



San Francisco

# ‘Resist Trump’ goes global Millions join women’s marches

By Monica Moorehead

Consider these astounding numbers: 750,000 in Los Angeles; 500,000 in Washington, D.C.; 500,000 in New York City; 250,000 in Chicago; 150,000 in San Francisco; 150,000 in Boston; 150,000 in Denver; 100,000 in Oakland; 100,000 in London. These numbers represent some of the largest demonstrations that took place on Jan. 21, ignited by the inauguration of the racist, misogynistic, xenophobic Donald Trump as the 45th U.S. president.

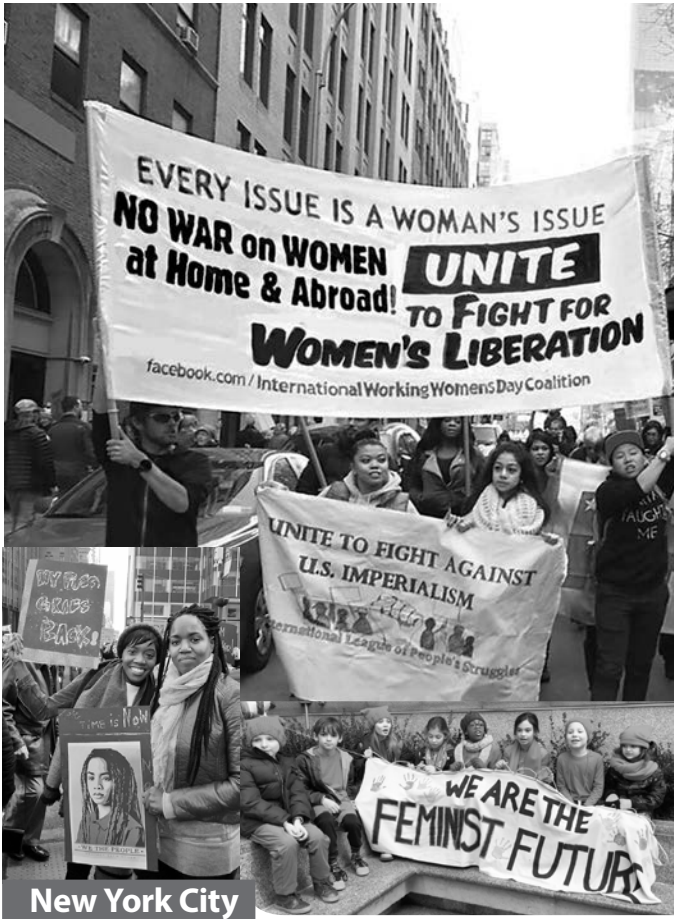
It is estimated that more than 4 million people, the vast majority of them women, participated in women’s marches in more than 500 U.S. cities. They also protested in more than 100 cities outside the U.S. — on every continent, including Antarctica. These estimated numbers were compiled by Jeremy Pressman (@djpressman) at the University of Connecticut and Erica Chenoweth (@ericachenoweth) at the University of Denver based on numerous media reports, including Facebook and Twitter.

Not since the massive global protests on the weekend of Feb. 15-16, 2003, right before the U.S. war on Iraq,

have so many people come out in the streets on the same day in solidarity and resistance — this time with women’s rights the major focus. Due to the sheer numerical magnitude of these demonstrations, the J21 marches could not be ignored by the mainstream media or the incoming Trump administration.

What started out as a modest call for a Jan. 21 march against Trump by one Hawai’i-based woman on Facebook, on the night of the Nov. 8 presidential election, exploded into an earth-shattering phenomenon. Social media was used once again as the catalyst to catapult

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New York City

Ketchikan, Alaska



Atlanta



Bogota, Colombia



Bangkok, Thailand



Nairobi, Kenya

UPPER LEFT PHOTO: CRIS HILO; ATLANTA PHOTO: STEVE EBERHARDT; LOWER LEFT WW PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER; WWP PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ

## Repression fuels resistance in DC

By Taryn Fivek  
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 23 — The last of the Workers World delegation left Washington, D.C., today with people affiliated with Shut It Down NYC. Three of them were among the more than 200 who had been kidnapped, tortured, detained and slapped with trumped-up charges after protesting the official coronation of the newest defender of the ruling class on Jan. 20. The state, in its eager effort to stamp out any spark of resistance to President Donald Trump’s racism and sexism, was swift in its attempts to

repress anti-Trump activists. Despite that, Jan. 20 was a day of determined fight-back, beginning with the J20 Resist rally at Anti-Columbus Circle, which generated a mood of revolutionary optimism that continued throughout the day. The Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, arrived in formation before the sun was up,

chanting slogans and joining others for hot coffee and breakfast. Then North Carolina comrades arrived, their chants raising the energy of the crowd to an even more spirited level. By the time the rally ended at 11 a.m., thousands of militant socialists had gathered to march.

The J20 Resist crowd, 2,500 strong, streamed out

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Milwaukee, Wis.

PHOTO: SUE RUGGLES

Roanoke, Va.

### Actions honor MLK legacy

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# Chelsea Manning wins release

By Chris Fry

Over the strenuous objections of Pentagon chief Ash Carter, President Obama commuted the 35-year sentence of Chelsea Manning. She is now slated for release in May. Manning, who announced the day after she was sentenced by a military court that she is transgender, has spent the last seven years in a Marine stockade and federal male prison.

Manning was a U.S. Marine intelligence analyst in Iraq. She turned over some 750,000 military files, diplomatic cables and videos to the whistleblower website WikiLeaks. One video showed helicopter crews laughing as they machine gunned several civilians in Baghdad in 2007, including two Reuters news reporters holding cameras.

Additional files revealed that the Pentagon counted thousands more of its civilian victims than it had revealed to the U.S. public. Still others showed that the military knew that there was no justification for detaining prisoners at Guantánamo and that the detainees had nothing to do with the 9/11 attacks. Manning revealed pressure by Washington on other countries to maintain the infamous “rendition” torture chambers scattered around the globe.

Since Chelsea Manning was arrested in 2010, she has been supported by many progressive organizations as well as the LGBTQ community. In the last few months, more than 117,000 online petition signatures were col-

lected, calling on President Obama to commute Manning’s draconian sentence and release her.

Faced with oppression so intense that she twice tried to commit suicide, last summer Manning conducted a highly publicized hunger strike. Although her jailers punished her for that by putting her in solitary confinement, she won key demands for hormone treatments and permission to wear some makeup and female undergarments.

Manning has reported that she has not been harassed by fellow inmates at the Fort Leavenworth federal men’s prison. “I have friends,” she said.

Manning and her determined supporters had to overcome intense opposition from the imperialist establishment, the military brass and the same intelligence agencies that conducted the tortures that she exposed. House Speaker Paul Ryan called Manning’s commutation “outrageous.” Trump’s pick for deputy national security director, K.T. McFarland, called for Manning to be tried for treason and executed. (talkingpointsmemo.com, Jan. 18)

With Donald Trump and many of his advisors openly advocating attacks on civilians, torture and other war crimes, Chelsea Manning’s hard-won release is an important victory. It means that these hard-core right-wingers, despite all their forces of repression, will face exposure of their crimes by brave heroes like Chelsea Manning and, sooner than they think, will face the judgment of the workers and oppressed here and across the planet. □

# Peltier clemency denied ‘but we will keep fighting’

*The following email from the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee was issued on Jan. 18.*

Brothers, sisters, friends and supporters:  
Our hearts are heavy today. President Obama has denied Leonard’s application for a commutation. His name appears on the Jan. 18 list of commutations denied by Obama as issued by the Office of the Pardon Attorney. Leonard’s attorney, Martin Garbus, was also notified.

Today, in an email, Leonard wrote: “If I should not [receive clemency] then after we are locked in for the day I will have a good cry and then pick myself up and get myself ready for another round of battles until I cannot fight [any] more. So, don’t worry. I can handle anything after over 40 years.”

It’s hard to bear such a blow, though. And make no

mistake — Leonard has been hit hardest of all.  
But let’s not mourn so very long. Instead, let’s move ever forward. Channel your grief and anger in a positive way. Remember that Leonard still needs our help. He needs quality health care and a transfer to a medium-security facility, among other things. We’ll always work towards freedom for Leonard, but these actions may help to make his life more bearable until freedom is won.

Now, we urge you to write to Leonard and help to keep his spirits up. Tell him you won’t give up, that you’ll walk the rest of the way with him. Send cards and letters to:  
Leonard Peltier #89637-132, USP Coleman I  
P.O. Box 1033, Coleman, FL 33521  
Thank you for your hard work and determination. Blessings to all of you. Please stay tuned. □



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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 59 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

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# Greensboro city workers form union

By Dante Strobino

City workers in Greensboro, N.C., turned the tides of history when they packed a City Council meeting on Jan. 17. They asserted their formation of a union and requested regular meetings with the city manager and department heads.

North Carolina is the second-least unionized state in the country, with less than 2 percent of all workers unionized and a Jim-Crow-era ban on collective bargaining for public sector workers (the state takes turns with South Carolina in being the least unionized).

Yet Greensboro city workers and workers across the state have been organizing in a pre-majority union and asserting their rights while building a statewide movement and the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, Electrical Workers (UE) Local 150, to push back against the right-wing tide.

Greensboro is where, on Feb. 1, 1960, four Black college students from the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University sat in at a Woolworth's department store to protest racial segregation. Their action helped to propel a national movement.

At one point in time, city workers were denied the right to organize. But in 1968, a sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tenn., rocked the world and garnered the support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — who was assassinated while in Memphis for the struggle.

Building on the strike's momentum, city workers in North Carolina began organizing for their basic constitutional rights to freedom of association and the freedom to petition their government. They won a U.S. District Court of North Carolina ruling in 1969 that clarified city workers' right to join a union.

Greensboro was one of the first Southern U.S. cities to agree to raise their city employees' wages to \$15 per hour by 2020, in a resolution passed in August 2015. Workers were initially told their wages would be raised to \$10 per hour in late 2015. Yet — as of this writing, nearly a year and a half later — not a single low-

wage worker has seen the first step in the implementation of this wage increase.

Adele Holland, who is an afterschool counselor in the Parks and Recreation Department, has been making \$8.33 an hour, along with a few hundred of her co-workers who are supposed to benefit from the wage increase. She has been organizing workers in her department to join the union and told her story to the City Council on Jan. 17.

The union campaign proves that ordinances and progressive public policy changes mean very little if the people they protect are not organized to defend and enforce them.

After the action, the city manager's office pledged to raise the floor wages by Feb. 1.

Charles French, a sanitation worker and newly elected president of the Greensboro City Workers Union chapter of UE 150, said it best when he spoke in front of the City Council meeting: “We feel we are vital to a healthy and prosperous city. Our work to keep the streets clean, to keep the water running, to repair broken roads and sidewalks, to run the public library system, to maintain the parks, to watch after children in summer camps and afterschool programs are critically needed by all residents in our city.”

French continued: “Yet our needs, perspectives and voices are far too often overlooked. Over the past few months, we have united to become a strong voice about a range of issues impacting city workers. Some concerns [include] rising cost of living without real raises; lack of basic workplace protections; workplace harassment and discrimination; overuse of temporary and seasonal (‘roster’) employees; lack of proper numbers of staff in our departments; and more.”

### Legacy of 1979 Greensboro massacre

Five communist union and community activists were shot and murdered on Nov. 3, 1979, in the clear light of day by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Several others were injured. The organizing, which had a clearly anti-racist orientation, was focused on Morningside Heights, a pub-

lic housing project in the Black community, and on Black workers at the Cone textile mill plant.

Even though the massacre was captured by a news camera, not a single one of the KKK members was ever convicted or served a prison sentence. It was later documented that the Greensboro Police Department and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives officials collaborated closely with the KKK.

Members of UE 150's statewide executive board were amongst the survivors and those that organized support after the massacre. Charles French, the new Greensboro chapter president, was then a youth who lived at Morningside Heights and witnessed the 1979 tragedy. In many ways, the union was born out of this atrocity.

Yet, decades later, much of the racial tension and wounds from the massacre are reflected deep inside the city and its workforce.

Only by a concerted community-labor campaign will this history ever be turned around. The Rev. Nelson Johnson, Joyce Johnson and the Beloved Community Center have been at the center of this struggle for the last few decades, including many bitter fights against the racist, brutal police. Rev. Johnson spoke in favor of the workers organizing a union at the City Council meeting.

When workers began organizing the union, they understood that organizing against racism and for solidarity between Black and white workers was a huge priority. The workers launched a concerted campaign to reach out specifically to the white workers, to educate them about the benefits of joining the union. They sought to break down the bosses' lies that it was only “a Black union.” They stressed that it was in white workers' interest to unite

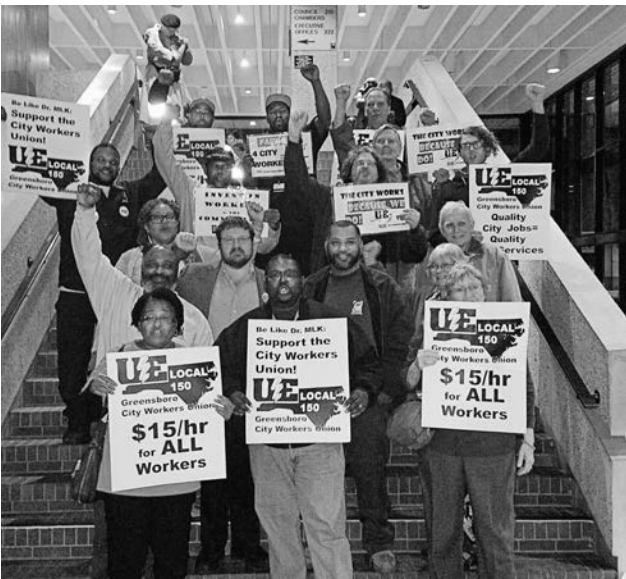


PHOTO: JUAN MIRANDA

Greensboro city workers pack the city council on Jan. 17 in support of their newly formed union and for raising wages to \$15 per hour now.

with their co-workers and organize a union, rather than kissing the boss's ass and snitching on their union co-workers.

A similar perspective on the greater political interest will need to be explained to all white workers and all working people in the coming years as we fight to expose the lies of the Donald Trump administration. Trump represents the interests of the owning elite, 1% billionaire class, and not those of anyone else.

When the KKK attempted to organize a parade this past Dec. 3, 2016, to celebrate Trump's electoral victory, more than 2,000 people protested in downtown Raleigh, organized by the Triangle Unity May Day Coalition. A large group also traveled to Pelham, N.C., and then chased the KKK to Danville, Va. There, they marched and outnumbered the KKK, scaring them away from showing their faces at all.

City workers are an important strategic sector in the overall fight for economic, racial and social justice, and to challenge the racist, killer police. Workers are continuing to build a statewide movement in North Carolina which will lift up all oppressed and working people. Organize the South! □

# MLK Day in militant motion

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Fierce determination marked this year's Martin Luther King Day actions. Those who rallied during the Jan. 14-16 weekend pledged a return to the radical legacy of the Civil Rights leader whom the day commemorates. They were galvanized by the right-wing, racist, sexist, anti-woman, anti-LGBTQ and anti-poor-people agenda of Donald Trump and his billionaire bullies. Gatherings ranged from big cities on the East and West coasts to small towns in the South. Labor activists united with community organizers, as anti-racist soccer teams and knitting groups marched side by side. Fight for \$15 signs calling for the right to unionize and a higher minimum wage were held up together with LGBTQ rainbow flags. There was dancing, direct action, civil disobedience, and continuing defiance of state police terror and police brutality. The dedicated, creative, angry and inspired leadership of young Black and Brown people was present everywhere, fighting for survival and self-determination and reclaiming King's Day.

In **New York City**, NYC Shut It Down,

People's Power Assembly and Why Accountability reclaimed the radical legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 16. Their march was an extension of #PeoplesMonday, a series of militant street marches organized by NYC Shut It Down every Monday for the past two years. Each march tells the story of a person of color murdered by police or vigilantes.

The Monday of MLK Day focused on Renisha McBride, a 19-year-old Black woman murdered in a white suburb of Detroit while looking for assistance after a car accident.

The action also drew attention to the ongoing gentrification of central Harlem. Since 2000, the white population of Harlem has increased more than seven times, while the Black population has declined by more than a third. Marchers paused in front of Corner Social, a gentrifying restaurant whose staff assaulted #PeoplesMonday protesters two weeks ago. Statements made by the owner justifying the attack were read aloud and refuted with quotes from Martin Luther King. Community pressure has forced Corner Social to remove its racist dress code, a deliberate attempt to exclude Harlem's

Black working class.

Chants included: “We're tired of dying and being gentrified! We're doing this for Renisha McBride!” as well as “Black lives matter! Brown lives matter! Blue's a job! That shit don't matter!”

Police responded to the march aggressively, shoving people out of the streets and arresting two people. These two were later released with minor charges into a large crowd of cheering supporters. Community response to the march was overwhelmingly positive.

Support for Dr. Martin Luther King's vision was also held in three languages at a large City Hall protest called by the Citywide Alliance Against Displacement on Jan. 16. The event was led by the mostly working-class families who attended from Chinatown, the Lower East Side and the South Bronx.

The rally's goals included honoring Dr. King, unity against gentrification, fighting privatization of public housing and ending racist rezoning. Sellout politicians were exposed for their plans to benefit luxury developers, when affordable housing is needed everywhere. Demands were made that Mayor Bill de Bla-



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

### New York

sio, who rejected an affordable housing plan by the Chinatown Working Group, step down. Members of these oppressed neighborhoods made calls — like Dr. King — to “reclaim our social justice legacy.”

Increasingly, rallies like these are putting the capitalist private property system on notice. For more information, contact NYCnotforSale@gmail.com.

The Anti Police-Terror Project of **Oakland, Calif.**, held its third annual March to Reclaim King's Radical Legacy on Jan. 16. The march kicked off 120 hours of direct action leading up to Jan. 20 Counter-Inaugural, anti-Trump protests. Organizers emphasized: “This year we are focused on immigrant rights, protection of our Muslim brothers and sisters, women's reproductive rights, loving our LGBTQ sisters, brothers and siblings,

*Continued on page 4*



# Wealth more concentrated as poverty grows

By Kathy Durkin

While 3,000 of the world’s wealthiest people wined and dined on champagne and caviar in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 17-20, 9 percent of the world’s people went to bed hungry.

These millionaires, economists and government leaders met at the World Economic Forum, as they do annually, in pursuit of international trade agreements and other measures which will provide wider markets and lead to higher profits for their countries’ companies. This year they’re worried. A major topic of discussion was the future of corporate globalization, which is endangered, as fury grows worldwide over rising income inequality. That and social polarization were viewed as risks to the world capitalist economy which could stymie globalization.

The masses of people know that the super rich are getting richer and that they — the workers and oppressed people whose labor creates the wealth — are getting poorer. The WEF said that median income had fallen 2.4 percent from 2008 to 2013 in 26 industrialized countries. In Europe and the United States, some of that anger is terribly misdirected at immigrants and other oppressed people — who are just trying to survive — instead of at the obscenely wealthy capitalist class.

In fact, the “global elite” are so concerned at growing international anger at financial inequities that an article included in the Forum’s agenda was entitled “Davos leaders agree: Share the wealth or face the consequences.” Christine Lagarde, head of the imperialist-run International Monetary Fund, asked, “When you have a real crisis, what kind of measures do we take to reduce inequality?” She concluded,

ed, “It probably means more redistribution.” After her comment, the topic was dropped. (weforum.org/agenda) That is not a popular idea among billionaires.

**Eight richest men worth \$426 billion**

Actually, a report prepared to coincide with the Davos conference by Oxfam, a British-based charity, asserted that eight men now own the same amount of wealth as the 3.6 billion people who form the poorest half of the earth’s population. Through evading taxes, driving down wages, fighting unionization, influencing elections and pressuring governments to gain pro-business policies, the super rich are amassing enormous wealth at an incredible rate — faster than ever.

Who are these eight billionaires? Together they are worth \$426 billion, equal to the wealth of half the planet’s population, said the Jan. 15 Guardian newspaper. Three years ago, Workers World newspaper reported that 85 billionaires owned that percentage of wealth. But due to acquisitions, mergers, expansions and lucrative investments, wealth has become more concentrated in fewer hands. Monopolies develop and prosper as their competitors are pushed aside, often shrinking their businesses or closing — with their workforce seeing hours or jobs disappear. Companies must expand or die.

Take online bookseller Amazon, owned by Jeff Bezos, purchaser of the Washington Post. Now the mail-order conglomerate sells everything, even cookies from Australia. His company’s practices have forced independent bookstores to close, and pose a threat to other brick-and-mortar stores.

Six of the most affluent eight men are

U.S. residents. Topping the list is Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, a company found guilty of violating antitrust laws. Gates established Cascade Investments LLC; think-tank bgC3; Corbis, a digital image licensing company; and TerraPower, a nuclear reactor designer. Oxfam’s list includes corporate founders and CEOs Bezos, Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Larry Ellison of Oracle, and financial and news mogul Michael Bloomberg.

The richest 1% has owned more wealth than the rest of the planet’s population since 2015, says Oxfam. They benefited from the “jobless” recovery after the global economic crisis, garnering big profits, while U.S. and other workers lost ground. Despite reactionary economists’ pronouncements, no profits “trickled down” to the workers and communities here or abroad.

Examining the impact of corporate globalization shows that the vast majority of the world’s poorest 50 percent work very hard to get by. One in 10 people (720 million), mostly women, struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day. The increasing wealth concentrated in the hands of a few is not being shared with poorer countries or their inhabitants. There has been no “recovery” for them.

**Can capitalism be reformed?**

Panels in Davos discussed whether capitalism could be reformed. If so, what are the best ways, and how could globalization be improved to help the masses? Some crucial questions were not even addressed: Could workers be paid more? Can their bargaining power be strengthened? Can the super rich redistribute their wealth? Nor were education costs

or access to health care taken up.

Nobel-Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz explained that allowing more bargaining rights to workers is “where Davos man is going to get stuck. ... Globalization has reduced the bargaining power of workers, and corporations have taken advantage of it.” In Davos, he did not hear discussion of how to change globalization to address inequality, with measures like transferring wealth and power to workers, more union bargaining rights and labor protections. (New York Times, Jan. 18)

Will corporate moguls act on humanitarian appeals to share their wealth, to be generous to workers at home or abroad? No.

Human labor creates the capitalists’ wealth; workers are paid a mere fraction of the value they create. That is the basis of all profits; it is intrinsic to the system. Corporations search the globe looking for the cheapest labor. They suppress labor struggles for higher wages, sometimes brutally.

Capitalists are not interested in raising wages or sharing or redistributing their wealth. Not only are they greedy, but they are spurred on to expand their businesses and buy up or merge with other companies — or they will be pushed out by bigger corporations, by monopolies.

To live under a kinder, fairer economic system requires that we — workers and oppressed people, immigrants, students and our allies — fight to get rid of heinous, inequitable and exploitative capitalism, based on private ownership of industry and the profit motive. We must establish socialism, with collective ownership, equal sharing of resources and true humanitarianism — and with equality, mutual respect and opportunities for all. □

# MLK Day in militant motion

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and the defense of Black life.”

Thousands of people rallied at Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland. The rally, emceed by Cat Brooks, began with Aztec dancers, in recognition that people were gathered on Ohlone territory. Speakers included Tur-ha Ak, Community Ready Core; George Galvis, Communities United for Restorative Justice; Equito, Frisco 5; and Clarence Thomas, former secretary-treasurer of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10.

A large contingent of youth marched in and, together with people of color, led the march, which went several miles, up Telegraph Road across 27th Street to Grand, ending at Lake Merritt, where another rally was held.

People were asked to bring drums and grills there, in response to the harassment of Black drummers and barbequers at the lake by white gentrifiers, complaining about so-called noise.

Additional speakers included representatives from Third World Resistance, Asians for Black Lives, Causa Justa, Poor

Magazine, the Trans Gender-Variant and Intersex Justice Project, Black Lives Matter Bay Area, BYP100, Ras Ceylon, Youth Together and the National Lawyers Guild. Performers included Alia Shariff, Kev Choice and Young Gifted and Black.



In **San Diego** the “official” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade has, over the years, grown more and more politically conservative and attracted more and more police, border patrol and military contingents.

This year, in response, San Diego activists and unionists called for a truly grassroots peoples’ gathering and rally to honor the great Civil Rights leader in the spirit of his struggle-oriented life. On Jan. 16, they marched in labor-community solidarity through the city’s downtown. Then they rallied together at the city’s Civic Center, affirming that a powerful fightback against racism, police brutality, homelessness, militarism and the Trump agenda was the top priority on the people’s agenda.

About 8,000 people attended the 35th annual Martin Luther King Day march

and rally in **Seattle**. Speakers and marchers from dozens of labor, community and student organizations emphasized the importance of staying active throughout the year against the incoming Trump regime. Several speakers strongly condemned the building of a new youth jail in the Black community. Marchers chanted “Black Lives Matter!” against police brutality and said, “Refugees are welcome here!”



In **Houston**, Brown Berets and original Black Panthers marched with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement on Jan. 16. Youth from the SHAPE Community Center got the crowds on sidewalks involved as they led the chants.

Around 200 marchers gathered outside of the 16th Street Baptist Church in **Huntington, W.Va.**, to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16. The march, which ended at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on Marshall University’s campus, was sponsored by the Cabell-Huntington NAACP and the Marshall University Department of Intercultural Affairs.

Other groups in attendance were Students for a Democratic Society at Marshall University; Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition; Marshall University Native American Students Association; Workers World Party; Alpha Kappa Alpha — the first sorority founded by African-American women, at Howard University in 1908; and the Appalachian Workers Alliance.

Some marchers from the community came with shirts reading “Hands Up Don’t Shoot” and “I Can’t Breathe,” and with homemade signs reading “Black Lives Matter.”

“Remembering Dr. King and everything he’s done, and his dream lives on today and there is still a lot more work we can do in his name,” marcher Malcolm Walton told WCHS News. (Jan. 16)

*Contributing to this article were Terri Kay, Bob McCubbin, Jim McMahan, Nathaniel Peters, Anne Pruden and the WW West Virginia bureau.*







By Betsey Piette

Tens of thousands of people, unable to get to Washington, D.C., for the anti-Trump demonstrations there, took to the streets in their own cities on Jan. 20 as part of a national call for counterinauguration actions.

In **NEW YORK CITY** a Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples’ mobilization against white nationalism was held in Harlem at the Harriet Tubman Memorial. Rally organizers said they came out “to say no to racism. To say no to gentrification. To say no to white supremacy. To say no to Donald Trump.”

The action was organized by a coalition of activists, including Why Accountability, People’s Power Assembly, NYC Shut It Down, Jails Action Coalition, Black Lives Matter, #J20Resist Labor, Standing Rock activists and the International League of Peoples’ Struggle, among others. Children just getting out of school were invited to join the march, and many did.

Following the rally, activists marched across 125th Street, stopping outside gentrified shops and calling out the police for their racist tactics. From there the rally proceeded to Trump International Hotel in Columbus Circle.

Dull, drizzly weather in **JERSEY CITY, N.J.**, didn’t dampen the spirit and militancy of the people who came out to a protest called by the Jersey City People’s Alliance. They marched from Journal Square to City Hall, past Dickerson High School, where they got a very positive response.

Speakers included Michael Kramer, of Veterans for Peace; Matt Smith, of Food & Water Watch; Narciso Castillo, of Action 21, a community organization; and members of the Jersey City Peace Movement and Anakbayan New Jersey, which represents the large immigrant Filipino community in Jersey City.

A militant **SYRACUSE, N.Y.**, contingent marched with #J20Resist in Washington, D.C. The group carried bold banners calling on people to “Reject and Resist” racism, capitalism, sexism, ableism, “wars and walls.” Protesters also condemned transphobia and lockstep gender conformity imposed on people who have complexly gendered lives.

Hundreds of protesters marched through downtown **BUFFALO, N.Y.** to reject Trump’s inauguration and to stand up against war, racism, sexism, anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ bigotry. Loud chants of “No Trump! No KKK! No racist USA!” were met with honks from vehicles and cheers from passersby. Many placards and speakers raised up Black Lives Matter and urged the need to organize, fight back and unite in solidarity actions. The action was called by Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition, co-sponsored by the Buffalo International Action Center and joined by the #UB Sanctuary Campus Movement.

Chanting “Not my president,” hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Philadelphia in several actions that included student marches from Temple University and the Community

College and rallies at Thomas Paine Plaza and Independence Mall. A variety of organizations participated, including Philadelphia Coalition for Racial Economic and Legal Justice, Temple Feminist Majority and Socialist Alternative. Immigrant rights groups and their supporters rallied on Independence Mall, denouncing Trump’s threats against immigrant communities and calling for Philadelphia to remain a Sanctuary City.

At the University of Pennsylvania, where Black students were targeted by racist email threats shortly after Trump’s election, several dozen students gathered in the rain for a protest.

In **BLACKSBURG, VA.**, members of numerous labor, community and student organizations participated in a daylong Inaugurate Resistance event. A series of workshops took place at the Lyric Theatre, followed by a street vigil and march of hundreds through downtown. Major organizational support came from the Coalition For Justice and professors, staff and students from Virginia Tech University.

Over 300 people turned out for a #J20RESIST rally in **DURHAM, N.C.**, called by the Triangle Unity May Day Coalition. Speakers included representatives from Electrical Workers (UE) Local 150, Fight for \$15, Durham in Defiance, Alerta Immigrante, Jail Investigation Team, Duke University’s graduate student union and Workers World Party.

Some 500 marchers stepped off from Troy Davis Park (aka Woodruff Park) in downtown **ATLANTA** in an unpermitted, loudly defiant protest named The People’s Inauguration. Initiated by organizations representing those most targeted by racist, anti-immigrant, sexist, anti-LGBTQ and Islamophobic laws and practices, the Georgia J20 Coalition came to include faith, community and labor groups as well.

The chanting, drumming crowd passed through downtown shopping areas, went by Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices and stopped briefly at the Atlanta Detention Center, where hundreds of poor and working people are jailed and dozens of undocumented immigrants await deportation.

The march concluded with a rally on the steps of the Atlanta City Hall. A cross-section of speakers outlined 19 demands to Mayor Kasim Reed and the City Council to enact measures that would guarantee human rights for all who live and work in the city.

The action was designed to serve as the launch of invigorated resistance to any attacks — whether from the Trump administration or from state and local entities — on the rights of workers, wom-

en, LGBTQ, immigrants, Muslims, poor, homeless and disabled communities.

Members of the **MILWAUKEE, WIS.** Coalition Against Trump and many other organizations took to the streets to resist the Trump agenda. After a militant rally at Red Arrow Park, the multinational protesters, with bilingual English and Spanish lead banners, marched through downtown Milwaukee. Red Arrow Park is where Dontre Hamilton was murdered by Milwaukee cop Christopher Manney on April 30, 2014. The Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement participated in the J20 action with their banner, reading “Build A United Front Against Trump.”

Hundreds participated in the J20 demonstration in **MADISON**, in which participants marched from Library Mall to the state Capitol. Speakers before and after the march touched on topics ranging from the wars in the Middle East, the colonial oppression at Standing Rock, workers’ rights, why Black Lives Matter is essential to the struggle in Wisconsin, women and LGBTQ struggles, and the need to fight back against the bigoted Trump administration every day.

#### Trump Tower target of thousands

Around 7,000 demonstrators converged on Trump Tower in **CHICAGO** and marched through the Loop (the downtown area). Participants included Rasmea Odeh, a Palestinian freedom fighter whom the federal government is trying to deport on trumped-up charges.

In **SEATTLE** actions countering Trump’s inauguration began with student walkouts at a number of high schools across the city. A walkout was also held by students at the University of Washington, who also conducted a teach-in.

That afternoon a “Unidos Contra Trump” march, called by El Comite/May 1st Action and Socialist Alternative, tied up traffic in the downtown area. Rallying at City Centre, the crowd grew to 5,000. Twelve immigrant students from Foster High School described being terrorized by Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Nicole Grant, of Seattle’s Martin Luther King County Labor Council, said, “Since the Eastside Islamic Center got arsoned and burned to the ground, labor is going to step up and help them rebuild!”

Protesters then marched six miles to the University of Washington campus to confront Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor of Breitbart News, who was giving a bigoted, racist speech there. A protest by other anti-racists had already kept attendance low in the hall where he spoke. Cops had to escort him and his audience out through an underground parking garage.

Pioneer Square in **PORTLAND, ORE.**, was overflowing with upwards of 30,000 demonstrators, who rallied in defiance of the Trump inauguration. The crowd cheered, jeered and empa-

thized as a diverse group of local organizers condemned austerity, patriarchy and white supremacy.

Speakers encouraged resistance to capitalism, fascism, the Trump-Pence regime and offered resources to the community. As word spread that police were arresting those with their faces covered, many others covered their faces in solidarity. Demonstrators, including protesters young and old and people with disabilities, marched miles of center city streets without a permit. Local police shadowed the march on bicycle, while lines of state-paid employees, in full riot gear, blocked intersections to redirect the route into Old Town Portland.

In **LOS ANGELES** a Unite Against Hate march and rally was organized by many organizations determined to send a message of defiance against Trump’s racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-woman agenda. Many were also in opposition to the imperialist policies of U.S. wars, proxy wars, occupations, and racist agendas enforced by both Republican and Democratic parties.

An anti-imperialist contingent was organized by the International League of Peoples Struggles that included the International Action Center; Human Rights Alliance; BAYAN-USA and its member organizations; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Chinatown Community for Equitable Development; and more.

Earlier in the day the Community Service Organization, Black Lives Matter and other groups protested in Bel Air at the home of Trump’s cabinet pick for Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin. Protesters were met with helicopters and police who said they had no right to protest. The cops claimed that the entire town of Bel Air was “private property.” However, the protest continued, and later some of the groups met up with the main march in downtown Los Angeles.

At the concluding rally, Romeo Hebron, representing BAYAN-USA, spoke on building a people’s movement against the imperialist policies of both Democrats and Republicans, and on being in solidarity with struggles from the Philippines to Palestine. to struggles here in the U.S. against poverty and repression.

Rebecca Jackson, a member of Workers World Party and the International Action Center, raised the need to be anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist. She stressed the importance of connecting struggles and bringing together communities of color, women, LGBTQ people, youth and students, immigrant and workers’ organizations in order to build a progressive movement for social justice and change — and to work toward the liberation of all peoples living in the U.S. and around the world.

*Contributors included Jasen Vyvyan Balmat, Sage Collins, Garrett Dicembre, G. Dunkel, Dianne Mathiowetz, Jim McMahan, John Parker, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Faiquan Sells, Jeff Sorel, Johnnie Stevens, Dante Strobino and the Workers World Wisconsin Bureau.*



WW PHOTOS: LEFT, G. DUNKEL; ABOVE JOE PIETTE



## WWP organizer:

# J21 a ‘call to action’

L.T. Pham is a member of and organizer with Workers World Party who participated in the D.C. women’s rally on Jan. 21. Their observations should be relevant to many.

By L.T. Pham

Upwards of a million people came out to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 21 to lift the banner for women’s liberation. People came from all around the country and world to take part in this historic protest against Trump and his administration, which are explicitly and unapologetical-

ly Islamophobic, misogynist, racist, anti-worker and anti-poor.

This mobilization alone confirmed that most people in the U.S. and around the world are not content with the election, and will not stay quiet as Trump becomes commander in chief.

Throughout the crowd, signs could be spotted demanding access to full reproductive health care, an end to attacks on LGBTQ people and an end to the police violence and brutality impacting Black and Brown people across the U.S.

J21 was not just a call to action for women and other oppressed people to fight Trump — it was, and is, a call to action for organizers and revolutionaries, too.

When upwards of a million people take to the streets, there is a big political opening. There is an opportunity for revolutionaries to push class consciousness even

further by connecting women’s liberation to the entire class struggle — recognizing there can be no socialism without gender liberation or national liberation.

There were many concerns before Jan. 21 about the orientation of the march, but we must continue showing up where the people are — to wrestle with the contradictions and to make space for working-class people to connect and unite.

January 21 showed us that millions of people have taken the first step in fighting for a different world. Now, we have a duty to win them to the side of revolutionary socialism. □

# Women march against sexism, racism & Trump

By Kris Hamel

A massive women’s demonstration of more than 1 million people in Washington, D.C., and 673 other protests around the U.S. and on every continent took place on Jan. 21, the first full day of Donald Trump’s presidency. Even establishment media admitted that the size of the protest was 2 to 3 times larger than Trump’s inaugural gathering.

These women and their allies, 5 million strong worldwide, came out to decry the disgusting sexism and misogyny of the new billionaire president. Trump’s known actions include many cases of alleged sexual assault or harassment and the video that surfaced in early October in which he said “Grab them by the pussy” in reference to women.

On Jan. 21, women said, “Enough!” and vowed to fight back against the Trump agenda of sexism, racism, virulent anti-immigrant attacks, cutbacks, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, Islamophobia and all other forms of anti-woman, anti-worker, anti-poor attacks.

Following are reports from Jan. 21 activists on the ground around the U.S.

In **San Diego**, at least 50,000 people gathered downtown to send a message of support for women’s rights and an open challenge to the misogynist now occupying the White House. The spacious Civic Center Plaza couldn’t contain but a frac-



tion of the participants, who spilled out into surrounding streets — making much of downtown impassable to vehicular traffic — before marching to the second rally site at the County Administration Building. As the front of the march reached the site, protesters were still streaming out of the plaza a mile away.

The overall theme was “Women’s Rights Are Human Rights.” Speakers came from a wide range of backgrounds, including Latinx, Black, LGBTQ and Asian. All of them spoke to “Why I march.” One popular banner read, “A Woman’s Place Is in the Revolution.”

Another solidarity march of at least 2,000 was held in **northern San Diego County**. According to sfgate.com, there were 50 marches across California, with “crowds numbering in the thousands ... in **Napa, Walnut Creek, Santa Rosa**” and 25,000 in **San Jose**.

In **Los Angeles**, an estimated 750,000 people shut down all of downtown. Workers World Party activists held a very visible street rally, drawing in many wanting more information about socialism. Maggie Vascassenno of WWP, who spoke to many women interested in building a people’s movement, told WW, “People are ready to

fight, and we’ve been ready for them.” Many Workers World newspapers and Black History Month flyers were distributed.

Women and supporters clogged the entire Bay Area with six different marches on Jan. 21. Women’s March Bay Area claimed a total of 200,000 participants. In **Oakland**, there were up to 80,000 people, with 100,000 marching in **San Francisco**.

In **Oakland**, a contingent called Rise, Resist, Unite was organized by Gabriela USA, the international Filipino women’s party, to “RISE against Fascism as we say No to Trump and his administration,

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# Repression fuels resistance in D.C.

*Continued from page 1*

from its Union Station site toward the White House, frequently branching from its publicized path to assert independence from police control. At the same time, a furious, young, multinational and multigender vanguard ran through the D.C. streets, liberating it block by block as cops fell back. The so-called “Black Bloc” marched while waving the “antifa” flag, representing antifascist unified action among communists, anarchists and socialists.

As the J20 Resist march neared its rally site at McPherson Square, the organizers received word that youth, many of whom identify as queer and of color, were being “kettled” and arrested at 12th Streets. Kettling is when cops unlawfully detain people in large groups for long stretches of time in order to arrest them.

## State escalates repression

J20 Resist continued its march, with cooperation of several groups, including Workers World Party and Freedom Road Socialist Organization, toward 12th and I to show support to those threatened with arrest.

The youth were kettled for more than eight hours. In the cold rain, dehydrat-

ed and exhausted from resisting, a large group of people were not allowed medical attention, access to an attorney, food or water. They were not even allowed to relieve themselves out of public view.

After the young activists’ arrests, the state levied serious felony charges against them. This has been given no play so far in the mainstream media. In fact, the media have represented these bold expressions against Donald Trump as “violent” and “unorganized,” if the actions were covered at all.

The charge against the activists is the so-called Felony Riot Act, which carries a sentence of 10 years and/or a \$250,000 fine. At least six journalists, several National Lawyer Guild observers and many medics were charged with this act, along with protesters.

One participant, Holly from Florida, said the brutality of the police was “completely unprovoked. I was just looking around to see what needed to be done.”

A J20Resist marcher, Arlo from New York, said this was the first time he’d seen anything like it: “I understood that police would commit unprovoked violence, but seeing it first-hand made it real and important in a way that I hadn’t expected.”

A Shut It Down member, kept in a cell

with 30 other people who were given only eight sandwiches to share, said of the guards, “These were not correctional officers. These were U.S. Marshals.”

The state’s escalation of repression was no surprise to J20 Resist organizers, who had issued briefings to explain the violence of the state to the thousands participating in the march from Anti-Columbus Circle.

Anti-protester disinformation “documentaries” had been circulated on social media in the days leading up to the march. One 23-minute film incited the new administrators of global capitalism to go after Workers World Party and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, calling them “domestic enemies” of the state. Some “investigative journalists” infiltrated organizing groups — including J20 Resist and Disrupt J20 — with secret cameras and microphones in an effort to embarrass or intimidate.

## Ruling class can’t stop history

Despite the disinformation, the Jan. 20 resistance to white supremacy, misogyny and capitalism was militant and strong. Thousands of multinational, multigender people of all ages were in the streets shouting “Black Lives Matter!” and

“Whose nation? Our nation!” Thousands were holding signs exhorting people to destroy capitalism and fight for socialism. They could not be pushed back, except momentarily by overwhelming police violence.

The day after the arrests, D.C. Superior Court was packed with movement people providing jail support and solidarity. The state flexed its muscles by lining up cops with military gear and shields outside the courthouse and attempting to keep activists out.

But the ruling class can’t stop history.

The turnout for Donald Trump’s election was sparse. The threats of thousands of bikers to show up in D.C. to “protect” Trump from protesters was laughable, as no such mobilization occurred. The difference between those marching against Trump and the people draped in fur coats on their way to inaugural balls could not have been more stark.

The state itself, with all its racism, misogyny, bigotry and warmongering, is Trump’s main support, not the masses and not the working class.

It is with this encouraging analysis and broad solidarity that we enter the next phase of building a revolutionary socialist movement in the United States. □



# Trump’s inaugural speech

By Teresa Gutierrez

He speaks and writes like a third grader. He’s boorish and crude. He’s a misogynist and a sexual predator and boasts about grabbing “pussy.” He’s a racist and anti-immigrant and his only allegiance is to his lucrative brand.

And he is now the 45th president of the United States.

On Jan. 20, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as president. Fortunately, a great new wave of resistance started on the same day.

Trump’s inauguration came after an unprecedentedly divisive election campaign, yet the smooth “transfer of power” that the political establishment touts was indeed carried out. This was business as usual, one grouping handing over the administration of the capitalist state to another.

Indeed, it was the leading Democrat in the U.S. Senate, Charles Schumer, who introduced Trump, calling him up to be sworn in. Trump himself opened his speech by saying, “Every four years we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power.”

There’s only one transfer of power that will bring true change, and it will come when the workers and oppressed wrest state power from the capitalist class via socialist revolution. Until then, the capitalist system remains intact — whichever party of the ruling class is at the helm.

This is not to say that Trump’s ascension doesn’t matter. He is a racist, reactionary demagogue. His administration’s agenda amounts to a frontal attack on all the gains won by this country’s working class and oppressed people over the last eight decades and more.

What can be gleaned from Trump’s inaugural speech as the movement prepares for the long resistance struggle ahead?

CNN pundits called the speech “among the most radical inaugural speeches in American history.” (Jan. 20) Other newscasters labeled it as “dark, pessimistic,” and populist. (sunsentinel.com, Jan. 20) One can certainly add “simple” to that list.

Trump’s message might have been simple, but it was nonetheless dangerous. Populist indeed, it was geared to his supporters, and that alone makes it dangerous.

Webster’s Dictionary defines “populist” as “a member or adherent of a political party seeking to represent the in-

terests of ordinary people” or a “person who ... is concerned with the views of ordinary people.”

Who are these ordinary people who support Trump today? Well, for one thing, they are not anywhere near the majority of the U.S. population — or even of voters, given that he lost the popular vote by 3 million.

What about those who came to the inauguration? Trump said record numbers would attend. The facts tell a different story. Compare a photo from President Barack Obama’s 2008 inauguration with one of Trump’s: Clearly the numbers do not even come close. On this Jan. 20, there were huge empty swaths of the Capitol Mall. According to reports, tickets to the event couldn’t even be given away.

Mother Jones reported that “groups estimated that the crowd for Trump was likely to be between 700,000 and 900,000. In 2009, an estimated 1.8 million people flocked to the National Mall for the swearing-in of the nation’s first black president. ... 10,000 charter buses applied for permits for Obama’s event; for Trump ... only 200 buses applied.” (Jan. 20)

Nonetheless, the thousands who did come to support Trump’s inauguration represent a force to be reckoned with. Because only the most crude, the most racist and the most backward on the rights of women could still support Donald Trump.

Yet they are the least of the problem. Those backing Trump on the podium, including his incoming cabinet and staff — those who are gearing up to actually carry out the outrageous Trump program — are far more dangerous than those in the crowd.

Not that anyone should expect meaningful opposition from the established Democratic leadership. Many Democratic politicians, from Schumer to Nancy Pelosi and even the supposed radical Bernie Sanders, attended Trump’s swearing-in and behaved with proper bourgeois decorum. This was in sharp contrast to some 70 members of Congress, including most members of the Congressional Black and Latinx caucuses, who boycotted the inauguration.

**The fight is on**

In his speech, Trump said: “Today’s ceremony ... has very special meaning. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one administration

to another, or from one party to another — but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C., and giving it back to you, the American people.” (whitehouse.gov)

He continued: “For too long, a small group in our nation’s capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. ... Politicians prospered — but the jobs left, and the factories closed.”

“That all changes — starting right here, and right now.”

Really? Will the people, regular people, now be in charge? Will the Trump administration mean millions of jobs restored? Of course not.

How disillusioned his working-class supporters will be when they discover that business will continue as usual. A look at Trump’s cabinet nominees demonstrates that no “swamp” was drained at all. From State to Labor, all of Trump’s cabinet picks are establishment figures. All are rich, some very very rich.

The crux, however, is that they are all far-right establishment figures who want to gut any and all progressive changes — whether won by unions, women, teachers, environmentalists, LGBTQ people, or, most of all, by Black, Latinx, Asian, Native and other people of color over decades of hard struggle.

No one can believe that an administration headed by the likes of former Exxon-Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, Trump’s pick for secretary of state, will transfer wealth from Washington to the people, or in any way represent the masses. The opposite will happen.

In fact, it already has. Within one hour of Trump’s inauguration, websites for the White House and various cabinet departments dropped any mention of LGBTQ rights and climate change.

Most appalling: the webpage on the history of Civil Rights in the United States is gone.

What’s featured on the new presidential website instead? Harsh warnings about the coming era of “law and order,” beefing up the police forces and anti-immigrant action.

A pivotal part of Trump’s address was his reference to “the crime and gangs and drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential. This American car-

nage stops right here and stops right now,” he asserted.

These are ominous and dangerous code words for the intensification of a pro-cop racist agenda. The carnage in the streets is in fact due to police terror, not to anything else. One need only look at the sympathetic images in the media towards the victims of drug problems in white communities, while in Black and Brown communities it is another attitude altogether.

While Trump’s speech did not mention the wall he’s promised to build between Mexico and the U.S., he did say, “We must protect our borders” — code words for further border militarization.

This is Trump’s “America.” More racist cops allowed to go on about their terror with impunity. It’s what he pledged during his campaign and it’s what he’s now setting out to do.

It should not be forgotten that immediately after Trump’s election, the right wing he galvanized carried out a wave of horrible attacks against Muslims. His call to crush “radical Islamist terrorism” during his inaugural speech will certainly unleash more of this racist violence.

No wonder that activists are preparing for the worst. Some worry that the Trump administration may place the Black Lives Matter Movement on a domestic terrorist watch list. With Jeff Sessions as attorney general, an effort to turn back the clock to before the gains of the Civil Rights movement could easily begin.

This is why the real news of Inauguration Day was so encouraging: that there were millions of people protesting, not only in Washington, D.C., but in cities across the country and around the world.

The resistance has begun, and it will only grow from here. That much is clear.

The billionaires may be poised to attack, to grab as much as they can, to enrich themselves even more, to strip away rights and benefits, to drive back the workers and oppressed. They may be confident that they can do it.

But they will have a fight on their hands. Trump may now be in the White House, but from here on out the masses will be in the streets. And the masses in motion are a more powerful force than any rich boor and his corrupt cronies. Today they’re riding high. Tomorrow will be another story. □

with the Bay Area Solidarity Action Team (which has a number of affinity groups) to send the message that there would be no business as usual, beginning the day of Trump’s inauguration.

- Some 50 people blocked the entrance of Uber’s corporate headquarters in protest of CEO Travis Kalanick’s participation in Trump’s Strategic and Policy Forum. Chaining themselves to the building’s entrances, they prevented any employees from entering. They also blocked off Market Street, holding large signs that read “Uber collaborates with Trump” and “SF resists Trump.”

*Continued on page 8*

# Bay Area: 120 hours of direct action vs. Trump

By Terri Kay

From Martin Luther King Day to Inauguration Day, the San Francisco Bay Area seethed with protests, shutdowns and other actions. The Anti Police-Terror Project called for 120 hours of direct action, beginning Jan. 16 with the APTP’s thousands-strong March to Reclaim King’s Radical Legacy. (See WW, Jan. 19.)

Twenty-two actions were listed on the APTP Spokescouncil calendar from after the MLK march to J20, with another 13 actions for the Jan. 20 counterinauguration protests alone. The list did not include a number of more clandestine actions, described below, which were not posted.

A few of the mid-week events were:

**Wednesday:** Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. made a special presentation to the APTP general membership meeting in Oakland on “Organizing in the Age of Trump.” He spoke on the importance of analyzing events from the perspective of those whose interests are affected versus those who stand to gain. He talked about why he calls his hometown of Chicago,



PHOTO: GIL ROSS

Chiraq (Chicago/Iraq), due to police militarization against the Black community.

**Thursday:** Disclose, a transgender-inclusive Bay Area art-activism collective dedicated to facilitating active engagement in the eradication of sexual violence, culture and sexual assault, held a “We Will Not Be Silent” action. About 75 sexual abuse survivors and supporters marched from Oakland City Hall to the Oakland Police Headquarters. A videotape of survivors — of sex trafficking, domestic violence and gender-focused violence — speaking against their abusers was projected on the OPHQ wall. The Oakland Police Department is notorious



WW PHOTOS: TERRI KAY

for its officers’ trafficking of a minor last summer. Helicopters flew low over the march, impeding attendees’ abilities to hear speakers. The OPD also brought in two L-RAD sound cannons, a military weapon used to injure the ears of enemies.

A Noise Demo was held Thursday at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, where a major expansion for a prison “mental health wing” is planned. Protesters held signs reading, “Money for mental health, not jails or prison cells” and “House keys, not handcuffs.”

**Friday:** On Jan. 20 the Bay Area lit up with actions. The day started early in San Francisco, where APTP coordinated



# Palestinians protest Trump threat to move U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem

By Joe Catron

As thousands of demonstrators poured into Washington, D.C., to protest the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump, Palestinians mobilized across their occupied country against his pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Successive U.S. administrations have supported, with billions of dollars in annual aid, Israel's occupation of Jerusalem along with the rest of the Palestinian land seized by Israeli forces in both 1948 and 1967. But they have refused to formally recognize Israel's territorial claim to the city.

That could change under Trump, as the new president has repeatedly promised to relocate the embassy from its current site in Tel Aviv. This action would end an international diplomatic consensus that officially considers Jerusalem's status an unresolved question for future negotiations.

Rallies supported by factions across the Palestinian political spectrum started in the West Bank on Jan. 19, with hundreds gathering in the cities of Ramallah, Nablus and al-Khalil.

On the morning of Jan. 20, Israeli forces attacked a protest near Israel's notorious "apartheid wall" in Bethlehem, where Palestinian youth activists burned

pictures of Trump. Other demonstrators erected the Bab al-Shams, or "Gate of the Sun," an encampment of protest tents at the illegal Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adumim outside Jerusalem.

Demonstrations also targeted Israel's home demolitions and displacement of Palestinian citizens within Palestine's recognized borders, Israel's land seizure and settlement construction in the West Bank, and a pending Israeli parliament (Knesset) bill to "annex" Ma'ale Adumim into Israel.

Weekly marches in the villages of Bil'in and Kafr Qaddum, as well as a rally by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in Gaza, similarly opposed the move.

Along with Trump's threat to the status quo in Jerusalem, Palestinians say these measures could spark massive opposition, both by those under Israel's occupation and by all across the Middle East.

The Council of National and Islamic Forces, a coordinating body of all Palestinian factions, warned in a Jan. 21 statement that the relocation would "ignite a fire in the region" and demonstrate the U.S. government's "full partnership with the open war against our people."

*Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.*

# Millions join women's marches

Continued from page 1

millions of people into the streets against — especially — every woman-hating view that Trump represents.

And these protests not only took place in large- and medium-sized urban areas. According to NBC News on Jan. 21, in many smaller cities and towns, at least 20 percent or more of the general population attended J21 marches. To put these astronomical numbers into a broader perspective, it is estimated that 160,000 people attended Trump's inauguration in Washington, a third of the number that attended J21 in D.C. (New York Times, Jan. 22.)

### Who attended J21 and why

While at the largest U.S. marches, Democratic Party forces, Hollywood celebrities, labor leaders, social-democratic and moderate elements dominated rally stages, the majority of those in the streets were either on the left or were open to more radical politics. Many women were receptive to anti-capitalist, pro-socialist ideas.

The women who attended were mostly young, including children, but there were also older women, people with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, trans and gender nonconforming people. While the social composition was overwhelming white, there were many Black, Latinx, Asian, Muslim and Indigenous women.

Imaginative signs and banners called for reproductive justice, especially in lieu of the Affordable Care Act being dismantled by Trump; in defense of Black Lives Matter, immigrant rights and Planned Parenthood; for \$15 and a union; for housing, education, childcare and clean water; an end to war and occupation; and many calling to "Dump Trump." There were signs that said "Make America Think Again," a play on Trump's "Make America



Great Again" theme, and one that stated "Sorry world — we will fix this."

These marches helped to empower women who are justifiably angered and disgusted by Trump's "pussy grabbing" and other degrading attitudes and actions against women, along with his anti-immigrant hate mongering. It was clear to this writer, who attended the New York City march, that so many women agreed that every social and economic issue is a woman's issue, and with the need for solidarity, especially with the most oppressed and marginalized women.

**Why is J21 so important?**

It is becoming painfully clear that one day of massive global marches will not reverse the global attacks on women's rights, rooted in worldwide capitalist austerity. In his full first day in office, Trump is moving ahead with plans to gut the U.S. Department of Justice's violence against women programs. If Congress carries out Trump's wishes, federally funded programs such as local rape crisis centers and even the National Domestic

Violence Hotline will be shut down. Already there has been an increase in sexual assaults, including rape, on women of all ages — on college campuses, in high schools, in the military and in the home.

Women's groups are asking people to call on their local Democratic congressional representatives to vote against these cuts. But this is not enough.

The Democratic Party has proven itself to be impotent when it comes to fighting the extreme right wing in the Republican Party. That's because the Democratic and Republican parties represent the interests of big business, not the multinational working class and especially not women.

The Democratic Party is more interested in retaking any lost congressional seats during the 2018 midterm elections and the reins of the White House in 2020. They are hoping to bring the millions of women who came out on J21 into their ranks for the vote.

The billionaire ruling class had their hopes and dreams on Hillary Clinton becoming the next president because she is an unapologetic imperialist schooled to

use diplomacy to carry out cutbacks at home and war abroad.

Now corporate America has to depend on the undiplomatic Trump to carry out the next round of austerity in the U.S. that the majority of the world has been experiencing since the 2007-08 banking crisis. This has led to an irreversible crisis of decline for worldwide capitalism.

While austerity for the working class is on a collision course with Trump's campaign promises to increase U.S. jobs, his nominee for labor secretary — blatantly anti-worker, pro-austerity — falls right into line.

It cannot be lost that the more than 670 J21 marches here and worldwide show that women, no matter where they live, are feeling the brunt of political and economic attacks from the forces of reaction. The Trump election is now fueling the flames of fightback. The challenge for revolutionaries everywhere is to unite to help guide those who want to turn the fightback into a worldwide movement for real revolutionary, systemic change. J21 shows that women will lead the way with building such a movement. □

# Bay Area

Continued from page 7

- At 8:30 a.m. another group of a dozen, chained to each other, stood across the Caltrans tracks at 16th and Mississippi in San Francisco, blocking trains in both directions for three hours, until they were arrested.
- Jewish Resistance locked down the front doors of San Francisco's Israeli Consulate. They announced, through media contact Faryn Borella: "We're telling the consulate that we don't support the ongoing occupation of Palestine and the way that it's connected with militarized policing here in the U.S. We don't support Trump appointments like Jared Kushner to oversee the peace process and David Friedman as ambassador to Israel."

- Wells Fargo headquarters and a Bank of America site were also locked down by other protesters in solidarity with Standing Rock and the movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- People blocked the entrances to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in San Francisco in protest of Trump's announced plans to build a wall at the Mexican border and to continue to deport immigrants.
- Jobs with Justice, supported by the San Francisco Labor Council, led a march of more than 1,000 demonstrators from Justin Herman Plaza throughout San Francisco's financial district. They stopped in solidarity at many of the shutdowns, ending at 555 California, an office tower owned in part by Trump. After a rally there, people poured onto the office building's plaza.

- Jobs with Justice and the SFLC held a rally at Carl's Jr. downtown to protest Trump's nomination for labor secretary Andrew Puzder, CEO of Carl's Jr. and Hardee's fast-food chains. Protesters then joined a rally at Union Square organized by the Answer Coalition.
- In Berkeley a crowd of more than 1,500, primarily students and other youth, filled Sproul Plaza at the University of California at noon to oppose the Trump agenda. Speakers included two teenage students from among the many who had walked out of Berkeley High School that day. One young woman speaker said, "Don't tell me I can't love my girlfriend!" Signs included, "I will not stop fighting you," "No fascist USA" and "Art historians against Trump." A young Black man led the crowd in chanting, "Black Brown unity! This is the place for Sanctuary."

Several longshore workers from International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 attended the rally, announcing that their local had shut down all Bay Area ports to express their opposition to Trump. Several speakers from Labor Rising Against Trump addressed the rally, including Juan Garcia, a university employee, and Alborz Ghandehari, a leader in the fight for required Ethnic Studies in the UC system. After the rally, the crowd marched on Telegraph Avenue to downtown Oakland to join other protests there.

In Oakland at Oscar Grant Plaza, there was a Mutual Aid Fair in the morning, a "March of the Working Class" up Broadway and down Telegraph, and then a speak-out for students in the afternoon.

*Contributors to this article included Tristen Schmidt and Dave Welsh.*



# Why is the U.S. attacking Venezuela?

By Stephen Millies

“No good deed goes unpunished” could be a motto for U.S. foreign policy. More than 200,000 poor families in 23 states and Washington, D.C., got free heating oil from CITGO, which is owned by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Former U.S. congressperson Joseph P. Kennedy II, the eldest son of Ethel and Bobby Kennedy, helped coordinate the program, which was initiated by former Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. (Washington Post, Jan. 6, 2009)

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, both Cuba and Venezuela offered to send doctors and medical supplies. President George Bush contemptuously refused the aid, preferring to let Black and poor people drown and starve instead.

So why did President Barack Obama label Venezuela on March 9, 2015, an “extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States”? And why did Obama, in one of his last presidential acts, renew sanctions on Venezuela?

Venezuela’s foreign minister, Delcy Rodríguez, said the renewal constituted a “grave violation of international law.” (AP, Jan. 14) Earlier the Non-Aligned Movement of 120 countries had condemned the sanctions against Venezuela. (TeleSUR, Feb. 8, 2015)

Venezuela is going through rough times, with the price of oil — its main

export — being cut in half. Workers are exposing economic sabotage by the rich, which includes the hoarding of food.

The U.S. government sanctions are aimed at overthrowing Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution just like Reconstruction was overthrown in the U.S. South after the Civil War.

**The ‘good old days’**

Just by helping to keep poor people from freezing to death, Venezuela made an “extraordinary threat” to U.S. billionaires and banksters. ExxonMobil — which, after Iraq was invaded, was raking in \$100 million in profits a day — gave zilch in heating oil aid.

CITGO’s action probably helped save funding for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Even Time magazine asked, “Why Can’t Big Oil Match Hugo Chávez?” (Jan. 7, 2009), referring to Venezuela’s late president, who died in 2013.

Whether Democrats or Republicans are in office, the U.S. government is run by Big Oil. But Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution ran Big Oil out of its country.

Exxon’s original name was Standard Oil of New Jersey. Controlled by the Rockefeller family, Standard Oil broke strikes ruthlessly. At least four strikers in Bayonne, N.J., were killed by company guards during a 1915 strike. (New York Times, July 30, 1915)

Oil-rich Venezuela became a Rockefeller province just like New Jersey. Nelson

Rockefeller owned three huge estates in the country.

After being elected New York governor in 1958, Nelson Rockefeller vacationed at his 112,000-acre Mata de Barbara ranch in the Orinoco Basin. Seventy-eight miles away, the future butcher of the Attica prison rebellion owned the 6,250-acre Palo Gordo farm. (Life, Dec. 8, 1958) His other possessions in Venezuela included the Monte Sacro ranch and a supermarket chain.

Meanwhile, millions of Venezuela’s people lived in dire poverty. Workers rebelled in 1989 against cutbacks imposed by the International Monetary Fund. As many as 3,000 people may have been shot down during the Caracazo Rebellion. (TeleSUR, Feb. 26)

Hugo Chávez Frias was elected president in 1999 and the Bolivarian Revolution began. President Chávez told ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to get out of Venezuela.

Trump has nominated Tillerson to be secretary of state

**Leopoldo López & Leonard Peltier**

More than two million people are locked up in U.S. jails and Britain’s Guardian newspaper reported that more than 1,000 people were killed by U.S. cops last year. Yet President Obama imposed sanctions on Venezuela for allegedly abusing “human rights.”

Obama lamented the jailing of right-wing leader Leopoldo López. (PanAm

Post, Sept. 24, 2014) But the White House was silent when the Saudi Kingdom beheaded Shia leader Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr on Jan. 2, 2016.

Formerly mayor of Chacao, a well-to-do subdivision of Caracas, López was jailed for instigating violent marches starting on Feb. 12, 2014, in an attempt to overthrow President Nicolás Maduro.

López comes from a rich family and attended a boarding school in Princeton, N.J. He was implicated in the 2003 coup that briefly overthrew President Chávez. (Foreign Policy, July 27, 2015) Maduro was leader of the bus drivers’ union in Caracas before being elected president following the death of Chávez.

Among those later killed was 29-year-old motorcyclist Elvis Durán de la Rosa, who was partially beheaded by barbed wire strung across a highway by opponents of President Maduro. (Venezuelananalysis.com, March 2, 2014)

Didn’t Elvis Durán have human rights, too, President Obama? While praising Leopoldo López, why did you refuse to pardon American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier, who’s been imprisoned for 40 years, and Black liberation fighter Dr. Mutulu Shakur, who’s been imprisoned for 30 years?

Working and poor people in Venezuela are determined to defend their revolution. Millions have signed petitions attacking sanctions. Block by block, people are organizing resistance. U.S. hands off Venezuela! ☐

# Honduras, migrants and Trump

By Teresa Gutierrez

With the advent of the ominous Donald Trump administration, a look at the beleaguered nation of Honduras is critical in order for the anti-war and solidarity movement to step up its work — not only with Honduras but for all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Solidarity with Central America is particularly key in light of the crisis of forced migration.

Developments in Honduras address many social movements mirrored in the U.S. — the struggle for migrant rights, for climate justice, against racism and the rights of Indigenous people are examples.

**Self-determination violated**

Conditions are magnified in Honduras, however, as they are in the context of U.S. imperialism’s centuries-long drive for domination of Latin America and the Caribbean. This drive continues, no matter whether under a Barack Obama or a Trump administration.

Since 2009, when the progressive presidential administration of Mel Zelaya was overturned by a brutal coup orchestrated by U.S. imperialism, conditions for the Honduran people have deteriorated dramatically.

The Obama administration, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in particular, allowed the overthrow of the fair election of President Zelaya because Zelaya was attempting to improve the standard of living for the poorest of the country.

A pro-imperialist, pro-capitalist administration was then installed, ushering in a wave of repression and a further decline of the standard of living.

According to TeleSUR: “Honduras is ... the second poorest country in Central America and the sixth most unequal country in the world, according to World Bank statistics. The poverty rate currently stands at 64.5 percent, while 42.6 per-

cent of Hondurans live in extreme poverty.” (Jan. 6)

Honduras has also been deemed one of the most dangerous countries for human rights activists, journalists and unionists in the world. Indigenous people, Afro-Hondurans and the LGBTQ community are especially targeted for repression and violence.

For example, on Jan. 11, well-known Garifuna leader Miriam Miranda and three other members of OFRANEH (Fraternal Organization of Black and Garifuna Peoples) were stopped by armed agents of the state and held for several hours. The OFRANEH organization has been consistently targeted by the Honduran police and military.

The Garifuna people are descendants of West African slaves and number around 100,000 people in Honduras.

This was not the first time Miranda or members of OFRANEH have been detained. In fact, Miranda’s life, like that of Berta Cáceres, has been threatened several times.

The violent repression against Honduran freedom fighters was especially brought to light on March 3, when Cáceres, an environmentalist and social justice leader, was shot and killed in her home.

Cáceres had won several awards and was recognized around the world for her work to stop a hydroelectric project on her land. The Global Witness organization reports that at least 120 environmental activists have been killed in Honduras since 2009.

Cáceres’ family, as well as the entire movement, believe that Cáceres was killed by the Desarrollos Energéticos SA corporation, owner and operator of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project in Honduras, and the Honduran government, who contracted assassins to murder her and other activists.

Cáceres was a leader of the Indigenous

Lenca people and led a bold and vibrant struggle against the Agua Zarca dam. This dam, located on Lenca land, was controversial because it was imposed without consent from the local communities and was a threat to the environment.

Even though eight people have currently been charged by the government for her murder, the family and her organization continue to heroically demand structural changes and for the arrest of those at the top who ordered her murder.

Tens of thousands have been killed in Honduras since 2009. One source of the violence is the horrid drug trafficking that the U.S. is suspiciously unable to halt. This has forced tens of thousands of Hondurans to flee for their lives and make their way to the U.S.

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders reported on Dec. 1 that “human rights defenders in Honduras face killings, constant threats, and criminalization, making the Central American country one of the most dangerous in the world for human rights activists.”

This U.S.-made violence and instability is the cause of the forced migrations. If and when Trump decides to further militarize the border or escalate Obama’s deportation policies, more deaths at the border and in Honduras can be expected.

Several media sources, including NBC news, reported on Jan. 19 that a large spike of particularly Central American migrants had arrived at the Texas-Mexico border in order to enter the U.S. before Trump’s inauguration.

**U.S. imperialism’s role**

Developments in Honduras and Central America are not an isolated phenomenon. They are part and parcel of long-standing U.S. policies.

A Truthout Jan. 17 report stated that “U.S. military funding for Honduras

during the Obama administration has caused unprecedented levels of violence” and “has exacerbated gang activity and local government impunity. Donald Trump’s presidency will likely worsen these current trends.”

The report continues: “President-elect Trump’s appointment of Gen. John Kelly to head the Department of Homeland Security is a worrying sign. Kelly was head of the U.S. Southern Command during the Obama years and oversaw violent, counter-narcotic efforts across Latin America. He’s a drug war zealot.”

As has been stated by the anti-war and progressive movements for decades, the billions that Washington spends in Colombia, Mexico and elsewhere to allegedly fight drugs has been used instead to militarize those countries and to repress all those who struggle — all in order to protect U.S. corporate interests.

It is unknown what selected President Donald Trump will actually do in Latin America. But imperialism’s attempt to derail the left turn in Latin America — in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador in particular — will surely continue and is a danger to the peoples of the Americas.

Solidarity with the struggles in the Americas is critical. Later this year, for example, Xiomara Zelaya is expected to run for president in Honduras. She has declared that Honduras must fight for “democratic socialism.”

A victory for Zelaya would be helpful to the fight to defend President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela and Evo Morales in Bolivia.

Solidarity is imperative, not just for the Central and Latin American people but for the movement here as well. A victory for the Lenca people in stopping the Agua Zarca dam, for example, is a victory for Standing Rock.

Now more than ever, our fight against the capitalist system must go global. ☐



# Finally, a pledge to release Oscar López



By Berta Joubert-Ceci

After days of rumors and disappointed hopes, the Puerto Rican people joyfully received the news that they had been waiting years for: The incarcerated Puerto Rican political prisoner with the longest time in prison — 35 years — is scheduled to be released without restrictions on May 17.

On Jan. 17, three days before the end of his term, U.S. President Barack Obama finally commuted Oscar López Rivera’s sentence.

López Rivera, who turned 74 on Jan. 6, was charged in 1981 with “seditious conspiracy to overthrow the United States Government,” a charge that routinely applies to Puerto Rican revolutionaries fighting for independence. López Rivera was a member of the Armed Forces for the National Liberation of Puerto Rico, a clandestine group that believed in the armed struggle to bring independence for PR. The remainder of his 70-year sentence still faced him; 12 of his 35 years in prison he had spent in isolation, a cruel practice often imposed on political prisoners.

His commutation was part of Obama’s release of 200-plus prisoners. These included Chelsea Manning, who boldly released secret information that exposed U.S. war crimes in Iraq. It was unfortunate that the Indigenous leader Leonard

Peltier and the brave Puerto Rican Ana Belén Montes were excluded from the list.

As soon as his lawyer, Jan Susler, told him the news, Oscar thanked his people in Puerto Rico and people all over the world who had demanded his release. His daughter Clarisa, at a press conference from San Juan, echoed her father’s words, saying, “With a broken voice and almost unable to hold back tears, among other expressions, he expressed his gratitude: ‘Today we celebrate the victory of the people of Puerto Rico. My deepest gratitude to the Government of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. Thanks to all who made it possible for Oscar López Rivera to return to where he belongs, to his beloved Puerto Rico.’” (Claridadpuertorico.com, Jan. 18)

**Campaign to free Oscar**

This was really a victory won by the Puerto Rican people who raised the campaign worldwide. The struggle for liberation was welcomed by the most diverse sectors of the Boricua people, from supporters of independence to those backing statehood, passing through all the popular movements — women’s, environment, youth and student, artistic and sports, religious people of all beliefs, LGBTQ and individual activists.

The promise to free him has also been celebrated in all corners of the Puerto Ri-

can archipelago. When some radio or television program begins you will often hear some mention of Oscar’s impending freedom. Activists rejoice and congratulate each other; messages have been received from many organizations throughout the world greeting his release.

It has truly been such a concerted effort that no single person or group can become the sole owner of the joint achievement. The Boricua National Human Rights Network based in Chicago, where Oscar resided, which has offices in several U.S. and PR cities, organized multiple actions with participation of several elected political figures.

There have been many contributions to this effort. On the last Sunday of every month the Women for Oscar demonstrated, both in San Juan and in New York, to bring attention to the case. The effort includes most Puerto Rican artists, including the now-famous Lin Manuel Miranda, René of the band Calle 13, Ricky Martin, Andy Montañez, Chabela Rodríguez and others. There have also been the efforts of dozens of organizations of the Boricua Diaspora in the United States that consistently distributed information at festivals, Puerto Rican parades, organized protests and meetings.

And then there was international support. Cuba, always in solidarity, took on Oscar’s case as one of its own. Venezue-

la and Nicaragua raised their voices in national and international forums. Figures such as Pope Francis and former President Jimmy Carter demanded that Obama release him.

A petition to Obama signed by more than 100,000 people was delivered in Washington on Jan.11, further pressuring the president as his term ended.

**What does it mean for the Puerto Rican people?**

Oscar’s reflections from prison have been very important to the progressive movement in PR, including his call to boycott the immense — and illegitimate — debt that is suffocating the population; his call for unity in the struggle for independence; and his solidarity with the prisoner Ana Belén Montes, who is isolated and incommunicado in a Texas jail. These are very key points in the current struggle and deserve wide discussion. By themselves, these reflections are already a legacy and Oscar’s great contribution to the Puerto Rican resistance movement.

On the other hand, that so many diverse sectors of the population have been able to unite in a consensus to free Oscar — whether for humanitarian and moral or political grounds — can be seen and extrapolated to see how this could help confront the urgent need that has priority in Puerto Rico today: the presence of

## THE ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS

# How do people become revolutionaries?

*Since the election of Trump, spontaneous protests have erupted as well as the massive counter-inaugural marches on Jan. 20 and worldwide women’s marches on Jan. 21. Some leftists and anti-war people on social media have had nothing but criticism for the protests and skepticism regarding their participants.*

*We republish here a response by Bill Dore, an activist since he joined Youth Against War and Fascism in 1968.*

On Aug. 12, 1962, my organization, Youth Against War and Fascism, held the first protest in this country against the Vietnam war. About 70 people came to our picket line in New York. Few people in the U.S. were aware that U.S. military “advisers” were fighting against the Vietnamese people at that time.

That was a bit before my time. I became active in 1968, after the Tet Offensive — when the Vietnamese National Liberation Front stunned the then half-million U.S. troops by seizing major parts of the country for a few weeks in February — and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April.

By then the body count of U.S. troops killed and the cost of the war had skyrocketed. Hundreds of thousands were marching in the streets against the war. Students were shutting down campuses. GIs were starting to rebel. Dr. King had spoken out against the war a year before his assassination. By the fall of 1969, Nixon was in the White House and a million people filled the streets in National Moratoriums against the war.

Should we have said, “Where were you clowns seven years ago, when we happy few were protesting the war alone? You Johnny-Come-Latelys are only here because more GIs are dying, there’s a Republican in the White House and the Establishment itself is split on the war?”

That would have been foolish. The point was not moral purity, but to actually try to build a movement to stop the war. We threw ourselves into the new movement and tried to make it more militant.

We injected the slogan “Stop the War

Against Black America” and raised the issue of Palestine. Sometimes we had to battle official marshals to do that, but it couldn’t have happened if we hadn’t been there.

In November 1969, when half a million people rallied in Washington against the war, we, together with Students for a Democratic Society, led a breakaway march of 20,000 that stormed the Justice Department in defense of the Black Panther Party.

The night before, thousands of us battled the cops in the streets of Washington’s Georgetown neighborhood as we tried to seize the Saigon regime’s Embassy — the U.S. supported a puppet government there — on behalf of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Vietnam.

**War on Yugoslavia**

Fast forward 30 years to March 1999 and the Bill Clinton regime’s air assault on Yugoslavia. The International Action Center, many of whose older members had been in YAWF, organized just about the only protests against that war in alliance with some Yugoslav organizations. We organized marches in several cities, a march on Washington, and a war crimes tribunal against the Clinton administration and the European NATO leaders, who also backed the destruction of that multinational country.

Thousands of Yugoslav-Americans came out in protest, many for the first time. Some had voted for Clinton; others were Republicans and voted for Bush Senior.

Did we say, “Where the hell were you

eight years ago when Bush was bombing Iraq? And where were you last month when the New York Police Department murdered Amadou Diallo in a hail of 41 shots?”

Of course not. Of course, people will respond first when they are attacked directly. It opens their eyes. We said, “Welcome to the struggle; let’s try and stop this war.” A few years later, when Bush Junior invaded Iraq, many of them joined the protests.

I find it incomprehensible that anyone on the left or who claims to be anti-imperialist is complaining that people are in the streets against the class enemy’s new commander. If you have been at the protests, you have seen that most people there were young and many from the communities most under attack. Others were from the Black Lives Matter and immigrant rights movements and have been in the streets under Bush and Obama. (Were all those who criticize the Trump protests there with them?)

A major aim of capitalist-run electoral politics is to direct people away from street demonstrations to the confines of the ballot box. Now, people are in the streets. The fear of provoking a popular upsurge was one reason many in the ruling class were leery of Trump in the first place.

Do the anti-Trump protesters need to understand Syria and Libya to protest Trump’s openly proclaimed plans to escalate the war against Black and Brown people here? If we anti-imperialists are with the people in the streets, we have an opportunity to explain the other issues to them.

Are some of them misled by the Democrats? That’s the role of the Democratic Party — to mislead. It’s only by being in the struggle and by being in contact with revolutionary ideas that the protesters learn.

Revolutionary change depends upon people coming into motion who were not

active before. The point is to get people in motion.

Where else do you expect the human material for revolution to come from? It’s in the process of struggle and confrontation that people become radical.

**Russia’s revolutions**

The 1905 Revolution in Russia began with people following a priest in a march that appealed to “the good czar, our little father,” asking him for some reforms. The “good czar’s” police fired on that march.

Twelve years later, women in St. Petersburg went out on strike on International Women’s Day. The men didn’t join until the next day. (The women didn’t scold them for not being there “yesterday.”) Five days later, together with Army troops, the women and men workers overthrew the czar and started on the road to the socialist revolution eight months later.

My first political act, when I was very young, was giving out flyers for Sen. “Clean Gene” McCarthy, who had the reputation of being against the Vietnam War, although he too was for U.S. imperialism. Within weeks, I was supporting the Black Panthers and running in the streets with the flag of Vietnam’s National Liberation Front.

Come to think of it, we in Workers World Party organized the only demonstrations in the country that I know of against fascism in Ukraine, defending the rebellion in the eastern provinces now called Novorossiia, and supporting Russia’s annexation of Crimea from the pro-fascist Kiev regime. We have also marched against U.S. intervention in Syria.

We wonder if the purists now scorning the anti-Trump protesters were there at these demonstrations. Probably not, or the demonstrations would have been much larger.

But if they join now, we won’t try to keep them away. □



a criminal Fiscal Control Board that the U.S. empire has imposed and that enforces the Puerto Rican people's absolute lack of sovereignty and independence.

That reality is exacerbated by the existence of two right-wing administrations, in both Puerto Rico and the United States. The government of Governor “Ricky” Roselló wants to impose statehood on PR and advances a totally neo-liberal agenda. This includes so-called Labor Reform that eliminates all the guarantees that the working class of the country achieved through years of incessant struggles, and that will impoverish the people even more. And in the U.S., Donald Trump promises chaos not only in his country, but worldwide.

So this year, 2017, promises to be one of unceasing struggles in both PR and the USA.

Stay alert

Although there is the promise of Oscar’s release in May, there is a need to stay alert until he gets out of prison. History is full of prison “accidents.” Unfortunately, Obama, as a proper imperialist, instead of immediately releasing Oscar is making him wait four months.

The newspaper Claridad reported that lawyer Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, spokesperson for the Puerto Rico Human Rights Committee, “said that he appreciated the president’s signing the commutation [but] noted that Obama was under great pressure and that the people of Puerto Rico must be able to understand the imperial mentality that ‘never wants to give us an absolute victory.’” (Jan. 18)

Villanueva Muñoz “gave as examples the release [of pro-independence fighters] in 1999, given under imposed conditions; and when the U.S. Navy understood that it could not continue In Vieques, they said they were leaving, but only after three years.” □

# Women march against sexism, racism & Trump

Continued from page 6

RESIST the militarization of our lands, communities, and bodies, and to UNITE for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.” Organizers called for an end to violence against women and to “highlight the economic, political, and cultural aspects by connecting how imperialism perpetuates and worsens violence against women in all its forms.”

Labor Rising Against Trump had contingents in both Oakland and San Francisco marches. In Oakland, activists held a banner reading, “Workers’ Rights Are Women’s Rights.”

NY and East Coast women rise

**New York City’s** Fifth Avenue surged with a multigenerational, multinational sea of angry, determined, energized women and men supporters who marched against Trump and for women’s liberation. The protest began at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the U.N. with a brief rally. The official estimate for the six-hour protest was 400,000 marchers.

Families pushed strollers while some women rode in wheelchairs. Handmade signs read “Make America MEXICO again!” and “Don’t tread on me” above a drawing of a cis woman’s reproductive system. Many signs emphasized equality, inclusiveness and solidarity, especially “Black Lives Matter” and “Not My President.” The color of the day was pink, with many women wearing pink “pussyhats” and carrying signs that read, “This pussy grabs back.” Relatively few signs referred to Hillary Clinton, though some repeat-

# Trump stirs the pot as Political turmoil deepens in so. Korea

By Deirdre Griswold

The political crisis in south Korea just won’t go away. The people are angry and organized, determined to get rid of the corrupt dictatorship of President Park Geun-hye. After months of massive demonstrations, Parliament in December voted to impeach her, but she refuses to leave office. An impeachment trial is now being conducted by the Constitutional Court.

The grievances against the Park regime are many. Most explosive are the charges of collusion between the government and the “chaebols,” the big conglomerates that dominate the economy and have grown super-rich exploiting south Korean workers. Foundations set up by President Park and a friend, Choi Soon-sil, have received millions in donations from these corporations. In return the president has pardoned 15 top executives of Samsung, Hyundai and other chaebols convicted of economic crimes.

Huge weekly demonstrations continue all over the country. The one in Seoul on Jan. 8 had more than a million people. The struggle has opened up deep rifts within the state. When a special prosecutor announced he was seeking to arrest Jay Y. Lee, head of Samsung, on bribery charges involving \$36 million given to Park foundations, he was overruled within days by a high court judge.

The latest scandal to be unearthed involves a government “blacklist” of artists and performers who have been critical of the regime.

ed campaign slogans like “The future is female.”

The International Working Women’s Day Coalition had a lively contingent, which included women from Workers World Party, Picture the Homeless and the local branch of Gabriela USA. “The warm response to our message, which stresses that every issue is a woman’s issue, indicates there is a powerful movement for social justice in birth led by women,” said Monica Moorehead, coalition co-coordinator and WWP’s 2016 presidential candidate.

In **Syracuse, N.Y.**, over 2,500 people encircled the federal building, outnumbering 8 to 1 a local anti-woman, anti-abortion march.

Black Lives Matter organizer Nikeeta Slade powerfully named the day as a “which-side-are-you-on moment.” The protest also included speakers from Planned Parenthood, the Sierra Club, the LGBTQ community and the Onondaga Nation. The event was followed by a political and cultural “People’s Inauguration” sponsored by the brand-new Central New York Solidarity Coalition initiated by the Workers’ Center of Central New York and the Syracuse Peace Council.

**Buffalo, N.Y.**, saw several thousand opponents of the Trump agenda march through downtown in one of the city’s largest demonstrations ever.

In **Philadelphia** an estimated 50,000 people, twice the number organizers had anticipated, turned out. Their signs reflected a wide variety of concerns. For many younger people, it was their first time at a protest.

Violent offensive against unions

Under Park, the government has carried out a violent offensive against south Korea’s labor unions and made it easier for bosses to fire workers and get rid of full-time, steady jobs. Han Sang-gyun, president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was sentenced to five years in jail last July for leading protests against Park’s repressive labor policies.

Other issues have included the president’s unwillingness to appear in public as hundreds of high school students drowned over hours after a ferry boat capsized in 2014. The owner had added extra decks, making the vessel top heavy. It was all illegal, but brought him big bucks.

Park’s father was Gen. Park Chung-hee, who took power through a military coup in 1961 and ruled for 18 years. During all that time, he was a close ally of the U.S., sending 300,000 Korean troops to fight in the Vietnam War.

Behind the scenes, one can be sure that the Pentagon and clandestine U.S. agencies are doing everything they can to make sure south Korea continues to have

The rally started with the acknowledgment that the event was taking place on the ground where the historic Million Woman March, organized by women of color, drew close to a million people, mostly Black women, in October 1997.

Women pour out in South, Midwest

In **Roanoke, Va.**, thousands of women and allies flooded Elmwood Park for a speak-out of labor and community participants. Then the multinational, all-ages crowd marched through downtown in one of the largest protests in Roanoke history.

About 20,000 people rallied and marched in **Raleigh, N.C.**

Despite thunderstorms, an estimated 60,000 people gathered downtown for the **Atlanta** March for Social Justice and Women. Just as the opening rally began, the rain stopped and the crowd cheered as the sun came out.

Women and others of all ages and nationalities formed a dense, multiblock demonstration that ended at the Georgia State Capitol. For many, this was their first protest, and whether 16 or 66 years old, all seemed to experience empowerment and solidarity, especially at news of similar marches around the world.

In Michigan, protesters came out by the thousands in the capital city of **Lansing**, where a breakaway march led by militant youth took place. Demonstrations were also held in **Detroit, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Saginaw** and other cities and towns large and small.

In **Rockford, Ill.**, Workers World Party and Rockford Youth Activism organized a “March against Trump and Sexism.” A high-energy crowd marched through downtown streets to city hall, where speakers, representing youth, environmental, Indigenous, LGBTQ and other organizations, denounced the Trump administration and declared they will continue to organize and build solidarity in their communities. A “Women’s March Rockford” also brought out hundreds to support women’s rights.

Hundreds took to the streets for a Femme Solidarity March in **Milwaukee**. Poor and working people from across Wisconsin, at least 100,000 strong, joined the Women’s March in **Madison**,

a government that will facilitate the U.S. military occupation of the southern half of the Korean peninsula, which has been in place for almost 72 years.

However, the world has changed a great deal since the U.S. first occupied Korea at the end of World War II. Today 26 percent of south Korea’s exports go to China and only 13 percent to the U.S. With the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, south Korea is already being pressured by Washington to pay more for the many U.S. military bases in the country.

The Korea Times on Jan. 22 noted, “Trump, in his inauguration speech, brought up issues related to his repeated criticism of South Korea for ‘free riding’ on the U.S. military in defense and Seoul’s ‘job-killing’ free trade deal with Washington. ... Seoul pays about half the cost, which Trump called ‘peanuts,’ for the upkeep of 28,000 American troops.”

Despite the restrained tone, it’s not difficult to feel the stinging effect that Trump’s crude insults and lies are having on Korean people. If even a bourgeois paper like the Korea Times is appalled, you know the people in the streets are seething. □

the state capital. Speeches were made, bands played music and people spoke of creating a sustainable movement for women’s rights while resisting the Trump administration. Further meetings are planned to continue organizing and mobilizing.

‘We won’t go back!’

In **Denver**, some 75,000 women and men were in the streets. The message was clear: Women in 2017 will not go back to 1950. What is new is that not only were more men present, but a unity of struggle was shown for immigrants, Black Lives Matter, incarcerated women and those facing economic oppression. Noticeably missing was an understanding of how U.S. wars impact the planet as well as women here and around the world.

Over 25,000 women and their supporters took to the streets and marched to **Houston** City Hall in the largest demonstration since the historic immigrant rights action in 2006.

In **Portland, Ore.**, feminists of all stripes donned their pink hats and sang and chanted while winding their way through the city. The crowd choked all but the widest streets, obliging demonstrators to take the sidewalk, flowing around parked cars and old trees. The demonstration eclipsed the waterfront park and took the Morrison bridge, temporarily closing it to traffic.

In **Seattle**, an estimated 175,000 people countered Trump’s racism and bigotry and years of attacks on women. The marchers traveled 3.6 miles from Judkins Park through downtown to Seattle Center. The mass transit and traffic systems were overwhelmed. Thousands of colorful hand-made signs rebuked Trump’s misogyny while demonstrators chanted “Black lives matter!” and other chants. The march went on all day. Women’s marches were held in at least eight other Washington state cities and towns.

*Contributors included* **Jasen Vyvyan Balmat, Tommy Cavanaugh, Sage Collins, Sue Davis, Ellie Dorritie, Terri Kay, Dianne Mathiowetz, Bob McCubbin, Jim McMahan, John Parker, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac, Dante Strobino, Gloria Verdieu, Viviana Weinstein, WW Staff and WW Wisconsin Bureau.**





Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

# Al fin, promesa de liberación de Oscar López

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Luego de días de rumores y esperanzas fallidas, el pueblo boricua recibió con júbilo la noticia que por años había esperado: el prisionero político puertorriqueño con más años de encarcelación – 35 años - saldrá libre y sin restricciones el próximo 17 de mayo. El 17 de enero, a tres días de terminar su puesto como presidente de los EUA, Barack Obama finalmente conmutó la sentencia de Oscar López Rivera.

López Rivera, quien acaba de cumplir 74 años el pasado 6 de enero, fue acusado en el 1981 de “conspiración sediciosa para derrocar al Gobierno de Estados Unidos”, cargo que rutinariamente se aplica a las y los revolucionarios boricuas que luchan por la independencia. Sobre él pesaban aún el resto de los 70 años de condena; doce de los años ya cumplidos los pasó en aislamiento, práctica cruel comúnmente aplicada a prisioneras/os políticos.

Su conmutación fue parte de las 200 y pico otorgadas por Obama en las cuales también estaba la de Chelsea Manning, quien valientemente sacó a la luz información secreta para exponer los crímenes de guerra estadounidenses.

Tristemente, el líder indígena Leonard Peltier, y la valiente puertorriqueña Ana Belén Montes, fueron excluidos de la lista.

Tan pronto Oscar supo la noticia por su abogada Jan Susler, agradeció a su pueblo y a todas las personas que habían exigido su liberación.

Su hija Clarisa López Rivera en conferencia de prensa desde San Juan hizo eco de las palabras de su padre: “Con voz entrecortada y casi sin poder contener las lágrimas entre otras expresiones agradeció: “Hoy celebramos la victoria del pueblo de Puerto Rico.

Mi más profundo agradecimiento al Gobierno de Cuba, Venezuela y Nicaragua. Gracias a todos los que hicieron posible que Oscar López Rivera pueda regresar a donde pertenece, a su Puerto Rico del alma”. (claridad-puertorico.com, 18 de enero)

## Campaña libertadora

Esta victoria fue realmente una del pueblo boricua que elevó la campaña a nivel mundial. La lucha por la liberación fue acogida por los más diversos sectores del pueblo boricua, desde el independentista hasta el estadista, pasando por todos los movimientos ciudadanos, religiosos, de mujeres, ambientalistas, jóvenes y estudiantes, la clase artística y la deportiva, la religiosa de todas las creencias, LGBTT, y ciudadanas/os independientes.

Su promesa de liberación igualmente ha sido celebrada en todos los rincones del archipiélago. En televisión y radio se escucha frecuentemente que al empezar un programa se hace alusión a la libertad de Oscar. Las y los activistas se regocijan y felicitan mutuamente; mensajes de felicitación llueven desde muchas organizaciones a través del mundo.

Verdaderamente ha sido un esfuerzo tan conjunto, que ninguna persona o agrupación puede hacerse única dueña de su logro. La Red Nacional Boricua pro Derechos Humanos, con sede en Chicago donde residía Oscar, y con oficinas en varias ciudades de EUA y PR, organizó múltiples acciones donde participaron además varias figuras políticas electas. Han sido muchos los esfuerzos, desde las “Mujeres por Oscar” que cada último domingo del mes llevaban a cabo una demostración trayendo atención sobre el caso tanto en San Juan como en Nueva York; la mayor parte de clase artística puertorriqueña, incluyendo el ahora fa-

moso Lin Manuel Miranda y René de Calle 13, Ricky Martin, Andy Montañez, Chabela Rodríguez y otros.

Los esfuerzos de decenas de organizaciones de la Diáspora Boricua en los EUA que consistentemente distribuían información en festivales, desfiles puertorriqueños y organizaban veladas y protestas.

Y luego la adhesión internacional. Cuba, siempre solidaria, tomó el caso de Oscar como uno suyo. Venezuela y Nicaragua alzaron sus voces en foros nacionales e internacionales. Figuras como el Papa Francisco y el ex presidente Carter exigieron a Obama su liberación.

Una petición a Obama firmada por más de 100.000 personas fue entregada en Washington el pasado 11 de enero, presionando aún más al entonces presidente Obama.

## ¿Qué significa para el pueblo boricua?

Las reflexiones de Oscar desde la cárcel han sido muy importantes para el movimiento progresista en PR. Su llamado a que se boicotee la inmensa – e ilegítima – deuda que tiene al pueblo asfixiado. El llamado de unidad en la lucha por la independencia. Su solidaridad con la prisionera Ana Belén Montes, aislada e incomunicada en una cárcel de Texas. Estos son puntos muy claves en la lucha actual y que merecen una amplia discusión. De por sí, estas reflexiones son ya un legado y una gran aportación de Oscar al movimiento de resistencia boricua.

Por otro lado, el hecho de que tan diversos sectores se hayan podido unir en un consenso – la liberación de Oscar – ya sea por motivos humanitarios y morales como políticos, puede ser visto y extrapolado a la urgente necesidad que prevalece en el Puerto Rico de hoy: la presencia de una criminal Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el

# Migración cubana y política bélica estadounidense

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

El 12 de enero del 2017, el gobierno de Obama anunció que pondría fin a una política migratoria de 22 años sobre Cuba.

El presidente Barack Obama declaró que el gobierno estadounidense ya no permitiría a las/os cubanos que lleguen a suelo estadounidense sin visas, permanecer en el país y obtener inmediatamente la residencia legal. La política ya finalizada - denominada “pies mojados, pies secos” - era exclusiva para migrantes cubanos.

A diferencia de otras/os inmigrantes caribeños, centroamericanos o africanos, las/os cubanos eran los únicos a los que se les concedía la residencia legal inmediata o el estatus naturalizado tan pronto tocaban suelo estadounidense. Sólo cuando eran capturadas/os durante su travesía marítima hacia EUA es que este gobierno les regresaba a la isla. De ahí el término “pies mojados, pies secos”.

La política es parte de la larga guerra que por décadas ha emanado desde Washington dirigida a desestabilizar la Revolución Cubana. Durante años, el gobierno cubano ha señalado que la política migratoria estadounidense ha tenido como objetivo incitar a la migración ilegal desde Cuba.

En 1962, tras el triunfo de la Revolución, el gobierno de EUA suspendió abruptamente los viajes y las salidas legales desde Cuba a EUA. Miles de cubanas/os perdieron todas las conexiones con su familia que vivía en EUA. La migración ilegal era la única forma de reconectarse.

Bajo el gobierno de Lyndon Johnson, se promulgó la onerosa Ley de Ajuste Cubano. Esa ley estableció un estatus migratorio especial para las/os cubanos y se convirtió en la base legal para el derecho automático a obtener el estatus de residente permanente un año después de ingresar a EUA.

En 1994 y 1995, otro acuerdo de migración entre EUA y Cuba estableció que EUA entregaran 20.000 visas anuales a cubanas/os que quisieran venir a EUA. La política de “pies mojados, pies secos” fue establecida dentro de la Ley de Ajuste Cubano para otorgar un estatus legal inmediato.

Los EUA nunca han mantenido su promesa de los acuerdos migratorios, aprobando tan sólo 1.600 visas algunos años. Al violarse el acuerdo año tras año, el número de personas que intentaban emigrar a EUA sin autorización, aumentó.

Esos acuerdos se llevaron a cabo en el contexto del bloqueo más largo de la historia de EUA, creando incontables dificultades económicas y sociales en Cuba. A pesar de las condiciones favorables a las/os trabajadores, como la educación y la atención médica gratuitas para todas/os, las condiciones de vida siguen siendo difíciles en Cuba como resultado del bloqueo. Cuando el comercio con el antiguo campo socialista se deterioró exponencialmente, las condiciones sociales fueron especialmente duras en Cuba. La escasez de alimentos y petróleo abundó como resultado del endurecimiento del bloqueo y la caída de la Unión Soviética.

Además, el imperialismo estadounidense y sus lacayos entre los elementos cubanos contrarrevolucionarios en la Florida llevaron a cabo sistemáticamente una campaña de propaganda ininterrumpida a través de la radio y otros medios para incitar la migración ilegal desde Cuba. Esta incitación provocó el caso de Elián González, cuya madre murió en una balsa proveniente de Cuba rumbo a Florida en 1999. Elián sobrevivió y fue recogido por la Guardia Costera y llevado a Miami. Allí, miembros derechistas de la familia trataron de secuestrar al niño de seis años y mantenerlo en EUA a pesar de las exigen-

cias de su padre para que Elián regresara.

Después de varios meses, el padre de Elián, Juan Miguel, obtuvo la libertad de su hijo. Elián, ahora adulto, es uno de los muchos líderes juveniles de Cuba en la defensa de la Revolución.

La Ley de Ajuste Cubano (CAA) establece un estatuto especial y exclusivo para las/os migrantes cubanos. Hace que sean las únicas personas en el mundo que tienen la dispensa para obtener automáticamente el derecho a solicitar la ciudadanía y los permisos de trabajo de EUA tan pronto toquen suelo estadounidense.

Esto expone claramente la naturaleza política de las políticas migratorias estadounidenses. Por ejemplo, las/os haitianos experimentan algunas de las condiciones más terribles en su patria debido a políticas imperialistas. ¿Por qué no se conceden a las/os haitianos u hondureños - que huyen de la violencia - privilegios inmediatos como a los cubanos?

Porque una de estas naciones ha tenido una revolución que expulsó a las corporaciones transnacionales extranjeras y a los bancos de Wall Street: Cuba.

¿Por qué Obama derogó la parte “pies mojados, pies secos” de la CAA?

Un artículo del 12 de enero en el New York Times resumió al asesor de seguridad nacional de Obama, Benjamin Rhodes, diciendo que “la mayoría de los cubanos que llegaron a EUA en el pasado ‘tuvieron que dejar Cuba’ por ‘razones políticas’ y que “ahora el flujo es en gran parte de personas que buscan mayores oportunidades económicas”, mientras que la terminación de la política “es un reflejo de la opinión de Obama de que, en última instancia, el ascenso de una nueva generación de cubanos presionando por el cambio en su propio país es vital para lograr el cambio allí”.

imperio estadounidense frente a la absoluta falta de soberanía e independencia del pueblo boricua.

Esta realidad se agudiza por la existencia de dos administraciones de derecha tanto en Puerto Rico como en Estados Unidos. El gobierno de “Ricky” Roselló – quien quiere imponer la estadidad en PR y avanza una agenda totalmente neoliberal incluyendo una Reforma Laboral que elimina todas las garantías que la clase obrera del país logró a través de años de incesantes luchas y que empobrecerá aún más al pueblo; y el de Donald Trump en EUA que promete caos no solamente en su país, sino a nivel mundial.

Por lo cual este año 2017 promete ser uno de incesantes luchas tanto en PR como en EUA.

Aunque hay la promesa de liberación de Oscar en mayo, hay la necesidad de estar pendientes hasta que salga de prisión. La historia está llena de “accidentes” en prisiones. Obama desgraciadamente, como buen imperialista, en vez de liberar a Oscar inmediatamente, hace esperar cuatro meses.

Un artículo del periódico Claridad reporta que el licenciado Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Portavoz del Comité Pro Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico, “dijo que agradecía que el Presidente haya firmado la conmutación [pero] hizo la observación de que Obama estaba sujeto a grandes presiones y que el pueblo de Puerto Rico tiene que poder entender la mentalidad imperial de que “nunca nos quieren reconocer un triunfo absoluto”.

Villanueva Muñoz “dio como ejemplos que cuando la excarcelación en el 1999 se hizo bajo unas condiciones, cuando la Marina de Guerra entendió que no podía seguir en Vieques, dijeron nos vamos pero en tres años”. □

“Es importante que Cuba continúe teniendo una población joven y dinámica que sean agentes de cambio”, dijo Rhodes.

También reportó el New York Times, citando al infame contra-revolucionario Jorge Mas Canosa, presidente de la Fundación Nacional Cubano Americana, antes de su muerte en 1997 quien dijo de la CAA:

“Los cambios obligarían a los líderes cubanos ser más receptivos a sus ciudadanos. “La gente puede estar inicialmente molesta por no poder tener esta forma de salir de Cuba, pero en última instancia, la solución para Cuba es la gente que lucha por el cambio en Cuba”.

Miles de cubanas/os, según el Times, han salido de Cuba y están esperando su entrada en la frontera de Méjico con EUA. La mayoría han salido de Cuba debido a las dificultades económicas o el deseo de ver a la familia en EUA. Algunos simplemente tienen un anhelo de viajar, como la mayoría de los seres humanos.

Desafortunadamente, estas/os cubanos experimentarán ahora las innumerables dificultades y miserias que sus hermanas y hermanos emigrantes de otros países han soportado durante generaciones.

Es ciertamente un paso adelante para Cuba que la administración Obama haya terminado con una pequeña parte de sus injustas políticas migratorias. Pero la Ley de Ajuste Cubano debe ser derogada en su totalidad y las políticas migratorias que se otorgan en Europa y otros lugares también deben ser practicadas hacia Cuba.

Además, la derogación de la política de “pies mojados, pies secos” para inspirar “el cambio dentro de Cuba” fracasará, al igual que todos las otras maniobras imperialistas ha fracasado desde 1959.

La Revolución cubana sigue siendo fuerte. □