

Two-party DACA cruelty

Migrants pawn in gov't shutdown

By Fred Goldstein

BULLETIN: As we go to press, the Democratic Party leadership has agreed to end the government shutdown in return for a pledge by Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell to “be fair” in taking up immigration. The lives of 800,000 dreamers are in the hands of the Senate and House Republican anti-immigration racists.

Jan. 22 — The present government shut-down crisis is essentially about immigration and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). There could be a surprise deal at any time that would put an end to the shutdown. But this crisis has already revealed much.

In this struggle, the basic characteristics of the primary players have come to the fore. The relentless, brutal, racist cruelty of Donald Trump and the Republican Party has stood out. On the other hand, the cowardice and opportunism of the Democratic Party leadership has been laid bare.

The cynics of the Republican Party tried to force the Democratic Party into a deal to stop the shutdown by holding out a six-year extension of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Republicans don’t care one whit about CHIP. Funding for CHIP was passed in the House on Nov. 3, 2017, and has been sitting in the Senate ever since. The health care of 9 million children has been held hostage by the Republicans as a wedge against the Democrats.

At the same time, the Democratic Party leadership, in the person of Sen. Chuck Schumer, got on his knees before Trump, offering \$20 billion for a border wall along the Mexican border as part of an attempt to get a last-minute deal and avoid a government shutdown.

This craven concession to the racism, repression and massive militarization of the border is aiding Trump’s hard line on immigration. As such, it is unconscionable opportunism. It should be noted as well that the Democrats, led by Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, are motivating an end to the shutdown by citing the need for military preparedness and planning.

And beneath it all, it is clear that while there is a “shut-down” of many vital social services, with tens of thousands of government workers facing unpaid furloughs, the repressive apparatus of the state — the military, ICE, the FBI, courts, etc. — will continue to function.

DACA at core of shutdown struggle

At the core of the shutdown is the struggle over continuation of the DACA program set up by former Presi-

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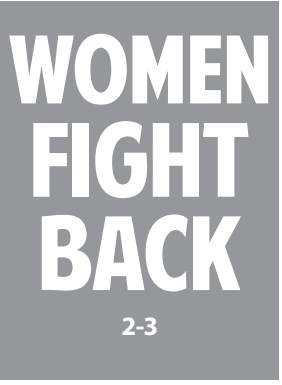
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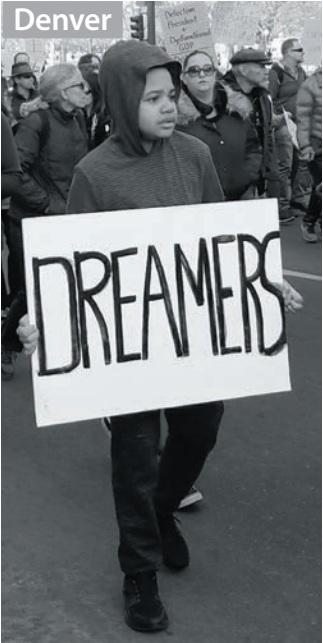
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WW commentary

Gymnasts bravely expose sexual abuse

By Monica Moorehead

Jan. 22 — Since Jan. 16 at least 120 current and retired women gymnasts have publicly denounced Larry Nassar, the former doctor who sexually assaulted them starting when they were as young as 6 years old. Every day dozens of women have testified in Ingham County (Michigan) Circuit Court about the horrors they suffered, many for years, at the hands of this predator.

Nassar was sentenced to 60 years in prison after pleading guilty in November to federal child pornography charges. He is currently in the sentencing phase after convictions of criminal sexual conduct. Judge Rosemarie Aquilina is allowing every survivor, many of them Olympic medalists, to speak before she sentences Nassar.

As a sports training doctor at Michigan State University in East Lansing for over 25 years, Nassar had access to hundreds of young girls and women whose parents entrusted him to take care of their children’s chronic injuries. Over 150 gymnasts have sued Nassar for assault under the guise of “medical treatment.” Many of these women continue to suffer from depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and other disorders as a result of the abuse.

One by one these gymnasts, who suffered in silence with internal pain and trauma for many years, felt empowered for the first time to speak directly to Nassar in court. The women provided graphic and shocking details of what Nassar did to their bodies. Many thanked the #MeToo movement for showing them they are not alone in surviving sexual abuse.

Nassar could not act alone

More and more details are emerging that show that Nassar did not and could not carry out his horrendous acts in isolation. In fact, some of the women went to the authorities at and outside MSU with complaints about Nassar, only to be dismissed and ignored. Gymnast Rachael Denhollander stated, “You don’t get someone like Larry Nassar, you don’t get a pedophile who is able to abuse without there being a culture surrounding him in that place.” (ESPN, Jan. 16)

This culture included MSU administrators; Kathie Klages, the former women’s gymnastics coach at MSU; Great Lakes Gymnastics; Twistars USA Gymnastics Club near East Lansing; and USA Gymnastics, which grooms

teams to participate in the Olympics. The fallout forced three top members of USAG to resign Jan. 22, including the chairman, vice-chairman and treasurer.

Gymnast Emma Ann Miller told Nassar: “Tell us about the telltale signs that others at MSU, Twistars and USAG should have seen but didn’t. In one of your last public acts, actually help someone. Of course, we are aware that some knew, but there are likely many, many more opportunities these institutions and individuals had to stop you long before Rachael (Denhollander) and the IndyStar article surfaced.” (State News, Jan. 22)

Olympic gold-medal gymnast Aly Raisman stated with righteous fury: “I didn’t think I would be here today. I was scared and nervous. It wasn’t until I started watching the impact statements from the other brave survivors that I realized I, too, needed to be here.

“I am here to face you, Larry, so you can see I have regained my strength, that I am no longer a victim. I am a survivor.

“I have represented the United States of America in two Olympics and have done so successfully. And both USA Gymnastics and the United States Olympic Committee have been very quick to capitalize and celebrate my success. But did they reach out when I came forward? No.” (CNN, Jan. 19)

MSU claims it is carrying out an investigation of its complicit role in this scandal, but isn’t that comparable to the fox guarding the chicken coop? Will such an investigation actually get to the root cause of what took place for at least a quarter-century?

Shouldn’t there be a broad, independent investigation that includes gymnasts, their parents and women’s organizations, with the survivors in the forefront? And what did the mainstream media know — before these brave gymnasts collectively refused to be silenced any longer — about what many consider to be the largest scandal in U.S. sports history?

Under capitalism, all athletes, be they pro or amateur, are viewed as commodities to make profits for institutions like MSU, USA Olympics and the corporate media. The scandal that has erupted at MSU and internationally over the treatment of these superexploited gymnasts, many of them star athletes, exposes the systemic patriarchy and sexism that exist throughout society and which will only be eradicated with the revolutionary uprooting of the entire capitalist system. □

WORKERS WORLD

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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.

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.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

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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Women march toward progressive unity, women's liberation

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

For the second consecutive year, massive demonstrations led by women swept through the United States, countering the wave of right-wing reaction intensifying under the Trump administration.

Corporate news commentators would have us think that millions of people in the streets were simply a buildup for the 2018 U.S. elections. USA Today's headline actually read: "The real march is on Election Day."

But for the crowds this year from Australia to Zambia, for the 200,000 in New York City and the 14,000 in Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 20 was a day of struggle toward a new movement for women's liberation.

At the grassroots, those organizing for progressive unity in this new wave are fighting for women's liberation to be anti-racist and anti-imperialist, pro-worker and pro-union. They are celebrating people with disabilities as well as LGBTQ sexuality and respect for genderqueer, gender-fluid and trans people. Here are some snapshots of the Women's March.

In **New York City**, demonstrators included the art installation group, Brick by Brick, wearing patches with women-hating comments by Trump. Echoing a movement chant for a prominent political prisoner, "Brick by brick, wall by wall, we're going to free Mumia Abu Jamal," they stood for hours against the imprisonment of sexual abuse.

Workers World Party women, including trans women and gender-nonconforming people, and supporters in **Boston**, attended a rally of 4,000 at the Cambridge Commons. Their revolutionary solidarity in placards and signs read: Trans Women ARE women; Solidarity with Haitian, Latinx and African People; The Revolution Is Female, Free Ahd Tamimi and All Palestinian Political Prisoners; and Time's Up for racism, sexism and white supremacy.

In a **Baltimore** crowd estimated at well over 5,000, the Women's Fightback Network said NO to the racist, sexist, anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ and anti-poor "Trump agenda."

Progressive activists in **Philadelphia** issued a strong statement rejecting the corporate organizers' collaboration with police who conducted security checkpoints for the march. They called for a boycott of the action because it endangered marginalized women. (See related story in this issue.)

Organizers for the **Pensacola, Fla.**, march asked participants to be in solidarity with trans women by not wearing the pink "pussy hats" from last year's protest of Trump's misogyny. Devin Cole of STRIVE, a trans activist group, said: "Not every woman has a vagina and not every person who has a vagina is a woman. We believe in the intersectional liberation of women." (Pensacola News Journal, Jan. 12)

As over 4,000 rallied in **Roanoke, Va.**, and over 7,000 in **Cleveland**, Fightback!News reported several hundred protesters, including immigrants and members of the anti-war and anti-police brutality movements, marched in the streets of **Minneapolis** chanting, "Refugees are welcome here!"

A looming snowstorm did not deter at least 80,000 marching through downtown **Denver** in view of the gold-domed state capitol building. Besides anti-Trump and pro-women's rights signs, there were noticeable signs for justice for Black Lives Matter, the Dreamers (DACA) and protection of immigrants, especially because of recent attacks on Denver as a Sanc-

tuary City. Support to stop hydrofracking was strong, as Colorado is hard hit by the Trump administration's cutting of environmental safety regulations to favor large oil, gas and mining corporations. Signs against U.S. wars were few but attracted much positive comment.

A contingent of over 1,000 Native people protesting the murders and disappearances of Indigenous women led the **Seattle** march of more than 50,000 people. The contingent was followed by a large contingent of Muslim women.

Gabriela **Oakland** (Calif.) organized a militant and spirited contingent with over 100 strong. They chanted, with drums beating, "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA," "When I say trans, you say justice!" and "Rise up, resist! No need for killer cops or jails. The whole damn system is guilty as hell."

Their call to action read in part, "We must highlight the economic, political and cultural aspects by connecting how imperialism perpetuates and worsens Violence against Women in all its forms. Let us RISE to protect women, trans and gender non-conforming people, and our children! Let us RESIST economic exploitation of our women! Let us UNITE for the self-determination of all oppressed people to fight for their basic rights and livelihood!"

Co-sponsors of the contingent included Gabriela SF, ASATA- Alliance of South Asians Taking Action, Anakbayan East

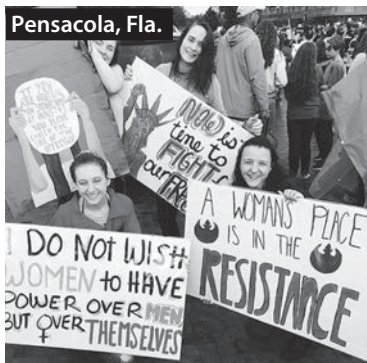


PHOTO: WUWF



WW PHOTO: ANDREW MAYTON

Bay, APIQWTC-Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender Community, Aypal: Building API Community Power, Banteay Srei, Boomshake Music, International Women's Alliance, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, League of Filipino Students-SFSU, National Ecumenical Forum for Filipino Concerns-North California Chapter and Workers World Party.

Perhaps as many as 100,000 people marched in **San Diego**, while the official estimate of the marches in **Los Angeles** reached 600,000. Due to the presence of a pro-Zionist speaker for the racist, apartheid state of Israel, the LA event was boycotted by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return coalition, and by PAWA, the Palestinian American Women's Association.

In solidarity, the International Action Center-Los Angeles and Workers World Party-Los Angeles did not attend, issuing a statement reading in part: "It is more



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

important to stand with those who are targeted by a specific oppression and take their lead, especially when it has the chance

to expose and reject reactionary actions that discourage unity. ... Any movement that denies the most oppressed is a fractured movement and must be challenged. We remain forever in solidarity with Palestine, along with the many progressive women, LGBTQ, Black, Brown, Asian, white and Jewish voices against U.S. imperialism, the apartheid state of Israel and racism." (Entire statement available at workers.org.)

Contributing to this article were Devin Cole, Phebe Eckfeldt, Rebecca Jackson, Terri Kay, Andrew Mayton, Bob McCubbin, Jim McMahan, Susan Schnur, Maggie Vascassenno, Gloria Verdieu and Viviana Weinstein.

Women's health care attacked on Roe v. Wade anniversary

By Sue Davis

The notoriously women-hating, blatantly white supremacist, anti-abortion Donald Trump administration timed a draconian law and hostile new federal rulings to precede the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, on Jan. 22. These were rolled out as fodder for his base at the annual anti-abortion march in Washington, D.C., on Jan 19.

That day, the House of Representatives passed the so-called "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act." Based on junk science and scare tactics, the law promotes the myth that babies are "born alive" during second-trimester abortions (up to 24 weeks) and are routinely murdered by clinicians. Viability of a fetus — its ability to live outside the womb — is generally viewed as between 25 and 26 weeks.

The "Born Alive" bill, modeled on cynical Americans United for Life legislation, spells out criminal penalties for abortion providers with fines, up to five years in prison and possible prosecution for murder.

One practitioner described the bill as written by someone who "has no idea of what an abortion procedure actually is." According to a 2017 fact sheet from the Guttmacher Institute, the reproductive rights research group, 89 percent of all abortions occur within the first trimester (the first 12 weeks), with 66 percent in the first eight weeks. The bill was denounced by the head of the leading U.S. group of obstetricians and gynecologists

as yet another attempt to deny women access to "evidence-based" abortion care. (Rewire, Jan. 19)

The Trump-controlled Department of Health and Human Services launched on Jan. 18 the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division in its Office of Civil Rights. It offers so-called "conscience protections" for health care providers who don't want to treat LGBTQ patients or provide reproductive health care for them, thus promoting discrimination. However, as Rewire points out, LGBTQ people routinely face "discrimination and mistreatment" from providers. (Jan. 18) Litigation by LGBTQ and other legal groups is planned.

As part of its anti-abortion package, HHS on Jan. 19 rescinded a Barack Obama administration guidance that federal law prohibits states from ending Medicaid funding for health care providers that offer abortions, thus protecting Planned Parenthood and other such groups. Rescinding that allows the federal government to ban Planned Parenthood and other similar providers from receiving Medicaid reimbursements by states, seriously affecting millions of poor women who depend on Medicaid payments to Planned Parenthood and other providers for their health care.

According to the Kaiser Foundation, Medicaid covered nearly four in 10 low-income women of reproductive age (15 to 44) in 2015. That means when Trump attacks Medicaid he is waging war on women who are disproportionately low-wage working women of color, often

single mothers, young women, those with disabilities, those living in rural areas and women who have been subject to domestic violence.

In 2015 Medicaid was the leading source of public funding for family planning, accounting for 75 percent of all public funds spent on contraceptive services and supplies. However, because of the Hyde Amendment, passed in 1976, no federal or state funding goes to poor women for abortions except for a tiny percentage of cases of rape, incest or conditions that threaten the life of the woman.

According to Destiny Lopez, co-director of All* Above All, a coalition of 130 reproductive rights and justice groups mobilizing to overturn Hyde, "It's important to understand that the Trump/Pence administration and our anti-abortion Congress are using the Hyde Amendment as their weapon of choice to stop women from getting abortions. We see the tentacles of the Hyde Amendment everywhere."

But AAA affiliates like New Voices for Reproductive Justice, which advocates for Black women and youth in the Pittsburgh area, are mobilizing against the Trump agenda. La'Tasha Mayes, founder and executive director of New Voices, states, "We rise up for a future where we can decide whether and when to have children, give birth without risking our lives, and raise those children without fear of hunger, violence, or discrimination. We rise up for a future where we can live with respect, health, and justice."

Now that's in the spirit of Roe v. Wade. □



Women activists on capitalism, imperialism

An inspiring forum featuring three young, dynamic, women revolutionaries was organized by the New York City chapter of Workers World Party on Jan. 18. Entitled “Women Fight Back Against Capitalism and Imperialism,” the meeting was a building event for the J20 Days of Rage protests targeting the one-year anniversary inauguration of the white

WW PHOTO: RAFAEL JUSTO
Holding the banner, left to right, are Ariella Riapos, May Madarang and Taryn Fivek with Monica Moorehead.

supremacist, misogynist president, Donald Trump.
The three speakers were Ariella Riapos from G-REBLS on the resistance in Honduras; May Madarang from GABRIELA-NYC on repression and fightback in the Philippines; and Taryn Fivek from WWP on the role of revolutionary feminism versus bourgeois feminism. Each of the speakers spoke on the role that women play in these important struggles. The meeting was chaired by Paddy Colligan.
— Monica Moorehead

Boston organizers fight ICE, DCF

By Sam Ordoñez
Boston
Supporters gathered Jan. 9 in front of the John F. Kennedy Federal Building here to demand justice for local activist Siham Byah, who was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at a routine check-in with immigration services in November. Her son was also taken into the custody of the Massachusetts Department for Children and Families (DCF), who then refused to place him in the care of the family chosen by Byah.
Byah herself was sent to the Bristol County jail, run by hated Sheriff Thomas A. Hodgson, a rabid racist who is known for offering the labor of inmates to build

Trump’s border wall. Hodgson has been blasted for the harsh conditions in his jail, which include poor heating and ventilation, bad water quality and rampant difficulties with visitor access.
After nearly two months in this facility, where she and other detainees resorted to using bottles filled with warm water to endure the cold in the unheated cells, Byah was deported without warning. She arrived in Morocco with nothing but the clothes on her back, having been denied the chance to say goodbye to her son or even to notify her attorney.
It was significant that the Jan. 9 rally and march began in the plaza outside the federal building. Every Tuesday, deportation hearings are held inside that decide

the fates of minors as young as 11 years old, many of whom don’t have legal representation.
After hearing from several speakers from the coalition formed to support Byah — including Byah herself, who called in and described experiencing “extreme hunger, extreme cold, extreme physical and emotional pain, extreme fear and extreme humiliation” while in ICE custody — activists marched to the Boston DCF office to present their demands. Assembled outside, the organizers of the event demanded that Byah be allowed regular contact with her son, that they be given a path to be reunited and that DCF end all collaboration with ICE’s racist deportations. □

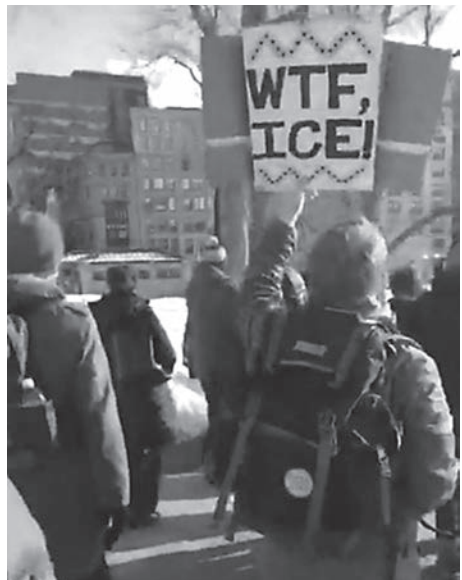


PHOTO: JUSTICE4SIHAM COALITION VIDEO
Supporters of Siham Byah march through Boston Common to DCF offices to demand her reunification with her son.

Women in ICE detention attempt suicide

By Teresa Gutierrez
In yet another blatant instance of cruel and inhumane treatment of migrant workers in the U.S., a woman in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center attempted suicide after repeated sexual abuse by a guard. (Rewire, Jan. 16)
Laura Monterrosa, a Salvadoran, has been held at T. Don Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, Texas, since May 2017. The guard began assaulting her shortly afterwards.
Her charges of sexual assault went ignored, according to Grassroots Leadership, a nonprofit social justice advocacy center based in nearby Austin. The center publicized the migrant woman’s plight after detention center officials neglected to provide medical treatment for Monterrosa after her suicide attempt.
Monterrosa spoke out about her abuse in November 2017. ICE and the county sheriff’s office did little in response. The guard, continuing to work at the center, saw Monterrosa every day.
Monterrosa is not alone in her allegations of abuse. After she spoke out, other women detained in Hutto came forward. ICE declared it found Monterrosa’s allegations to be “unsubstantiated.” That announcement came after only two interviews with Monterrosa, where translation was inadequate and where she was not allowed access to counsel. This additional abuse led to Monterrosa taking over 50 pain pills on Jan. 11, medication given to her by prison medical staff.
Suicide common in ICE detention
Suicide attempts at ICE detentions center are tragically common. Hutto, where



Former detainees and supporters speak out about abuse at ICE Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, Texas.

PHOTO: GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

Monterrosa is still held, is a medium security prison managed by CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America), a for-profit “adult corrections company.” Not much improvement can be expected from this incarceration monster.
CoreCivic has a long and sordid history of prison abuse, including dangerous and fatal medical neglect, rancid food, cruel and inhumane treatment by guards and staff, including the long-denounced practice of solitary confinement, known to exacerbate trauma and mental health issues.
In fact, Monterrosa twice experienced “medical confinement.” That’s how supporters describe what “ICE and private prison companies like CoreCivic use as a form of solitary confinement.” Monterrosa told her supporters that she initially hesitated to go public about her abuse for fear of being subjected to more solitary confinement. (grassrootsleadership.org)
In addition, the Hutto Detention Center, which exclusively detains asylum-seeking women, has a long history of sexual abuse. In 2007, a CoreCivic guard was accused of sexually assaulting a woman “while her son was sleeping in his crib inside the cell,” according to Court-house News. In 2010, another CoreCivic guard was charged with sexually assaulting eight women he was tasked with

transporting. (Dec. 12, 2017)
Any relief Monterrosa may receive depends on an official investigation being launched. Monterrosa can’t be deported while she waits for an appeal of her original asylum case. This means, say supporters, she will continue to encounter her alleged abuser on a daily basis.
One of Monterrosa’s advocates said: “What is happening to Laura is endemic of detention centers and almost impossible to completely eliminate unless we eliminate detention centers. There has been a trail of incidents and most of them go unreported and this is why: they don’t get investigated and the women who come forward are shamed or transferred or otherwise punished.” (rewirenews.org)
In 2016, Human Rights Watch issued a report of deaths in ICE custody. Of the 18 people studied, all committed suicide after demonstrating signs of serious mental health conditions.
Berenice, a woman of Garifuna descent from Honduras, described life in Dilley Detention Center in Texas as “soul-destroying.” Bernice had organized in Honduras for her people and then had to flee the reactionary regime. When ICE told her she could get out with her child if she paid \$5,000 in bail, that might as well have been \$5 million. That’s when she tried to kill herself, thinking her child would go free. (Guardian, May 22, 2015)
In June 2017, an Afghan national, a woman who had been locked up with her two children, attempted suicide in an attempt to free the children. Samira Hakimi had been held in the Karnes

County Residential Center in Texas for six months after crossing into the U.S. from Mexico. She had been told she and her children would be held for only three months. She had no legal counsel and no information about her case, which led to her despair. (HuffPost, June 2017)
Fleeing violence, imprisoned in violence
Many female migrants are already fleeing violence against women in their home countries. El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala have female homicide rates among the highest in the world, according to the Washington Office on Latin America. (Feb. 21, 2017)
This turmoil is due to U.S. imperialist domination that leads to instability, the lucrative drug industry and political strife based on U.S. policy, such as stealing of elections in Honduras, as well as other social, economic and political turmoil manufactured by the Pentagon, like the 16-year-long war on Afghanistan.
Meanwhile, an estimated 80 percent of Central American girls and women are raped on their journey to the U.S.. For them to then be jailed, detained and experience further abuse is deplorable. (HuffPost, Sept. 12, 2014)
Conditions for people in detention are only expected to worsen under the Trump administration. What is the solution to this rampant abuse, which is reminiscent of 19th-century prisons?
Solidarity. Organization. Fightback. As women march across the U.S. and around the world, the issue of women and trans people in prisons and ICE detentions must be front and center on our agenda.
Free them all and jail the oppressors—that’s the solution.
To support Laura Monterrosa’s case, visit grassrootsleadership.org. □

Haitians march to Trump Tower

By G. Dunkel
New York

Fueled by anger over President Donald Trump’s rude and racist comments justifying his denial of an immigration status that let 60,000 Haitians and 250,000 Salvadorans, and hundreds of other refugees from other devastated countries, legally live and work in the United States, members of the Haitian community in Brooklyn gathered and decided to form the “1804 Movement for All Immigrants.”

Homeland Security added an additional twist Jan. 18, when it declared that people from Haiti, Belize and Samoa were no longer eligible to apply for visas for seasonal and farmworker jobs.

The demands of this movement, which is open to all who agree, are that Trump make a public apology for his racist remarks; permanent residency for all current temporary protected status (TPS) holders; reparations for U.S. crimes against the Haitian people; an end to all



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

forms of racial profiling and police terror; and an end to the U.N./U.S. occupation of Haiti.

But the 1804 Movement didn’t stop with issuing a set of demands. Eight days after it was formed, it took them to the streets in a long march from Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, down Flatbush Avenue, across the Brooklyn Bridge, past the federal building in Lower Manhattan and ending at the Trump Tower on Wall Street.

It was a long, cold, militant march that grew as it passed along Flatbush Avenue and especially as it came up to the Brook-

lyn Bridge. People driving by honked and cheered, which, along with a few rara trumpets and drums, kept spirits, and the pace, up.

The signs were astute, varied and caught the mood of the march. The collection boxes for the 1804 Movement said, “Time is up, Trump — For your racist, anti-immigrant words & policies!” A popular Workers World Party placard with a portrait of Jean-Jacques Dessalines read, “Jean-Jacques Dessalines defeated all the Trumps — reparations for Haiti!!” A homemade sign simply read, “Trump Must Go!!!”

Once the march reached Manhattan, where it was significantly larger than it was at its start and was animated by the rara bande à pied DJA-Rara, it went past the federal building in Foley Square, which

was under tight security, and then marched to the Trump building at 40 Wall St.

Among the speakers at the rally were Assemblyperson Charles Barron, who marched on the front banner all the way from Grand Army Plaza; Black Alliance for Just Immigration activist Albert Saint Jean; Imani Henry of Equality for Flatbush; unionist Marie Paule Florestal, who read the declaration of the 1804 Movement for All Immigrants; Haitian-American activist Kerbie Joseph of the Party for Socialism and Liberation; Stephanie Legros, who spoke on behalf of Haitian youth; and Nina Mariella of the Filipino group BAYAN-USA. Emcee Jocelyn Gay read a statement from novelist Edwidge Danticat. Haitian artists Ayiti Bluez and Ann Bantu sang the Haitian national anthem, “La Dessalinienne,” and Haitian artist E-Uneek performed rap.

In the Haitian community, a long march on a workday means that the organizers are very serious about the issues the march is raising. It was a good response to the racist, xenophobic attacks that are coming from the Trump regime. □

Rally supports activist facing deportation

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

An emergency rally/press conference was held for immigrant and prisoners’ rights defender Maru Mora Villalpando on Jan. 16. In late December, after years of organizing for justice, Villalpando received notice of deportation from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The rally in front of the ICE courts in downtown Seattle drew more than 100

protesters from many groups, and lots of press.

Since the start of the new year, Trump and the capitalists have blatantly stepped up a war against immigrants. They have carried out deportation threats against 800,000 youth formerly protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and against Haitians, El Salvadorans and others formerly under temporary protected status (TPS). Trump has also engaged in racist hate

speech against Haitians, Latinx and African people.

Trump and the bosses are now targeting immigrant rights leaders. Villalpando is the latest, along with activist leaders Sihan Tinhinan Byah in Boston and Ravi Ragbir and Jean Montrevil in New York City. Rally organizer and chair Angelica Chazaro said supporters were fighting for a cancellation of the deportation order.

Villalpando, from Mexico, has lived in the U.S. for 25 years. She said she came

out as undocumented in 2014, when she supported a hunger strike in the Northwest Detention Center, which started after activists on the outside blocked a busload of immigrants being deported.

Villalpando was not deterred from showing up and speaking out at this rally, right in front of the ICE offices. She has been a voice for striking prisoners in the detention center. She has backed them up by organizing rallies, summoning the media and getting the prisoners legal help.

Also speaking at the rally was Nestora Salgado, who was imprisoned in Mexico for leading an Indigenous police force against gang violence in Mexico. Salgado charged that Villalpando would not be safe as a woman if deported to Mexico.



WW PHOTO: ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

The Moratorium Now! Coalition, a Detroit organization founded to push for a moratorium on home foreclosures in the city and elsewhere, organized a rally and march on Jan. 20, one year after the original #J20 protests against Trump’s

#J20 targets system

inauguration.

Protesters called for all charges to be dropped against all #J20 defendants. These were counterinaugural protesters who had heavy felony charges brought against them for participating in the protests in Washington, D.C., a year ago. Detroit activists received reports that the most extreme felony charges have been dropped, but there are still misdemeanor charges pending.

Moratorium Now! and other speakers also called for an end to the capitalist system that Trump represents. After a

noontime rally, protesters marched from Campus Martius Park to Cobo Hall, site of the North American International Auto Show, while chanting and holding signs demanding “Drop the charges!” “U.S. hands off Korea!” and “Tax breaks? No way! Make the auto bosses pay!” among other slogans.

The event was cosponsored by Michigan Peoples Defense Network (MPDN), the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI) and Workers World Party.

— Joshua Scott Klarr

Autoworkers demonstrate for jobs

By Martha Grevatt
Detroit

Hundreds of autoworkers picketed outside the North American International Auto Show on Jan. 21 to save the jobs of union truck drivers. Six busloads of United Auto Workers Local 12 members traveled to Detroit to demand Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) “Keep the Fleet” — a reference to the fleet of trucks housed at the Toledo, Ohio, terminal of FCA Transport. The company has already begun replacing Local 12 members who drive those trucks with nonunion drivers.

Last year, the 88 fleet drivers learned that the company would close the terminal and lay off all drivers by February 2018. On Jan. 15, when drivers scheduled

to work the MLK holiday reported to work as usual, 16 were taken off their trucks, given layoff notices and replaced by non-union drivers from outside companies.

Since the layoff announcement, workers inside the Toledo Assembly Plant, which builds the popular Jeep Wrangler, have reported for work in red “Keep the fleet” t-shirts. The union local has held press conferences in Toledo denouncing the outsourcing plans. Since the Detroit show draws media from all over the world, the union protested there in an attempt to reach a broad national and international audience.

Local 12 President Bruce Baumhower and other union leaders have challenged FCA’s claim that the UAW agreed to let the company close the terminal. FCA has

provided no documentation that the terminal closure was ever negotiated. Baumhower told the news media covering the picket line that this unilateral decision to outsource jobs undermines collective bargaining — making it an attack on the whole labor movement.

Of the 45 units that Local 12 represents, including workers at FCA and companies it contracts with as well as nurses and county workers, the largest unit is the Jeep plant. Jeep workers came out en masse to support the fleet drivers. Delegations from UAW Local 212, representing FCA Transport workers in Metro Detroit, and Local 372 at the Trenton, Mich., engine plant, bolstered the Jeep workers picket. Members of other UAW Locals and other union supporters also turned out.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT



Baumhower pointed out that FCA CEO Sergio Marchionne had praised Toledo Jeep workers earlier in the week while attending the auto show. FCA has justified the anti-union outsourcing with the claim it will save \$4 million. The local has countered with suggestions for in-house changes that would save the company millions, but Marchionne isn’t interested.

Demonstrators chanted “Hell no, Sergio! Keep the fleet!” and “Workers united will never be defeated!” □

Bay Area reclaims King’s radical legacy

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

For the fourth year in a row, the Anti Police-Terror Project supported the national call to reclaim King’s radical legacy, Bay style. APTP didn’t just have a huge, multinational, spirited and militant march on the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday on Jan. 15. APTP held its fourth annual 96 Hours of Direct Action to #ReclaimMLK. The overall theme for this year was “#NonCompliance with the Trump/[Oakland Mayor Libby] Schaaf corporate agenda.” This started Jan. 12, with a day themed for actions against state-sponsored violence. Jan. 13 was themed against displacement, for housing for all. Jan. 14, was Indigenous and international solidarity day. Jan. 15 was the grand finale, with everyone joining in on the fourth annual March to Reclaim King’s Radical Legacy. About 2,000 people rallied and marched from Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland, past the Oakland Police Department headquarters and the county



PHOTO: BROOKEANDERSON

jail, through the Acorn housing projects in West Oakland and ending at the West Oakland Bay Area Rapid Transit station, where a BART police officer had shot and killed Shaleem Tindle, a Black man, only a few weeks ago. The march was led by children and differently abled people, to set the pace. Right behind was a contingent from Third World Resistance, which included banners proclaiming “Black Lives Matter from Haiti to the Bay” and “Hands Off Sacred Land, from Shellmound to Jerusalem, Palestine.” “From the federal government to local agencies, our most marginalized communities are being attacked, surveilled,

pushed out and discarded,” said Cat Brooks of APTP. “We will not stand idly by or remain indoors while our friends, children, families are seeing their human rights and dignities stripped away. We will not comply.” Some of the actions which took place during the #96Hours included, on Jan. 12, a human billboard “morning wake-up call to say no to white supremacy” at the Rockridge BART, a rally to end state-sanctioned sexual violence in downtown Oakland and a giant projection to #DefendDurham on the San Francisco Federal Building. On Jan. 13, the major action was a campout on Oakland Mayor Schaaf’s lawn.

This was in response to her “solution” to the housing crisis, calling on Oakland residents to open their homes to houseless people. APTP challenged the mayor to lead by example. Jan. 14 included a protest at the Richmond County Jail/Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center; Third World Resistance’s teach-in on Martin Luther King’s resistance to racism, war and capitalism; a prayer at the West Berkeley Shellmound; and a #DefendTPS! [temporary protected status] rally for Salvadorans and Central Americans. As in past years, APTP organized this entire weekend of actions by calling out to the entire Bay Area movement, individuals and organizations, to come to spokes council meetings, which started in December. The spokes councils were a place where people could bring their ideas for actions, ask for or offer support and calendar their events so that they didn’t conflict with one another. □

N.C. city workers launch campaign on King Day

By Dante Strobino

The arctic weather front that blasted the East Coast on the first week of this year took a toll on North Carolina’s cities. In Greensboro alone, more than 115 water mains broke — and despite near-zero temperatures, municipal workers like Ramone Johnson were responsible for fixing them. “We had workers out in frigid weather,” said Johnson, a water department crew member and vice president of the Greensboro City Workers Union, a chapter of United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 150. “We are the backbone of the city. Without us the city does not run.” Yet North Carolina’s municipal workers say their work and their safety are underval-

ued by state and local governments. It’s been exactly 50 years since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood with striking Memphis, Tenn., sanitation workers who were fed up with low pay and dangerous conditions. UE Local 150, the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union statewide municipal council, is launching a Municipal Workers Bill of Rights campaign to establish standards for wages, grievance protections, safety, union rights and more. The campaign seeks to challenge “right-to-work” (for less!) laws and further expose the ruling made by the International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations, that the Jim Crow ban on public sector collective bargaining is a violation of international human rights law.

On Jan. 12, the campaign kicked off when members of the newly formed Durham Workers Assembly, which includes UE150 Durham City Workers Union, Domestic Workers Alliance-We Dream in Black, Raise Up for \$15 and the Duke Graduate Assistant Union, staged a press conference at City Hall in Durham. “We are fighting for a City Workers Bill of Rights, including the right to meet and confer with the City Manager about our workplace conditions and safety issues and an end to discrimination on the job,” stated sanitation equipment operator and UE150 Steward Daryl Brunson. UE150 Municipal Council members plan to spend the time until the anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination on April 4 building a statewide coalition to fight for

higher wages, grievance protections, safety and union rights. North Carolina law prohibits collective bargaining for public sector workers. For a decade, Local 150 has been pushing to repeal it — and organizing municipal workers to fight for improved conditions even without bargaining rights. City workers march across the state On Jan. 15, the Dr. King holiday, city workers participated in marches and parades across the state, including in Greensboro, Raleigh, Greenville and Rocky Mount. The community and many in left groups joined in behind the city workers as they marched. As cities draft their yearly budgets this spring, UE Local 150 members will ask

CELEBRATING DR. KING’S LEGACY

By Kris Balderas Hamel

The 15th Annual MLK Day Rally and March for Jobs, Peace and Justice drew more than 1,000 people to downtown Detroit on Jan. 15. Abayomi Azikiwe, a leader of the Moratorium Now! Coalition and Detroit Workers World Party, emceed the day’s events and helped give political cohesiveness to the many struggles against outrages and oppressions that speakers, marchers and performers addressed. A spirit of fightback against Trump, racism, capitalism and imperialist war carried the day. Frank Hammer of the Asotrecol Solidarity Network spoke on the struggle of General Motors workers in Colombia, while Jonathan Roberts, of the Restaurant Opportunity Center-Michigan, motivated the crowd to support servers and other restaurant workers. Crystal Bernard and Carlos Santa Cruz, both young organizers from the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, gave a stirring call to action against racism and injustice. Cynthia Thornton, president of Pride at Work Michigan, urged everyone to stand up for LGBTQ rights and liberation. Kimberly Simmons, of the Juvenile Lifers Support Group, movingly told of being



WW PHOTO: ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

convicted as a teenager to life in prison and incarcerated for 29 years, as well as the growing struggle to free other juvenile lifers in Michigan prisons. The Selma Medallion Awards were presented to “those Detroiters who, when Dr. King called, answered and went to Selma, Ala., after Bloody Sunday 1965”: Hon. John Conyers, Jr., George Giffin, Frank H. Joyce, Wilbert McClendon, Dean Robb, Terry Shaw and Rudy Simons. The People’s Spirit of Detroit Awards were presented to Zonzie Whitlow, Alfonzo Hunter, Katrina Brown and Jim Rehberg. Detroit named best city for MLK Day People’s attorney Vanessa Fluker spoke on the crisis of lead poisoning in Detroit, which has intensified with the mass demolition of homes throughout the city following the bank-led foreclosure crisis. Amer Zahr, a writer, stand-up comedian and adjunct professor of law, rallied the

audience to support Palestine and continue efforts to stop U.S. aid to racist Israel. The Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette was the honored guest and keynote speaker. Lafayette worked with the two leading Civil Rights organizations of the 1960s, SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). He became involved in the Civil Rights Movement after growing up in Tampa, Fla., in the 1940s and 1950s. Lafayette was active in mass campaigns to end Jim Crow and was a participant in the sit-ins and freedom rides in the early 1960s. He was involved when Dr. King and SCLC went to Chicago in 1966 to test out their model of nonviolent resistance in a northern city. King tapped him as SCLC’s program coordinator in 1967, and Lafayette took on responsibility for the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign. The Metro Times reported Jan. 12 that Detroit was named the best city in the U.S. to celebrate MLK Day by Treetopia for the second year in a row. “Detroit has a profound history of African-American political ... and cultural activity,” Azikiwe, MLK Day media coordinator, said in the article. Musical presentations punctuated the rally and after a Freedom March through downtown Detroit, participants met at St.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

John’s Episcopal Church for cultural performances and a community meal provided by the Wobbly Kitchen. The MLK Day rally and march enjoyed wide press coverage from all of the Detroit television stations, WWJ News radio and the Associated Press. Houstonians honor King The 40th Annual MLK Parade held by Houston’s Black Heritage Society drew the mayor and many politicians, two African-American members of Congress and marching bands. The more than 200 participants included groups as diverse as the Houston Black Corvette Club and the Houston Caribbean Professionals Association, along with a variety of churches, schools, community organizations, businesses and labor unions. The sanitation workers had a large contingent with their brightly polished garbage trucks. Progressive and activist

Days of Rage tackle Trump regime

By WW New York bureau
New York

Hundreds of anti-racist demonstrators marched to Hell's Kitchen here on Jan. 20 to confront white supremacists celebrating the anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration. The venue, a dingy corner of the West Side Highway, was announced to the public only two hours before the event.

Attendees found the building surrounded by anti-fascists chanting, "Nazi scum! Off our streets!"

It was one of a string of victories during the Days of Rage (#DaysofRage), inspired by the resistance in Palestine. From Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the anniversary of the Trump inauguration, militant actions took place across the U.S., with at least 16 in New York City, opposing the endless attacks on working-class and oppressed people.

One year into a regime of deportation, repression and warmongering, the Democratic Party has done nothing to protect us. The resounding message of the Days of Rage was: Only independent peoples' struggle can provide genuine resistance.

Anti-racism: Days of Rage kicked off with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March & Rally Against Inequality, Racism, Sexism, Fascism, and War in down-

town Newark, N.J., organized by People's Organization for Progress. The Jan. 15 march raised the struggle against police brutality at home and imperialist war abroad, referencing King's opposition to the Vietnam War.

Every Monday for the past two and a half years, NYC Shut It Down has organized a Black Lives Matter protest known as People's Monday, at which the story of a person killed by the state is told. On King's birthday, NYC Shut It Down marched through Harlem, telling the story of King's assassination. Police attempted to violently suppress the protest, arresting three marchers.

Labor: On Jan. 15 a rally in NYC's Columbus Circle showed solidarity with striking Spectrum workers as well as striking Florida prisoners demanding an end to slave labor. When Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., he was supporting striking Black sanitation workers.

Transportation: Thousands of New Yorkers, overwhelmingly Black and Brown, are arrested every month because they cannot afford subway fare. An action at a station in the Bronx raised awareness of these racist arrests and offered commuters free entry. The action, led by Bronxites for NYPD [New York Police Department] Accountability (Why Accountability) as part of the Swipe It Forward

campaign, encouraged commuters with unlimited subway passes to swipe another rider in when leaving the subway.

The People's MTA held a speakout and rally at Union Square raising the lack of accessibility in New York's subways. The action raised four demands: 100 percent accessibility; defend transit workers against attacks; cops out of the subway; and reduce the fare to \$0.

Anti-imperialism, international solidarity: On MLK day, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network held its weekly afternoon rally here protesting Israeli detention of Palestinians. This rally focused on Ahed Tamimi, a 16-year-old Palestinian jailed for resisting occupation.

On Jan. 18, G-REBLS distributed literature on the streets and subways here detailing the crimes of U.S. imperialism. Later that day, the International League of Peoples' Struggles held a demonstration in Union Square. The demonstration demanded "U.S. out of everywhere!" and raised struggles against imperialism in Palestine and the Philippines. (tinyurl.com/y9ocxsuw)

On Jan. 19, the Haitian community and supporters marched to protest Trump's racist invective towards Haiti and African nations, led by the newly formed 1804 Movement for All Immigrants.

Defend J20 and Durham: The Com-

mittee to Stop FBI Repression held a forum at NYC's Solidarity Center on Jan. 16 that included updates on legal proceedings against activists arrested at last year's J20 counterinaugural demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and against activists in Durham, N.C., who pulled down a Confederate statue in August. (tinyurl.com/y9wbo8qp)

Opioid epidemic: Workers World Party organized a demonstration inside the Sackler Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art here to raise awareness of more than 20,000 people who died in the U.S. from prescription drug overdoses last year. The Sackler family has made billions off the opioid OxyContin while the "War on Drugs" has imprisoned millions of Black and Brown people for selling or possessing recreational drugs.

Women's liberation: On Jan. 18, the Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council organized a rally outside of Brooklyn Supreme Court in support of Anna Chambers, an 18-year-old woman raped by two NYPD officers.

That evening, Workers World Party held a NYC forum on Women and the Fight Against Capitalism and Imperialism. Speakers distinguished Marxist feminism, which sees patriarchy as a foundational component of capitalism, from bourgeois feminism, which sees it as a flaw.

A contingent organized by Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network mobilized for the NYC Women's March on Jan. 20 to demand the release of freedom fighter Ahed Tamimi. The People's Power Assembly and WWP distributed literature and held signs, including "End Police Murder of Black Women."

Days of Rage culminated in a Rally Against Trump and Capitalism in NYC's Grand Central Station. Two banners were unfurled from a balcony; one read, "Capitalism Kills, Capitalism Depots, Capitalism Steals, Capitalism Violates. Abolish Capitalism!" Speakers raised peoples' struggles and the need for a broad independent movement. The rally ended with a march to Times Square and then to Hell's Kitchen to confront the white supremacists.

See full article at workers.org. □

city councils to shift more resources to support safe staffing, equipment, better wages and affordable health insurance. This year alone, city workers in Charlotte saw their health insurance costs sharply rise; some family plans are now charging \$1,044 per month for insurance, with still steep deductibles.

While the winter cold poses real challenges for city workers, extended shifts in the summer heat can be even more dangerous. Last summer, Anthony Milledge, a laborer in the city of Charlotte's yard-waste division, died of a heat-related illness after a 14-hour shift working under a 97-degree heat index.

The strike that brought Dr. King to Memphis 50 years ago, on Feb. 2, 1968, began after two sanitation workers, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were crushed to



WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

death in a garbage truck. Furious over the tragedy and the city's longstanding neglect of the Black workforce, 1,300 workers walked out. Their signs said, "I Am a Man." Black workers make up a large majority of North Carolina's municipal workers today, as well.

After Milledge's death, the union

brought attention to the fact that no city in the state had a written policy to protect its own employees from excessive heat. Union members in Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh and Greensboro organized rallies, passed out pamphlets and held press conferences. Thanks to their efforts, many cities began drafting and implementing heat policies.

The campaign aims to establish statewide minimum standards for municipal working conditions. "City workers throughout the state face many of the same problems," said Local 150 President Nathanette Mayo, a chemist with the city of Durham. "City administrators and managers typically come together to coordinate and track municipal work environments throughout the state. We believe that workers too should collaborate and organize." □



WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

organizations included the National Black United Front, the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, the Houston Fair Housing Coalition, Alianza Latina Internacional, Pacifica Radio and the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.

The Abolition Movement's contingent was cheered and those lining the streets joined in chanting, "Texas says death row! We say heck no!" It included family members and friends of many death row prisoners, including the kids of George Curry, who tossed candy to children along the route, and a woman who was going to witness her friend's execution in Huntsville, Texas, three days later.

Conrado Acevedo, an Indigenous activist, drummed the whole route while James Aaron, the former chair of the Black Panther Party in Houston, along with others, handed out more than 1,200 flyers about the death penalty. Longtime activist Leonard Benton drove his 1931 Ford

Model A, which was a big hit, especially when he sounded the horn, which honked out a loud "AH-OOOH-GAH" like a drunken goose.

The Black Heritage Society was founded by community leader Ovide Ducantell in 1975 after he met with Dr. King's father about continuing to honor the legacy of his son. In January 1978, Martin Luther King Sr. came to Houston and participated in the first MLK Parade in the United States, on the newly renamed street of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

'Reclaim MLK' Freedom and Unity march

More than 300 demonstrators stopped traffic in **Portland, Ore.**, for two hours as they marched down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in a Jan. 15 tribute to MLK organized by Don't Shoot Portland. It was the 4th Annual Children's March for Social Justice, so many of the organizers were young people who stepped up to make banners and play a highly visible part of the march.

Demonstrators chanted "Justice for Quanice Hayes!" "Hands up, don't shoot!" and "I can't breathe!" King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" was read at the final ral-



Lexington, Va.

ly in front of the MLK Memorial Sculpture.

Quanice Hayes was an unarmed 17-year-old African American fatally shot on Feb. 9, 2017, by white cop Andrew Hearst. When Hearst was cleared of all charges, Venus Hayes, the youth's mother, asked for a federal investigation. She said police did not need to shoot. "Quanice was on his knees when he was shot in the head and in the chest," said Hayes, who was not notified by authorities and instead found out about her son's death on Facebook. (kgw.com, March 22)

San Diego's 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Rally, sponsored by the National Action Network, took place Jan. 15. Hundreds assembled in front of San Diego City College and marched to City Hall. There, the Rev. Shane Harris, president of NAN, San Diego chapter, and other speakers addressed homelessness, jobs, police brutality, criminal injustice, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), migrants, the proposed border wall and many other issues.



Portland, Ore.

Some of the participating organizations were SURJ (Showing Up for Justice), the San Diego Black Panther Party, UNITE HERE Local 30, Workers World Party, the Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego, Indivisible, the Alfred Olango Foundation and the Council on American-Islamic Relations San Diego, along with many others.

Among the speakers at the rally, chaired by Rev. Harris, were City Council member David Alvarez, the only elected official to show up; Dr. John Warren, publisher of the local newspaper Voice & Viewpoint, and several local ministers.

The families of Alfred Olango, Jonathan Coronel and James Lacy — all shot and killed by police — participated in the march and were on stage at the rally.

In **Lexington, Va.**, more than 800 people participated in the second annual MLK day parade sponsored by the Community Anti-Racism Effort (CARE Rockbridge). Participants came from Charlottesville, Roanoke and other locations around Virginia.

Abayomi Azikiwe, Lyn Neeley, Gloria Rubac, Gloria Verdieu and WW staff contributed to this article.

PHOTO: ALISON GAYLOR

Florida organizer: ‘Help sustain prisoner strike!’

By J. White

White interviewed Karen Smith from the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee on Jan. 20. See full interview at workers.org.

JW: Can you provide some background on why this struggle is taking place now?

KS: This strike is a reflection of a prison movement that has been growing since the Sept. 9, 2016, nationwide prison strike on the anniversary of the Attica rebellion. Prisoners have been organizing in Alabama and Ohio movements. Prisoners in Texas have now organized the first ever IWW [Industrial Workers of the World] branch on the inside. Support networks on the outside have been growing. Florida prisoners participated in the 2016 action.

Things are very tense inside the prisons, and the goal is to harness this frustration to develop a long-term strategy, as opposed to spontaneous actions.

In November, Operation PUSH reached out to support IWOC [the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee]. The prisoners developed a list of demands and asked help to get the word out. It is our role to support the demands and strategy developed by those on the inside. There is heavy censorship inside the prisons.

JW: What is it about this particular time that the prisoners chose to act now?

KS: The people, inside and out, are being pushed beyond limits. Inside Florida, the prisons are crowded, the food is inadequate and rotten, they are understaffed

— not because they need more guards. It’s because they need fewer prisoners. Prisoners are charged four times as much for commissary items as the cost on the street.

The brutality and abuse is overwhelming. Florida has the second-highest death rate in U.S. prisons. It has the third highest per capita segment of the population in prison. One in three African-American men is in the system. Abuse by guards is rampant. In Lake Butler Camp, prison guards, who were KKK members, were plotting to kill inmates before and after they were in prison. One prisoner was found boiled to death.

JW: How do you see this struggle in relation to growing movements like Black Lives Matter, the struggle against police brutality and immigrant rights?

KS: These are all related. The book “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander, which is banned inside the prisons, exposes the racist role of the prison system in the U.S. In 1865, slavery was abolished. In 1868, the prison system in Florida figured out how to perpetuate it through over policing the Black community.

A strike support statement from Haitian prisoners cited the exploitation of undocumented peoples: “They use all immigrants for free labor and then deport them.”

JW: What has been the role of families?

KS: Families have felt so isolated. This is such an important part of the struggle. We have been forming defense groups for families, to surround them when loved

ones are incarcerated and build solidarity. We often have to do extra legwork that public defenders cannot do.

We went to demonstrate on June 16 in Tallahassee [the state capital] at the headquarters of the DOC [Florida Department of Corrections]. It was the African-American women, family members, taking the lead to confront the state and demand justice.

JW: What information has been able to get to you regarding the situation inside?

KS: We are finally starting to get some feedback regarding the participation and the retaliation of the FDOC. So far we have heard there is strike activity in 17 camps across the state.

Participants are put in confinement and interrogated, told they will be subject to retaliation if they continue to correspond with support organizations. They are “under investigation” as a security threat, labeled gang members and then investigated by the “Security Threat Group.”

Those designated as leaders are put in confinement or transferred. Phones have been shut down at camps. They are replacing the striking workers with new prisoners.

The goal of this struggle is to have an organized economic impact. There are three ways prisoners work in the system. Pride Industries is a convict leasing system by outside companies (including Whole Foods). Prisoners are paid pennies, \$1 a day after room and board is deducted.

They work in facilities like water treatment, often in toxic environments. They may be at a work camp, where they are

slaves on road work, maintenance and cleanup. Finally some have assignments in the facility.

They are supposed to accumulate “gain time,” but this only counts if someone is completely compliant with guards and rules. It’s impossible!

This is why prisoners are demanding reinstatement of a parole system. All Florida prisoners must do 85 percent of their time, so gain time can only count toward 15 percent and is rarely granted. Once a prisoner is out, they must pay cash for parole time. A slight, even a traffic violation, brings folks back into the system. The system is made to fail.

JW: Are there women prisoners participating?

KS: There are some participating at Lowell [Correctional Institution in Marion County]. It is harder for them to get in contact. You may have heard the terrible conditions these women suffered during the hurricane, when they went for days with no water, then were forced to do clean up in unsafe, toxic environments without appropriate gear.

JW: What would you like to tell supporters?

KS: This struggle is expected to grow and be part of a yearlong organizing strategy. It was just “kicked off” with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We need to help sustain it from the outside.

Everyone’s help is needed in spreading the word, supporting families and the heroic prisoners. A call-in campaign is happening on Monday, Jan. 22. To get involved, contact FightToxicPrisons.org or incarceratedworkers.org. □

Inauguration protesters’ charges dropped

The following edited press release was issued on Jan. 19.

San Francisco, Jan. 18 — Chief Assistant District Attorney Shannon Woo announced the formal dismissal of charges against 11 activists, known as the J20 Resisters, who participated in protests on last year’s Inauguration Day. DA George Gascon has faced harsh criticism for squandering resources in pursuit of this case.

“The District Attorney could have chosen not to charge the J20 resisters from day one. Instead he chose to put our clients through the criminal process, wasting government resources for almost a year, knowing full well he never intended to take this case to trial, which Deputy District Attorney Shannon Woo acknowledged on the record today,” stated Gabriela Lopez, National Lawyers Guild member and defense attorney for J20 Resister Molly Jane Hammond.

Once charges were filed against the J20 Resisters, the DA encouraged them to accept pretrial diversion (PTD), which seeks to divert certain offenders from traditional criminal processes, restating this option at various points through the process. The Resisters refused PTD from the beginning, citing ethical opposition to the criminalization of protest. Finally, the DA dropped the charges against them instead.

“We decided to risk trial instead of taking a diversion, because solidarity doesn’t end with putting our bodies on the line — we also need to leverage our privilege in the (in)justice system. We refused to be intimidated by threats and manipulations of the state, and we encourage people to take a stand and be unafraid. We can win, we have won, and we will continue to fight until justice emerges,” says

Hammond.

The day of victory for the local J20 Resisters is shared with the national resistance movement. On the same day the local Resisters’ case was dismissed, 129 Washington, D.C., protesters’ cases were dismissed as well. But the U.S. Attorney’s Office continues to seek multiple felony convictions for 59 of the people swept up in a mass arrest at the “anti-fascist and anti-capitalist march” during Trump’s inauguration on Jan. 20, 2017. The local J20 Resisters are committed to using their platform to fight for dismissal of all cases against Inauguration Day protesters.

The J20 Resisters also support the Black Pride 4, who were arrested during Columbus Pride on June 17. They took action in opposition to the June 16 acquittal of Jeronimo Yanez, the St. Anthony, Minn., police officer who killed Philando Castile. The Black Pride 4 continue to face charges and are scheduled to start trial on Feb. 5.

Kendal Blum, another J20 Resister, speaks to this commitment of solidarity: “We stand with resisters across the country who are still fighting. We will take this momentum and channel it into getting the charges against the D.C. J20 Defendants and the Columbus Black Pride 4 dropped. This is a win not just for each of us, but for all of our communities and all those with whom we stand in solidarity.”

On Jan. 20, the J20 Resisters will carry banners of solidarity for national activists, marching alongside GABRIELA National Alliance of Women at the Women’s March, who will march to “RISE against fascism; RESIST the militarization of our lands, communities and bodies; and UNITE for self-determination.”

Even in light of this victory, the J20 Resisters continue to stand in resistance to the current presidential administration — and work toward justice for all activists arrested fighting for social justice.

Mumia hearing postponed

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

On Jan. 17, Philadelphia’s Criminal Justice Center was packed with scores of activists and friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Both outside and inside the courthouse, people from as far away as France gathered to back up the world-renowned political prisoner’s current legal challenge, which could ultimately win his freedom.

Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker had ordered the district attorney’s office to produce testimony regarding a missing memorandum written by former Philadelphia DA Ron Castille. The document could help prove that Castille unconstitutionally played a decisive role when he denied Abu-Jamal’s appeals, both as DA and later as a judge on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

At the hearing, Abu-Jamal was represented by Sam Spital and Judith Ritter of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Tracey Cavanaugh, interim supervisor of the PCRA [Post-Conviction Relief Act] Unit, and Nancy Winkelman, interim supervisor of the Law Department, representing

The J20 Resisters will host a victory party in Oakland, Calif., to fundraise for the Black Pride 4. They’ll post details on their website (tinyurl.com/y9phv8wd) and Facebook page (tinyurl.com/yazt3do6) □

the DA’s office, asked Judge Tucker for a postponement to allow the new DA, Larry Krasner, and his staff to develop a consistent approach to all Williams v. Pennsylvania-related cases.

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court, in the Williams v. Pennsylvania case, found it unconstitutional that Castille was both the DA and the judge hearing Williams’ appeals. Abu-Jamal’s appeal is one of 16 related cases.

Judge Tucker scheduled a status conference for Feb. 26 and postponed Abu-Jamal’s court hearing to March 27, the next organizing date for his supporters. The jury is out on whether or not Krasner will stand firm with the people in his approach to Abu-Jamal’s internationally condemned incarceration.

After Ritter explained what had happened in court to the waiting crowd outside, participants regathered at the Arch Street Memorial Church around the corner for hot food provided by Food Not Bombs Solidarity. The meeting highlights included impromptu speeches by

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Hondurans protest fake election



Former President Manuel Zelaya demonstrating in Tegucigalpa, Honduras Jan. 20, before police attacked him with tear gas.

By John Catalinotto

When people answered the call for a week-long political strike across Honduras beginning on Jan. 20, to protest the fraudulent results of the Nov. 26 election, police and soldiers attacked crowds with tear gas. They injured former President Manuel Zelaya in Tegucigalpa, the

capital city. TeleSUR reported on Jan. 21 that people took to the streets and squares and blocked traffic in many cities and towns. In some cases, they fought back police attacks by burning tires and throwing stones. Police injured at least 30 people and killed a 60-year-old man in the city of Sabá. Zelaya told TeleSUR: “We are the majority. They have tear gas, but we will continue here, we’ll keep on fighting.”

Zelaya is secretary general of the LIBRE Party and a leader of the opposition to Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH), who was declared winner of the Nov. 26 election. The vast majority of Hondurans say JOH’s win is electoral fraud.

With 70 percent of the vote counted, Salvador Nasralla, candidate of the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship coalition, was far enough ahead that there was no chance to overtake him. On Nov. 27 the JOH regime simply shut down the vote count for three days and fixed the outcome. Even the Organization of American States had to question the vote count. Washington gave it full backing, with the U.S. president congratulating Orlando Hernandez. Washington treats Zelaya as an enemy. The U.S. backed a 2009 military coup that removed him. Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton played a key role by giving the coup makers diplomatic and political support.

According to election observers, the 2013 election that put Orlando Hernandez in office was also filled with irregularities that hurt the opposition LIBRE Party. JOH’s client regime has served the Honduran oligarchy and U.S. imperialism. Since the Honduran Constitution limits presidents to one term, even Or-

lando Hernandez’s participation in the latest election was illegal. The current demonstrations should continue until Jan. 27. On that day, Orlando Hernandez is scheduled to be sworn in for a second term. From the scale of the popular opposition that has confronted killer police and soldiers since November, it is apparent that only the brute force of the state apparatus is keeping him in office. Gilberto Ríos Grillo, national director of the LIBRE party, told Alex Anfruns of Investig’Action in an interview on Jan. 15: “I, who was a candidate in the elections, have been finding more [popular] support than we had during the election campaign. And that’s taking into account that we won the elections! There are now more sectors of the population that want Juan Orlando out of office. “The national stoppage that has been declared for Jan. 20-27 will be a full week of seizures of highways, blockades of streets, consumer blockade, etc. ... We believe it will have a much greater impact than any of the prior demonstrations.” □

Cuban brigade anniversary celebrated

By Cheryl LaBash
Havana

The 40th anniversary of the founding of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, which has worked tirelessly in Miami and South Florida to end the U.S. blockade of Cuba and U.S. travel restrictions, and for Cuba’s right to develop in peace, was saluted in Havana from Dec. 18-22. Today, poll after poll shows that Cubans living in the U.S. — like the majority of U.S. residents — support ending the commercial, financial and economic blockade of Cuba. But it was very different in 1977, when the 55 youths who made up the first brigade rebelled against the seemingly monolithic U.S. hostility toward revolutionary Cuba, just to set foot

in the land of their birth. **Migration as a weapon** In tribute a huge Cuban flag, donated by the U.S. veterans, was raised at the oceanside statue and park honoring Maceo. Ricardo Alarcón, the Cuban negotiator of migration agreements with the U.S., explained how the brigade was a response to the U.S. government’s use of migration as a weapon against the Cuban Revolution. In particular, before the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 and the “wet-foot/dry-foot” policy that enticed migration to the U.S. with the promise of a fast track to benefits and U.S. citizenship, there was Operation Peter Pan. Some 14,000 children arrived by plane in the U.S., victims of this little-known

operation. Influenced by CIA and Catholic Church propaganda claiming that the revolutionary government would take children away from parents and send them to the Soviet Union, families sent unaccompanied children to the U.S. in what appeared to be a spontaneous migration process. They were then placed in orphanages or foster homes. The 55 youths who formed the Antonio Maceo Brigade were among these Cuban-born children and those who were brought to the U.S. by their families. Uprooted from their native land without their consent, and then radicalized by the tumultuous U.S. struggles of the 1960s, they voluntarily returned to revolutionary Cuba.

A celebratory program The brigade’s anniversary program began with a news conference at Havana’s International Press Center featuring Andrés Gómez, who organized the delegation for this celebration, and Max Lesnik, director of Radio Miami and founder of the Alianza Martiana coalition, whose Miami offices were bombed multiple times in the 1970s and 1980s. Gómez, the brigade’s president and founder and editor of Areito Digital, dedicated the week-long commemoration to Cuba’s historic leader, Fidel Castro.

At a gala event, the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) was presented with a bust of Antonio Maceo. Fernando González, ICAP president and Cuban 5 hero, explained how the brigade’s work helped build a new relationship between the revolutionary government and Cuban émigré communities in the U.S. and elsewhere. These émigrés showed tremendous courage in defending the Cuban Revolution, in the midst of what was intended to be the South Florida counterrevolution in exile. At a wreath-laying at the Colon Cemetery, where Cuban émigrés who were major figures in the U.S. solidarity movement are buried, each of their names was called before a moment of silence. These included Luis Miranda, former president of Casa de las America, and Tony Llansó, a Miami organizer to Free the Cuban 5. Floral tributes were placed on two crypts, which hold the recovered remains of the 73 peo-



Max Lesnik and Andrés Gómez, center, at Havana’s International Press Center.

ple killed in the bombing of Cubana Flight 455, off the coast of Barbados, in 1976. Children at the Carlos Muniz Varela school performed music and dance for the delegation. In 1979, 25-year-old Maceo Brigade member Muniz Varela was assassinated in Puerto Rico. A mural at the school reflects the special relationship between the two countries: “Cuba and Puerto Rico are two wings of the same bird: They receive flowers and bullets in the same heart.” As the veterans prepared to meet the young Cuban generation at the University of Havana, Lesnik spoke passionately at the monument to Julio Antonio Mella, just below the steps to the university. Mella, who founded the Federation of University Students and the Communist Party of Cuba, was assassinated in 1929 at the age of 25.

The nearly 50-member brigade delegation came from Miami and Key West, Fla., and Europe, including a representative of Cubans living in Marseilles, France. Solidarity activists from the U.S. included Gail Walker, director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization/Pastors for Peace; two co-chairs of the National Network on Cuba; and representatives of Workers World Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation and Socialist Workers Party. Participants heard an update on reconstruction after Hurricane Irma, and a discussion about current U.S.-Cuba relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A visit to the Center of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology amazed guests with Cuba’s pharmaceutical and medical advances. The final event was a bonfire at the Julio Antonio Mella International Camp, where Andrés Gómez, filled with emotion as he recalled the first brigade arriving to the camp, carried one of the torches that lit the bonfire. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Continued from page 8 Estela Vazquez, executive vice president of 1199SEIU, and French activists Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol and Jacky Hortaut, of the Collectif Francais “Liberons Mumia,” and Mireille Fanon-Mendès-France from the Frantz Fanon Foundation. The Fanon Foundation revealed how extensive Abu-Jamal’s support is around the world by collecting hundreds of signers to an open letter to DA Krasner and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf entitled: “International Call to Release the District Attorney and Police Files Rele-

vant to Mumia Abu-Jamal’s Case and to Free Him Now.” Among the signers are Angela Davis, Danny Glover, Dr. Cornel West, Puerto Rican Nationalist hero Oscar López Rivera and Len McCluskey, general secretary of UNITE, the largest union in Great Britain. Numerous elected officials and political activists from France, Germany, Great Britain, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, Australia, Haiti, Mexico, Canada, the U.S. and other countries also added their names and positions. From jailed Palestinian teenager Ahed Tamimi to imprisoned rapper Meek Mill to Abu-Jamal, the racist, capitalist, imperialist police and military apparatus exposes itself for what it really is: not an institution of the people, but a reactionary battalion that resorts to attacking and murdering children, artists and heroic activists just to cover the deep contradictions of mainstream society. The local and international solidarity around the hearing and Abu-Jamal’s case shows that the fight for Abu-Jamal’s and all political prisoners’ freedom is as strong and resonant as ever. □

Typically Olympic Games are spectacles designed to fill the coffers of hotel chains, media moguls, sports equipment and clothing companies, and construction contractors. The cost of these extravaganzas is borne by the workers and poor in the cities and countries that host them.

But sometimes through the corporate buzz of flag waving and medal counts, a message of struggle appears. In the Mexico City games of 1968, two champions, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, mounted the winners' platform, bowed their heads and raised their gloved fists in the iconic Black Power salute while the band played the U.S. national anthem. This symbolic act inspired millions of Black youth, many of whom had just faced thousands of cops, National Guard and federal troops when they rebelled in hundreds of cities against the government that was complicit in the brutal murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

That powerful gesture earned these heroes the spiteful and racist wrath of columnists, commentators and politicians, which has echoed through the years to this very day, with bigot in chief Trump attacking kneeling Colin Kaepernick and his brave cohorts from many sports teams.

Usually the winter games are held in resort areas where the well-to-do frolic

on the ski slopes. Very few athletes are invited to come from Africa, Latin America or the Caribbean, so nothing but the corporate message is likely to be expressed.

Pentagon shocked by successful diplomatic move

But already the 2018 Winter Olympics, to be held in Pyeongchang, south Korea, between Feb. 9 and 25, shows a marked difference. On Jan. 1, Kim Jong Un, chair of the Workers' Party of Korea and leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, called for direct talks with the Republic of Korea — without the presence of U.S officials, whose troops have occupied south Korea for nearly seven decades. The talks, Kim proposed, would discuss joint Korean participation in the Olympic Games.

The south Korean leadership accepted the offer. The provocative joint U.S.-south Korean military exercises that were going to be held during the games were postponed.

Trump of course declared that this move was due to his increased brutal sanctions against the DPRK. At the same time he continues to threaten a nuclear first strike against that small country, which has recently fortified its defenses with a small number of nuclear weapons and missiles as a deterrent against the

vast arsenal of U.S. imperialism.

Talks were held on Jan. 17 at the Demilitarized Zone separating the two states of Korea. They were then concluded at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Jan. 20. At the opening ceremony, athletes from both teams will march together under the Korean Unification Flag, which depicts the Korean peninsula in blue on a white background.

The women's hockey team will be made up of members from both north and south Korea. According to a report in the Jan. 20 USA Today: "North Koreans will also compete in figure skating, short track speed skating, Alpine skiing and cross-country skiing after being given exceptional late entries by the International Olympic Committee.

"The North Korean delegation will also include 24 coaches and officials, plus 21 media representatives at the Feb. 9-25 Winter Games.

"The governments of North and South Korea were offered 'sincere thanks' by IOC President Thomas Bach announcing the agreement. 'Such an agreement would have seemed impossible only a few weeks ago,' said Bach."

Also, two north Korean skiers with disabilities will compete in the Paralympics, held in March in Pyeongchang.

Obviously shocked by this successful diplomatic move by the DPRK, Trump and the Pentagon dispatched six nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to Guam. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson presided over a hastily convened meeting with 19 "allies" in Vancouver, Canada, on Jan. 16. He told the press that "we have to recognize that that threat is growing, and if North Korea does not choose the pathway of engagement, discussion, negotiation, then they themselves will trigger an (military) option." (cnn.com, Jan. 16, CNN clarification)

China and Russia, both neighbors of the DPRK, were not invited to this meeting, and both countries condemned it as provocative when the north Korean government was making these Olympic overtures.

Meanwhile, mysterious missile "false alarms" were triggered, first in Hawaii on Jan. 13 and then in Japan on Jan. 16. Both are thinly veiled threats to north Korea that the Pentagon is still in "hair-trigger" nuclear attack mode, despite the peace initiative.

No matter what the sports outcome is at these Olympic Games, it is clear that the real obstacle to peace on the Korean peninsula is not the brave people of the DPRK, but rather the never-ending threats from the Pentagon and the Trump regime. □

Two-party DACA cruelty Migrants pawn in gov't shutdown

Continued from page 1

dent Barack Obama. It allowed more than 800,000 immigrants, who were brought here by their parents when they were children, to stay, provided they went to school, joined the military or otherwise conformed to government guidelines.

These Dreamers came out of the shadows of living without papers, revealed themselves to the immigration authorities and registered for Dreamer status. They all now have work permits and have been living here for years. Most of them have no connection to or are completely unfamiliar with their countries of origin.

This present government shutdown crisis was set off when Trump cancelled the DACA program last Sept. 5 and destroyed the protected status of DACA immigrants. Trump gave Congress until March 5 to "fix" DACA. This was Trump's way of ducking immediate responsibility for the mass deportation of 800,000-plus Dreamers while appealing to the right-wing base of the Republican Party and his own base by being tough on immigration.

In the shutdown struggle, Trump has been guided by his military handler, John Kelly — a Marine general and his chief of staff. Kelly and Stephen Miller, a right-wing Trump adviser, have blocked the way for any deal on allowing DACA to resume. Kelly represents the direct intervention of the military brass into White House politics.

Kelly, the military and Trump

As former head of the Southern Command, Kelly was an enforcer of the repressive political, social and economic conditions in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and Latin American countries in general. He and the Pentagon, along with the corporate exploiters of Latin America, are prime movers of the immigration crisis.

Kelly has been at Trump's side during

crucial points in negotiations on DACA. According to numerous reports, Kelly was with Trump in the hours before he met with Sens. Dick Durbin, a Democrat, and Lindsey Graham, a Republican, about a compromise resolution. It would have offered full status for Dreamers in return for a downpayment on funding for Trump's wall on the southern border with Mexico.

While Trump was reportedly friendly to the proposal, Kelly thought it too moderate. He called on Republicans to attend a meeting to sink the potential deal.

Graham is a hardcore militarist, allied with Sen. John McCain, and a hawk for war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But Graham wants to stop Trump from ruining the reputation of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad by preventing him from expelling 800,000 Dreamers. After Trump invited him to come to the White House with Durbin following a friendly phone call, the two showed up to find that immigration hawks were in the room along with Trump. That was when Trump went into his racist rage about "shithole countries," referring to African nations, Haiti and El Salvador, and blew up the chance for any deal.

Kelly-Miller ambush

According to media reports, Kelly got on the phone before the meeting and encouraged Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia, two anti-immigration fanatics, to come to the meeting. It was an ambush.

Afterwards, Graham spoke to the press to complain. According to an article by Jonathan Blitzer, someone "close to the White House" told him that "Miller and Kelly are to the right of the President on immigration. The two of them were with the President just before the Oval Office meeting with Graham and Durbin, and the President got really worked up." (New Yorker, Jan. 17)

A similar event took place when Sen. Chuck Schumer went to meet with Trump. The only person in the room, besides Trump, Schumer and a Schumer aide, was Gen. Kelly. After the meeting, Kelly phoned Republicans to tell them that the deal was too liberal, even though Schumer reportedly offered Trump \$20 billion for the wall.

According to another report, "Kelly, the retired four-star Marine who'd sat aside Trump during lunch ... called Schumer. The outline discussed earlier in the day was too liberal, Kelly said, even with a discussion of Trump's full border request. It wasn't enough to keep the President negotiating." (CNN, Jan. 20)

Having been in such a high position in the military hierarchy, Kelly has deep connections to the brass, both active duty and retired. Kelly does not function as an individual or in a political vacuum. In fact, he functions side-by-side on a daily basis with Secretary of Defense James "Mad Dog" Mattis, a retired Marine general who in 2004 infamously led the destruction of Fallujah in Iraq.

The 'grownups in the room'

The capitalist press has praised Kelly, Mattis and National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster (active duty). The mainstream capitalist media and political establishment that have been fearful of Trump used to express sighs of relief about the military "grownups in the room" who would supposedly supervise or exercise a restraining influence on Trump.

One look at Kelly and it is clear who needs restraining.

There is another lesson inherent in the "government shutdown." The "essential services" that remain operational and fully functional are the hard core of the repressive forces of the capitalist state. To the ruling class, even a government shutdown must not interfere with the re-

pression and persecution of the masses.

For example, the Border Patrol, ICE, FBI, military, courts and U.S. marshals largely remain open and fully functional. They continue to carry out raids, round up immigrants, prepare for military aggression, and spy on and hound progressives, the poor and the oppressed.

Meanwhile, according to the New York Times of Jan. 20, the lion's share of the layoffs would take place in the social service agencies:

- Housing and Urban Development would furlough 7,500 out of its 7,800 workers, or 96 percent.
- The Environmental Protection Agency would furlough 13,700 out of 14,400 workers, or 95 percent.
- The Department of Education would furlough 3,700 out of 3,900 workers, or 95 percent.
- The Commerce Department would lay off 41,600 of 47,900 workers or 87 percent. According to the Times, "work would stall across a wide swath of scientific and economic agencies, including the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the Census Bureau and the International Trade Administration."
- The Department of Interior would furlough 56,600 out of 70,400 workers, or 80 percent.
- Health and Human Services would lay off 50 percent of its 81,000 workers.

But the courts and the Justice Department would furlough only 19,500 out of 114,600 employees, or 17 percent. And Homeland Security would lay off just 13 percent of 241,400 employees.

From a trade union point of view, this shutdown can be viewed as a government lockout of hundreds of thousands of workers, many of whom are under union contract and represented by the American Federation of Government Employees.

From a broader social point of view, it

Greece

Strikes defend workers’ right

By G. Dunkel

At the call of the All Workers Militant Front (PAME), a labor federation affiliated with the Greek Communist Party, there was a general strike Jan. 12. This was the Friday before the parliamentary vote on a proposal to limit the right to strike. As lawmakers debated, protesters from PAME chanted “Hands off strikes!” during a march of about 20,000 people. Others held banners reading “Uprising!” and “No to modern slavery!”

Workers protested because, to get the latest and last portion of the bailout from international banks, the Greek parliament had to agree to limit the right to strike, extend electronic auctions and seizures for

tax and social security debts, and make cuts to child and disability benefits.

In December 2017, when the proposal to limit strikes first came before the Greek parliament, PAME held a nationwide general strike on Dec. 14. It was called “a combative and loud response against the attempt of the government, the employers and the EU to smash the life of the working class and the peoples for the sake of the profits of capital.”

On Jan. 15, the day of the vote, there was a strike by ADEDY (the Confederation of Civil Servants), the largest union of public-sector workers. They shut down mass transit in Athens.

It is clear that the unions in Greece are defending the right to strike by

striking. Given all the pain and losses they have suffered over the past 8 years, they are in no mood to accept the latest attacks quietly.

Since Greece entered a financial crisis in 2010, its unions have called about 50 one-day general strikes to fight blatant attacks on workers’ living standards and lives. Farmers, the self-employed and retirees, who were also severely impacted by cuts in health care and other social services, often supported those strikes.

Most of the strikes lasted one day. The short duration led the Greek and European bourgeoisie to discount their strength



PHOTO: PAME

and impact. Production would quickly recover; a day of stoppage now and then would hurt little.

The bailout program is set to end in August 2018. After that Greece must finance itself by selling government bonds instead of arranging support through the European Union. If the Greek government enters the open loan market, the loss of productivity from all these strikes will be more important to the Greek ruling class. □

U.S. spreads chaos in the Middle East

By Sara Flounders

U.S. imperialism’s deteriorating position in the Middle East was confirmed on Jan. 16 by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson’s bold assertion for U.S. plans in Syria. The arrogant statement was followed, within hours, by almost immediate backpedaling.

Tillerson’s talk at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University confirmed that the only hope of maintaining U.S. domination is another desperate attempt to close all borders and dismember the entire region. But the latest plan has also created a rupture in NATO, the oldest and largest U.S.-commanded military alliance.

Meanwhile, Turkish planes bombed 100 positions in Syria of U.S.-backed Kurdish YPG forces (the Kurdish acronym for People’s Protection Units) on Jan. 21.

As the war in Syria stretches into the seventh year, Tillerson grandly announced the U.S. military will remain in Syria indefinitely. The newest U.S. plan is to create and train a military border force of 30,000 soldiers. The secretary of state also arrogantly restated the U.S. demand that has met with failure for seven years: the ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the overthrow of the Syrian

Arab Republic government.

This was not the first mention of new U.S. plans there. General Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, said on Dec. 24 that a training program was being established for Kurdish and Arab fighters to become a permanent U.S. occupying force in Syria. Votel declared, “What we don’t want to do is leave a mess.” (us.pressfrom.com, Dec. 24)

In fact, U.S. long-term plans are to permanently divide Syria and Iraq and expand their imperialist “mess” into Iran.

Since Jan. 14, news reports around the world reported U.S. plans to create a new “border force” in Syria on the borders of Turkey and Iraq. This U.S. plan would separate the oil-rich northern region from the rest of Syria, create a mini-state and close the borders.

Washington said it would help Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of militias in northern and eastern Syria led by Kurdish YPG militias, to set up a new 30,000-strong border force.

A flurry of other U.S. statements drew out this plan more explicitly.

The coalition’s Public Affairs Office said: “The base of the new force is essentially a realignment of approximately 15,000

members of the SDF to a new mission in the Border Security Force as their actions against ISIS [the Islamic State group, IS] draw to a close.” (Reuters, Jan. 14)

Before the announcement of a new U.S. plan to occupy and divide the region, numerous commentators described an unprecedented development with the defeat of IS — open borders among Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey. The whole region has been divided since the 1991 U.S. war to recolonize and divide Iraq.

Turkey immediately slammed this new plan of a permanent U.S. occupation through an alliance with YPG Kurdish forces in Syria. Turkey warned of military action against the U.S.-armed and -protected YPG forces.

In the face of Turkey’s fierce opposition, Tillerson claimed, “That entire situation has been misportrayed, misdescribed, some people misspoke. We are not creating a border security force at all.” (aljazeera, Jan. 18)

The Kurdish Nation

Turkey’s great fear is that a “border force” of U.S.-armed Kurdish militias will siphon off advanced U.S.-supplied weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, to Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) forces in Turkey.

Although there are 1.5 to 2 million Kurds in Syria, there are almost 20 million nationally oppressed Kurds in Turkey. Making up 20 percent of population, they are the majority population in southern Turkey, bordering northern Syria, Iraq and Iran.

For decades the Pentagon has armed Turkey and aided in the brutal repression of the Kurds, who resisted under the leadership of the PKK.

But imperialism sees an opportunity to use the smaller Kurdish population in Syria, where they are 5 percent to 8 percent of the Syrian population, as a way to divide Syria. The Kurds in Syria are under the leadership of the Democratic Union Party (PYD); their armed units are the YPG. These are the main units of the U.S.-armed Syrian Democratic Forces.

U.S. imperialism used a similar scenario to impose a division on Iraq. This is imperialism’s divide-and-rule strategy for the entire region. Using the Kurds’ national aspirations for a temporary U.S. military or political advantage, and then cynically dropping them, dates back to Henry Kissinger.

The Kurds are a historically oppressed nation with a distinct language and culture, numbering over 30 million people.

They are the largest nation without a state. They live in the underdeveloped, mountainous region spanning four countries: southern Turkey and northern Iraq, Iran and Syria.

Some 72 Turkish jets bombed U.S.-backed Kurdish militias in Syria on Jan. 21. The Turkish news agency Anadolu reported that jets bombed more than 100 targets, including an air base, in the first day of air operations against YPG militias. The operation targeted YPG barracks, shelters, positions, weapons, vehicles and equipment.

Each U.S. maneuver has created greater destruction, but the U.S. has been unable to consolidate its position in the region or gain stable allies.

U.S. divide-and-destroy tactics

Since 2011 the U.S. has covertly armed a whole series of conflicting militias and mercenaries.

With a wink and a nod from U.S. forces in the region, which were arming numerous extremist militias, Saudi Arabia and Turkey armed the fanatical IS army. This became an excuse for open U.S. bombing of Syrian infrastructure.

The U.S. military command pulled 19 other NATO and Gulf countries into the war in Syria. This military onslaught was totally uninvited by the Syrian government.

The Syrian government appealed to Iran, Russia and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon to aid them in defeating IS and the Pentagon-funded militias and mercenaries. This forced Washington to change tactics, but not its objective — the recolonization of the region.

U.S.-imposed sanctions against Iraq and then Syria were an effort to destroy all forms of normal economic exchange and to shut down all commercial and social life. The U.S. occupation of Iraq divided the country into walled-off mini-states with checkpoints and inspections. All borders were closed. U.S. intervention in Syria was designed to do the same thing.

U.S. wars in the region have displaced more than 10 million people and decimated the region. They have created animosity and suspicion on every side, divided the corrupt and brutal feudal Gulf state regime aligned with imperialism, and are now dividing the oldest U.S. military alliance — NATO.

But after seven years of war and 15 years of sanctions, U.S. imperialism has still not succeeded in destroying the sovereign government of the Syrian Arab Republic. □

Two-party DACA cruelty

Continued from page 10

represents a lockout of millions of people who rely on government services that were to be shut down.

Fight back against criminalization of immigrants

The DACA fight is part of a larger assault by the Trump administration to criminalize immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security declared that basically all 11 million undocumented immigrants are “criminals” subject to deportation at any time. Their crime? Crossing the border to flee poverty and repression brought about by U.S. imperialism’s ransacking of their countries.

A further part of this attempt to criminalize the immigrant population was Trump’s cancellation of temporary protected status (TPS) for almost 262,000 Salvadorians, 86,000 Hondurans, 58,000 Haitians and 5,300 Nicaraguans.

TPS was granted by Washington in 1990 to immigrants fleeing war, the aftermath of natural disasters and other dangerous conditions in their home

countries. Of course, these conditions were caused by forced underdevelopment, exploitation and death squad governments created by U.S. imperialism in the first place.

Many of those with TPS have lived here for years. They have set down roots here, have built families here, own homes, have children who are in schools, etc. That is because their status has been renewed at regular intervals.

The Mexican border was created by U.S. capitalism when it stole half of Mexico in 1848 and ran roughshod over Native lands. It has become a racist political barrier dictated by Washington and the bosses and bankers in the U.S. It has become the basis for endless repression and discrimination. And it has led to superexploitation of immigrant workers in the U.S.

The working-class movement and the oppressed here must answer Trump and the entire racist, anti-immigrant establishment with cross-border solidarity, with class solidarity toward all workers, no matter where they come from, in a common struggle against the exploiters. □



‘Justicia y solidaridad para Puerto Rico’

La siguiente charla fue presentada por Berta Joubert-Ceci, editora de Mundo Obrero/Workers World y miembro del Comité Directivo de las Américas de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres, en la Conferencia nacional sobre bases militares extranjeras de EUA celebrada del 12 al 14 de enero en Baltimore.

En primer lugar, me gustaría agradecer a las/os organizadores de este evento porque en estos tiempos peligrosos reuniones como esta son un paso crucial para movilizar a las personas en todo el mundo. Es muy urgente ahora lanzar una lucha a escala global.

Cada país progresista, cada movimiento progresista y cada idea progresista está bajo el feroz ataque de un sistema capitalista moribundo que quiere revertir cualquier avance de los movimientos populares en todo el mundo.

En nombre del pueblo Boricua, también quiero agradecerles por incluir a Puerto Rico en la agenda.

¿Cuáles son los puntos que queremos transmitir?

- La actual crisis de la deuda es el resultado de un siglo de políticas colonialistas que fueron diseñadas para beneficiar a los intereses económicos de los EUA.

- Los efectos del huracán María, tanto para Estados Unidos como para el pueblo de Puerto Rico.

- ¿Qué hacer?

Si bien Estados Unidos tiene presencia militar en Puerto Rico, me gustaría abordar los problemas más urgentes que existen en este momento. Esos son los acontecimientos en torno a la crisis de la deuda, en particular después del huracán María.

Pero vamos a exponer algunos antecedentes breves antes del huracán. (En Puerto Rico, se hace referencia al tiempo como antes y después del huracán María, que tuvo lugar el 20 de septiembre de 2017)

Ya había una deuda pública impagable e ilegítima de \$74 mil millones. Este fue el resultado de bonos municipales vendidos por el gobierno puertorriqueño para financiar operaciones gubernamentales, no para desarrollar la economía de la isla; también tomó prestado para pagar los intereses.

En 2016, bajo la administración de Obama, el Congreso estadounidense aprobó la Ley de Supervisión, Gestión y Estabilidad Económica de Puerto Rico - PROMESA - que creó la Junta de Supervisión Financiera para Puerto Rico. Mejor conocida como Junta de Control Fiscal, ésta consta de siete miembros designados por el presidente de los EUA. Y un miembro ex officio designado por el gobernador de Puerto Rico.

Los bancos crearon la deuda

Muchos bancos de EUA e internacionales se involucraron en la creación de esta deuda. El Banco Santander, en particular, muestra perfectamente el papel de los bancos en la producción y el aumento de la deuda.

Dos de los miembros de la JCF no solo eran ejecutivos del Banco Santander, sino que también habían sido presidentes del Banco Gubernamental de Fomento de Puerto Rico, la entidad que solía administrar el presupuesto del gobierno. Estos dos hombres, Carlos M. García y José Ramón González, “construyeron Santander Securities, el negocio de bonos municipales del banco, que se estableció como un destacado suscriptor de bonos, coincidiendo con el crecimiento de la deuda pública puertorriqueña”.

“Este negocio trajo importantes ingresos por comisiones para el banco”. El BGF se volvió cada vez más dependiente de técnicas de ingeniería financiera cuestionables

... Santander ayudó al Estado Libre Asociado a emitir acuerdos de deuda riesgosos que dependían de características controversiales, lo que generó más ingresos por comisiones para el negocio de suscripción de Santander”. Cito de un artículo publicado en el sitio web de Hedge Clipper: “Cómo la puerta giratoria de Santander con el Banco de Fomento de Puerto Rico exacerbó una catástrofe fiscal para el pueblo puertorriqueño”.

Tenemos que recordar que la economía se ha basado en la manufactura para empresas de EUA. Aunque pagaban relativamente bien a las/os trabajadores, las ganancias no se quedaban en Puerto Rico, no ayudaron a construir infraestructura ni a desarrollar la economía de la isla.

Los impuestos pagados al gobierno puertorriqueño - los que pagaban - era de solo un 4 por ciento. Puerto Rico había sido un paraíso libre de impuestos para las industrias estadounidenses desde el inicio, primero con la caña de azúcar en la agricultura, luego con el procesamiento petroquímico y luego con los productos farmacéuticos, los equipos médicos y la electrónica.

La JCF propuso planes de austeridad que incluyeron: recortes en el cuidado de la salud, la universidad pública y el 10 por ciento de las pensiones de las/os trabajadores públicos; reducción del día laboral; terminación de los bonos de Navidad; eliminación de fondos para los 78 municipios; cierre de escuelas; aumento de impuestos; y la privatización de la industria energética estatal y de las agencias con más estabilidad económica, como la Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado.

Así que, mientras la mayoría del pueblo puertorriqueño quedaba en la pobreza, se estaban pagando montos obscenos en millones de dólares a la misma JCF para consultores, subcontratistas y otros. Por ejemplo - porque hay muchos en todos los niveles del gobierno, no solo pertenecientes a la JCF - ¡contrataron a Natalie Jarlesko, directora ejecutiva de la junta, por \$625.000 al año!

Luego vino el huracán Irma y dos semanas después, el 20 de septiembre, el huracán María, destruyendo Culebra, Vieques y Puerto Rico.

La destrucción causada es solo comparable a la causada por el huracán San Ciriaco en 1899 que Estados Unidos usó para cambiar la economía de Puerto Rico al imponer el dólar y sustituir la industria azucarera para beneficiar a Estados Unidos, en vez de las exportaciones de café y tabaco de Puerto Rico hacia Europa.

De manera similar, el colapso del sistema eléctrico dio a los EUA la excusa perfecta para acelerar sus planes de privatización de esta esencial industria. El hecho de que la electricidad no se haya restablecido para casi la mitad de la población a más de 100 días desde el azote del huracán no es accidental. El gobierno espera que la gente se desespere tanto que acepte la privatización de la empresa, con sus costos más altos.

El sector de la electricidad solo ha descubierto la profunda corrupción del gobierno local en conjunto con el gobierno federal. Un ejemplo es el contrato hecho con la pequeña Compañía Whitefish con sede en Montana por \$300 millones para reconstruir la energía eléctrica, ¡la cual solo tenía dos empleados!

FEMA y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército son criminales

Ahora, el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de EUA está a cargo de la restauración de la electricidad, pero son bien conocidos por su lentitud.

Tanto la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias [FEMA por las siglas en inglés] como las acciones del Cuerpo de Ingenieros estadounidense en Puerto Rico han sido criminales. Después del huracán, FEMA inmediatamente tomó el control de todos los contenedores que llegaban a la isla con material de ayuda y suministros, dificultando la entrega de los bienes. La lentitud de ambas agencias en la evaluación de los daños y el pedido de materiales -desde los toldos azules hasta postes eléctricos - son actos genocidas contra el pueblo puertorriqueño.

Cuatro meses después de la tormenta, todavía hay casas destruidas en las zonas rurales y montañas, sin toldos azules ni electricidad. El Cuerpo de Ingenieros ni siquiera ha construido un solo puente en Puerto Rico.

Las condiciones posteriores a María han causado una crisis humanitaria. Al menos un cuarto de millón de Boricuas han emigrado a EUA en la desesperación. Más de 1000 personas han muerto y miles siguen sin hogar. Hay hambre. La comunicación y el agua potable aún están precarias. El país está paralizado, particularmente por la falta de electricidad. Miles de pequeñas empresas han cerrado.

Y mientras el gobierno estadounidense retiene ayuda crucial al pueblo, impide que otros países ayuden a la isla. Estados Unidos ha evitado la solidaridad, evitando que Cuba envíe una unidad de salud móvil con médicos, personal de salud y electricistas, que Venezuela envíe un barco con diesel y que México envíe trabajadores eléctricos capacitados. Lo que EUA ha impuesto en Puerto Rico es un verdadero bloqueo.

Lo que estamos presenciando en Puerto Rico no es solo la devastación de dos huracanes y el “fracaso” de la reconstrucción por parte del gobierno local y el federal. Es la exposición de la catástrofe del estado colonial que finalmente ha llegado a un callejón sin salida.

Sin soberanía, Puerto Rico no puede resolver esta crisis; no puede desarrollar su economía para beneficiar a su pueblo. Esto está muy claro.

Sin embargo, hay un desarrollo importante y muy positivo en Puerto Rico. Miles de grupos basados en las comunidades se han estado formando por toda la isla.

Inicialmente, vecinas/os que ni siquiera se conocían comenzaron a unirse para despejar caminos, ya que no había absolutamente ninguna ayuda del exterior, ni del gobierno local ni federal. Empezaron a ayudarse unas/os a otras/os, recolectando alimentos y cocinando para la comunidad y planeando acciones. Ahora muchas comunidades están organizando protestas para exigir electricidad al gobierno.

Muchas organizaciones que existían antes se están expandiendo a nuevas áreas más allá de sus barrios. Están buscando el establecimiento de cooperativas agroecológicas, para una economía sostenible, para la energía solar, etc.

La lucha por las escuelas

Las/os maestros, padres, estudiantes y sus comunidades han estado llevando a cabo constantes demostraciones y acciones para exigir que se abran las escuelas de su

vecindario. La Secretaria de Educación Julia Keleher, quien es estadounidense, fue contratada por el actual gobierno de Ricky Roselló - quien está a favor de la estadidad - con el propósito de privatizar la educación pública. Cerró muchas escuelas antes del huracán y luego impidió la apertura de escuelas después de María. Muchas familias han migrado a EUA solo por esta razón, para que sus hijas/os puedan comenzar la escuela.

La UTIER, la unión de trabajadores de la industria energética de Puerto Rico, trabajó como verdaderos héroes en las montañas para restaurar la electricidad. El sindicato ha presentado una demanda contra la ley PROMESA, basada en su falta de constitucionalidad. La juez federal bajo la ley PROMESA escuchó el caso hace unos días y aún está pendiente.

El movimiento pro independentista está comenzando a buscar formas de unirse activamente para comenzar el proceso de descolonización.

Así que, mientras el gobierno estadounidense y su marioneta subordinada en Puerto Rico están tratando de aprovechar la catástrofe post María para imponer y profundizar las medidas de austeridad contra el pueblo, hay una marea de movilización desde abajo que está comenzando a desafiar esta maniobra dictatorial.

¿Qué podemos hacer aquí? ¿Cómo podemos ayudar al pueblo Boricua?

Mucho se ha dicho sobre el sufrimiento y la necesidad de ayuda y suministros para aliviar las horrendas condiciones. Pero muy poco se dice sobre la responsabilidad del gobierno de EUA hacia el pueblo Boricua, quienes no estarían en esta dificultad si no fuera por la camisa de fuerza que es el dominio colonial de EUA.

El pueblo Boricua no necesita caridad. Lo que necesita es justicia y solidaridad. Necesitan reparaciones de los Estados Unidos por más de un siglo de colonización.

Por la invasión en 1898 y la destrucción de nuestra economía.

Por la represión y asesinato de independentistas.

Por la imposición de una Ley Mordaza que prohibió a las/os puertorriqueños exhibir nuestra propia bandera.

Por la esterilización forzada de más del 35 por ciento de las mujeres entre los años 1970 y 1980.

Por el uso de nuestra tierra fértil para fines militares.

Por la contaminación de tierra, aire y agua por parte de las industrias militares, petroquímicas y farmacéuticas.

Por la Ley Jones que prohíbe a Puerto Rico tener su propia industria naviera, forzándola a utilizar la marina mercante de EUA, la más cara del mundo. Esto hace que todo, desde comida hasta ropa y autos, sea al menos un 20 por ciento más costoso.

Por imponernos la ciudadanía estadounidense.

Las personas en EUA deben exponer los crímenes que EUA comete diariamente en todas partes del mundo.

Con respecto a Puerto Rico, las personas en EUA deben exigir:

- ¡EUA, Fuera de Puerto Rico!
- ¡Fin a la Ley PROMESA y su Junta de Control Fiscal!
- ¡Derogar la Ley Jones!
- ¡Fin al bloqueo de Puerto Rico!
- ¡Reparaciones ya! □