perception of which lives matter.

Consider the mass outpourings following several different, very public killings in the U.S. Hundreds of thousands of youths have been in the streets again and again, marching without the backing of the state to prosecute killer cops, even when their murderous crimes have been seen by millions.

Hundreds of thousands of people were in the streets of Paris on Jan. 11, French, other European, U.S. and Israeli politicians led the march honoring the slain journalists.

Twice, on Dec. 27 and Jan. 4, thousands of police in uniform from all over the U.S. converged on New York City for separate funerals of two police officers shot in their patrol car Dec. 20. JetBlue offered free flights to all police traveling nationally to the funeral. The U.S. vice president, New York state’s governor and the city’s mayor attended the funerals. Roads in the areas were closed. Giant outdoor TV screens were erected.

Not a free speech issue

The French government’s protection of the racist journal Charlie Hebdo had nothing to do with protecting freedom of speech. Freedom of speech must be confronted. In 2012 the same government that protected this vile publication banned any demonstrations or protests even public prayers opposing the racist publication.

French law allows for the prosecution of “publicly sacred in France. It was punishable by a year in prison to even post on the Internet a notice of a demonstration opposing the Israeli onslaught on Palestine during the Israeli 2013 summer offensive on Gaza.” Free speech is taken as the country in the world to bar all demonstrations and protests in any form supporting Palestine during that time. The fine was one year in jail and 15,000 euros fine.

It is worth noting the double standard: “There is no state crackdown against the current right-wing, fascist demonstra-

Role of Nazi caricature

Charlie Hebdo serves a very important purpose for French imperialism, and that is why its virulent racism has been demonized for the very time that protests against it are ignored.

Charlie Hebdo may have run cartoons to ridicule the peaceful five years ago when it claimed to be left wing, irrev-

ence and nonconformist. But there is a big difference between satire ridiculing the nazification of Italy and its Spanish equivalent to Voltaire — and the current imagery promoting fear and loathing of the oppressed and powerless. The latter is right-wing and fascist in character.

In this period when Muslims are face-

ing increasing extreme right-wing at-

tacks, it is crucial for the corporate media to help counter this trend in Europe. Charlie Hebdo functions as did the Nazi publication Der Sturmer with its vehemently anti-Semitic caricatures. Jewish people in Der Sturmer, as Muslims in Charlie Hebdo, were depict-

ed with exaggerated facial features and misshapen bodies. Both publications use obscene, sexually explicit caricatures. The Nazi newspaper’s caricatures were part of a policy to make Jews an object of hatred, fear, ridicule and disdain. At the end of World War II, Julius Streicher, the editor of Der Sturmer — though he didn’t run death camps but used the press to incite hatred — was put on trial convicted of crimes against humanity and executed.

Charlie Hebdo is protected because it harms the population against Muslim people in order to divide the population. The French government has announced a grant to Charlie Hebdo of 1 million euros, saying it supports freedom of expression.

Charlie Hebdo is not freedom of ex-

pression and freedom of press. It is an instrument of war mobilization. It ran cartoons demonizing Serbs during the NATO campaign against Yugoslavia, and it supported NATO’s attack on Libya.

No free press

Although “free speech” and “free press” are being lauded and glorified in the corporate media, the truth is that such thing exists in any capitalist state.

The press in France or in the U.S. is not free, open or accessible. The media are owned by and dominated by a small corporate ruling class.

What can be said and who can say it is tightly controlled. The corpo-

rate media in capitalist society are owned to serve class rule. What is cov-

ered depends entirely on who can pay. Easily censoring the media is the most powerful weapon in the hands of the corporate media. censored or banned by the French state, which has been engaged in an ongoing war on newspapers and journalists. The French law allows for the prosecution of “publicly sacred in France. It was punishable by a year in prison to even post on the Internet a notice of a demonstration opposing the Israeli onslaught on Palestine during the Israeli 2013 summer offensive on Gaza.” Free speech is taken as the country in the world to bar all demonstrations and protests in any form supporting Palestine during that time. The fine was one year in jail and 15,000 euros fine.

It is worth noting the double standard: "There is no state crackdown against the current right-wing, fascist demonstrations against immigrants.

The banter of ‘Youth against racism’ in a protest in Paris, November 2013.

Who benefits?

Regardless of whether a police conspiracy is ever exposed, we do know that the French ruling class and the corporate media are always ready to take full advantage of such acts to reinforce the repressive state apparatus and sow division among the working class.

There should not be an iota of confi-

dence in the news stories of this massa-

cre at Charlie Hebdo. We know only what we are being told in the corporate media by French military police and state intel-

ligence agencies. We do know that three men, who are now dead, were tools of the imperialist wars in their wars of conquest in Syria and Libya. More than 1,000 French citizens of Arab and North Afri-

can descent have been killed. The state has armed and used as weapons conduits, saboteurs and terrorists in the efforts of U.S., France, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to overthrow the government of Syria. This leads to the fundamental question of whose policies are responsible for the massacre and who gains from the mas-

sacre.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, U.S. imperialism, aided by the old colo-

nial powers of Europe, has been engaged in a whole series of wars to reconquer countries that had achieved a high level of development based on sovereignty and control of their resources.

In their frantic effort to reconlique Israel, Syria, Iran, Libya, there has been cynical-

ly whipped up sectarian divisions, organ-

ized deadly militias and promoted fan-

aticism and anarchy. That has aroused mass outrage and rage against the U.S., France and Britain.

It is also highly unpopular that French imperialism is widely involved in Africa, primarily in the majority-Muslim countries of Mali, Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast and Djibouti, and in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The French ruling class wants to divert mass attention from their expanding wars and increasingly militarized soci-

ey. The mobilizations claiming to defend a free press by defending racism must be opposed and countered.

By Sara Flounders

By Sara Flounders

"By revealing the machinations of the empire, Flounders sheds insight into how to stand up to the imperialist war machine ..." — Miguel de la Madrid Hernández

PentagonDrivel/TheHill

Available at online booksellers and stores.
**Greece on edge of abyss: What will Jan. 25 elections bring?**

By G. Dunkel

Every political and economic problem afflicting Europe has a worse case scenario in Greece. Whatever party wins the snap election called for Jan. 25 will either manage to stave off a major economic and social crisis or face another five years of failed austerity.

The Greek Constitution calls for elections when the parliament can’t elect a new president. This happened in late December 2014.

The two major parties contesting the parliamentary elections, Syriza andevry, which is leading the current government headed by Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, and Syriza, the official opposition led by Alexi Tsipras, are roughly equal.

The European bourgeoisie, in particular the German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, has said that if New Democracy and Samaras win the upcoming vote, then the bailout will continue along with austerity. If Syriza wins, they say, then the resulting chaos will likely force Greece out of the European Union.

Economic problems make disaster for workers

Deflation, a general fall in prices, wages and economic output and profits, has been raging since 2008. From its high point in 2007 — when the Greek economy was still growing — to 2014, the Greek output of goods and services has fallen by 33 percent, based on official Greek economic statistics.

This is a sharper fall than the United States experienced during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

In November 2014, Greece’s economy minister declared his country’s six-year recession over. The Guardian, a British newspaper, said that the Greek bourgeoisie was able to beat them back from 2010 to 2012, but almost always the bourgeoisie was able to beat them back and avoid making any major concessions.

While Syriza didn’t oppose these strikes, it did not have many members who were workers, so it did not have much support.

Continued on page 11

**Moscow conference**

Stands with Novorossiya, Palestine and Black America

By Bill Dores

International Action Center

A conference on the Right of Peoples to Self-determination and Building a Multipolar World was held in Moscow on Dec. 13, hosted by the Anti-Globalization Movement in Russia. The conference brought together activists from Novorossiya (Donetsk and Lugansk), TransDniestria, Iran, Syria, the Serb Republic of Bosnia, the United States and several regions of the Russian Federation. The conference was opened by AGM President Alexander Ionov. Others speakers included the speaker of the Parliament of Novorossiya, and Alexander Kofman, the minister of foreign affairs of the TransDniestria Republic.

Among the U.S. delegates were five representatives of the United National Anticorruption, including Margaret Kimberley of Black Agenda Report, Joe Isobahar of the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, women’s rights activist Maureen Hannah, Bill Dores of the International Action Center and UNAC Co-Coordinator Joe Lombardo, all of whom addressed the conference. Major themes of the discussion were the U.S.-backed war against the people of Donetsk and Lugansk in Ukraine, the expansion of NATO into the former Soviet Union and economic war against Russia, Venezuela and Iran; and the ongoing uprisings against national and police brutality in the United States.

Activists from Donetsk, Lugansk and Odessa eloquently described the atrocities committed by the TransDniestria, Ukrainian and British government. The U.S.-NATO proxy war against Syria and U.S.-NATO crimes in Libya, Yugoslavia and the TransDniestria Republic.

The conference was followed by a Dec. 15 press conference with Russian and foreign media and a Dec. 17 demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy protesting racists and people报名 a Dec. 17 demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy protesting racists and police violence and the repression in the U.S. Demonstrators called photos of Mike Brown, Eric Garner and Rasmia Odoh and chanted, “Hands up! Don’t shoot!”

The protests laid flowers outside the embassy in memory of Mike Brown, Eric Garner and others murdered by the U.S. state apparatus.

Below is the full text of the conference declaration:

**International Panel Discussion**

**National Dialogue:** The Right of Peoples to Self-Determination and Building a Multipolar World
Ukraine antifascists, supporters welcome released activists

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 6 – Four Ukrainian anti-fascist activists detained in the Donetsk People's Republic for two weeks were freed Jan. 3 and have now safely returned to Crimea in the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, an Odessa activist tortured and held for almost four months by the Ukrainian police was released Dec. 26 in a prison exchange between Ukraine and people's militias in the Lugansk People's Republic.

All five are members of the revolutionary Marxist organization Union Borotta (Struggle).

Victor Shapiro, Maria Muratova and Masim Firsov had been held by the Special Division of the Vostok Battalion of the people's militia since Dec. 21. They were arrested by soldiers while on a solidarity visit to Donetsk to meet with activists and officials. Alexei Albu was detained Dec. 26 while trying to win their release. The activists have been living in exile in Simferopol, Crimea under threat of arrest for their anti-fascist activities in Ukraine.

Initial reports of the arrests stoked fears among activists in support of the Ukrainian regime as part of a prisoner swap, endangering their lives.

Tellingly, the latest development expulsion from Donetsk highlights the sharpening class struggle and political contradictions in the People's Republics of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR), which declared independence from Ukraine following a far-right coup in Kiev last year.

Odessa massacre survivor freed

Vlad Wojciechowski survived the May 2, 2014 massacre in Odessa. Wojciechowski was arrested by the Odessa House of Trade Unions, where he was suffering serious head trauma at the hands of a neo-Nazi mob. In September, he was arrested by the SBU, the Ukrainian equivalent of the FBI, on trumped up charges of “forming a terrorist organization.” He was subsequently imprisoned and tortured.

Wojciechowski was finally liberated just before the New Year in an exchange of prisoners between Ukraine and the Donbass republics.

In a statement published at Borotta.uk, the activist says he was very angry with the fascist government of Ukraine, which proved once again with its barbaric acts that it is willing to wage through repression to defend its interests and those of the West.

“They failed to break me. And my will has become tempered steel. Now I'm even more convinced that it is impossible to save Ukraine without defeating fascism on its territory.”

Ukraine's government in Kiev, backed by U.S. and European Union imperialism and NATO, has carried out a bloody war against Donetek and Lugansk, targeting homes, schools, hospitals, the civil infrastructure and killing thousands.

In December the U.S. Congress and President Barack Obama reaffirmed their support for the fascist regime in Iraq, Libya, Syria and the so-called “Ukrainian Freedom Act.” Among its provisions are millions of dollars for the creation of a “moderate”/opposition/terrorist party made up of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and neo-Nazis in Kiev, along with the direct supply of weapons and war matériel.

International solidarity to free antifascists

The distraction of year-end holidays, the four Borotta activists detained in Donetsk drew widespread international support demanding their release.

Polls favor it to finish first in the Jan. 25 elections. Even finishing first, however, is no guarantee that Syriya will be able to form a government.

According to Panagiotis Karyotinos of Communist Revolutionary Action (KKE), the KKE claims that Syriya is just one rung up the capitalist ladder, since Syria does not proclaim to overthrow capitalism or break with the EU, it will do nothing more than an effort to manage the crisis within the capitalist framework. So, no support for Syriya.” Karyotinos goes on to say that many organizations of the non-parliamentary left in Greece agree with the KKE’s criticism of Syriya, (personal correspondence).

As conditions for the workers deteriorated, a fascist party called Golden Dawn became much more prominent, getting 7 percent of the vote in the 2012 election up from 0.2 percent in the 2004 election. This specialization in physically attacking isolat-

ed leftists and immigrants. Many Greek leftists suspected the cops played a big role in the beating of Abu-Jamal.

The big question in the election is whether pressure from EU bankers and governments will coerce Greek voters into re-electing New Democracy and its platform of austerity on Jan. 25.

Greece on edge of abyss: What will Jan. 25 elections bring?

Moscow, Dec. 13, 2014

The world is changing. And, unfortunately, it is changing for the worse. The workers’ movement needs our support to organize and build up to us to support the nations and peoples who oppose the dictate [of] a unipolar US to support the nations and peoples of the world. The working class and the anti-fascist movements are valuable allies of your struggle against imperialism.

The appeal, initiated by the U.S.-based Union Borotta (Struggle), the supporters of the workers.org

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**Sobreproducción y estancamiento capitalista detrás de aguda caída en precios del petróleo**

Por Deirdre Griswold

Para millones en la clase obrera de EUA, el auto es una necesidad. No tienen acceso a transporte público fiable para ir a trabajar, de compras, a la escuela, consultas médicas o para un poco de recreación.

Para la clase trabajadora multirracial, en especial para las/os desempleados o aquellas/os atrapadas en empleos de bajos salarios y de tiempo parcial, la reciente caída de los precios de la gasolina ha sido un bienvenido alivio.

Sin embargo, esta fuerte caída impacta de muchas maneras.

Por mucho tiempo, el precio del petróleo ha sido considerado como volátil, especialmente comparado con los precios de productos como autos y electrodomésticos. Sin embargo, el descenso en los últimos seis meses es de proporciones históricas. La cifra de referencia, basada en el precio del crudo Brent, se ha reducido de más de la mitad, de $81.7 el barril en junio a $53 para el 5 de enero.

**Mayor caída desde 2008**

Esta es la caída más grande en los precios del petróleo desde la crisis económica de 2008-2009. El colapso de la burbuja inmobiliaria en EUA provocó una crisis financiera que se extendió por todo el mundo en menos de un año.

Mientras que Wall Street se recuperó de la crisis — gracias a la inyección de un bilión de dólares de dinero público a las principales bancos y otras entidades financieras — nunca ha habido una recuperación real para las/os trabajadores, ni en los Estados Unidos ni en otros países. Teniendo en cuenta a quienes no pueden conseguir empleo a tiempo completo o han tenido que abandonar la fuerza laboral, el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios reales han disminuido, aun cuando el desempleo continúa muy elevado y los salarios 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**Capitalismo no puede ser controlado**

El capitalismo es un sistema económico donde la ganancia, no el interés humano, es la norma. La lucha de los trabajadores por un mundo socialista se enfrenta con el poder de los propios capitalistas. Al igual que el aprendiz de brujo, la clase capitalista desa-

**Ahora que la amenaza de la propagación del ébola en EUA ha disminuido — por el momento — las noticias de la crisis actualmente están siendo relegadas a las últimas páginas de los periódicos más importantes de los medios de comunicación. Pero esta amenaza sigue siendo peligrosa.**

La inversión en energía renovable no es una fuente ideal socialista que la salud es un derecho de todos, pero es un hábito que el precio del petróleo ha caído tan bajo. Es un caso claro de sobre- producción capitalista, agravada por una desaceleración de la economía mundial. Muy pocos trabajadores - aunque ha estado en el mercado. Aunque en cada momento, las tasas de crecimiento están bajando en Europa, China y otras partes del mundo que han sido grandes consumidores de petróleo, industriales están recortando y las/os trabajadores están siendo despe-

**El médico cubano Félix Báez — que con- tra la epidemia de ébola en África Oriental desde la epidemia de ébola.**

**No es de extrañar que muchas/os cues- tiones tienen los motivos reales de lo que equivale a una invasión de la región.**