

Fla. prisoners strike against slave labor

By J. White
Lake Butler Work Camp, Fla.

Jan. 16 — There is one place in the U.S. where slavery is still constitutionally legal—in prisons. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, passed in 1864, abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.

But prisoners held in this enslavement are organizing resistance. Brave prisoners within the Florida state prison system have organized themselves into a month-long work strike called Operation Push. It began on Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Day. In a phone interview, an anonymous prisoner-activist specifically linked the strike to King’s legacy of protest against racism and economic injustice. (tinyurl.com/yaf0h75p)

The following call is an excerpt from the full call to action, initially posted online via SPARC (Supporting Prisoners and Real Change):

“We are currently forming a network agency within [Florida] Department of Corrections. We are asking all prisoners within the DOC to take a stand by “laying down” starting Jan. 15, 2018, until the injustice we see facing prisoners within the Florida system is resolved. We are calling on all organized groups, as well as religious systems, to come together on the same page. We will be taking a stand for:

1. Payment for our labor, rather than our current slave arrangement
2. Ending outrageous canteen prices
3. Reintroducing parole incentives to lifers and those with ‘Buck Rogers’ dates.

“Along with these primary demands, we are also expressing our support for the following goals:

- Stop the overcrowding and acts of brutality committed by officers through the FDOC.
- Expose the environmental conditions we face including extreme temperatures, mold, contaminated water, and being placed next to toxic sites.
- Honor the moratorium on state executions.
- Restore voting rights as a basic human right to all.”

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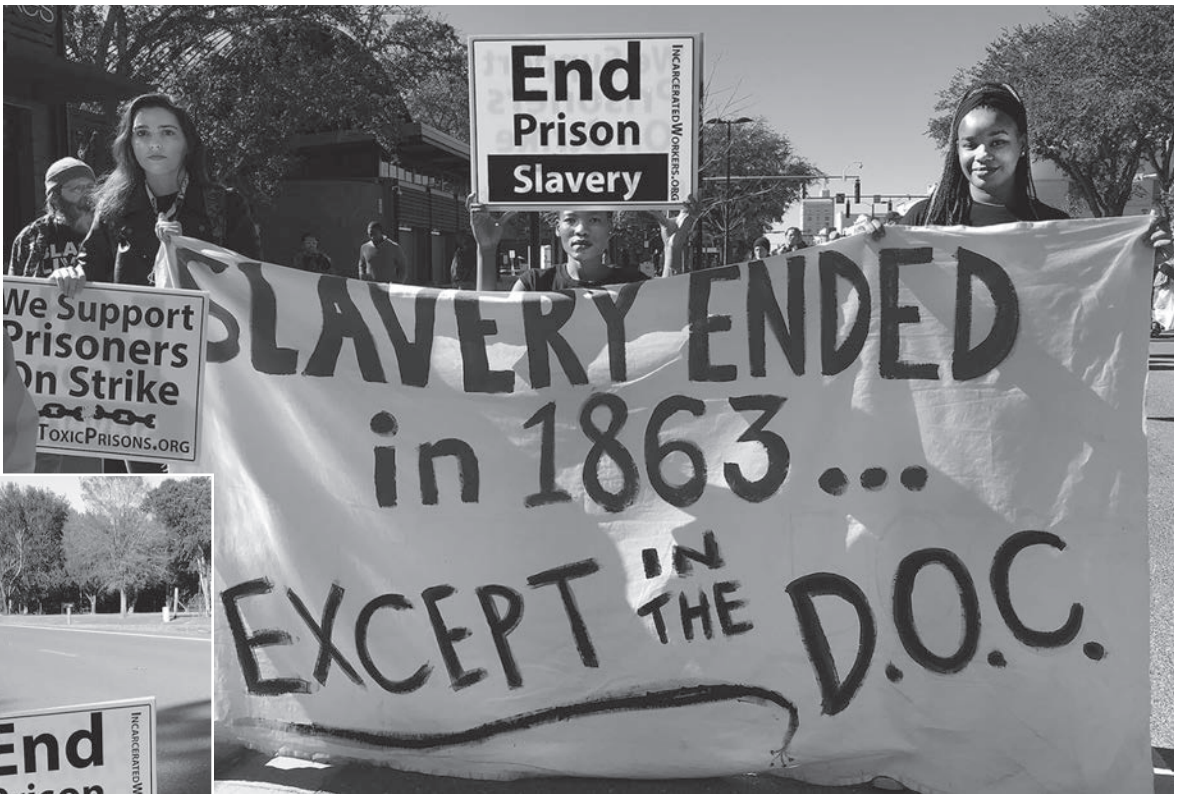
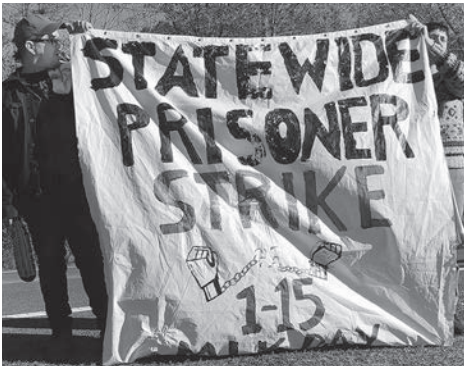
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Supporters of prisoners breach the lonely roads to Lake Butler Work Camp near Gainesville, Fla.



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Campaign launched to close U.S. bases

By David Card
Baltimore

A conference held at the University of Baltimore on Jan. 12-14 initiated an international campaign to oppose all U.S. foreign military bases.

Activists from around the country and indeed the globe gathered to denounce the network of over 800 U.S. military bases in 80 countries that exert imperialist domination over the world.

The conference was at full capacity with 200 registered, over 10,000 views via live streaming on Facebook and YouTube, and an additional 1,500 views on UNACpeace.org. Other social media reports are still being gathered.

Many groups organized the conference, including the U.S. Peace Council, Black Alliance for Peace, the United National Antiwar Coalition, Code Pink, the International Action Center, World Beyond War, Alliance for Global Justice, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Popular Resistance and Veterans For Peace. Participants attended from BAYAN USA, Okinawa Peace Appeal, the Task Force to Stop THAAD in Korea, Friends of the Congo, the Hands Off Syria Coalition and many other community and social justice organizations.

Research on the economic, political, environmental and military impact of U.S. occupation had been gathered from every corner of the world and was highlighted.

U.S. bases impact the environment and public health of millions of people as well as future generations. A majority of global superfund toxic sites that the Environmental Protection Agency identifies as posing risks to health or environment are on U.S. military bases abroad.

Regarding Latin America, the conference took up the issue of the 115-year occupation of Guantanamo Bay by the U.S. Navy and demanded its return to Cuba. The Cuban organization MOVPAZ (Cuban Movement for Peace and the Sovereignty of the Peoples) sent a special message of solidarity and support to the conference, highlighting the role of foreign military bases that restrict the sovereignty of oppressed nations.

Also condemned was U.S. intervention in Venezuela and other Latin American countries. There were calls for solidarity with Puerto Rico because of the genocidal treatment of the island, whose people continue to suffer after the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria.

Many struggles were also raised in the Asia-Pacific region. BAYAN USA spoke on the revolutionary struggle in the Philippines and drew the connection between the rebellion going on there and the U.S. military support for the Manila government. From Okinawa, Japanese activists are fighting to not only stop the construction of a new U.S. Marine Corps base on the island, but to remove the existing Futenma Air Station.

Activists from southern Korea who have been protesting the deployment of the U.S. military’s THAAD missile “defense” system shared their struggle. With all the lies and aggressive rhetoric in the U.S. media against People’s Korea, a voice from activists in southern Korea opposing the oppressive U.S. military presence there is very important for people here to learn about.

The failing U.S. strategy in the West Asia region was also highlighted. Despite 17 years of war, the U.S. has failed in its mission in Afghanistan. And despite seven years of proxy war and direct bombing campaigns in Syria, the Syrian government stands undefeated and grows more united with its neighbors. The danger of the continuing encirclement of Iran and increasing hostility by the Trump regime was also raised as a continuing issue with particular importance at this moment..

The expansion of AFRICOM and the U.S. secret and semi-secret military deployments in Africa were discussed. It’s been admitted that these bases were established in order to better secure the extraction of resources under the control of the Imperialists.

Resolutions passed for future actions

The conference passed several resolutions for action moving forward. One called for making Feb. 23 a global day of action against the Guantanamo Naval Base. This date falls on the 115th anniversary of the seizure of the territory from Cuba by the United States.

Another resolution called for a national day of anti-war action this spring. This day would raise such issues as ending U.S. wars abroad, closing all foreign U.S. military bases, redirecting the massive military budget to human needs and environmental protection, and disarming the entire U.S. arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Finally, a resolution was passed to follow this conference with a larger, international conference against U.S.

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Walmart lays off 11,000 under smokescreen

By Kris Balderas Hamel

The Walmart corporation closed 63 Sam’s Club stores without notice on Jan. 11, laying off some 11,000 workers, many of whom arrived at work to find their store permanently closed.

In a cynical maneuver meant to deflect worker and community outrage, Walmart made a media show of announcing that, because of the new corporate tax breaks, it was giving \$1,000 bonuses to workers and raising their starting wage, while burying news of the devastating closures and mass layoffs.

Store closures aren’t just bad for workers losing their jobs, but they also impact the surrounding communities in a myriad of ways. As always, it is the poorest, most oppressed and isolated workers who are affected disproportionately.

The headline in the Jan. 12 Anchorage News summed it up: “In Fairbanks and rural Alaska, Sam’s Club closing is a ‘major blow.’” Many low-income families

shop at Sam’s Club for affordable groceries and other products. Schools, churches, organizations and small businesses such as restaurants and gas stations also rely on such big-box, discounted-bulk stores.

The abrupt closure of 10 percent of Walmart’s Sam’s Club stores from Alaska to Florida (and three in Puerto Rico) also appears to have violated federal labor law. The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification or WARN Act of 1988 requires all employers with more than 100 workers to provide 60-days’ advance notification of any closure or layoffs.

Finance capital to blame for store closures

Walmart isn’t the only major retailer shuttering stores and leaving workers and customers out in the cold. More than 66,500 retail workers lost their jobs in 2017. (denverpost.com, Jan. 13) CNN reported on Oct. 25: “2017 just passed

the all-time record for store closings.” Over 6,700 stores were closed last year, beating the record of 6,163 during 2008, a year of the banker-caused economic meltdown.

Last year’s tsunami of retail closures is expected to continue in 2018, with more than 3,600 stores already slated to close. These include Walgreens, Ascena Retail Group (Ann Taylor, Loft, Dress Barn), Sears, Kmart, Toys “R” Us, JC Penney, Vitamin World, Macy’s, Target and other retail chains. (businessinsider.com, Dec. 31) Tens of thousands more workers will lose employment.

The massive store closings and worker layoffs have been described as the beginning of the “retail apocalypse.” Many point to Amazon and say consumers would rather shop online than go to a store. But that’s only part of the picture — and one that tries to take the onus off the capitalists and blame working and oppressed people.

At the root of this crisis, as with the

housing mortgage disaster and municipal austerity that have ravaged cities and communities across the U.S., is finance capital, which is also responsible for the mountainous student and consumer debt facing so many low-wage workers.

“The reason isn’t as simple as Amazon.com Inc. taking market share or twenty-somethings spending more on experiences than things,” said Bloomberg News. “The root cause is that many of these long-standing chains are overloaded with debt — often from leveraged buyouts led by private equity firms. There are billions in borrowings on the balance sheets of troubled retailers, and sustaining that load is only going to become harder — even for healthy chains.” (Nov. 8)

The crisis is magnified by consumers’ outstanding credit card debt, which hit a new high last November, increasing by \$11.2 billion to \$1.02 trillion. (cnbc.com, Jan. 9) □

Feds step up terror against immigrant workers

By Martha Grevatt

The federal government is continuing its campaign of terror against migrants. On Jan. 8, the Department of Homeland Security announced plans to end temporary protected status for 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador. Salvadorans were granted the right to stay in the U.S. in the wake of two devastating earthquakes in 2001. TPS is granted to immigrants from countries suffering from natural disasters or civil wars.

The Salvadorans join 59,000 Haitians who lost TPS in December. Both Haiti and El Salvador are among the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere; four out of 10 Salvadorans officially live in poverty, according to the World Bank. This has led to a dangerously high crime rate, with San Salvador, the country’s capital city, having the highest murder rate in Central America.

El Salvador’s decline into extreme violence and poverty began in the 1980s, when the U.S. armed, trained and supported a right-wing government that carried out unspeakable atrocities against the people. This included the infamous massacre of 700 men, women and children in the village of El Mozote in 1981. Mass emigration followed that war.

Homeland Security is giving these immigrants 18 months to leave or face deportation. The news has devastated Salvadoran families, who don’t want to introduce their children — many U.S.-born — to a life of violence and economic deprivation. Most of those affected by the order have been in the U.S. for over a decade; many have steady jobs, pay taxes and own homes.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador has blasted the order, denouncing Trump’s “dangerous agenda of closing off our country and

getting rid of anyone who doesn’t meet their racist definition of a white citizen.” (cispes.org)

Hondurans could also lose TPS, despite the current climate of government repression that has recently taken over 30 lives, left hundreds injured and led to hundreds of arrests.

The anti-immigrant campaign continued on Jan. 10 when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement conducted 98 surprise raids of 7-Eleven stores in 17 states. ICE Director Thomas D. Homan claimed the raids were directed against “U.S. businesses that hire and employ an illegal workforce” (New York Times, Jan. 10), but none of the bosses who exploit the undocumented were arrested. All 21 of the arrests were of workers who now face deportation.

These raids, more of which could be forthcoming, represent a coordinated move to terrorize all the workers in

these and similar stores. When was the last time that government agents went into workplaces en masse and arrested workers? Clearly, this is meant not only against the individuals being deported, but against the whole low-wage workers’ movement, which has largely been led by immigrants.

The U.S. government has no right to deport immigrant workers to conditions of dire poverty, violence and political repression. It is the political and economic domination of these countries by foreign imperialist powers that has left Salvadorans, Haitians and Hondurans with no choice but to make the dangerous journey north. Every worker must stand with immigrant workers and declare: “No human being is illegal! No borders in the workers’ struggle!” □

Release immigrant rights leaders!

Angered by the Trump administration’s offensive against immigrants, hundreds of people gathered in Washington Square Park in New York City on Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to protest the arrest of Ravi Ragbir, an immigrant-rights leader from Trinidad, and Jean Montrevil from Haiti. Both were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents earlier in January.

The New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City organized the demonstration. It works out of the nearby Judson Memorial Church, where the group held a press conference. Speakers demanded that

Immigration and Customs Enforcement release Ragbir and Montrevil.

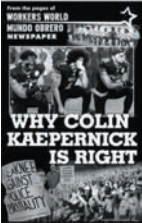
Ragbir’s spouse, Amy Gottlieb, told the news conference that Ragbir had been moved to Miami: “Ravi called me this morning and he said, ‘Get me out of here.’ And that’s what we are going to do, folks. We are going to get Ravi out of detention, and Jean out of detention, and thousands of people who are locked up by ICE every day out of detention.

“We are going to break down the walls. We are going to live in a world where people can live with dignity and justice prevails.” (AM NY, Jan. 15)

— Workers World NYC bureau



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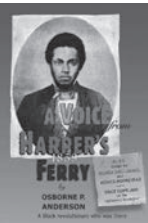
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Protests erupt as Israel persecutes Palestinian family

By Scott Scheffer
Los Angeles

Demanding the release from prison of a 16-year-old Palestinian woman, Ahed Tamimi, hundreds of people demonstrated outside the Israeli Consulate here on Jan. 6. Israel holds some 10,000 Palestinian political prisoners. Tamimi’s arrest has quickly become a potent symbol of the struggle to free them all.

The teenager is facing 12 charges and possibly years in jail after defending her family. The U.S. corporate media report that she was arrested after slapping a Zionist soldier, but they frequently leave out that it was after the soldier had slapped her. This occurred only hours after she witnessed soldiers shooting her cousin in the face with a rubber bullet and severely injuring him.

Her arrest came days later, during a nighttime raid on her home. When her mother, Nariman al Tamimi, visited her in jail, she was also arrested and remains in jail as well. Another member of the Tamimi family was killed by Israeli soldiers only days after Ahed’s arrest — the second Palestinian teenager to be killed by the Israeli state this month.

Ahed’s father, Bassem Tamimi, spoke to the Los Angeles demonstrators by phone, thanking them for their solidarity action. He drew a parallel between Zionist repression and South African apartheid.

The demonstration was called by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; LA4Palestine; Jews for Palestinian Right of Return; the International

Action Center; and many other organizations, including students active in boycott, divestment and sanctions work on campuses.

Representing the International Action Center, Palestinian artist and actor Ahlam Khamis read the following statement for Ahed, which she described as “a short prayer piece, from my atheist and loving heart to yours.”

“I give gratitude for Ahed Tamimi’s safety and well-being as she continues to give of herself for a better future — not only for Palestinians but for all of us who care about our world. I give gratitude for her self-love and divine radical spirit that keeps her whole and human in the face of a scary and violent criminal system. This spirit that can endure things children should not have to endure. This spirit, the spirit of a lioness, endures just to keep her family hopeful. Just to keep her village healthy and optimistic about what is to come. Just to keep the world charged.

“She will return home, unbroken. And she will hug her parents and she will hug her 15-year-old cousin, Muhammed Tamimi, who survived a close-range, rubber-coated, metal bullet, shot in the head the same day she was taken away by Israeli soldiers. They entered her family home and she cringed the sort of cringe when you are living in area C West Bank and are a child of the occupation. Muhammed Tamimi, who is missing parts of his skull now, a sweet tenth-grader, left side of his face and head shattered, will endure as well. He did last year — when he was just 14 he was taken in the middle

of the night in his bedclothes, being a child suspected of throwing stones at military cars. He was interrogated without a lawyer and without his rights read to him. He ended up in an Israeli jail for three months and his parents were not allowed to see him, not once, not even to ask their child if he was feeling alright. Now he will endure this head and face trauma. He will heal. He will become more strong, more bold, as an offering to himself and to us.

“This is the endurance that reaches beyond the instincts of survival. This resiliency is evolution. This is radical compassion. This is Love, this is real love, for any of us who stopped believing. We are here to honor this generous offering of love, everyone please take some because it is for you and there is more and more and more.

“The people of the world, working people, fighting people, indigenous people, occupied people, unionized people, brown people, raped people, martyred people, working women, writing women, imprisoned people, colonized people, bullied peasants, native people, enslaved people, lynched people, refugees, exiled people, deported people, we the people, we the comrades, struggle to make it despite all odds. This struggle brings the greatest blessing to our Mother Earth.

“This struggle, the honorable struggle,



WW PHOTO: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA

Ahlam Khamis reads moving tribute to Tamimi family.

brings the greatest gift to our world and everyone living here, even to the monsters, the perpetrators, the colonizers themselves. It brings the magical frequency of POSSIBILITY. We have hope for tomorrow and for a million years from now because of powerful women like Ahed, proving that we can survive the most brutal of storms. Proving that, YES, we can. Sí, se puede! Sí, se puede!” □

Free Ahed Tamimi!

By Christian Cobb
New York

An emergency response rally of over 150 people demanded freedom for the 16-year-old Palestinian woman Ahed Tamimi in New York City’s Grand Central Terminal on Jan. 5. Organized by Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and CODEPINK: Women for Peace, it was attended and supported by many organizations that fight for the freedom of Palestine, including Workers World Party.

Following a raid on her home in Palestine, Tamimi was arrested on the morning of Dec. 19 by Israeli occupation soldiers. She is a Palestinian free-

dom fighter from a family with a history of defying the Israeli occupation.

At the rally, signs read “Free Ahed Tamimi and All Political Prisoners” and “Stop Kidnapping Palestinian Children.” A banner read “Free Ahed. Free Palestine.” The rally continued strong for hours as speakers addressed the issues regarding oppression of Palestinians.

Tamimi’s case is sadly a continuation of Israel’s treatment of Palestinian children. The apartheid state of Israel has arrested over 12,000 Palestinian children since the year 2000.

The rally marked an impressive unity of the various Palestinian liberation forces in New York. Free Ahed Tamimi! Free Palestine! □



WW PHOTO: RAFAEL JUSTOS
Demonstration in Grand Central Terminal.

"With the capitalist system demonstrably unfair, it is useful, indeed refreshing, to see a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on working people. Fred Goldstein does exactly that."
—Howard Zinn, author of A People's History of the United States

Low-Wage Capitalism

Fred Goldstein

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FRED GOLDSTEIN
author of Low-Wage Capitalism

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For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com
Available at all major online booksellers.

WW PHOTO: LEILANI DOWELL

Eyewitness Durham



Durham anti-racist activists outside county courthouse on Jan. 11.

Felony charges dropped against freedom fighters!

The following is an eyewitness account of the Jan. 11 court hearing for eight activists who tore down a Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., on Aug. 14, responding in part to the murder of anti-racist Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Va., two days earlier. The eight had been charged with multiple felony and misdemeanor charges and forced to attend court hearings each month since September.

After an overwhelming display of support for these activists — including numerous calls to local officials in the days before the hearings, actions in several cities across the country, and the recording and online posting of videos by fellow anti-racists expressing their solidarity — the felony charges were dropped on Jan. 11, and the trial was set for Feb. 19.

The Defend Durham alliance held a tremendously successful People's Tribunal on Jan. 13. On trial were those who enforce racist injustice and those who allow the voices of its survivors to be heard. (For more information, see tinyurl.com/y9ny21wf/)

Mikisa Thompson is a Workers World Party candidate and the mother of Takiyah Thompson, a WWP member, North Carolina Central University student and one of the defendants.

By Mikisa Thompson
Durham, N.C.

Jan. 11 — There was a good show of support at the Durham County Courthouse today. About 40 to 50 people were here inside the courtroom to #DefendDurham, including the eight defendants. I thank you all for your continued support and for helping to defend against white supremacy.

The mood in the court is set up to be depressive and pensive because of the oppressive way that the courtroom is designed to make you feel: as if you are lower than the lowest of lows in life. You already know the makeup of the courtroom: 90 to 96 percent of the courtroom attendees are Black and Brown people.

The other 4 to 10 percent are white people, and most of those folks work for the court in some capacity.

The proceedings are an assault on one's intelligence. The formalities, such as the court roll call of the names of the defendants, are done in such a way that it seems like a cattle call or a modern-day slave auction.

The lovely thing about today was that when each of our comrades was called during the roll call, many people in the courtroom yelled out, "Witness!" The court didn't seem to revel in my joy over this.

As each of our defendants was called up, an assistant district attorney requested a new court date, which was set for Feb. 19. The attorney for the de-

fendants, Scott Holmes, told Judge Fred S. Battaglia that there was "no objection" from the freedom fighters for a trial on that date.

When we got up to leave in unison, it was a great show of support and definitely made an impression on the court. My heart is so full.

The felony charges were dropped. The misdemeanor charges are now as follows: Defacing a public building or monument, Class 3; conspiracy to deface a public building or monument, Class 2; injury to real property, Class 1. Each of these charges carries no potential jail time, depending on prior convictions.

The state has its witnesses, and so do



Support for the defendants has been overwhelming.

we. We are the people, and the people said loudly, bravely and ferociously that we stand up to white supremacy at any cost, because the payoff is a world with one less symbolic statue to racism. The government, in fact, owes the eight defendants about \$536,000 for their swift removal of the statue.

We look forward to the trial. If you would like to see what actions of solidarity you can perform in the meantime, please visit doitlikedurham.org. □

'Defend Durham!' on a giant screen

During the height of rush-hour traffic at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, huge images were projected on the San Francisco Federal Building. These images showed the toppling of the Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., as well as spelled out the demands of San Francisco's Anti Police-Terror Project.

This imaginative action was part of a week of local activities to #DefendDurham and in conjunction with the APTP's #96Hours of #NonCompliance to #ReclaimMLK's Radical Legacy.

Workers World Party-Bay Area organized the slide projection and video, using the federal building as a giant screen.

This was on Day One of APTP's 96 hours, themed for events in noncompliance with "State Sponsored Violence."

With the support of Resistance SF, which did the projection, WWP-Bay Area held a noise demo, blasting political music over a sound system during the projection. A small but enthusiastic crowd of supporters held signs, chanted a bit and talked to curious passersby. The action got plenty of views from cars, pedestrians and bikers, with the stop-and-go traffic allowing time for even the drivers to enjoy the show. It was a fun, happening event.

— Report and photo by Terri Kay



Struggle wins removal of racist statue

By Dolores Cox
New York

New York City media reported Jan. 11 on the results of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s monthslong Commission on City Art, Monuments and Markers. The 18-member commission was created to review “all symbols of hate” throughout the city. The commission’s task was to recommend which of the city’s controversial statues, monuments and markers of historical figures should remain or be removed.

The commission came into being following last August’s white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., where a counterprotester was murdered. Nationwide debates ensued about racist Confederate monuments and symbols. Pressure mounted on local governments to remove them, with some monuments marked with anti-racist graffiti.

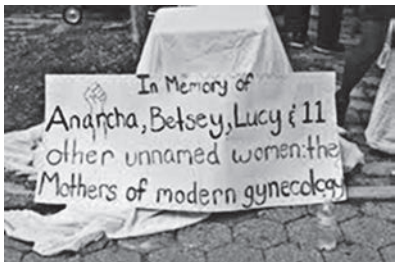
More than 800 “symbols of hate” in New York City were considered by the commission. It held three formal in-person meetings and one public hearing in each of the five boroughs, including multiple phone conferences. There were 3,000 responses to online surveys.

The completed report was written by commission members and city staff. Their recommendation was that “all the statues will remain where they are, except that of the Dr. Marion J. Sims, known as the [19th century] ‘father of gynecology’ for his brutal experimentation and racist practice of performing unethical surgical techniques on enslaved Black women, without anesthesia, antiseptic or their consent.” (tinyurl.com/yb6rfu86)

Sims’ monument, located prominently at 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue in front of Central Park in East Harlem, will be removed and relocated to Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn where he is buried. The commission’s report stated: “In its current location, the Sims monument has come to represent a legacy of oppression and abusive practices on bodies that were seen as subjugated, subordinate and exploitable in service to his fame.”



A protest in front of the Sims monument last August dramatized his crimes against women.



Sims performed hundreds of surgeries on enslaved women without anesthesia, antiseptics or their consent. Three are honored here.

Among other white supremacy symbols not marked for removal by the commission were a statue of colonizer Christopher Columbus at Columbus Circle and a plaque in the Financial District honoring French Marshal Philippe Petain, head of France’s Vichy government, which sent thousands of Jews to their deaths. The mayor accepted the recommendation for the removal of just the one statue. The commission is now disbanded.

The commission directed the city to add plaques to the relocated Sims statue and at the location of the existing pedestal at Central Park explaining the history of the statue. The city will partner with a community organization to provide in-depth public dialogues about nonconsensual medical experiments, particularly on women of color. The city will also commission new work, with public input, that reflects issues raised by Sims’ legacy.

A statement by East Harlem Preservation, which campaigned diligently to remove the monument honoring Sims, noted: “Throughout our campaign, East Harlem Preservation maintained that the statue’s presence did a huge disservice to the neighborhood’s majority Black and Latino residents — groups that have historically been subjected to medical experimentation without permission or regard for their well-being. There are many African American and Puerto Rican women and men who’ve made great medical and scientific contributions that have benefited our community.” (eastharlempreservation.org)

In response to the commission’s recommended removal of the statue, East Harlem Preservation commented that they were “disheartened to learn that the Sims statue is the only monument to white supremacy that will be removed in New York City.”

But they thanked the commission for “respecting the wishes of 20,000 petitioners, neighborhood residents, and members of the Coalition to Remove the Dr. Sims Statue. Although the statue’s removal may be a symbolic gesture, it presents an opportunity to continue the dialogue on racism and violence against women of color that we helped initiate. We invite you to join us at an upcoming dialogue on creating a new artistic vision for the site.” □

Fla. prisoners strike against slave labor

Continued from page 1

On Jan. 15 demonstrations in support of the Florida prisoners’ strike took place across the state and country. The strike actions have been endorsed by over 100 organizations.

This writer attended the demonstration at Lake Butler RMC Florida (Receiving and Medical Center) Work Camp, where over 50 people marched up and down the road in front of the prison, voicing support for the striking prisoners.

Prisoners were visible, and could see and hear as people chanted “You are not forgotten, you are not alone, we will fight to bring you home,” “End prison slavery,” and “Brick by brick, wall by wall, we will see the DOC fall.”

Members of prisoners’ families and of support groups spoke in solidarity with the strike. One mother told how her son was falsely convicted at age 14 and sentenced to 58 years in prison; he was sent to an adult prison at age 16. She has had to fight to get medical care for him, with existing care practically nonexistent and prisoners taken ill with life-threatening conditions.

As this article goes to press, a demonstration is taking place in Tallahassee at the Florida Depart-

ment of Corrections headquarters. DOC has locked its doors and will not provide any statements to the demonstrators regarding the demands of the prisoners or their current conditions.

Karen Smith of the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, who helped coordinate the Tallahassee action at the prison and support on the outside, told WW that there is difficulty now receiving information from the prisoners inside. Smith said: “A lot of the leaders were put in solitary confinement last week. All communication regarding the strike from prisoners ended Sunday night [Jan. 14]. I received a text yesterday stating the prisoners are on strict lockdown and more people are being put into solitary.”

This brave struggle being waged by the most oppressed should serve as a beacon to all people who are fighting the racist, capitalist U.S. system, which was built on the backs of enslaved African people and on land stolen from Indigenous people.

The strike inside will only be as successful as the movement we build on the outside to support the prisoners and spread their message to end prison slavery. To become active and find ways to participate, contact FightToxicPrisons.org. □

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis



NYC law to help fast food workers

More than 1,200 fast food workers in New York City have agreed to kick in an hour’s pay — \$13.50 — every month to Fast Food Justice to push for better conditions in the industry. Last May, the NYC Council passed the corresponding law, which took effect at the end of November.

The law requires fast food employers to let workers deduct a portion of their paycheck and send it to a designated nonprofit as a membership fee. This unorthodox arrangement was promoted by Fight for \$15 and the Service Employees union as a way to organize a NYC industry with 65,000 low-wage workers that has proved a hard nut to crack.

“We’re going to continue to build power to win improvements for workers on the job,” said Tsedeye Gebreselassie, Fast Food Justice board chair and attorney at the National Employment Law Project, at a Jan. 5 press conference. The organization, created five months ago and registered by the city, will also provide free immigration services and legal help.

Under the law, at least 500 workers had to sign up before a group could receive contributions. “The fact that [FFJ] signed up 1,200 is impressive. It’s proof of the concept,” said Janice Fine, labor studies professor at Rutgers University, adding that people in other cities “are really interested.” (New York Times, Nov. 9)

The Restaurant Law Center, the legal arm of the National Restaurant Association, sued in federal court to overturn the law. One NLC argument, the Times reports, “is that requiring restaurant owners to forward money to workers’ groups is unconstitutional forced speech under the First Amendment.” But, FFJ asserts, “the money being forwarded belongs to the workers and not the restaurants.”

Shantel Walker, a Papa John’s employee, said workers have already benefited from the fight for livable wages, since she started at \$7.50 an hour. “We are now making \$13.50, on our way to \$15 next year. The fast food workers sparked a global movement.” (New York Daily News, Jan. 10)

As of Jan. 1, workers in 18 states — Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont and Washington — started the year with a minimum wage increase. As Fight For \$15 says, “It’s still not enough.”

SIUE faculty union guilty chancellor to get the goods

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville recognized the SIUE Faculty Association, which represents 400 tenured and tenure-track faculty, as a bargaining unit in December 2016. (SIUEFA is affiliated with the National Education Association.) But during 2017 contract negotiations, the administration wanted to institute a cynical divide-and-conquer measure: exclude department chairs, who are 10 percent of the faculty, from the membership in exchange for 2 percent raises over the two-year contract, which had already been given to other SIUE union members.

Surrounding Chancellor Randy Pembroke at his mid-December holiday reception, about 50 union members handed him a framed copy of his July email — in which he wrote “how important people are to SIUE and how their sacrifices over four years of budget woes should be rewarded” — while chanting “Two plus two” for about 10 minutes. Within days the university signed a preliminary contract with the 2 percent raises. (Labor Tribune, Jan. 8) Bravo to courageous faculty for shaming the chancellor into making good on his words!

Rally supports Spectrum workers

Jan. 15 — The first event in a weeklong “Days of Rage” campaign in New York City was a rally today for working-class resistance called by the People’s Power Assemblies, Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council and NYC Workers Defense Committee.

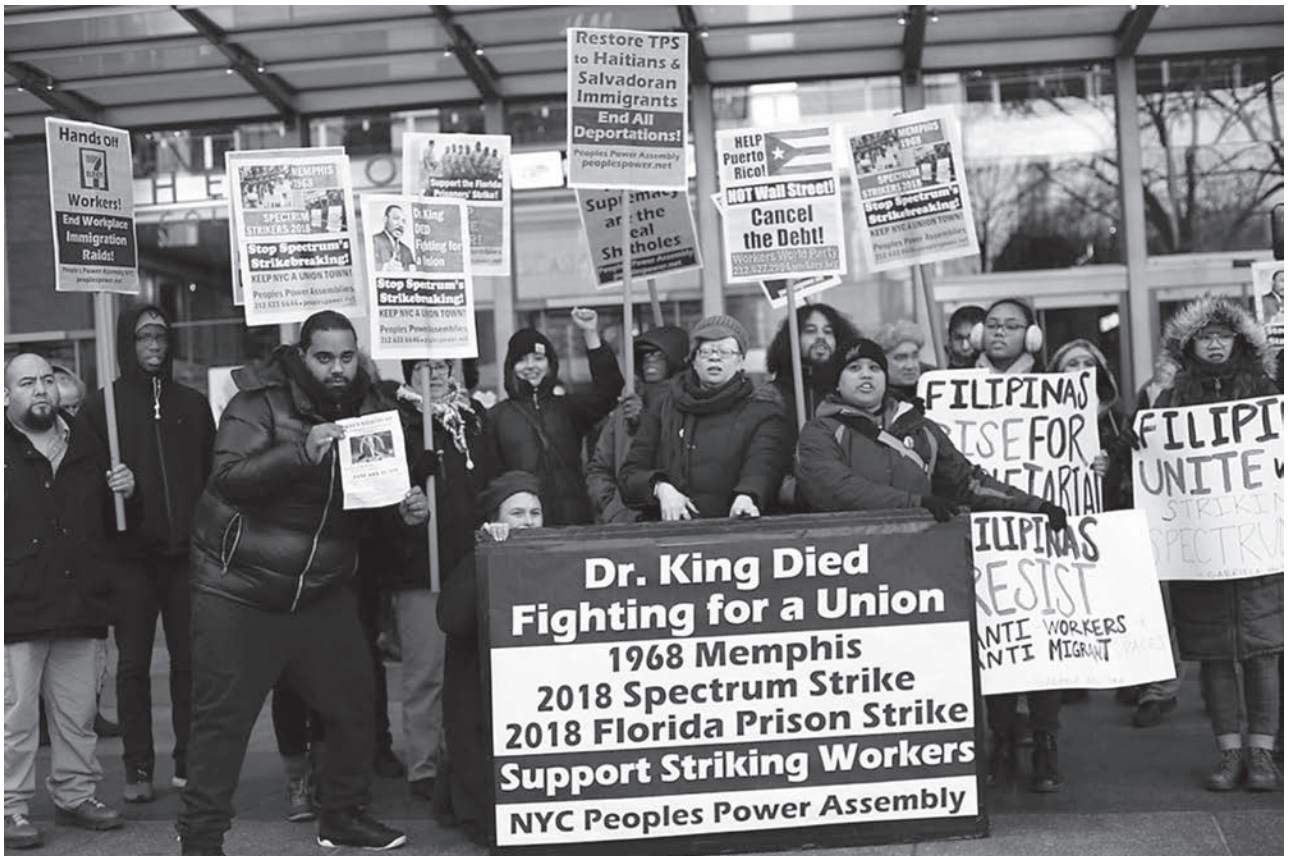
Held to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy in the labor movement, the picket line supported Spectrum electrical workers — members of Local 3 of the International Electrical Workers, who have been on strike since March 28 of last year — as well as Florida prisoners whose Operation PUSH strike began today.

The demonstrators chanted against union busting outside Spectrum’s headquarters near Central Park. They then marched to join a Rally Against Racism called by the health care workers’ union, Service Employees 1199, in solidarity with workers from Haiti, El Salvador and the continent of Africa.

Spectrum, formerly Time Warner Cable, was renamed after being purchased by Charter Communications. The \$149 billion cable monopoly has demanded the elimination of union pension and medical benefits. It has refused to negotiate in good faith, instead bringing in hundreds of strikebreakers.

Both rallies paid tribute to Dr. King, who was assassinated while supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis 50 years ago in 1968.

— Workers World New York bureau



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Justice For Jovan!’ resounds in Rockford, Ill.

By Rockford, Ill., Workers World bureau

In a gross miscarriage of justice in a courthouse in Rockford, Ill., Winnebago County Judge John Lowry abruptly dismissed murder charges against security guards Ryan Mattingly and Alijon Khalil in the death of Valentia Jovan Fresco. In his Dec. 8 decision, Lowry agreed with their attorney’s claim that the grand jury had been misled by the prosecution in this case.

This maneuver by the defense was short-lived. On Dec. 13, prosecutors issued repeat indictments for murder and other charges against Mattingly and Khalid. They are to appear in court on Jan. 19. However, the case will be overseen by the same judge who dismissed the charges.

Jovan, a machine operator for Mid States Production, was gunned down by Metro Enforcement security guards Mattingly and Khalil on April 16, 2016, while celebrating his 34th birthday. His death immediately sparked protests against the security company and the Rockford court system. (See WW coverage May 19, 2016, and June 2, 2016.)



WW PHOTO: ROCKFORD WW BUREAU

Security guards gunned down their friend on his birthday.

When this killing took place, the local capitalist media quickly released stories attempting to defame Jovan, calling him aggressive. This was despite the fact that Jovan was attempting to get away from being harassed by Mattingly and Khalil before they beat, tased and fatally shot him in the street.

After three months of demonstrations outside Rockford courthouses and Metro Enforcement facilities by Jovan’s family and their community supporters, charges

were finally brought against Mattingly and Khalil in July 2016. A grand jury charged both of them with first-degree murder, aggravated battery, mob action and unlawful restraint.

The Jovan family’s struggle for justice has resonated throughout the community, as he has not been the first nor the last person of color in Rockford to be gunned down by police officers or private security guards in recent years.

Community members have repeatedly packed courtrooms in solidarity with his family for 18 months. The capitalist state, always afraid of the power of the people, has changed courtrooms and blocked supporters from entering them, while adding extra security, in attempts to mute the displays of unity with the family.

The dismissal of charges and the media coverage of it, followed by the media whitewash of the continuing case, are aimed at dissolving support for the family and enabling the court to carry out the proceedings

behind the backs of the community. However, community supporters will continue to pack the courtrooms to stand with Jovan’s family and demand justice for their loved one.

These developments highlight the need for solidarity between different sectors of the multinational working class. Solidarity is how this struggle initially won indictments — and it is key to strengthening the movement against white supremacy. □

On the picket line continued

Bosses challenge union victory at Mo. Dollar General

In a historic 66 percent victory on Dec. 8, workers at the Dollar General in Auxvasse, Mo., voted to unionize with Food and Commercial Workers Local 655. Dollar General operates 14,321 stores in 44 states, but this is the first to organize. (Fulton Sun, Dec. 12) It’s a major win, since convenience store and other retail workers are horribly exploited, with low wages, erratic scheduling and harassment, which doubles for women.

On Dec. 14, Dollar General filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board contesting the election to try to overturn the vote. Local 655 President David Cook told the St. Louis Labor Tribune how disappointing it was that “Dollar General, which makes billions of dollars every year ... would rather slander one of their own employees with false accusations ... than recognize [the workers’] legal rights.” (Jan. 1)

Meanwhile, the union filed a complaint on the employee’s behalf. A Local 655 spokesperson told the Labor Tribune that Dollar General “is showing its workers that if they vote for union bargaining, Dollar General will retaliate.” As of February 2016, the company had 113,400 employees. □

Heat the schools – fire the cops!

By Addison Gaddis
Baltimore

Around 100 people took to the chilly streets of Baltimore on Jan. 13 for a spirited march under the slogan “Heat the schools. Fire the cops.”

Called by the People’s Power Assembly, the march also featured contingents from Service Employees 1199, Fight for 15, Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Baltimore Green Party and students from Johns Hopkins University. The last group included, but was not limited to, Students for a Democratic Society, Students for Justice in Palestine, the Black Student Union, and Diverse Sexualities and Genders Alliance.

Workers World comrade Lee Patterson emceed a stirring rally at McKeldin Square, decrying the Democrats and Republicans alike and urging the crowd to fight for revolutionary socialism in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Representatives from different contingents took the mic to decry the neoliberal austerity measures put in place by liberal city officials. These regulations have led to crises such as the lack of heat in the schools, widespread opiate addiction and police terror.

Spurred by brilliant agitation from Workers World comrade Rasheed Green, the spirited, lively, militant marchers took the streets as the police swarmed and flocked around them. Defiant chants exposed the Baltimore Police Department, including “How do you spell corruption? BPD!” and “Whose streets? Our streets!”

Despite police aggression, intimidation and siren noise interference, the march held strong and stayed in the streets. The demonstrators continued, marching on the police headquarters and rallying outside, under the surveillance of dozens of Baltimore police officers. Speakers drew the parallel between the police occupation of Baltimore and police occupation of Palestine. □

On anniversary of Haiti earthquake

Anger at U.S. treatment of survivors

By G. Dunkel
New York

Throughout the world, Haitian communities on Jan. 12 commemorated with grief and anger the eighth anniversary of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake that devastated their homeland.

There was grief because tens of thousands of people had lost their lives. A million and a half had their homes destroyed. More tens of thousands were injured. Many still can be seen hobbling through the streets of

Port-au-Prince.

There was anger because the United States ruling class once again had used a catastrophe to invade Haiti at a time when United Nations forces occupying Haiti were in disarray. The Pentagon seized control of its air and sea ports, managing relief supplies that flowed into Haiti contributed due to worldwide solidarity over this catastrophe.

In anger also because non-governmental organizations and foundations diverted billions of dollars of aid that had been des-

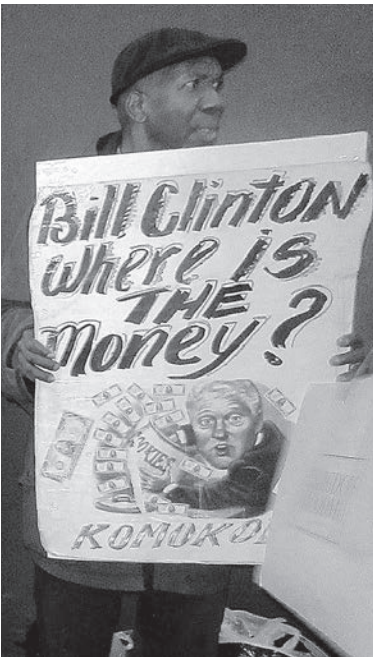
ignated for the Haitian people.

In New York, Dahoud Andre, of the Committee to Mobilize Against Dictatorship in Haiti (Komokoda), led a protest on the anniversary in front of the Clinton Foundation offices on Sixth Avenue. He charged that “the Clinton Foundation, which has an office in this building, stole \$6 billion that was meant for the Haitian people.” Bill Clinton was appointed by the U.N. as one of the two top managers of all these funds.

“The press over here has not said anything to condemn the

Clinton Foundation, and we hope that today, the press will take this opportunity to ask the Clintons what happened to these billions of dollars,” he added.

The day before the anniversary, Donald Trump used a filthy, racist term in a White House meeting to describe Haiti and African countries, according to members of Congress who were present. Clearly, the calloused and exploitive relation the U.S. ruling establishment has with Haiti is bipartisan. □



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Protest at Clinton Foundation office in New York.

Haitians to march on Trump

By G. Dunkel
New York

A number of Haitian groups and progressives came together here on Jan. 13 in the office of the newspaper *Haïti-Liberté* to organize rapid responses to Trump’s rabidly crude, racist declarations and the vicious, cruel decisions that are entwined with his words.

It was a long and fruitful discussion that started with two minutes of silence for the 350,000 Haitians who died in the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake.

The militants involved, many with deep experience in organizing, felt they needed an ongoing vehicle to push Trump back, one with some common political

principles and a structure. While their base is the Haitian community in New York and New Jersey, they noted that Trump is creating the same problems for all immigrant groups, in particular Salvadorans and Africans.

This desire to reach out was clearly expressed by the fact that the meeting was conducted in English, with translations from Creole as needed.

The groups picked the name of this new, ongoing organization very carefully. It is the “1804 Movement for All Immigrants.” The year 1804 marked the final victory of the Haitian Revolution against French colonial rule and the definitive end of slavery in Haiti. “All Immigrants” means especially to include Salvadoran

and African immigrants and all immigrants of color targeted by Trump’s racist invective and decisions.

Knowing full well that for Trump to apologize is as likely as his developing compassion, the meeting still felt that he should make an apology and made that demand one of the group’s principles of unity.

Another principle addresses the U.S. government’s refusal to extend temporary protective status to 60,000 Haitians and 200,000 Salvadorans, who are being forced to leave the U.S. The solution is simple — change “temporary” to “permanent.”

To avoid this movement becoming dominated by bourgeois politicians,

many said it needed to be anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist.

The 1804 Movement for All Immigrants wants to have a rapid impact. It picked Friday, Jan. 19, for the date of its first action and the Trump building at 40 Wall Street as its first target.

Here are the details: 8 a.m., assemble at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn; 9 a.m., start marching down Flatbush Avenue; 12:30 p.m., rally at Trump Building, 40 Wall Street.

For more information, call 718-421-0162 or email 1804immigrantmovement@gmail.com.

Facebook: [tinyurl.com/yd82395v/](https://www.facebook.com/yd82395v/).

Twitter: #TrumpIsARacist, #1804Movement and #J19forHaiti.

How Haiti helped build Philadelphia

By Stephen Millies

The wealth produced by enslaved Africans in Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique made French capitalists rich. Even before the 1789 bourgeois revolution, France had 3,000 miles of canals and the beginnings of industry.

Haiti also helped build Philadelphia.

The richest man in the United States from before 1810 to his death in 1831 was the Philadelphia shipowner and banker Stephen Girard. He made his wealth off the slave trade and by ripping off Asian countries while exploiting sailors mercilessly.

Girard was the biggest shareholder in the Bank of the United States. After that bank’s charter expired, the miser launched the Girard Bank on May 12, 1812, with a capital of \$1.2 million. The year before, the entire U.S. federal budget had been just \$8 million. (Allen Schick, “The Federal Budget: Politics, Policy, Process”)

Key to Girard’s rapid accumulation of loot was sending out two ships that were supposed to rescue slavemasters in Haiti. These tyrants had been defeated by the only successful slave revolution in history.

Instead of saving their worthless lives by getting on Girard’s ships, these slavers were so greedy that they sent their gold plate and other valuables instead. Black Panther Party leader Dr. Huey P. Newton would have called them “avaricious.”

Their delay in getting out of Haiti allowed the liberator Jean-Jacques Dessalines and the Haitian people to administer justice to these monsters. They never got to enjoy their luxuries or torture Africans again.

Girard used the estimated \$50,000 worth of valuables — equivalent to many millions today — to build ships that made big profits off Chinese tea and silks. He became one of the biggest Philadelphia landlords and subscribed \$200,000 toward one of the first Pennsylvania railroads, the Danville and Pottsville.

Karl Marx would have described Stephen Girard’s continual reinvestment of profits as “the process of capitalist accumulation.”

Historian Joel A. Rogers claims that Girard actually stole much more money from Haiti. Rogers describes how Girard took \$6 million from Haitian leader Toussaint Louverture, which Girard refused to return after Napoleon treacherously imprisoned Louverture.

Girard also invested the wealth stolen from enslaved Africans in Pennsylvania canals and coal mining lands. By 1942, almost 120 million tons of anthracite coal had been mined from Girard’s thousands of acres. (James J. Raciti, “Girard: America’s Colonial Olympian”)

Irish miners dug this coal, and 21 Irish miners — the “Molly Maguires” — were

framed and executed for organizing a union. (Now Pennsylvania’s capitalist masters have jailed the MOVE 9 political prisoners for 38 years and are denying the innocent Mumia Abu-Jamal necessary medical care after trying to execute him.)

By 1983, when it was gobbled up by the Mellon Bank — named after the billionaire family that controlled Alcoa, Gulf Oil and the city of Pittsburgh — the Girard Bank had 145 branches. (NY Times, Aug. 3, 1982) By 2016, its successor octopus, Bank of New York Mellon, had assets under management of \$1.72 trillion.

Whites-only charity

Like other rich scoundrels, Girard was hailed as a great philanthropist after he died in 1831. The skinflint’s will endowed an orphanage — Girard College.

Located on a 43-acre site in Philadelphia, this institution is today a boarding school for students from first to twelfth grades. Girard’s will called for only “poor white male orphans” to be admitted. This whites-only policy lasted for more than a century even through Girard College was located in the Black community of West Philadelphia.

In 1966 Philadelphia NAACP leader Cecil B. Moore led a march of 1,800 people on Girard College’s 10-foot high walls to protest this apartheid. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee executive secretary John Wilson called for Black people to “build a power base with which to take that school.”

Also present was singer Billy Paul, whose later hit “Me and Mrs. Jones” topped the charts in 1972. Paul called for

African Americans to “fight together.” (NY Times, Oct. 9, 1966)

Because of this struggle the U.S. Supreme Court was forced to break Stephen Girard’s racist will. Girard College had to begin admitting Black students in 1968.

Reparations now!

The racist filth spewed by Trump against Haitians, Salvadorans and Africans is also hypocritical. Trump was glad to launder money for Haitian dictator “Baby Doc” Duvalier. (rawstory.com, Jan. 12)

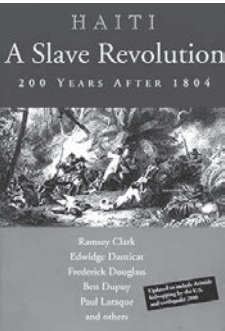
The riches produced by enslaved Africans working the sugar plantation death camps of Haiti and other Caribbean colonies jump-started the industrial revolution. The historian Eric Williams, who was the first prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, proved this in his 1944 book, “Capitalism and Slavery.”

Haiti’s stolen wealth lives on today as capital in the hands of bankers and billionaires from Wall Street to the Parisian Bourse to the City of London. Meanwhile, Haiti was actually forced to pay reparations to French slavemasters. The interest Haiti had to pay to banks from 1863 to 1947, on loans taken to pay these reparations, amounts to \$20 billion U.S. today.

Stephen Girard’s ships filled with gold weren’t the only example of U.S. bankers ripping off Haiti. U.S. Marines marched into the National Bank of Haiti in 1914 and stole \$500,000. This loot was turned over to the National City Bank, now Citibank with assets of \$1.8 trillion.

Following the Marines’ bank heist, they stayed on in a brutal occupation of

Continued on page 11



HAITI
A Slave Revolution

Updated to include the Aristide kidnapping by the U.S. and the earthquake in 2010.

Read online at:
iacenter.org/HAITI

African countries condemn Trump for racist slurs

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Each week another controversy unfolds in the United States over the character of the administration of President Donald Trump. At a White House meeting with members of Congress on Jan. 11, Trump reportedly described the nations of Africa, El Salvador and Haiti as “shithole countries.” He also said that more people from Norway should be immigrating to the U.S. and not from places with dark-skinned people.

The meeting was centered on working out a legislative response to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Its potential termination means that millions of undocumented residents are facing deportations to the countries where they were born.

Later Trump claimed that he did not use those particular words. However, he tweeted on Jan. 14 that he wanted only people entering the U.S. who would make America great again, and presumably these individuals would be of European origin. Trump has built up his political base by appealing to reactionary and racist elements within U.S. society.

African people’s role in building capitalism, imperialism

The African Union, a continental organization with representatives from 55 member states, issued a statement condemning Trump’s utterances. The AU called them an insult to Africans on the continent as well as those of African descent in the U.S. Officials in Haiti, a majority-African state in the Caribbean, harshly criticized Trump as well.

AU spokeswoman Ebba Kalondo said of Trump’s remarks: “Given the historical reality of how many Africans arrived in the United States as slaves, this statement flies in the face of all accepted behavior and practice. This is particularly surprising as the United States of America remains a global example of how migration gave birth to a nation built on strong values of diversity and opportunity. We believe that a statement like this hurts our

shared global values on diversity, human rights and reciprocal understanding.”

The Washington, D.C., offices of the AU said it was “shocked and dismayed” at the U.S. head-of-state’s remarks. Despite Trump’s denial, Illinois Democratic Senator Richard Durbin, who was present at the meeting, said publicly that these were the words used and that the president had repeatedly referred to Africans and Haitians, among others, in such derogatory terms.

The AU’s response noted that the “remarks dishonor the celebrated American creed and respect for diversity and human dignity. While expressing our shock, dismay and outrage, the African Union strongly believes that there is a huge misunderstanding of the African continent and its people by the current Administration. There is a serious need for dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the African countries.”

A media advisory issued by the Republic of Botswana in southern Africa asked for clarification as to whether its citizens fall into the category Trump described. Botswana, a diamond-rich nation with a history of postcolonial stability and a multiparty democratic political system, has cooperated with the U.S. for several decades. The country is a member of the regional Southern African Development Community, which includes 16 member states.

The Botswana press release, circulated on Jan. 12, said: “The Government of Botswana is wondering why President Trump must use this descriptor and derogatory word, when talking about countries with whom the U.S. has had cordial and mutually beneficial bilateral relations for so many years. Botswana has accepted U.S. citizens within her borders over the years and continues to host U.S. guests and senior government officials, including a Congressional delegation that will come to Botswana at the end of this month. That is why we view the utterances by the current American President as highly irresponsible, reprehensible and racist.”

The African National Congress, the ruling party of the Republic of South Af-

rica, which celebrated its 106th anniversary on Jan. 8, came to power, as did all African states, through a struggle against racism, colonialism and imperialist domination. The ANC condemned Trump’s racist remarks, calling them an insult to Africans throughout the world.

Jessie Duarte, the deputy secretary-general of the ANC, in response to Trump’s language stressed: “Ours is not a shithole country, neither is Haiti or any other country in distress. It’s not as if the United States doesn’t have problems. There is unemployment in the U.S. and there are people who don’t have health-care services. We would not deign to make comments as derogatory as that about any country that has any kind of socioeconomic or other difficulties.”

South African President Jacob Zuma has summoned the U.S. ambassador to provide clarification of Trump’s racist statements. The former apartheid system in South Africa was based on the same ideology of white supremacy which still permeates the U.S.

Racist underdevelopment, immigration policies

Trump’s characterization of states in Africa, the Caribbean and Central America in such negative terms misleadingly ignores the centuries-long exploitation and oppression of these territories. Historians have documented that the enslavement, colonization and modern-day dominance of the world system by imperialism, which Washington and Wall Street control, served to propel the West in economic development, resulting in turn in the underdevelopment of oppressed nations.

Guyanese historian Walter Rodney wrote in his pioneering work “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa” (1972): “Mistaken interpretations of the causes of underdevelopment usually stem either from prejudiced thinking or from the error of believing that one can learn the answers by looking inside the underdeveloped economy. The true explanation lies in seeking out the relationship between Africa and certain developed countries

and in recognizing that it is a relationship of exploitation.” (p. 22)

Haiti is a nation born in revolutionary struggle against slavery and colonialism. It was the first country in history to transform itself immediately from a slave state to a republic. Nonetheless, its declaration of independence in 1804 after a 12-year war against France was met by decades of sanctions from Paris and the lack of recognition by the U.S. until 1862 during the Civil War. Even today, Haitian workers are exploited through low-wage labor and subjected to national discrimination as immigrants in the U.S.

Haiti has been occupied on numerous occasions by the U.S. From 1915-34 it was a de facto colony of Washington subjected to segregation and lynching. Another two invasions were carried out by the U.S. in 1994 as well as 2004, coinciding with the bicentennial of Haiti’s independence.

The much-anticipated aid from the U.S. in the wake of the earthquake of 2010 never materialized. Even Democratic Party stalwart and former U.S. President Bill Clinton failed to account for hundreds of millions of dollars that the Clinton Foundation collected for relief and development assistance that never took place.

U.S. immigration policy has always been slanted in favor of people from Europe to ensure the dominance of the majority white population. Nevertheless, rapidly shifting demographic changes will create a majority people-of-color nation by the middle of the 21st century. These social variables are fueling the racist state’s efforts to curb immigration from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Latin America, along with the reversal of bourgeois democratic rights for the oppressed nations and national minorities inside the U.S.

These actions by Trump, although atrocious, provide opportunities for solidarity among the impacted peoples. The combined efforts of the peoples of the U.S. and the world can defeat racism and capitalist exploitation, paving the way for mutual cooperation and genuine equality in relations among nations throughout the planet. □

Seven years after ‘Arab Spring’ Tunisians take to the streets

By **G. Dunkel**

Every night and on some days since Jan. 3, thousands of Tunisians in all parts of the country have risen in resistance. They’ve attacked police stations, supermarkets, authorities — tax centers, municipalities, governorates — blocked trains and clashed with police and the military, who attacked the youths with tear gas and arrested nearly 800 people.

A new finance law pushed the people into the streets with one clear demand: We want a new budget! After a few days, protesters added a demand for jobs.

The International Monetary Fund only gives loans with draconian conditions. The most common are cutbacks of social programs and raising taxes to cut budget deficits — in other words, harsh austerity. The Tunisian government, bowing to the terms of the IMF loan, introduced a 2018 budget on New Year’s Day that raised taxes, prices on food and other essentials in ways that hit workers and the middle class particularly hard.

Workers and those just out of school

were already suffering from high inflation and high unemployment — officially 30 percent for youth with a college degree.

They rallied not only in Tunis, the capital, but in the seaside resort towns of Gabès and Nabeul and cities in the interior like Thala, Jelma, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid (where the protest began that led to the Arab Spring) and Gafsa, a mining town on the edge of the Sahara. While the main protests have been peaceful but militant, there have been confrontations.

The major Islamic party in Tunisia, Ennahda, is part of the governing coalition and has no presence in the protests. The major Tunisian labor federation — the Tunisian General Labor Union — has been very gingerly participating in the protests, avoiding any that challenge the police.

The Party of the Left, which consists of mainly young organizers, either Marxist or Arab Nationalist, has played an important role in creating the group Feh



Youth lead the resistance to IMF austerity.

Nestannew? (What Are We Waiting For?). This group has been coordinating protests throughout the country, according to Radio France International. (Jan. 9)

The Arab Spring, which began in Tunisia in 2010-11, got rid of Tunisian dictator Ben Ali and left a legacy of political and social freedoms. But it did little to improve the economic well-being of Tunisia’s workers and marginalized youth, who are now in motion throughout the country. □

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

— Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

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WORKERS WORLD editorials



Time's up on sexism and racism

Last year's Women's March on Washington and simultaneous local demonstrations brought out millions of women in the U.S. and throughout the world on Jan. 21 — to denounce the presidency of racist, xenophobic, misogynist Donald Trump. Since then, as women have organized across a spectrum of issues, the #MeToo movement in the U.S. has developed into a forceful voice against sexual misconduct.

That campaign, started in 2006 by Tarana Burke, an African-American activist, was taken up last year by women in the Hollywood movie industry demanding an end to workplace sexual abuse. It quickly expanded to include women who work in offices, factories, hotels, fast food eateries and agricultural fields, who are Black, Latinx, Native, Asian, Indigenous, immigrants, disabled and LGBTQ, as well as low-wage white workers.

TIME'S UP says its campaign "addresses the systemic inequality and injustice in the workplace" and has established a Legal Defense Fund to help workers fight sexual misconduct on the job.

Marking the first year of Trump's presidency on Jan. 20, women and people of all genders will be marching again to denounce his policies. Certainly a fitting slogan for a march banner would be: "Stop sexual abuse from Hollywood to McDonald's."

Yet wider solidarity is imperative. At this one-year mark, Trump is amping up his racist attacks — slandering entire peoples, defaming Haiti and the continent of Africa as "shithole countries." The white supremacist Trump administration ended temporary protected status for 60,000 Haitians and 200,000 Salvadorans, as mass deportations loom. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is intensifying round-ups of undocumented Latinx immigrants, including movement activists. Young immigrants so far protected from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program may soon be in jeopardy.

Racists in the White House and racist immigration policies are not new. Bigotry has been embedded in the country's very foundations ever since George Washington took office as president while claiming ownership of enslaved people. This country was built on the backs of African people and their descendants, along with the genocidal theft of Indigenous lands and part of Mexico.

Jim Crow racism was pushed back

by the heroic Civil Rights Movement, which won passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts. It wasn't voting, but strong struggle that made these gains. And integral to those struggles were African-American women who also suffered generations of rape and sexual abuse under white supremacy.

If we are to stop workplace abuse against women and gender-nonconforming people, we must also stop racism. Racist ideology persists, continually reasserting its ugly head — as blatantly expressed by Trump and his cronies, as shown by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., and as acted out by bigoted police.

Calls from ruling-class politicians to cut Medicaid coverage and other essential government programs are aimed at African-American, Latinx and other oppressed and disabled and low-income workers, at least half of whom are women. Racism is embedded within capitalism. It is inherent to the system, as are misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia and classicism.

The richest 1% deliberately try to divide the population, while super-exploiting millions of workers, especially people of color and immigrants. The way this divides women is clear from a look at current wage rates. While women as a whole earn 78 percent of what men make, our African-American and Latinx sisters still earn only 66 cents and 55 cents, respectively, of every dollar a white male wage-earner makes. Their male counterparts don't earn much more. These exploitation wages put mega-profits into the coffers of the super-rich bosses and bankers.

Solidarity now!

As women march across the U.S., we call on all women to unite to denounce Trump's white supremacy.

We urge concrete solidarity with our Haitian, Latinx and African sisters at this critical time. As the U.S. continues to ramp up bigotry and extend imperialist war, we affirm our support for our Arab, Muslim and Asian sisters.

Workers World says in order to stop rampant misogyny, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, income inequality and class exploitation, we must join together and organize to abolish capitalism.

We can have a world built on respect, fairness and equality, where everyone has a job, housing, medical care, education, nutritious food, art, music and more — if we fight for socialism. □

The shithead in chief

The U.S. president on Jan. 11 insulted Central Americans, Haitians and Africans with disgusting remarks he subsequently denied. Reacting to his words, the New York Times wrote in a Jan. 13 editorial: "The U.S. president is a racist. ... He is also a liar."

That's a unique Times' appraisal of a sitting president.

With that part of the Times editorial, Workers World concurs.

But what this media voice and strategist for the ruling class of millionaires and billionaires fails to point out is their class's responsibility for putting and keeping this lying, racist chief executive in office.

Trump is from and of the ruling class. He is a New York-based billionaire and reality-show host who parlayed his real-estate inheritance into a midsized fortune — and his notoriety into a national election victory. Trump serves ruling-class interests.

And whatever the bourgeoisie thinks of Trump's diplomatic skills, most of the ruling class love what he's doing for them.

Fred Goldstein pointed out why in the Jan. 11 issue of Workers World: "Trump is showering the bosses and bankers with riches — billions in tax cuts, gas and oil drilling rights, mining rights on public lands, destruction of environmental regulations, rollbacks of banking regulations and labor protections, etc."

The ruling-class strategists who write Times editorials take a long-term view of Trump's blatant racism and diplomatic gaffes. Eyeing the harm he's doing, they want to keep him on a short leash or maybe even dump him.

But the bulk of the wealthy class and its corporate managers consider Trump's administration to be the gift that keeps on giving — to them.

The entire ruling class is guilty of Trump's crimes. By word and deed, the president admits openly what the ruling class usually tries to cover up: The U.S. capitalists and their paid-for political servants represent a system that uses racism in order to divide the workers and extract superprofits from the oppressed all over the world. They have done that since colonial slaveholders plundered Native lands while enslaving kidnapped Africans.

That Trump is so blatant is a double-edged sword. On one side, his rants open up space on the right for the racist scum of society to mobilize.

This is a danger all anti-fascists must take seriously.

On the other side, Trump jolts into motion large sectors of society, many who were apathetic before his election but are angered or frightened by what he threatens. This opens a space on the left.

This is an opportunity all revolutionaries must also take seriously.

Let's fill that space — and keep the hand-wringing capitalist liberals out. Those political actors are a continuation of Democratic Party politicians like Bill Clinton, who forced so many women and their children into abject poverty by cutting welfare — and did so by using racism to attack life-saving welfare benefits.

Let's take the opportunity to swing into action, to "Do it like Durham" — and emulate the people who toppled the Confederate statue in North Carolina.

Only the struggles of revolutionaries and progressives will bring down racism. Take advantage of the growing hostility to Trumpism and use it to open a struggle against the entire ruling class — which chose Trump as their shithead in chief. □

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- If the media's nonstop focus on Russian interference in the 2016 election is beyond your last nerve;
- If you're furious that bankers and bosses are due for gigantic tax breaks while skimming billions from workers' wages in the name of profits;
- If you're convinced from reading WW that capitalism is at a dead end and it is time to bury it:

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Write checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address. Or sign up online for a recurring contribution at workers.org/articles/donate/. □

Why study Marxism?

Why do we need to go over Marxism? Why can't we just assign comrades to read this and that and then go on to the business of the war in Nicaragua, or what's going on in the imperialist attacks on the DPRK, or what's happening with the Palestinians?

We have to have a basic evaluation of what is going on. An examination of our ideological weapons.

The bourgeoisie regard their system as eternal, not subject to fundamental change. This differs radically from Marxism, which teaches us that capitalism is a transitory social formation. Like feudalism and slavery, it will have to give way to a higher form of society.

The bourgeoisie cannot give an objective assessment of the real trends in capitalist society. Everything they do is calculated to serve self-interest of the most venomous type, which goes along with imperialist brigandage all over the globe.

Our purpose in reviewing Marxism is to prepare us for the storms and stresses of the next period.

We don't need a scholastic, pedantic recitation. We need a critical review, not from the viewpoint of revisionism and renunciation but from the viewpoint of reinforcing and strengthening the heritage that has been bequeathed to us by the great leaders of the past.

In this short session we will look at the latest phase of capitalism, which Lenin called imperialism.

Lenin's five characteristics of imperialism

There are at least five characteristics of imperialism that Lenin thought important in characterizing this stage of capitalism. And they are still true some 77 years later.

He first of all mentioned the concentration of production, of capital, the development of competition into monopoly. What is the interplay between monopoly and competition? One doesn't replace the other. They both exist. How is it different today from Lenin's period?

The bourgeoisie is always discussing competition and monopoly. There are

thousands of cases in the courts that deal with monopoly and competition from the point of view of their problems. On the one hand, they want to restrain monopoly, yet they also want to strengthen it.

Lenin tells us about the merging of bank capital with industrial capital and the creation of finance capital.

Then there is the export of capital which has become extremely important as distinguished from the export of commodities. The U.S. exports not just commodities but loans all over the world. Lenin also writes about the formation of international capitalist monopolies which share the world among themselves.

But it's not a stable agreement. They establish arbitrators and courts of arbitration to issue awards, but they don't keep the agreements, basically because they are thieves and pirates. It's utopian to expect them to have gentlemen's agreements among themselves, especially when billions of dollars are at stake.

Redivision of the world

According to Lenin, the world was already shared out among the great capitalist powers when he wrote "Imperialism" in 1916. The wars since have invalidated a lot of this. Some imperialist countries have become stronger and others weaker. Japan has become stronger. Britain, Holland, Belgium, and others have become weaker. What has taken their place, of course, is U.S. imperialism. It attempts to take over everything that is not nailed down.

A fundamental feature of imperialism is also the fusion of the capitalist state with the banks and industry. The industrialists carry on a struggle to maintain some form of independence among themselves as against the finance capitalists, but this independence is overturned and giant financial and industrial corporations get fused. This doesn't solve the contradiction, but brings it within a certain area of agreement.

Henry Ford and finance capital

Henry Ford and his empire existed for a considerable period as a family

unit. No banks, no insurance companies owned the Ford company. It all belonged to one family.

He was so fearful that Wall Street, meaning the bankers, would take it over that he launched an anti-Semitic campaign. He subsidized two or three publications of an anti-Semitic character in order to chastise and expose Wall Street.

What was the real problem? He didn't want his industrial empire to succumb to finance capital. He wanted it to stay in the family.

From the Leninist conception of imperialism, this meant that Ford, as an industrialist, was attempting to ward off the fusion of finance capital with his industrial empire. In the end he and his son capitulated. They made it a stockholding company where everybody could buy the stock. The Wall Street firms that sell and float stocks, that lend and borrow money, made it like any other corporation — General Motors, Chrysler, IBM and so on.

It's not possible to be an independent entity in the imperialist epoch. Least of all, you can't keep the banks out unless you want to lose money. Ultimately, Ford capitulated to the financiers because he would have lost the competitive edge if he tried to stay independent.

It's important for us to understand the inner workings, the mechanism of the relationship between imperialist industry and imperialist finance — the fusion of the capitalist state with industry and finance



Presidencia de Trump sobrevive pagando a clase dominante

Continua de página 12

gran escala contra los mineros del cobre en el oeste, las/os empaquetadores de carne y las/os trabajadores de Caterpillar en el medio oeste. Reagan y sus aliados corporativos atemorizaron con rompedor huelgas todas las huelgas que se convocaron.

Reagan redujo el gasto en asistencia social en cientos de miles de millones, atacó los derechos de asistencia social y entregó el dinero al ejército para una gran expansión.

Al principio, la clase dominante estaba profundamente preocupada, no por las/os trabajadores o las/os beneficiarios de la asistencia social, sino por temor a una rebelión desde abajo. Pero no hubo una lucha real y el liderazgo sindical no solo abandonó a las/os receptores de asistencia social, sino que se rindió ante la ofensiva anti sindical. ¡Reagan se salió con la suya! Entonces los patronos, los banqueros y sus políticos se adaptaron a la nueva normalidad de la reacción. Se rieron por todo el camino hasta el banco.

Trump viene tras nosotras/os, debemos ir tras él

El apoyo profundo que Trump recibe del Partido Republicano es un reflejo de la actitud de los patronos hacia él. Están con él en esta última crisis. Han atado su destino a él por el momento. La pandilla republicana del Congreso quiere atacar la Seguridad Social, Medicaid y Medicare. Si comienzan por este camino, cuentan con el respaldo de Trump.

Por razones políticas, puede que él no

Fusion of finance capital and the state

The capitalist state as we know it has three arms — the executive, the legislative and the judicial. The legislative is the most popular and has the power of the purse.

The ruling class has always been fearful of a popularly elected body, especially after the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

But if you hand the members of Congress the budget of the United States, you'll pretty soon see that your congressman may not know much.

The ruling class has established a stratum of extra-governmental, extra-state personnel who make up an unofficial political arm of the capitalist state. They are called lobbyists. They are a power over and above the elected representatives.

If you need an interpretation [of a bill], the lobbyist has it. If you ask which congressperson voted for what, they'll tell you that, too. And furthermore, they work day and night and are omnipresent in Washington, in some of the most fashionable and richest houses.

Lobbying has erected a governmental apparatus over and above the Congress that has grown stronger and stronger in the epoch of imperialism. It's an extra-legal apparatus to circumvent the legislative process as outlined in the Constitution.

For that reason, Leninists have always regarded suffrage and popular elections as merely a method of mobilizing the masses, of trying to educate the masses. But not really of accomplishing anything. □

esté tan ansioso por lanzar tal ataque. Pero Paul Ryan y los republicanos no han renunciado a este programa en absoluto. Al igual que durante la administración Reagan, los patronos y los banqueros no se apresuran a detener a Trump, por el momento. En última instancia, pueden derrocarlo, pero por ahora están mirando a ver cuánto puede salirse con la suya. Se quedarán con él para tratar de obtener el último centavo en ganancias por sus decisiones y leyes. Hasta que no ponga en peligro sus ganancias y su estabilidad social, la clase dirigente propiamente dicha, a diferencia de sus expertos y consejeros, se quedará con él, cualesquiera que sean sus vergüenzas, limitaciones o errores diplomáticos.

Lo que no sucedió bajo Reagan fue una lucha. Y el Partido Demócrata está siguiendo la misma ruta que tomaron bajo Reagan: confianza en la política electoral y ahora la esperanza de que la investigación de Mueller derroque a Trump. Incluso la reciente suspensión del Estatus de Protección Temporal para 200.000 salvadoreñas/os en este país, además de la negación de la protección a decenas de miles de haitianas/os y nicaragüenses, no ha movido a la llamada oposición demócrata a luchar.

La resistencia masiva en las calles, las fábricas, las tiendas minoristas y las industrias de servicios, los campus y las comunidades oprimidas e inmigrantes es la única forma de detener a esta máquina derechista de demolición.

Trump quiere venir tras nosotras/os. Es hora de que vayamos tras él. □

Campaign launched to close U.S. bases

Continued from page 2

foreign and NATO bases. The dates and location of this conference are still to be determined.

Workers World supports the work of the Conference on U.S. Foreign Military Bases. We call for closing all U.S. military bases around the world, as they are nothing more than a loaded gun aimed

directly at the people of the world who are struggling for self-determination and socialism. It is our job as working-class people living in the belly of the imperialist beast to unite with the working class around the world and do our part to end the war machine.

For more information and updates, go to www.noforeignbases.org.

How Haiti helped build Philadelphia

Continued from page 8

Haiti that lasted until 1934. Haitian leader Charlemagne Peralte, who resisted this invasion, was assassinated by a U.S. Marine Corps officer who was given the Medal of Honor for this crime.

NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson — who wrote the lyrics to the Black anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing"—declared that U.S. Marine Corps raids to round up Haitians to do unpaid road building "most closely resembled the African slave raids of past centuries." (Scott Nearing and Joseph Freeman, "Dollar Diplomacy")

Now Trump has canceled Temporary

Protective Status for Haitian and Salvadoran immigrants in the U.S. and is threatening to deport them. A massive struggle that includes the labor movement is needed to stop these deportations and to protect all immigrants. Part of this struggle is to demand reparations for Haiti.

We look forward to people freeing the MOVE 9 and Mumia Abu-Jamal, and celebrating by renaming Philadelphia's Girard Avenue, with its No. 15 streetcar line, Jean-Jacques Dessalines Avenue.

The main source for this article was "History of the Great American Fortunes" by Gustavus Myers.



FOTO: COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

Presidencia de Trump sobrevive pagando a clase dominante

Por Fred Goldstein

El nuevo libro del periodista Michael Wolff “Fire and Fury” (Fuego y furia) describe a Donald Trump como totalmente incapacitado para servir como el jefe ejecutivo del imperialismo de EUA. Describe la Oficina Oval como una cueva de serpientes llena de subordinados y parientes tirándose unos a los otros, pero todos con una opinión baja de Trump y sus habilidades. Muchos, según Wolff, cuestionan su capacidad personal y mental.

La publicidad dada al libro es una clara señal de que los medios de comunicación capitalistas y muchos expertos están tratando de socavar la presidencia de Trump. Dan gran publicidad a la cita de Steve Bannon sobre la asistencia de Donald Trump Jr. a una reunión con un abogado ruso. Bannon llamó la presencia de Trump Jr. “traidora” y “antipatriótica”.

Esta pudo haber sido la forma en que Bannon evitó ser acusado por la investigación rusa de Mueller, o pudo haber sido impulsada por un faccionalismo ultraderechista. Pero la amplia cobertura de esta cita tenía como objetivo romper el eje Trump-Bannon, que duró incluso después de que Bannon fuera despedido.

Bannon es un ideólogo ultraderechista cuyo objetivo ha sido destruir el centro político del Partido Republicano. Trump, por otro lado, es un intolerante de derecha, racista y misógino sin ninguna ideología en particular. Es un pragmático conocido por ser fácilmente manipulado, por lo que el establecimiento burgués está satisfecho con la división causada por el libro. Temen más la influencia de Bannon en Trump que lo que le temen a Trump.

Trump, el estado y la clase dominante

Estos eventos plantean la cuestión de las relaciones entre la clase gobernante, su ejecutivo en la forma de la presidencia y el estado capitalista en su conjunto.

Es un principio del marxismo de que el gobierno capitalista es el comité ejecutivo de la clase dominante. Su trabajo en general es hacer cumplir la voluntad de los patronos y banqueros. Cuando la clase capitalista se divide, esta función puede volverse compleja, pero la afirmación general es ciertamente cierta. Sin embargo, el marxismo también es dialéctico y reconoce las contradicciones.

En este momento hay una contradicción entre los intereses inmediatos a corto plazo de las salas de juntas corporativas y negocios y los intereses a largo plazo de la clase dominante para mantener a Estados Unidos como una potencia imperialista global.

Por un lado, Trump está derramando riquezas sobre los patronos y banqueros: miles de millones en recortes de impuestos, derechos de perforación de gas y petróleo, derechos mineros en tierras públicas, destrucción de regulaciones ambientales, retrocesos de regulaciones bancarias y protecciones laborales, etc.

Por otro lado, ha menoscabado muchas políticas de larga data del imperialismo



RANKIA/MATIZ

en el exterior y el capitalismo en los EUA que pueden dañar a largo plazo amplios intereses de la clase dominante.

El establecimiento asesor capitalista y la clase dominante

En esta discusión, es importante distinguir entre el establecimiento asesor de la clase dominante y la clase misma. La burguesía a lo largo de los años ha creado un vasto establo de intelectuales que sirven a diferentes facciones de la clase dominante.

Hay intelectuales de grupos de análisis políticos dedicados a descubrir los intereses de los imperialistas tal y como los ven. Hay escribas periodísticos con diferentes líneas políticas, dependiendo de qué facción de la burguesía y el establecimiento político estén alineados. Existe una gran variedad de asesores académicos que van y vienen entre las universidades y el gobierno capitalista.

Todas/os compiten entre sí para servir los intereses del imperialismo y convertirse en los portavoces favoritos. Sin embargo, su perspectiva inmediata puede ser bastante diferente de la perspectiva inmediata de las juntas corporativas, aun cuando buscan servir los intereses capitalistas.

Mientras varias/os periodistas, intelectuales burgueses de grupos de análisis políticos, expertos académicos y comentaristas de todo tipo están horrorizados con Trump cuando éste lanza la bola demoledora de la diplomacia y la política, los patronos se concentran en el dinero.

Trump conduce el tren de satisfacción patronal

Mientras Trump esté en la presidencia, los banqueros y los patronos van a lograr gran parte de sus deseos con respecto a las ganancias, los negocios y el dinero. Bajo las diversas administraciones de demócratas y republicanos, han ido so-

cavando tierras y costas públicas, regulaciones bancarias, regulaciones ambientales, etc. Pero ahora disfrutan de una libertad inusualmente expandida para saquear la tierra y el mar. Están regocijantes por los recortes en los impuestos corporativos, del 35 al 21 por ciento, y por los miles de millones en otros recortes. Cualesquiera que sean las deficiencias de Trump, pueden pasarlas por alto por ahora, porque los multimillonarios no quieren que el tren se detenga.

El complejo militar industrial - Lockheed, Boeing, Raytheon, United Technologies, etc. - se está alimentando del aumento de los gastos militares a \$700 mil millones para armas nucleares, sistemas antimisiles, nuevos buques de guerra, aviones de guerra, drones y misiles mientras Trump alimenta el llamado de guerra con la República Popular Democrática de Corea, alimenta los ataques de la máquina de guerra Saudí contra Yemen, envía armas a Ucrania y coloca armas para amenazar a Rusia, China, Irán y otros países.

Las acciones militares en la bolsa de valores se elevaron a una cantidad máxima histórica cuando Trump firmó un contrato de armas por \$110 mil millones con la monarquía burguesa-feudal de Arabia Saudita. Él ha sido el vendedor de armas en jefe, impulsando sistemas de misiles ofensivos, aviones de combate y barcos en Japón y Corea del Sur como parte de la preparación guerrerrista contra la RPDC.

Cuando los cheques del gobierno llegan a los tesoros corporativos militares, las vergüenzas y limitaciones de Trump se pueden pasar por alto fácilmente por el momento. Las deportaciones masivas, las palabras de código racista, la misoginia y el acoso sexual, la homofobia, todo se descarta.

No es coincidencia que cuando salió el libro de Wolff, Trump rápidamente hizo un anuncio público de que estaba abrien-

do las costas del Atlántico, el Pacífico y el Golfo a la industria del petróleo y el gas para la perforación. Los ejecutivos de ExxonMobil, Chevron y Shell no estaban prestando su atención primaria a los escándalos de la Casa Blanca en ese momento.

Energy Fuels Resources, que extrae uranio, logró que la administración Trump redujera el área pública de Bears Ears de 1,35 millones de acres a 202.000 acres. Eso puso los depósitos de uranio fuera del monumento nacional. Las tierras indígenas robadas a cinco naciones diferentes fueron redirigidas al sector privado por esta decisión.

Trump ha blandido un hacha contra las instituciones de la clase gobernante. Lanzó ataque tras

ataque contra el FBI, la joya de la corona del aparato represivo de la clase dominante, para desacreditar la investigación de Mueller sobre sus relaciones con Rusia, aunque el FBI ha llevado a cabo implacablemente la destrucción de organizaciones progresistas y revolucionarias desde la Primera Guerra Mundial.

Trump también ha blandido el hacha contra las alianzas imperialistas tradicionales. Ha denunciado a la OTAN y exigió que los países de la OTAN pagaran más por sus ejércitos. Ha humillado a los presidentes de México, Canadá y Australia, entre otros. Reconoció a Jerusalén como la capital de Israel y desgarró la máscara de los Estados Unidos como un mediador “neutral” en la lucha con las/os palestinos.

Además, Trump retiró \$1 mil millones en fondos de las Naciones Unidas. Se retiró del acuerdo climático de París y deshizo las conversaciones para un pacto sobre inmigración y asilo.

La administración Reagan y la clase gobernante

Cuando el gobierno derechista de Ronald Reagan tomó el poder en 1981, la mayoría de la clase dominante estaba profundamente preocupada. Reagan era el niño mimado de la ultraderecha y estaba fuera del principal establecimiento capitalista mientras escalaba la escalera política en California. Su ala del Partido Republicano estaba en guerra con el ala Rockefeller.

Reagan comenzó su mandato en el cargo rompiendo violentamente la Organización de Controladores de Tráfico Aéreo Profesional. A las/os trabajadoras que se declararon en huelga se les prohibió el empleo federal de por vida. Fue la primera vez en décadas que se realizó un ataque tan brutal y premeditado contra un sindicato.

Esto fue seguido por una ofensiva a

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