By Kris Balderas Hamel

Students marched on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., on Jan. 26, demanding safety and accountability from university officials in the ever-widening sexual abuse and sexual assault scandal rocking the university.

The focus is now turning from Olympic gymnastics to MSU’s iconic and moneyed basketball and football programs and how accusations against student-athletes have been handled or mishandled by coaches and university officials.

Ingham County (Michigan) Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina handed Larry Nassar his “death warrant” on Jan. 24, after seven days of heart-wrenching and powerful testimony from his victims. She sentenced the serial pedophile to 40 to 175 years in prison, to be served following Nassar’s 60-year term for federal child pornography convictions.

The rising tide of the #metoo and #timesup movement across the U. S. propelled the Nassar case into the national limelight. One after another, more than 150 young women, many of them Olympic champions, entered the courtroom to courageously confront their abuser, tell their story and demand justice from a system that failed them at every turn. (See Monica Moorehead’s Jan. 23 “Gymnasts bravely expose Nassar sexual abuse” at tinyurl.com/yc27va8h.)

Nassar was a sports physician at MSU for over 25 years. There he preyed on girls and young women, especially young gymnasts who were sent to him by USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Girls as young as 6 were required to submit to physical examinations from Nassar, who used this as a way to cover up sexual abuse. Young women suffered at his hands for years, even after some had reported him to various authorities.

He was finally exposed in 2016 after years of painstaking work and evidence collection by Rachael Denhollander, a gymnast survivor who became an attorney, coach and mother.

Following Nassar’s sentencing, Lou Anna K. Simon announced her resignation that day as MSU’s longtime president. Acceding to a demand from the USOC, the entire board of USA Gymnastics announced its resignation on Jan. 26.

#TimesUp Michigan State U.

Women condemn sex abuse culture

February is Black History Month

Haitian union leader on migrant rights

Durham people’s tribunal: white supremacy ‘GUILTY!’

Fighting racism 1981

Prisoner solidarity

Railroad workers vindicated

Atlanta banners for Palestine

Waterless hell

What now with Davos, DACA, Mueller?
**Atlanta meeting shows solidarity with prison strikers**

By Workers World Atlanta bureau

The Atlanta branch of Workers World Party sponsored a solidarity program with Florida’s striking prisoners on Jan. 19.

A packed house viewed a video produced by Critical Resistance entitled “Visions of Abolition,” which laid out the unsolvable ills of working-class concentration camps called U.S. prisons.

The audience then heard Panagioti Tsolkas from the Campaign to Fight Toxic Prisons call in from Florida to describe the inhumane conditions under which thousands suffer in the state prisons and to urge support for their demands.

Next, there was a panel with Marilynn Wynn, executive director of Women on the Rise, a Mexican transwoman and immigrant. They described their own experiences in prison and detention centers. Moderator Devyn Springer led the discussion, which both had an emotional impact and also inspired the audience to take political action.

Dozens of people present pledged to participate in the national action to be directed at the new Department of Corrections office of Julie L. Jones at 850-488-7580 to demand the end of slave labor and no retaliation against the strikers.

The multinational crowd included many students and youth, formerly incarcerated men and women, family members of prisoners and community activists engaged in prison abolition work.

Earlier in the week, WWP members participated in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. march with a banner that read “End ‘Labor Smack: What Happened to Worker’s Rights’ Supporting Striking Florida Prisoners!” They also distributed hundreds of flyers with the prisoners’ demands and a call for solidarity with the prison strike.

Atlanta, Jan. 19.

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**Join us in the fight for socialism!**

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

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

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

**Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:**

workers.org/wwp

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try and deporting Haitian and Salvadoran immigrants. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agency responsible for enforcing U.S. immigration law, has ramped up deportations of Haitians. This has led to a backlash from Haitians in the U.S. They feel targeted and discriminated against. It means opposing and denouncing the openly racist, anti-immigrant rhetoric of the Trump administration. In 2018, Black History Month, this newspaper chronicled the experiences of Haitians in the U.S. and the challenges they face. In the past year, Trump’s attacks on Haiti have increased. In 2018, he referred to Haiti as a "shithole country." This language exemplifies theracism and anti-immigrant sentiment that is prevalent in the U.S. It is important to fight against these attacks and to support Haitians in their struggle for justice and equality.

**AF:** Let’s put it this way: We have 900 drivers here and 90 percent are Haitian. Out of the 90 percent, you may have a good 20 to 25 percent who may have been here before, but the rest are new arrivals. And home is not that good still. It’s even worse than after the earthquake. I’ve heard the president saying, “They no longer have hardship down there,” They have more hardship than ever before.

Even with the new [Haitian] president in place and things seem to be going somewhat in order, you still have the famine, you still have a country with no work, with no housing, with nothing. Some of the people actually would rather go to jail, because in jail they would have a meal, they would be safe.

We are good people, everybody knows that. We hard work. We have the greatest doctors, surgeons, just about in every state. We have the greatest doctors, surgeons, just about in every state.

I think all this stems from the racism of the government, from the very top, like Donald Trump for example and his clan, the people around him, who surround him, the very attacks on Haitian workers, right after he says that Haiti is a shithole country he came out with some more hatred, talking about banning, demonizing or disregarding all the programs that used to bring farmers and low-skilled workers from Haiti. So this vendetta is not only racist, it’s inhuman.

[Author’s note: the Trump administration recently decided to remove Haiti from the list of countries eligible for H-2A and H-2B visas used for seasonal agricultural and low-skilled work.] SO: What is the union doing to build solidarity and to fight back against these decisions?

**AF:** Well, I personally went to a lot of rallies and a lot of recently the attacks on Haitians. Haitians in the U.S. are not happy about what Trump's talking about. They’re already alerted all the parents that we’re going to have a job action as a union. They’re already short on drivers. It will be a sort of job action without us doing anything as a union. I think that thing that Trump talks about the "shithole countries." So Trump better know that we’re not going to lay down and take his attacks like that.

The other day, I was in a meeting with the CEO of Boston Public Schools. I told him, given the number of Haitians we have in the city driving school buses, I already alerted all the parents that we’re not happy about what Trump’s talking about, and Trump’s decision on TPS, and a whole bunch of other issues, particularly that thing that Trump talks about the “shithole” countries.

Trump might create, in essence, his own work action, his own strike, because if everybody is doing something to respond to him, and to go after him about TPS, we’re going to be participating. We’re gonna participate real big.

**Sam Ordóñez:** How is the decision to end TPS affecting the Haitian community?

**André François:** It’s really alarming that the government, the government of the United States, is considering the end of temporary protected status (TPS) for 59,000 Haitians. On Jan. 8, it announced ending TPS for 200,000 immigrants from El Salvador. TPS is granted to immigrants suffering from natural disasters or civil wars.

Workers’ World correspondent Sam Ordóñez interviewed André François, president of the United Steelworkers Local 8751, which represents the Boston and Randolph School Bus Drivers.

**In December, the Department of Homeland Security announced that TPS recipients will no longer have hardship down there.” They want to leave the country instead of repairing it. So it’s that demand for reparations that would be doing something for Haiti.

So 1804 can come back again, and we’ll be very happy that it will come back again. There’s some more of the same 1804 folks still around and we’ve got a lot more where that came from. So Trump will better know that we’re not going to lay down and take his attacks like that.

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Trump might create, in essence, his own work action, his own strike, because if everybody is doing something to respond to him, and to go after him about TPS, we’re going to be participating. We’re gonna participate real big.
Women say NO to Zionism

The following joint statement from the International Action Center and Workers World Party in Los Angeles was issued concerning the women’s march there on Jan. 20.

In Los Angeles, Workers World Party and the International Action Center, in solidarity with Palestinian organizations here and the established and growing boycott of the event, will not be attending the Women’s March. Both organizations will, however, be attending women’s marches in other areas around the country.

Here in Los Angeles, march organizers chose to invite Scarlett Johansson as a featured speaker. Given the escalation of attacks on the Palestinian people — from the planned moving of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, to the added child abuse with the state of Israel imprisoning of 16-year-old Ahed Tamimi (recently de-
barred at LAX by the Trump administration — it is important to express our solidarity with the Palestinians and with our Palestinian women.

Women’s march organizers were allowed to proceed with the march about 20 minutes after the planned 10-minute shutdown by the sheriff, who had blocked streets, rail yards and buildings.

In “Activists protest handling of rape case,” Feb. 1, 2018, Workers.org, the university administration has failed in its charge of on-campus housing, has failed in its duty to bring justice to the victim and create a safer environment on campus. It is unfortunate that we will be unable to do research during the march to the most of the attendees, who will be there for the right reasons. However, it is more important to stand with those who have targeted by a specific oppression and take their lead, especially when it has the chance to expose and reject reactionary actions of almost any unity.

Women condemn sex abuse culture

Continued from page 1

Women’s March on DC attorney general’s office are among the official entities that have announced investigations of MSU’s handling of the rampant sexual abuse by Nassar that went unnoticed and unchecked for over 25 years.

WW in 2010 on MSU sexual assaults

The ESPN report includes an account of allegations brought by a student in late August 2010 that had been raped by two members of the basketball team. The team’s coach Izzo is a Hall of Fame mem-
er who has taken the Spartans seven times to the NCAA Final Four.

At the time, Workers World covered the struggle at MSU led by the Coalition Against Sexual Violence, which fought for the students to receive the justice and create a safer environment on campus.

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**New York City**

**Free Ravi, free Jean!**

**BULLETIN:** The New Sanctuary Movement announced Jan. 29 that “After weeks of unrelenting community mobilization, Judge Katherine Forrest ruled this morning that ICE denied Ravi Ragbir due process by detaining him in his routine check-in on Jan. 11. That means Ravi will get to fight his ongoing case from home rather than that ICE denied Ravi Ragbir due process by detaining him in his routine check-in on Jan. 11. That means Ravi will get to fight his ongoing case from home rather than in his detention center.” Ragbir is being detained in the Bronx and is scheduled for another hearing on Jan. 20, at which another demonstration is planned. Montrevil has already been deported to Haiti, where he is fighting for his freedom. The slogan for the demonstration was “Build bridges, not walls.”

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On the morning of Jan. 27, nearly 100 people protested outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office at 26 Federal Plaza in New York City to support Ravi Ragbir, an immigrant rights leader from Trinidad who is head of the New Sanctuary Coalition of New York, and Jean Montrevil from Haiti. Both were arrested by ICE agents earlier in January. U.S. Reps. Nydia Velázquez and Yvette Clarke from Brooklyn spoke at the rally in support of the two prisoners.

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**‘We honor these political POWs’**

Jan. 27 — The daughters of Russell Maroon Shoates, Jericho visitors of Jalil Muntazim, Suniasta Acocil’s attorney, the International Concerned Friends and Families of Mumia Abu-Jamal and others filled the hall at tonight’s 22nd Annual Dinner Tribute to the Families of Our Political Prisoners/POWs at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan. The dinner paid homage to these prisoners and their families, such as those of the MOVE 9, by collecting funds for the prisoners’ commissary accounts.

The Malcolm X Commemoration Committee and the National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party sponsored the event. The cultural performances and tributes showed determination and unity. The group recognized, “Those who spread the word: our revolutionary griots,” referring to Black journalists and artists who are imprisoned for having gone out of their way to expose the racist injustice of U.S.-held political prisoners.

Malcolm X Commemoration Committee chairperson Dequi Kioni Sadiki honored the following people along with the prisoners themselves: Naya Azadeh, New York Amsterdam News; Bassir Mchawi, Education at the Crossroads; Sally O’Brien, Where We Live/WBAI radio; photographer Solwazi Afi Olusola; performers Ngoma, Sally O’Brien, Where We Live/WBAI radio; photographer Solwazi Afi Olusola.

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**On the picket line**

**LA Times writers vote union after 136 years**

The Los Angeles Times has a long history of viciously anti-union ownership going back 136 years. What started as a campaign among journalists over workplace grievances, like gender pay inequities and a unilateral change in vacation time in 2016, evolved into broader concerns about the paper’s direction, the newsroom’s editorial independence and competence of top management. Staffers were also upset by the Tronc media company’s lavish compensation plan for executives, which increased 80 percent in 2017, while journalists were told there wasn’t money for raises.

Support for unionizing grew in August when Tronc fired top Times editorial leadership, prompting concerns over who would replace them. LA Times CEO and publisher Ross Levinsohn, known for his “frat-house” behavior, didn’t help. (Tronc announced immediately after the vote that Levinsohn was on a leave of absence; he has since been replaced.)

After the union drive was launched publicly in October, the paper’s ownership mounted what staffers called a “coders only” campaign, which, “in its unfair labor practices strike Jan. 18. First Student has not come to the table since the strike began. But solidarity is spreading. The Seattle Educators Association pledged to have a solidarity walkout, and in union spirit, the Boston School Bus Drivers, United Steelworkers Local 8751, passed a resolution and donated $500 to Teamsters Local 174. Applause to those donating, walking out and showing solidarity against this conniving company.

**S.C. port truckers win union victory**

Some 53 short-haul drivers at South Carolina truck company Container Maintenance Corporation voted to join Teamsters Local 509 in mid-December. These drivers haul container cargo between the Port of Charleston and the rail yard in North Charleston. Last August, the company changed workers’ pay from hourly to meritocracy-based “production,” then cut their pay. As worker Reggie McQueen recounts, he was offered a home loan, but when the underwriter called the company, it was told he was just a “production worker” with no verifiable income. So McQueen’s loan was rejected. That motivated the workers to contact Local 509.

As Teamsters, the workers will be able to negotiate a package of pay and benefits that supports their families. And this victory “will pave the way for many others at the Charleston ports,” said Local 509 President James Todd in a Jan. 1 Teamster release. This victory is the fourth recent win by Teamsters at good transportation companies coast to coast in the past five months! Port drivers — both those misclassified as independent contractors and those who are employees — are driven down by low wages and unpredictable income. But they are fighting back against a system rigged by the capitalist bosses. (Payday Report, Dec. 15) Lesson learned: When bosses attack, the only retreat is to fight back and organize!
By Leilani Dowell
Durham, N.C.

Following on the heels of the dropping of felony charges on Jan. 11 for eight Durham activists who tore down a Confederate statue in August, Durham community members and activists held a People’s Tri- bunal on Jan. 13 to put the state on trial. This dynamic and creative event allowed survivors of the state’s racist violence to speak their truth and be affirmed in it, while exposing the injustices of the state.

The following charges were brought against former North Carolina Speaker of the House and current U.S. Sen. Thom Til- lis, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper, Durham Sheriff Mike Andres, Durham District Attorney Roger Echoles and President Donald Trump:

• Conspiracy and Obstruction of Justice — to unjustly thwart the will of the people and uphold white supremacy
• Collusion with Special Interests — to profit off the misery of communities of color and poor and working-class people
• Negligent and Sentic Homicide — in public jails and detention centers
• Real Crimes Against the People — racism, poverty, homelessness, choosing profit over people.

Loan Tran, one of the day’s judges and a member of Workers World Party, opened the event stating: “We hold this tribunal not as an affirmation of the state nor its laws; we hold this tribunal to ex- pose a system which considers borders to be legal, police killings to be legal, prisons and jails to be legal, but all of which are only legal because they enable this system to harm our people without having to an- swer to our people.”

George Roberson, who moved to Durham after his grandfather was killed by the Ku Klux Klan, testified on how it felt as a kid to walk by the Confederate monument on his way to court. “My heart sunk when I looked at the statute,” Robe- rson declared.

The Tribunal was held at CityWell, a church that has offered sanctuary to Samuel Oliver-Bruno, a Mexican immi- grant who has been fighting a deportation order since December. Judge Tran urged the audience to call N.C. Rep. G. K. But- terfield to demand that every space be a sanctuary space.

Takahiy Thompson, one of the eleven people arrested in conjunction with the tearing down of the Confederate statue, noted that, after World War II, all sym- bols related to Nazism were removed in Europe. Similarly, she asserted, the mon- ument that stood outside the old Durham courthouse was a symbol of “white supremacy. However, Thompson also called remov- ing symbols of racism only a “first step.” The masses have to be re-educated — Work symbols of white supremacy are re- moved, we must also work to remove the ideology that supports these institutions.”

Vivid testimony

Muffin, an abolitionist, All of Us or None member and director of Participa- tion in Durham, testified that, in 2014, she was pulled over for a broken taillight and then arrested for a crime she didn’t commit. With bail at $80,000, Muffin sat in a Durham jail for 65 days, causing her to lose her job and hous- ing voucher. When she was exonerated and released, Muffins and her kids found themselves homeless.

“At that point I realized that I didn’t want to do the job I went to school for — being a probation officer, an overseer. There are people sitting in Durham coun- ty jail who have not committed a crime, who are only there because they can’t pay the ransom.” Muffin declared.

Opening the second half of the event, Jose Romero of the Defend Durham crew presented a long list of names of those murdered by police just that week. He then read one of his own poems, entitled “Sanctuary,” and Martín Espada’s poem, “Imagine the 200 yards of Bread.”

Regarding the Confederate statue, Thompson stated: “My values tell me that I’m worthy, you’re worthy, it doesn’t mat- ter where you’re from. You’re valuable, no matter who’s in charge.”

Speaking on behalf of Felicia Arriaga, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Duke Uni-

Arts drop banners for Palestine

A collective of artists in Atlanta- na on Jan. 25 dropped several 12-by-20 foot ban- ners in solidarity with Palestine over the busy freeway bridge. One banner also addressed Atlanta’s gentrification prob- lem, while another demanded an end to the G-20 (Gorges International Law Enforcement Exchange) program which trains Atlanta police officers in apartheid Israel.

— Report and photos by Devyn Springer

Nursing home workers hold strike

What better way to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy than by striking against exploitative working con- ditions? This is what the nursing home workers of Veracare Nursing Home in Burbank, Ill., did on Jan. 15. The striking workers, union organizers, and dozens of supporters gathered and picketed, calling on owner Israel Davis to cease his illegal labor practices and to negotiate a fair con- tract. In photo, Veracare worker Sharon Lake speaks on why she decided to strike.

— Report and photo by Andi Shihadeh

Philly groups protest cop check points at women’s march

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Tens of thousands marched Jan. 20 in Philadelphia on the national day of protest for women’s rights and against current attacks by the Trump adminis- tration. The local march had the theme of “We Resist, We Persist, We Rise!” in solidarity with the growing movement against sexual harassment and abuse.

After a short march, participants ral- lied at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Among the anti-Trump signs were a smattering of pro-DACA and immigrant rights, Black Lives Matter and other signs calling for more diversity and inclusion.

The nonprofit Philly Women Rally, Inc., which organizes a smattering of fall ral- lies, includes a number of members con- nected to local Democratic Party chap- ters. In 2017, they were criticized for not taking more steps to address the special oppression of Black and Brown women.

This year the group made matters worse by announcing that police would set up checkpoints through which all participants would have to enter, all bags would be checked, and all attendees would be subject to search by police.

This collaboration with police prompt- ed the call to boycott the march from many individuals and groups advocating for people of color, transgender women and other marginalized groups.

James, co-organizer with the Womanist Working Collective, said the police presence invites “trauma on our already trau- matized people. Inviting them into that space ultimately means you’re not taking our feelings concerning them into any sort of consideration.” (philly.com, Jan. 19)

Organizers issue open letter

The Womanist Working Collective, the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, Black Lives Matter Philly, Galaei, REAL Justice, the Women’s Fightback Net- work-Philadelphia and Workers World Party/Mundo Obrero-Philadelphia wrote an open letter to rally organizers, circu- lated via social media and distributed at the march.

The statement read in part: “Their de- cision to collaborate with the police, an arm of the state which notoriously op- presses and terrorizes people of color, disregards the impact of this decision on color- and class- marginalized attendees. ... Involving the police in a protest ostensibly meant to empower women flies in the face of everything we know and understand about oppression and the struggles against oppression. It is further wholly unnecessary. ...”

“From historic experience, police are more likely to harass or attack protest- ers than to offer any protection. This was particularly clear when police did noth- ing to stop white supremacists who bru- tally attacked demonstrators and even killed a protester in Charlottesville, Va., in August 2017. ...”

“At the end of the day, police presence makes every marginalized group, includ- ing women, unsafe. In order to combat the violence that police enact by merely existing, part of fighting for the libera- tion of ALL women means a call to abol- ish police and prisons, which get away with heinous crimes against women ev- ery day.”

The statement and publicity for a boycott pressured city officials and rally orga- nizers to back down. Their proposed checkpoints were nonexistent on the morning of the march. Even organized Emily Cooper Morse, who in a conversa- tion with this writer prior to the march argued for tight security, stated at the rally “We are fighting for women’s rights, especially in communities that are mar- ginalized the most.” Her daughter held a sign that read, “The most neglected per- son in America is the Black Woman.” — Malcolm X.” (philly.com, Jan. 21)
A victory against white supremacy

By Tom Suille
Buffalo, N.Y.

A national demonstration against racism and Ku Klux Klan terror was held in front of Buffalo City Hall on Jan. 15, 1981. For months, African-American community had been terrorized by racist killings. Six African-American men were murdered and several more attacked.

Two of the men had their hearts cut out of their bodies.

On Jan. 15, 1981, the Nazi Party of Western New York announced that it planned to hold a rally on City Hall steps on Martin Luther King’s birthday, Jan. 15. They called for 100 white men with guns.

Almost immediately, anti-racist forces began to mobilize. A press conference by anti-racist organizations on Dec. 18 called for a massive, visible and vocal protest at the same location. Endorsers included “Get up! Get down! There’s a people’s movement in this town!” and “From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine!” and “From Honduras to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine!” and “From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine!”

By Dolores Cox

Native Hawaiians commemorated the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on Jan. 17 in Honolulu. It was on that date in 1893 that Western business owners and “missionary descendants,” aided by the U.S. military, toppled Queen Lili’uokalani, the last sovereign monarch. Two years later, she was imprisoned within the Iolani Palace when a rebellion failed to resettle her.

Thousands of people marked the solemn occasion by marching from the Royal Mausoleum at Manana Ala to the palace. Marchers included people from throughout Hawaii, including grassroots communities, trustees, children and politicians. Hawaiians rallied at the palace and reflected on the overthrow and its impact on Hawaii and Native Hawaiians.

Professor Nuali’i Napolani-Kuopua, from the University of Hawaii, stated: “It’s a celebration, because we’re still here, because we still remember Lili’uokalani, because we are still proud of her, of who we are as Hawaiians. We focus on ... Queen Lili’uokalani [and] that she’s an amazing hero, an amazing model of what it means to be a dignified and gracious head of state for a ... neutral country, that sought to have friends and allies throughout the world, that gave a home to people of multiple ethnicities that wanted to be here at a time when in other countries, they were enslaved.”

“Reflection also came with a mission to educate the public about the history of the overthrow, encourage unity and lead- ership among Native Hawaiians, and sup- port civic engagement in the Ha- waiian community,” observed Jenn Boneza, in her khon2.com article that day.

“Display of unity” - Boneza’s report also quoted Trish Ke-haulani Watson, a rally organizer: “This is just an amazing dis- play of unity. We want the people of Hawaii to know that, to know that our culture is powerful, that our history is important.” Re- garding the weekend’s false-alarm missile scare, she said: “After this weekend’s events, more than ever, I think people realize the importance of family, the importance of life, the value of life, and at the end of the day, it’s all about love. It’s all about aloha. The Hawaiian kingdom stood for and means what peo- ple love most. It’s all about our children.”

Professor Jen Oseorio stated: “We mourn the taking of the government in 1893. Hawaiians have not given up our identities. It is clear that our culture, not just our language, not just our arts, but our essential character as a people, these things have all survived. Our sovereignty is more alive and more potent than ever.”

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More than 1,000 demonstrators marched Jan. 20 in downtown Portland, Ore., blocking a major four-lane street and protesting a year of Donald Trump’s racist, misogynist, white supremacist presidency. They danced alongside a marching band, yelling rhythmic chants, in- cluding “Get up! Get down! There’s a peo- people’s movement in this town!” and “From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine! From Honduras to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine!”

Progressives and revolutionaries — and our class enemies — have never for- gotten this hard-won anti-racist victory. In the years since then, the Nazis several times have tried to rear their ugly heads, only to be vehemently beaten down.

The same article reported that Hawaii’s former Gov. John Waihee said: “I felt a lot of pride and a lot of aloha for everybody around me. It’s about a moment in his- tory that was extremely painful for our people. At least one day a year, we should be able to reverse it.”

During the ceremony, the Hawaiian flag was raised above the palace at the same time of day it was taken down during the overthrow. The rally then continued at Queen Lili’uokalani’s statue near the state Capitol. It coincid- ed with the state legislature’s opening day.

Congress formally apologized for the U.S. role in the overthrow 100 years later with a resolution during Clin- ton’s presidency. It said: “Whereas, it is proper and timely for the Congress on the occasion of the impending 100th anniver- sary of the event, to acknowledge the his- toric significance of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, to express its deep regret to the Native Hawaiian peo- ple.” (Hawaii News Now)

Native Hawaiians have long challenged the “legality” of the kingdom’s overthrow and rightfully say the U.S. annexation in 1898 was illegal.

Additional source: Honolulu Star Advertiser (Jan. 17)
By Joe Mashharaw

The Jan. 27 – While shielding the Syrian Democratic Forces-occupied Afrin district in Syria, Turkey announced Jan. 27 the beginning of “Operation Olive Branch.” This ironically named operation is an open-ended aggression on Syrian territory with broad aims to take land from the U.S.-backed SDF. Turkey claims the SDF, and their leading Kurdish force the People’s Protection Units or YPG, pose an existential threat to Turkish national security.

The shelling was followed by airstrikes and an invasion of anti-government con- tras/militia groups with the support of Turkey’s military. More SDF-occupied areas have reportedly been shelled in various parts of Northern Syria. Reports vary heavily on the scale and success of this operation so far.

Operation Olive Branch has been a long time coming. Turkey has been proposing a so-called “safe zone” along its northern border with Syria to avoid national security threats for years. Janu- ary’s aggression was preceded by and built off of Operation Euphrates Shield in the neighboring Manbij and Al-Bab districts of Aleppo province in 2016. Turkey used a parallel strategy then, with the Turkish armed forces operating as an auxiliary force to the contras it was backing.

Turkey seized land from Daesh, which it occupies to this day. It appears that Turkey seeks to control key areas into a contra-occupied protectorate across swaths of Northern Syria. This is NATO’s new strategy to rescue the nearly defeat- ed counterrevolutionary forces they have relied on to wage war against Syria. It also serves to buy time for longterm ma- neurvering in the region and to prolong the war, further destroying Syria.

The statements out of Syria and its pri- mary ally Iran confirm this perspective. Syria’s President Bashar Al-Assad said in an official statement, “The brutal Turkish aggression on the Syrian town of Afrin cannot be separated from the Turkish re- gime’s policy from the first day of Syria’s crisis, which was essentially built on sup- porting terrorism and terrorist organi- zations, whatever their names.” (prestęp. com, Jan. 21)

Bahram Ghasemi, a spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, underlined that the “continued crisis in Afrin can strengthen the Talibani-terrorist groups in Northern Syria again and will ignite again the fire of war and destruction in the country.” (farsnews.com, Jan. 21)

Junior partner to U.S. imperialism

On the surface, Turkey’s escalating ag- gression in Syria is being portrayed by the bourgeois press, as well as Turkish and U.S. government officials, as a “con- tradiction” because of U.S. strategic sup- port for the SDF.

A lot of fuss was made over U.S. statements that it was creating a “30,000-strong ‘border security force’ comprised the SDF in Syria. Turkey condemned the plan and the U.S. public- ly backedpedaled on this supposed strategy. (washingtonpost.com, Jan. 18)

It is impossible to believe the U.S. could forget the action by Turkey; the original Pentagon statements were utilized by Turkey as the primary pretext for Operation Olive Branch. The reality is that the U.S. greenlit this operation and has done nothing to prevent it from going forward. The U.S. was consulted before Turkey advanced.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, “Turkey was candid. They warned us before they launched the aircraft they were going to do it in consultation with us, and we are working now on the way ahead through the ministry of foreign af- fairs.” Mattis also said Turkey “is the only NATO country with an active military operation inside its borders, and Turkey has legiti- mate security concerns.” (dailymaverick.co.za, Jan. 21)

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson also defended Turkey’s actions. “We recognize and fully appreciate Turkey’s legitimate right to protect its citizens from terror- orist elements that may be launching at- tacks against Turkish citizens and Turk- ish soil from Syria.” He also denied the notion that in the concern, the United States did anything to stop Turkey. “I don’t think you’re going to find two NATO allies facing off at all,” said Tillerson. (CNN, Jan. 21)

Also on CNN, Marine Maj. Adrian Rankine-Galloway said senior U.S. de- fense officials were in Ankara to discuss security matters, including the situation in Northern Syria. “I can confirm that se- nior leaders from the Department of De- fense are fully engaged in working with their Turkish counterparts to de-escalate tensions along the Turkish-Syrian border and to ensure that operations to defeat ISIS (the Islamic State group) continue without interruption,” said the Pentagon spokesperson.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert also stated, “We urge Turkey to exercise restraint and ensure that its military operations remain limit- ed in scope and duration and scrupu- losely avoid civilian casualties.” (Reuters, Jan. 20)

This is the same mode of operation Washington has used in the past and again in Afrin, which can absolve itself of complicity in the actions of U.S. allies in the region, whether Tur- key or Israel.

That notion that U.S. support for the SDF poses a security threat because of the YPG affiliation with the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) is com- pletely disingenuous. The PKK is the only Kurdish force genuinely challenging NATO hegemony by actively resisting Turkey. Even if the YPG had the resourc- es and desire to support them materially, their dependence on the U.S. stops them from doing so. Thousands of U.S. soldiers embodied with the YPG, special forces, intelligence operatives and advisors would not permit the possibility of a genuine insurgency in the NATO ally to become a real security threat.

U.S. and NATO, hands off Syria

Operation Olive Branch, given tacit support by the U.S., represents the cul- mination of the U.S.-Daesh in NATO’s revised strategy to partition Syria since the Rus- sian intervention spelled the defeat of their main contra-army Daesh.

In contrast to this, the Mekdad highlighted - the SDF have a key or Israel.

Faced with this operation, the U.S. has focused on providing support to the SDF/YPG/YPJ (Women’s Protection Units) forces as their primary proxies in their war against Syria. The SDF have gained massive tracts of land that they have handed off so the U.S. can build air bases in Syria in preparation for further imperialist excursions.

The U.S. effectively used the SDF to keep Daesh land out of the hands of the main contra-army allied forces. Consider- ing Turkey was (and perhaps still is) a main backer and coordinator of Daesh, the U.S. likely planned this with their NATO ally’s consent.

The SDF/YPG was never a solid basis for permanent U.S. occupation of Syria. Kurdish armed forces operating in Iraq and Syria has historically been much weaker in Syria than inside Tur- key, Iraq and Iran. Syria has the smallest Kurdish population of these countries, which means the Kurds believe contain pieces of Kurdistan.

With the absolute failure of a Kurdish insurgency in Iraq last year, the momentum was nothing for similar development in Syria. The YPG and their allies in the SDF, especially follow- ing the Turkish attack, are more than likely to negotiate a path of recon- ciliation with the Syrian state, perhaps pushing for some framework of autono- my in territory they occupy. It seems the main reason they prolonged this process was a false confidence instilled in them by the US, which together with the Kurds would be protected and strengthened had them fooled until they were handed to Turkey on a silver platter.

Also, Turkey’s Operation Olive Branch, the Foreign Deputy Minister of Syria Faisal Mekdad stated Jan. 15 that Turkey must end its aggression and vi- olation against Syrian sovereignty. Regard- ing the Kurdish forces, Mekdad said, “We believe that it is those Kurds who are in the interest of the U.S. and Turkey when they go the door to the Turkish forces. We can declare that those who oppose the home- land and its interests becomes accessories to the enemies of Syria and the Syrian people.” (ijc.ir)

In contrast to this, Mekdad highlight- ed that the U.S. likely planned this with their NATO ally’s consent. (Pen- tagonAchillesHeel.com)

unreadable of the empire, Foulansheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity - Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, peasant, U.S. General Assembly 2009.

Turkey invades Syria to save U.S. war

By G. Dunkel

The Seine, the river that flows through the center of Paris, is expected to reach 19 feet above its normal level on Jan. 29.

This flood is having a major impact on tourism, one of the main industries in France, particularly in Paris. Millions of visitors from all over the world come to the French capital, the City of Light, to see the treasures of art that French imperialism has plundered from almost everywhere.

While they are visiting the museums, they also see the sites—the Eiffel Tow- er, Notre Dame, the Left Bank, Montmartre—enjoy fine French food and wine, take a boat trip on the River Seine in a bateau mouche (open excursion boat), walk across the bridges that link the city and travel through the beautiful countryside.

The only tourist activities that are definitely closed are the boat trips—the boats can no longer float under the bridges. The Louvre has had to close its Islamic collection, which is below ground level. Walks along the Seine are dangerous, gar- dens are quickly a couple of days short before hospitals are closed, but life and tourism in Paris go on.

Some hundreds of Paris residents have been evacuated by the authorities; oth- ers have left on their own. Portions of the mass transit system, the RER, are closed until further notice. Some roads are flooded out, but people can still get to work. For the 240 communities in the Paris basin outside the capital, the flood has had more severe consequences. Schools are closed, many more roads and houses are flooded, and delivery of cooking gas, electricity and water is sporadic.

What worries Anne Hidalgo, the So- cialist Party mayor of Paris, who accepts the reality of global warming, is repeti- tion of these floods. There was an earli- er, slightly more serious one in 2016, 18 months after the flood, which was called “Beyond emer- gency, this recurrent flooding makes our city face confronted climate change much more important.”

Theresa Hibbert, a leading hydrologist at CNRS, France’s main scientific research center, predicts that the risk of both droughts and floods will increase in years to come. At a conference in Decem- ber, Hibberts proposed a series of natural steps, such as making soil more perme- able, installing greenery on roofs, develop- ing prairies and planting forests. (oaise- aine.net)
Trump and the ruling class, from Davos to DACA to Mueller

By Fred Goldstein

Jan. 29 — Donald Trump, the racist, bigoted, authoritarian, right-wing chief executive of U.S. imperialism, who is despised by the workers and oppressed masses of the world, was operating on several fronts last week.

Trump went to Davos, Switzerland, to attend a gathering of 1,300 ultra-rich tycoons and billionaires. The representatives of the European ruling class there played to his ego, flattering him and treating him like a emperor. At the same time that he was hobnobbing around Davos, rubbing shoulders with fellow members of the ruling class, Trump’s two immigration hawk henchmen, Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly and adviser Stephen Miller, were in Washington working on his proposed draconian, punitive immigration bill, which has been denounced by the immigrant movement as a “white supremacist” hostage bill.

As Trump declared in Davos, he was confronted by charges, corroborated by numerous news sources, that he had illegally pressured to have Special Counsel Robert Mueller fired last June. His reply: “Fake news.”

Yet the European bankers gave Trump the royal treatment, taking their cue from the Saudi princes who provided a string of musicologists for play for him as he entered the conference hall. He was praised by the European and American officials and deregulation, which sent their stock prices soaring. Corporate Europe organized a dinner for him with the heads of the top 15 European corporations.

Their goal was to placate Trump enough to keep him from launching an attack on the European imperialists, the European Union and NATO — customary punchbags for his chauvinist, imperialist arrogance. In this, they largely succeeded. But they could not completely silence the “lying press.”

Trump took personal credit for the rise in the stock market and the tax cuts. Unusually the European bondholders and the corporate financiers for his tax cuts, and Kelly, not President Donald Trump, was praised by the corporate financiers for his tax cuts. And it would sharply reduce the roughly 1 million green cards given out yearly by 25 to 50 percent.

A document obtained by CNN goes into more detail: “The framework [of the bill] could allow detaining individuals indefinitely as they wait for deportation for months and years — something that has been curtailed as the result of constitutional concerns from courts. The proposals would also vastly expand the situations of criminal offenses that could subject an individual to deportation.” (Jan. 26)

The immigrant rights movement and representatives of the Dreamers have denounced the Trump proposal, refusing to put other immigrants at risk in order to get a bill for themselves.

Grieta Martinez Rosas, advocacy director for United We Dream and a potential beneficiary of the Dream Act, commented on the Trump proposal for what it: a white supremacist ranson note. Trump and Stephen Miller killed DACA and created a barrier that is facing. They have taken immigrant youth hostage, pitting us against our own parents, Black immigrants and our communities in exchange for our dignity.

“Trump and Trump’s white supremacist proposal, immigrant youth say: No.” (unduewedream.org, Jan. 25)

DACA recipient Juan Escalante, in a release from America’s Voice, wrote: “It’s not that Trump has been in power, but the moment that he takes off the mask of a great protector, he reveals the true colors. He has never signed up. These young immigrants, especially people of color born in countries that Trump considers ‘shitholes.’” (Jan. 26)

Trump, Mueller: bourgeois legality vs. class struggle

Inside the Davos meeting hall, Trump was engaged with Fox News about how he tried to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading a criminal investigation into Trump’s relationship with Russia and his financial connections to the Russian oligarchs. Trump branded the charges as “fake news.”

But according to the New York Times of Jan. 26, Trump’s director of communications, Don McGahn, to fire Mueller last June. McGahn, fearing his own criminal liaisons exposed the White House. The number of witnesses interviewed led even Fox News to confirm the story.

The story has been the subject of endless talk shows, news shows and the capitalist press.

The thrust of the discussion is that the attempted firing of Mueller fits in with Trump’s efforts to get FBI head James Comey to go easy on National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. When Comey refused, Trump fired him.

The anti-Trump moderates and liberals are going over and over the various possible legal violations, procedural violations, etc. that Trump has committed. But that Trump has committed.

However, they won’t fight him politically for his racism, his misgivings, his military jingoism, his threats of nuclear war, his anti-immigrant chauvinism, his support for voter suppression, etc. When they talk about undermining “our democracy,” they always refer to the Russians allegedly interfering with the elections. But they do not bring up the major violation of capitalist democracy: voter suppression.

Millions of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, immigrants and others have been kept from voting because of photo ID laws, restricting to reduce the weight of the vote in poor neighborhoods and urban areas, shutting down polling stations, disqualifying people with felony convictions, etc.

But the bourgeois commentators keep referring to the resignation of Richard Nixon, who faced impeachment over the Watergate break-in. But so far Trump has given no indication that he will go back on his honorable bourgeois legality. Furthermore, the House of Representatives is far to the right, and it is the House that would be charged with initiating impeachment proceedings.

These commentators and the Democratic Party leadership reject over and over that they are the party of “our democracy.” Whatever Putin did or did not do, the democracy in this country is a very restricted version of capitalist democracy. The capitalist class has access to all the levers of government, communications, and the powers of the state. It is the bourgeoisie who decide what rights exist for the workers and the oppressed within this suffocating capitalist system. They have a one-sided fight, often with blood, for generations.

African Americans have fought for civil rights. Labor unions have fought for workers’ rights. Women have fought for equality. So has the LGBTQ community, from the uprising at Stonewall to all the battles that followed. Immigrants have battled the bastards who have made people struggle for accessibility, and so on.

What matters what rights the workers and oppressed have won under capitalist rule, these rights are trampled, narrowly confined and under constant attack.

The bosses are the ones who are in a constant struggle to take back the democratic rights the working class and oppressed have won.

Class-conscious workers should not fall for this phony pro-war investigation of Russia to get leverage against Trump. The only need is to push back the entire right-wing Trump agenda and challenge the cops, ICE and the FBI who are oppressors of the people. They do not represent any new faction of the ruling class removes another faction from his super-power, reactionary, nationalistic arrogance. It is dawning on the Trump grouping that he has weakened the entire imperialist camp.

Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

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A video made public on Jan. 17 showed U.S. Border Patrol agents fiendishly destroying water bottles meant for desperate migrants in the Arizona desert. The solidarity group No More Deaths, which leaves the water along the “Devil’s Highway,” a corridor of land on the border. Hours after the video’s release by NMDo, one of their volunteers was arrest by the Border Patrol in obvious retaliation. He was hit with a felony charge for “harboring undocumented immigrants” — for providing food, water and clean clothes to two migrants.

International news has shown in heartbreaking detail how fatally dangerous migrant journeys can be across the globe. At the southwestern U.S. border, the temperature can soar above 110 degrees during the day and plummet at night. By the Border Patrol’s own count, some 7,209 migrant people have lost their lives since 1998 — mostly from heat stroke or dehydration. The actual number of deaths must be much higher, with those found by ranchers or local sheriffs uncounted. Many are buried in mass and unmarked graves. Many are women and children.

For the Border Patrol to deny a few sips of water to those crossing the desert is more than cruelty. It is torture and it is murder, administered on top of U.S.-spawned death squads and turmoil in their homelands that migrants are fleeing.

The continued intensification of attacks on migrants is part and parcel of the Trump administration’s far-right, racist immigration policy. The raids on migrant peoples and on immigrants has nothing to do with the DPRK. The international commission found evidence that the U.S. had engaged in germ warfare that sickened and killed villagers in this young socialist country — which had so recently liberated itself from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule. The team took films of insects crawling on the snow-covered ground next to canisters dropped from the sky. They interviewed villagers who had strange lesions at the places where the canisters dropped from the sky. The test for anthrax. This country, leader of the free world, would never do such a thing! That lies, what dupes are these “fellow travelers” of the “commies”!

viewers should keep all this in mind when watching “Wormwood,” the six-part documentary series now being aired on Netflix. “Wormwood” is about the death in 1939 of Frank Olson. At that time he was a leading scientist at the U.S. Army’s germ warfare facility at Fort Detrnick, Md., and an employee of the CIA. Olson’s body was found on the pavement in front of the Statler Hotel in New York on the night of Nov. 28, 1953. The authorities explained to the press that Olson had plunged to his death from a 13th-story room in the hotel either an accident or a suicide. Neither explanation was really possible, for smoothed and smirked family to accept.

One of Olson’s sons, Eric Olson, couldn’t let it go. He turned over and over in his mind the circumstances of his father’s death; the official explanation just didn’t add up. So he began what turned into decades of probing and prodding to try and find out the truth.

CIA secrets exposed

In the final days of the CIA’s MKUltra mind-control program finally came out. Then came a “confession” from the government: Olson had jumped out of the window because of a CIA experiment with LSD that had “gone wrong.”

Eventually Olson’s family met with CIA head William Colby, as well as President Gerald Ford, who both apologized for the unfortunate “accident.” Olson’s relatives were given a monetary settlement for his “wounded death.”

But still Eric Olson persisted. Without revealing a “spoiler” for those who intend to watch this series, it is enough to say that the film makes a strong case for Olson being deliberately murdered by the CIA because he wanted “out” from his job of perfecting horrible weapons, like aerosolized anthrax.

Seymour Hersh, the investigative journalist, appears in the series. He is cagy not to say who made the film. But he notes Eric Olson that the CIA murdered his father. This film uncovers a lifetime of government deceit.

Doesn’t this tell us a lot about the vicious U.S. lies and defamation of the leaders and people of north Korea that persist today and have reached a crescendo just do just because that country has finally developed a powerful way to defend itself from another horrible U.S. war?
Solidarity with Honduran people’s resistance

By Workers World staff

Demonstrations and other activities took place in several cities around the U.S. in solidarity with the people of Honduras and against the electoral fraud in that country’s presidential election.

Hondurans living in the New York City area and some North American supporters gathered with signs, leaflets and sound equipment on the afternoon of Jan. 27 in Union Square to inform thousands of passersby that the Honduran people will not accept the electoral fraud of Nov. 26. The International Action Center supported the protest, which was organized by local Hondurans. Atlanta was tuned in to the struggle of the Honduran people on Jan. 29 when the Labor Forum on WRFG (Radio Free Georgia) hosted United Auto Workers Local 869 Executive Board member Martha Greer speaking on what workers should know about the fraudulent Honduran elections. Immigration paralegal Raymond Parlón was also on, discussing the crisis for Defended Action Childhood Arrival youth in relation to immigration legislation. The Labor Forum features labor headlines, labor history and interviews with labor and community activists every Monday from 4 to 5 p.m. EST on WRFG 89.3-FM. For additional information, go to wrflaborforum.org.

HONDURAS

Protests continue as U.S. puppet sworn in

By John Catalinotto

The rich supporters of the U.S.-backed president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, watched his Jan. 27 swearing-in ceremony at the national stadium in Tegucigalpa, the capital. JOH claimed a second term based on a widely disputed Nov. 26 electoral process.

Thousands of cops and military units kept tens of thousands of demonstrators from coming closer than a half-mile from JOH. Hundreds of meters from the stadium, demonstrators threw stones at a bus carrying supporters of the president. The police drove forward with armored vehicles and used tear gas. In San Pedro Sula, the second largest city of Honduras, around 10,000 people took to the streets. The police used tear gas, water cannons and live ammunition against protesters across the country.

The opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship considers JOH’s Nov. 26 re-election a fraud. On Jan. 27, Salvador Nasralla, presidential candidate for the Alliance, demanded new presidential and parliamentary elections and said the protests would continue.

At a rally of Hondurans and supporters in New York City on Jan. 27, one of the demonstration’s organizers, Carlos Hernández, told Workers World: “Since Nov. 26 the cops and military have officially killed 39 people who were demonstrating. The people’s movements say this number is really about 60, and that many of the people are uncounted, as their families remove their bodies and bury them to avoid drawing the government’s attention to the family and bringing down more repression.”

When asked about reports soon after the Nov. 26 election that some units of the military were refusing to enforce a curfew, Hernández said, “Yes, these were special units, like the Tigers and the Cobras and the traffic police, at a time when it was undecided even on top who won the election. The people’s movements were able to establish contact with some units of police at that moment, and this contact continues, which can be good in the future.”

Pro-U.S. regimes in Honduras since 2009 have presided over a massive increase in murders of ordinary people and popular organizers like environmentalist Berta Cáceres.

Military and police repression continues. The Facebook site Alianza de Oposición USA Doy contains short videos of current confrontations between popular demonstrations and repressive forces. One shows a man being shot by the military and bleeding in the street.

In Tegucigalpa, police used tear gas against Nasralla’s supporters on Jan. 26 when they drove hundreds of cars and motorcycles through the city, honking in unison against the election manipulation.

Former President Manuel Zelaya, who was overthrown by a U.S.-backed military coup in 2009, told the media on Jan. 27 that Honduras is heading for a “popular uprising.” Zelaya added, “We are ready to fight to enforce the will of the people.” (Junge Welt, Jan. 29)
¿Por qué estudiar el marxismo? Es importante para nosotros entender la relación entre la industria imperiалиsta y las finanzas imperialistas. Si estudiamos el marxismo dada por Sam, ¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países uníos! Es un fundador del Partido Workers World y se describe en la Constitución.