In defense of Muslims, refugees
PROTESTS FLOOD AIRPORTS

By Kris Hamel

Outrage was swift after President Donald Trump signed an executive order Jan. 27 immediately banning people from seven primarily Muslim countries, all of them victims of U.S. wars and interventions, from entering the United States.

Demonstrations against the anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim ban began growing as people descended upon airports across the country. The protests helped propel federal judges to issue temporary rulings stopping provisions of the order.

Here are descriptions of some protests that Workers World Party activists participated in.

Over 1,000 people in Houston demonstrated inside the international terminal at George Bush Intercontinental Airport Jan. 28. Two dozen attorneys began working to free those who had been detained. On Jan. 29, around 2,000 people gathered at the international arrivals terminal. An outdoor demonstration was also held after police and fire officials stopped more people from entering the terminal.

Earlier that day, 1,500 people gathered outside the George Brown Convention Center where “The NFL Experience” was promoting the Super Bowl, to be held in Houston on Feb. 5. Good media coverage was given to all the protests. They included activists from many different organizations, including Workers World Party, but most were unaffiliated individuals and families who decided to take a public stand.

At New York’s JFK airport, the entire International Arrivals Terminal was overwhelmed by thousands of demonstrators on Jan. 28. They lined the railings of the parking garages and blocked traffic on the roads. Even while chanting, everyone was on their phones — texting, tweeting, networking, connecting to friends to hurry to the airport to challenge Trump’s anti-Muslim travel ban. Information swept through the crowds and was transmitted over social media. Airport workers waved and cheered. It was learned that the N.Y. Taxi Drivers Alliance, many of whose members are immigrants, had called a work stoppage on trips to and from the airport in solidarity with the actions and against the ban. (For more on the New York protest, see “Airport shutdowns confirm: People Power will bring Trump down!” at workers.org.)

After hundreds turned out at Philadelphia International Airport on Jan. 28, thousands then marched at the airport the next day, blocking the main arrivals road for hours. The crowds were diverse, including entire families. Participants ranged from long-time activists in the labor, civil rights, religious and revolutionary movements to new demonstrators getting

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When the boss won’t talk, don’t take a walk — Sit down!

By Martha Grevatt

When the speed-up comes, just twiddle your thumbs.

Sit Down! Sit Down!

When the boss won’t talk, don’t take a walk

Sit Down! Sit Down!

Sit down, just take a seat

Sit down, and rest your feet

Sit down, you’ve got ‘em beat

Sit Down! Sit Down!

Sit down by Maurice Sugar

On Feb. 7, 1927, the New York Times bemoaned the fact that workers in Flint, Mich., had “actually seized physical possession of three large factories belonging to General Motors. They occupied and held those plants by force of arms, repelling efforts to evict them and starve them out. They ejected and barred company representatives and police. And set to evict them and starve them out. They ejected and

The fact that workers in Flint, Mich., had “actually seized physical possession of three large factories belonging to General Motors. They occupied and held those plants by force of arms, repelling efforts to evict them and starve them out. They ejected and barred company representatives and police. And set to evict them and starve them out. They ejected and

Once a sit-down strike has become a state of oc-

upation, there is little a company can do.

Those who took the side of labor back then enthusi- astically agreed. “The sit-down is labor’s weapon of eco-

nomic self-defense,” stated Maurice Sugar, attorney for

the company.

Advantages of the sit-down

Journalist and eyewitness to the Flint strike Mary Heaton Vorse wrote, ‘‘There are manifold advantag-

es for workers in the sit-down. The strikers are far less vulnerable than they are on the picket line because em-

ployers hesitate to attack the sit-downers when it may in-

jure their own property. The sit-down effects a complete tie-up and the workers are protected against violence and strikebreakers, from cold weather and the rain. The plant is completely dosed and scabbing is impossible; as a training ground for education, it is far better than the ordinary strike.”

Events bore this out. From 1929 to 1936, at least 96

workers in the U.S. were killed on picket lines. This fig-

ure does not include 15 shot down in marches of the un-

employed, including five killed during the Ford Hunger

March by Ford’s notorious “Service Department.” Nor
does it include Ralph Gray, the Black leader of the Share

creppers Union lynched in Alabama, or two Filipino can-

nery workers’ leaders shot inside a Seattle restaurant, and other martyrs too numerous to mention. By contrast, of the hundreds of U.S. sit-downs that

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Workers occupied General Motors plants in Flint, Mich., in 1937. Over 50 GM plants with more than 125,000 employees were shut down until the UAW was recognized.

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Workers World
The Harvard University Dining Service workers are a majority women, a majority immigrant and half workers of color. Our members are from all over the world — Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. We have long-term veteran workers and young workers. How did this diverse workforce — who said to the world that “Health Care Is a Human Right!” — come together and defeat the Harvard Corporation?

Throughout the decades we have built a classic structure for union organizing and developed leadership in the rank and file. We did this through classes — for shop stewards, organizing and leadership — and by meeting with workers one-on-one. We brought leaders up from the bottom.

I teach a course on organizing. You need a structure. At each worksite there are one or two stewards and secondary leaders. We have regular steward and leadership meetings. The structure builds the ranks, gives you more options about how to organize and takes care of a high turnover of workers by not relying on just one leader. This means you can survive — it’s more work, but you get more satisfaction and results. In the General Motors sit-downs in the 1930s, the United Auto Workers had a structure that engaged the rank and file. It could not have succeeded with a top-down, business unionism model.

In the past there had been a large pool of top leaders — and by meeting with workers one-on-one. We brought leaders up from the bottom. Again, no hall went through the past year without a major meeting every couple of months.

Another purpose of these meetings was to politicize the issue of health care. As far as the bourgeoisie were concerned, the money that goes toward health care was forced upon them by past struggles, and now they were going to take it back and keep the money themselves. The capitalists let loose on us over health care.

There had been a successful campaign to get rid of the previous Harvard president, Larry Summers. The CEO of Goldman Sachs then took over the reins as interim president. That’s when Harvard Corporation took direct control. The president had an open house, invited union people and spelled out that the corporation intended to take a lot away and the main thing was health care. Throughout the entire economy, the bosses are doing it, so Goldman Sachs figures, why not at Harvard?

Goldman, Bank of America, Citibank and their ilk all have had campaigns to undo health care. They actually told us that. We reached out to all groups that had an interest in joining us in the struggle to maintain health care benefits.

Everyone in the university community is in some way affected by the lack of affordable or adequate medical care or discrimination in health care. Professors and graduate student workers — who at Harvard are not unionized — are threatened by increased payments for health care. There are students who have no health insurance.

Women, Muslims, people of color and LGBTQ people are all discriminated against at the workplace and under capitalism. They had a stake in the coalition, which was built up slowly and with patience. This included groups like the Black Student Association, Harvard Islamic Society, Muslim Student Society, Harvard Law Students, Black Law Students, Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM), campus LGBTQ groups and women’s groups, and the Jewish student group Hillel.

Well before the strike began, the union embraced all these constituencies with a stake in the demand for affordable, quality preventive health care for all. We met at a dormitory called Adams House on Feb. 2, 2017, and this cemented the coalition among our members, students, faculty and staff. It included groups like the Black Student Association, Harvard Islamic Society, Muslim Student Society, Harvard Law Students, Black Law Students, Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM), campus LGBTQ groups and women’s groups, and the Jewish student group Hillel.

By Ed Childs

The Harvard University Dining Service workers are a majority women, a majority immigrant and half workers of color. Our members are from all over the world — Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. We have long-term veteran workers and young workers. How did this diverse workforce — who said to the world that “Health Care Is a Human Right!” — come together and defeat the Harvard Corporation?

Goldman Sachs?

“Health Care Is a Human Right!” — come together and defeat the Harvard Corporation confirm the power of workers or g.
Trump regime escalates attacks on millions

By Abayomi Azikiwe

After just seven days of President Donald J. Trump’s administration, the attempts of measures have been ordered threatening a myriad of constituencies throughout the country and internationally. Executive orders and presidential memoranda have been announced relating to the resumption of construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL); the building of a wall or fence on the border between the U.S. and Mexico; a ban on people from targeted nations seeking visas and refugee status; massing of military and law enforcement personnel working on behalf of the corporations spearheading the pipeline, which would transport 500,000 barrels of oil per day. The construction of the project has been completed and that it would create jobs for American workers. Yet the total number of positions is only a few thousand, and these purported benefits ignore the legitimate concerns of the Indigenous people, who say their water supply and other sacred possessions are threatened. This pipeline is, as an attorney said to Euraasia Review, “A lawyer for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said Tuesday the pipeline will ‘render us irresponsible.’ The tribe said it intended to pursue legal action against Trump’s order, adding that the pipeline posed a risk not just for them but also for millions of Americans living downstream. One of the leading organizations in the Standing Rock protests, the Indigenous Environmental Network, called Trump’s actions “insane and extreme, and nothing short of attacks on our ancestral homelands.”

In contrast to the views of Native people and their legal representatives, the president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Ron Ness, who heads the trade group representing oil firms, championed Trump’s decision, saying it was “a great step forward for energy security in America and prosperity.”

Two additional statements from the Trump administration have significance for African-American people. The president tweeted on Jan. 24, “If Chicago doesn’t fix the horrible ‘carnage’ going on, 225 shootings in 2017 with 42 killings (up 24% from 2016), I will send in the Feds.” It was not clear if Trump was referring to federal civilian employees or military personnel. The National Guard for the state of Illinois could be federalized or regular units of the Army could be deployed in such a threat.

No mention was made of the horrendous socioeconomic conditions prevailing among African-Americans in Chicago and the state of Illinois, where they suffer the highest unemployment rate in the country. Drastic cuts in education, social and municipal services have been implemented while the leading corporations in the U.S. announce regular increases in their profits.

Precedents for such military deployments extend back decades. In Detroit, Newark, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and other cities in the 1960s, both National Guard and Airborne Division forces have been sent to put down urban rebellions led by African Americans. Just over the last two years, National Guard forces have been sent to Ferguson, Mo. (2014), Baltimore (2015), Milwaukee and Charlotte, N.C. (2016), in the aftermath of African-American rebellions sparked by the police killings of citizens.

Local police agencies have been supplied with military equipment such as armored personnel carriers, long-range acoustic devices, chemical agents, helicopters and sophisticated intelligence technology by the federal government. Under the present executive order, it is inevitable that the transfer of this hardware will increase.

Moreover, Trump is maintaining that his loss of the popular vote in the November election is a direct result of voter fraud. Trump won in the Electoral College but received nearly 3 million fewer popular votes than Hillary Clinton.

Allegations of massive voter fraud are often utilized to further suppress the electoral weight of African Americans and other nationally oppressed groups, Rev. Edward Pinkney of Berrien County, Mich., in 2014 was falsely accused of altering five dates on recall petitions aimed at removing a mayor who was perceived as a functionary of the Whirlpool Corp., based in Benton Harbor. Rev. Pinkney was charged with felony forgery, tried by an all-white jury and judge, and given a 30- to 120-months sentence in state prison.

The removal of the enforcement provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by the U.S. Supreme Court in its infamous Shelby County v. Holder ruling in 2013 has effectively weakened one of the gates resulting from the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Such an investigation by Trump is clearly politically motivated, since statistical studies have not indicated this level of voter irregularities.

Neofascism and capitalism

Since the election of Donald Trump to the White House, the New York Stock Exchange has risen by hundreds of points, surpassing 20,000 on Jan. 25. This course does not translate into an improved environment for the working class and nationally oppressed.

Poverty and deprivation are increasing in the U.S. and internationally wherever capitalism is the dominant economic system. The megabucks of the banks, manufacturing firms and oil conglomerates have brought greater misery to the workers, farmers and youth. Since 2007-08, when the worst financial downturn since the Great Depression began, there have been repeated announcements of “recovery” and “prosperity.” The previous administration of President Barack Obama had realized that the end of the financial crisis. Nevertheless, millions remain jobless, underemployed and poor in the U.S despite an unemployment rate of under 5 percent. The labor participation rate, a more accurate measurement of the state of the working class and nationally oppressed, has clipped at an abysmal 62.7 percent. (Business Insider, Jan. 6)

Nonetheless, the rising stock market indicates that the Trump program of far-right domestic and foreign policy imperatives is compatible with the unbridled quest for maximum Wall Street profit. Most neofascist movements are led by representatives of the bourgeoisie who pander to the fears of key sections of the working class and middle strata. The Trump cabinet and other leading appointees represent numerous financial and military corporations. The members of his team have any identifiable history of concern with the plight of the workers and oppressed.

Towards a united front in present period

Trump’s approach to electoral and administration politics has prompted mass demonstrations around the system. Millions of women protest throughout the U.S. and the world on Jan. 21.

On Inauguration Day itself, thousands demonstrated in the streets surrounding the White House and beyond, where over 200,000 people were arrested, including six journalists. These media workers, along with activists, are being charged with felony riot. The cellphone data of the activists and journalists were confiscated by the Metropolitan D.C. police, placing their professional contacts and personal acquaintances in jeopardy of law enforcement targeting.

The ascendency of Trump provides an important opportunity for building a broad-based Anti-imperialist and antifascist movement, including African Americans, Latin Americans, Native peoples, immi-grants, women, LGBTQ communities, envi- ronmentalists and other working-class constituencies.

However, this alliance, which rep-resents the majority of the population in the U.S., must be based on sound political principles and not opportunism. The rights and demands of the oppressed must be upheld, including foreign policy questions such as dismantling the military-industrial complex, the liberation of Palestine and the elimination of racism, violence and institutionalized discrimination against people-of-color communities.

This coalition of genuine popular forces should be organized outside the framework of the Democratic Party, which represents the same ruling-class elements as Trumpist Republicans and their Wall Street and Pentagon supporters. Some spokespersons at the global Women’s March on Jan. 21 seemed to be suggesting the Democratic Party should be re-constituted under different leadership, which can provide a way forward for the masses. Such illusions could not be further from the reality. The capitalist-imperialist U.S. and the world are entangled.

A revolutionary mass party of the working class and the oppressed is the only solution to the immediate economic crises. The capitalists and the imperialist system led by Washington and Wall Street have nothing to offer the peoples of the globe except further impoverishment and imperialist war.
Thousands of protesters confronted President Donald Trump in Philadelphia during his first appearance since the inauguration outside Washington, D.C. Trump was scheduled to speak at a retreat for Republican Congresspeople Jan. 25 at the Loews Hotel. Protesters began gathering even as busloads of GOP members disembarked to go into the hotel and didn’t let up until they left.

On the evening of Jan. 25, in the first protest against Trump called by LGBTQ organizers since Jan. 20, more than 1,000 people took part in a “Queer Rag” dance party outside the Loews Hotel. Waving rainbow flags and wearing glo beads, the energetic throng of dancers and deportees voiced concerns about the Affordable Care Act, immigration, LGBTQ issues, police brutality, climate change and more. One creative sign read, “I’ve seen better cabinets at IKEA.”

The next day an estimated 5,000 demonstrators filled Thomas Paine Plaza from City Hall and confronted Trump as his motorcade made its way down Broad Street to the hotel. The rally was initiated by a wide range of organizations, including immigrant rights advocates, labor unions, Standing Rock solidarity supporters, Black Lives Matter organizers, Muslims and more. Speakers included representatives of the Black and Brown Workers Collective, Temple University Hospital nurses and immigrants.

Members of several unions participated, including Service Employees, Penn. Association of Nurses and Allied Professionals; Communications Workers; American Postal Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; and United Health Care Workers. The AFL-CIO endorsed the action, and a number of hospitals and health care workers took part as did home health care workers.

‘Health care for all, no border wall!’ The rally and march were very multiracial, as were the crowds of people standing along the route cheering on the marchers with raised fists and widespread applause. Many joined the march. A number of construction workers stand...
人们的权力在机场

人民运动在机场的脚

他们在第一次

在巴尔的摩市中心，人们在1月28日参与了一场由几位当地大学的学生活动家、PEP和WWP发起的游行。这一多元化的人群在街上抗议所有面对政府迫害的移民。他们去了几个地标，包括陆军工程兵团办公室，以支持彼德斯堡；黑人社区的利克特市场；堕胎权的威胁；和移民局。

第二天，数千人聚集在巴尔的摩机场抗议特朗普的反穆斯林禁令。数百人在1月29日聚集在米德兰市，密歇根州，哈特兰克，市民厅和警察局门前支持穆斯林和无证件移民。哈特兰克，一个位于底特律市内的多元化的小镇，是许多来自禁令国的人的家。更不用说机场的抗议，那里的人们组成了一个抗议团体，大喊：“让他们进来！”“难民是受欢迎的！”“来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧，来吧！”

在纽约州的萨拉托加，600多人占据终端B的下层在1月29日。激进的抗议者挥舞着自制的标志和不停的口号，如“没有墙，没有登记，反对白色至上主义！”在中央新约堡团结委员会的演讲中，无证件拉丁裔工作者被由中央新约堡工人中心和黑人生活运动，以及当地的穆斯林和难民社区代表，和当地穆斯林民族和难民社区的代表。”

在萨克拉门托，数千人聚集在国家机场。他们要求释放所有被非法关押的人。他们高喊“说出它，大声地说，难民是受欢迎的！”和“没有墙，没有登记，所有人的避难所！”他们关闭了到达区域和两个登机口。拉拉·基斯瓦尼，美国资源组织的主席，宣布了所有五名已知的囚犯被释放。

在波特兰，数百人在1月28日聚集在国际机场为“没有禁令，没有移民”抗议。在2016年之前，特朗普签署了他的行政命令。之后的下午，机场管理局封闭了上层的道路，并告知旅行者要期待延误。波特兰市长特德·惠勒加入了抗议，每天都在机场抗议。

成千上万的人在西雅图－塔科马国际机场抗议。许多在机场的旅行者拿着写着“没有禁令，没有移民”的标志。30人被捕，抗议者被胡椒喷雾。

移民权利律师，使用来自美国的法官服务，能够阻止了移民和无证件移民的抗议。特朗普签署了他的行政命令。抗议活动导致了机场的延误和延误。之后的下午，机场管理局封闭了上层的道路，并告知旅行者要期待延误。波特兰市长特德·惠勒加入了抗议，每天都在机场抗议。
Airport protests set new level of solidarity

By Fred Goldstein

Jan. 30 — The wave of airport protests against Trump’s Muslim ban represents a new high-water mark in solidarity with Muslims in the U.S. These demonstrations are a political rebuff to the vicious Islamophobia stoked by a year and a half of anti-Muslim rhetoric. Now the Islamophobes are being pushed back.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, and the World Trade Center bombings, Muslims and those in the movement who support them against ruling-class prejudice and persecution have been on the defensive. Solidarity activities have been relatively small and have been in the shadows.

But Donald Trump, Stephen Bannon, Gen. Michael Flynn and company, now hurled down in the White House, changed all that by issuing a 90-day ban on people coming from six predominantly Muslim countries — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen — and banning Syrian nationals and refugees indefinitely.

This reactionary White House circle apparently did not get the message from the millions of people who demonstrat ed around the country on Jan. 21 at the Women’s March. That march was marked by a high degree of solidarity with Muslim women. Instead, Trump and his reactionary circle, which is moving sharply in an authoritarian direction, provoked a massive movement that was already in motion.

100 demonstrations in 42 states

As of this writing, 100 demonstrations in 42 states have been carried out or are planned. Tens of thousands have already gone to airports to protest. (getground.com/airportprotests)

Television networks have carried the larger, more prominent ones in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta and so forth. The movement has been powerful enough to force courts in four states to put stays on the deportation of immigrants caught up in the ban and its sudden application. Requests for injunctions have been granted in New York City, Seattle, Virginia and Massachusetts. The Massachusetts injunction goes further than the others, which block deportation but permit detention. Massachusetts is not allowing detention.

The original ban included all people with green cards. This amounts to a ban on hundreds of thousands of people around the world. In their rush to push the ban through, Trump and his National Strategy Adviser Steve Bannon, an ultra-right, Islamophobic, anti-Semite, informed U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Naturalization Services of the ban on the very afternoon it was promulgated. Only the massive struggle that erupted at airports the next day forced the head of Homeland Security, Gen. John Kelly, to rescind the green card ban.

In their fanaticism Trump, Bannon, Reince Priebus, Flynn and company showed no concern for all the students from the seven Islamic countries covered by the ban who were returning to their families. They did not care about workers, scientists and technicians returning to their jobs. They showed utter contempt and contempt for the families who were attempting to find out the status of those detained.

This reflects the authoritarian stamp of the Trump inner circle.

Ideological and political step forward

The legal struggle to eradicate the ban altogether has a long way to go. It will take a great deal of political struggle in the streets, on the campuses and in the courts to carry the Trump administration to court. But the struggle has begun in a very inspiring way.

A new sense of solidarity has swept the movement, which got a sense of its power at the Jan. 21 Women’s March. That power has been transformed into solidarity and militant rejection of Islamophobia.

Anti-Muslim sentiment has been a fundamental ideological and political prop of the ruling class and much of the political establishment since Sept. 11.

By coming out en masse across the country, the airport demonstrators have put up determined resistance to the Trump refugee ban. But they have also struck an ideological and political blow against the Islamophobic reasoning of the ruling class. These demonstrations have laid the basis for future political steps forward.

Islamophobia has been used to build Homeland Security. It has been used to militarize the police in cities across the country. Above all, it has been used to promote the so-called “war on terror.” Under the pretext of the “war on terror,” U.S. imperialism and the Pentagon have intervened in Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia and lately in Yemen. The military-industrial complex — the makers of drones, smart bombs, military satellites, bombers, fighter planes, helicopters, tanks, munitions of every kind, military robots, etc. — has propped up producing arms for the “war on terror.”

From solidarity to anti-imperialism

The solidarity shown with Muslims can cause many to question the ideological and material basis that led to the ban in the first place. It is supposedly to protect the U.S. from “terrorist organizations” like al-Qaida and the Islamic State group (IS). But the ban is part of a broader offensive against the oil-rich and geographically vast Middle East, the world of the Middle East and North Africa.

It is precisely the Pentagon and the CIA that are responsible for the rise of groups like al-Qaida and IS. Washington has bombed 11 Islamic countries in the last 25 years. The Pentagon has inflicted untold destruction, suffering and death upon countries from Afghanistan to Somalia.

The CIA has destroyed all the progressive secular nationalist forces, all those opening up the region to all the socialist and communist forces in the Middle East.

But the imperialists have not stopped their plunder and their oppression. They have been using Libya and its oil. They have financed a devastating war trying to topple the independent government of Syria. The region is strewed with millions of refugees escaping the destruction of drone warfare, F-16s, A-10 killing machines. The oil barons are searching and drilling for oil in the coastal areas of Islamic North Africa. U.S. troops are spread throughout the region.

The U.S. has much the same conditions, with all progressive and secular forces weakened if not destroyed, it is inevitable that the vacuum of resistance will be filled by reactionary forces. The IS group is a patriarchal, medieval, theocratic organization pledged to drive the Western powers from the Middle East — the powers that divided up the region in the first place.

Such forces are at the same time the enemy of both the masses and of imperialism. The “war on terror” has nothing to do with helping women or freeing society. It is with doing away with all the socialist and communist forces in the Middle East and Africa.

Along with fighting Trump and his reactionary anti-Muslim tirades, the movement should try to match its dynamic political resistance with a determination to get to the bottom of the problem. The movement should see the interconnectedness of racism, misogyny, LGBTQ and all gender oppression, anti-immigrant oppression and the struggle against the militarization of society as based in the same substance as Islamophobia.

At the root is imperialism, the profit system and the domination of the world by capitalist monopolies.

Goldstein is the author of “Capitalism at a Dead End” and “Low-Wage Capitalism,” both of which can be purchased from online bookstores.
A moving Tribute to Fidel was held in Philadelphia on Jan. 28 at the Church of the Advocate, bringing together around 175 people, both long-time activists and people new to the struggle. Cuban leader Fidel Castro died Nov. 25 at the age of 90. The Philadelphia Tribute to Fidel Organizing Committee included current and former members of the All African People’s Revolutionary Party; Coalition for a New Latin America; Fortaleza Latina Pennsylvania; International Action Center Philadelphia; the MOVE Organization; political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal; Mundu Obrero/Workers World Party of Philadelphia; Party for Socialism & Liberation, Philadelphia Branch; and the Philadelphia Coalition for REAL Justice.

Coming one week into the Trump administration, the event and the unity demonstrated by the organizers were timely. While Trump is working over time to build walls and divide people, socialist Cuba, under Fidel Castro’s leadership, is exemplary in unifying people well beyond its borders, despite the continuing U.S. economic blockade.

With music, spoken word, great food and amazing speakers, tribute was paid to Fidel as well as the Cuban people. American Sign Language and English-to-Spanish interpreters were included. Video images of Fidel and Cuban culture were interspersed between speakers. The audience was diverse in race, age and gender.

Community activist Asantewaa Nikurum-Ture and Berta Joubert-Ceci, a member of Partido Mundo Obrero/Workers World Party, facilitated the program and gave opening remarks. Joubert-Ceci also represented the local Puerto Rican community organization Comité Boricua Filadelfia-Camden. She paid tribute to Cuba’s long-time solidarity with Puerto Rico and spoke of the coming release of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera. A full-size cutout of Rivera adorned the wall next to a full-size poster of U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Speakers included Mexican immigrant rights activist Carmen Reijerero, with the Coalition Fortaleza Latina Pennsylvania, who helped lead demonstrations against Trump earlier in the week. Transgender IAC activist Mattie Boyd spoke about Cuba’s positive role in the struggle for LGBTQ liberation.

Shani Akiliki, of the Black and Brown Workers’ Collective, spoke on Cuba’s support for the Haitian people. Akiliki’s grandfather was born in Cuba and later moved to Haiti. Karla Martin, representing PSL, addressed Cuba’s solidarity with Chile and other South American countries.

Ramona Africa, minister of confrontation for the MOVE organization and sole adult survivor of the 1985 government bombing of MOVE, challenged the audience to stand up in future struggles, as her family has done to survive.

Palestinian writer and human rights activist Susan Abuhalwa spoke of Cuba’s solidarity with the Palestinian people who have been without a country after Israel’s 1967 invasion of the West Bank and Gaza.

IFCO/Pastors for Peace, described her organization’s solidarity with Cuba since 1960. IFCO, which has organized hundreds of trips to Cuba in violation of the U.S. blockade, was recently notified that the IRS revoked its tax-exempt status.

Kashara White of PSL spoke of Cuba’s defense of Black Liberation Army fighter Ananta Shakur. MOVE organization member Pam Africa, who visited Cuba on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal, described Cuba’s support for U.S. political prisoners.

Godfrey Sithole, from the African National Congress of South Africa, addressed the long-standing friendship between Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela and Cuba’s total support for the liberation struggle in South Africa and Angola.

The program concluded with former Temple University professor Dr. Anthony Monteiro calling on the audience to continue Cuba’s example of steadfast resistance when fighting the Trump administration. The event ended with a call to go to the Philadelphia airport to protest Trump’s outrageous ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

Images, memories honor Cuban leader

By Cheryl LaBash

The Lansing Community College Center for Engaged Inclusion hosted a panel discussion on Jan. 25 titled “Cuba’s Improved Diplomatic Relations with the U.S.” It was part of a month-long featured display of images of Fidel Castro in later life. Noted Cuban photographer Roberto Chile, who accompanied Fidel as his personal cameraman from 1984 to 2006, captured the images and video vignettes.

Cuban-born moderator Felicé Sharpe-Caballero presented a series of short videos giving a view of Fidel Castro that challenged the corporate media’s one-note reporting about a man clearly respected and loved around the world. The audience included members of LCC’s Black Student Union, Muslim sisters in hijab, civil rights veterans and a range of ages.

Memorably, participants saw Fidel tenderly welcoming Chernobyl children who were invited to Cuba to recover from the nuclear meltdown in Ukraine, as well as a humorous exchange on the decision to relinquish his military uniform for a traditional guayabera shirt for an event. One video also showed Fidel meeting the young Elián González for the first time and then celebrating the boy’s completion of first grade with gifts of chocolates and a book by Cuban independence hero José Martí.

Introductory remarks were given by panelists Wayne County Commissioner Burton Leland, recently returned from Cuba, and Dr. Abeeku Ricks, a 2016 graduate of Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine and a representative of the National Network on Cuba. Then Sharpe-Caballero fielded audience questions.

Originally planned for U.S. and international viewing during 2016 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Cuba’s historic leader, the Fidel exhibit continued through January at the LCC Library. This is the 14th U.S. program featuring the exhibit in six months.

A New York tribute will be held Feb. 4 at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Center in Harlem. For information, contact IFCO at 212-926-5757.

Lessons of the Harvard dining hall strike victory

Continued from page 3 ofc/HQ ofc/UNITE HERE Local 26, who came at our invitation, tried to change the coalition-building character of the meeting by including an anti-Trump membership meeting, but we wouldn’t let that happen.

All the student and campus union allies spoke. Our rank-and-file leaders spoke. The Black law students had just had an occupation over racism, and no one had supported them until the union got behind them. They were fantastic when they spoke. That meeting was where we first met the medical students.

Women march against Washington

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

This is a transcription of a Jan. 24 Prison Radio broadcast.

They covered the streets like rain: women — in hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands — millions. Millions marched in almost 700 cities in the U.S. and in world capitals. Millions against Trump. Millions against Trumpism.

I’d read that it was planned to follow the bleak and blistering inauguration, but who knew that it would be this vast? To paraphrase Trump, “It was humungous.”

The room sat 100, and it was not only packed but overflowed into the street. The meeting made an impression on the union leadership.

We also brought our coalition partners into our dining hall meetings so they would bond with the workers and the workers could see the living coalition. By the time the strike began in October, we had a functioning infrastructure well-established.

Phoebe Echikfoh, Steve Gillis, Steve Korschbaum, Mel Neidenberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt contributed to this series of articles.
The number of Haitian refugees in Tijuana has worsened, however, since the article covered Haitians’ deplorable conditions in Haiti. Normally, cause conditions in Haiti were unsafe for Haitians. Haiti has experienced multiple natural disasters, including the earthquake of 2010. Normally, in Haiti, the earthquake of 2010. The government of Haiti has been unable to handle such large numbers. Some Haitians have been laid off, despite being paid minimum wages. The September 2015 Haiti Press Network World article covered Haitians’ deplorable conditions. Just in the past few weeks, conditions have worsened, however, since the number of Haitian refugees in Tijuana has grown rapidly. Shelters supply one meal a day, little availability for washing, and sometimes Haitians to sleep outdoors. Haitians gained TPS, which allows them to live and work in the U.S., because of the earthquake of 2010. Normally, TPS is awarded only to people already in the U.S., but was extended to people who applied on the border. Over 5,000 Haitians were granted TPS in the period from October 2013 to January 2017, compared to 339 people between October 2014 and September 2015. (Haiti Chery, Jan. 18) Almost all Haitians in Tijuana had worked in Brazil, which needed their labor, both to bolster the World Cup 2014 and the Olympics in 2016 and to sustain Brazil’s boom. However, even before the Olympics started, Brazil’s need for labor was slowing down and many Haitians were being laid off, despite being paid much less than most other workers. The September 2015 Haiti Press Network reported that the number of Haitians in Brazil went from 35,000 in 2010 before the earthquake to 70,000 in 2015. That figure grew early in 2016. After the earthquake, Haiti’s journalist quoted by the Sept. 24 Miami Herald, estimates that 40,000 Haitians left Brazil for Chile in 2014-15. But Chile was just as bad as the Haitian government, and most of the Haitians began the long, arduous and dangerous trek north, confronting cops, people smugglers, bus companies and bands. Even though Jeh Johnson, President Obama’s secretary of Homeland Security, declared Sept. 22 that conditions in Hai- ti had improved enough that TPS would no longer be available, Haitians kept on coming. They saw even a small chance of entering the U.S. as giving them more hope than returning to Haiti, where there are no jobs and a totally devastated economy. What makes all these Haitians pa- tiently waiting for their immigration re- views on the Mexican border more signif- icant is the role of Breitbart News. Last fall, when it was controlled by Trump’s current political strategist Stephen Ban- non, Breitbart published at least 10 arti- cles on Haiti. (Some reports say Bannon is responsible for Trump’s immigration policy.) Most of the Breitbart articles were about the vile deeds of the Clintons in Haiti. Two stand out. One claims that the number of undocumented immigrants from Haiti increased by over 600 percent in fiscal year 2016. The other highlights the surge of Haitians at the border. Given the vast damage the U.S. has done to Haiti, anti-imperialists and many others can agree that any Haitians who feel they are better off in the U.S. have a right to enter and live here. Haitians (workers.org)
**Bannon: Worst yet**

What is Stephen Bannon doing on the National Security Council? The NSC is the executive committee of the military-industrial complex and includes a secret assassination panel. (Rees-Mogg, Oct 5, 2011)

The proto-fascist Bannon is Trump’s chief political strategist and former head of alt-right Breitbart News, the favorite media outlet of white supremacists. It was Bannon who overruled the Department of Homeland Security’s decision to exclude the Clinton and Obama administrations, which had been invited only when invited. So will the Director of National Intelligence. NSC meetings only when invited. So will the Defense Intelligence Agency, who was named by Bannon as the new Secretary of Defense James Mattis as Trump’s Secretary of Defense.

Kirsten Gillibrand of New York was the only one who objected to putting the former Marine general in charge of the Pentagon, which makes a mockery of civilian control. The new Secretary of Homeland Security, Kelly’s airport cops have since violated federal court orders by carrying out Trump’s racist directives.

It’s not so surprising that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer voted for Mattis and Kelly. But so did Sen. Bernie Sanders by carrying out Trump’s racist directive. The New York Times are counseling Trump to “do the right thing.”

Sanders’ vote supports “Mad Dog” Kelly and Bannon wouldn’t spin much of a calculation to militarism as a vote to ally with it. Liberals like Sanders actually believe that some blue states with “open-arms” like these two ex-generals will somehow restrain the White House.

That illusion was blasted when Trump announced the new Secretary of the Defense National Security Council. Only the people can stop Trump. Stay in the streets!

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**Firing of Yates**

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 12

solidarity with immigrants being shown by the multitude of demonstrators. It is mostly strictly about the effort to defend the interests of U.S. imperialism’s foreign relations and business interests, built up over years, and which Trump is trimming the most.

As Trump tries to consolidate his administration, promoting far-right, racist ideologues like Steve Bannon, a former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, who was fired from that post by President Obama in 2014. Subsequently, then Flynn has tweeted about Hillary Clinton being involved with “child sex trafficking” and “secretly waging war” on the Catholic Church. Flynn also accused Obama of having “launched” money for terrorists. (Politico, Dec. 5, 2016)

Previously its function was to “prevent” the United Nations from making resolutions that the workers, the oppressed, don’t need to go back to when racism, sexism and xenophobia were “great.” Stay organized!

The workers, the oppressed, don’t need to go back to a world of women back under racist, patriarchal domination. But they can’t do it alone; it will take a class struggle to change society.

Continued from page 11

en EUA estar en un sindicato, era un modo de hacer posible un cambio del mundo de optimismo revolucionario de ese período, el sindicato se convirtió en un cuerpo de lucha por mejores condiciones, pero también en una guerra sin fin. Mattis y Kelly, que el periodismo de la ayuda humanitaria, que en este período será también esencial para defender y unificar el cuerpo de trabajo. Hay decenas de miles de personas que no sólo han hambre por entender mejor el mundo, sino que también quieren cambiarlo, y debemos continuar organizando para ayudar a la gente a nuestro movimiento.

El libro de Catalinoto debe inspirarnos a todas/os a tener una comprensión profunda de las cadenas de mando, ya es- tén incrustadas en el ejercicio, en el trabajo de la fábrica, o en los bancos y corredores. Estas cadenas de mando pueden ser quebradas. El poder estatal capitalista es penetrable. Hay muchas contradicciones que existen a favor de nuestra lucha, pero sólo si hacemos uso de ellas.

Para las/os jóvenes revolucionarios que tomen “Vota las armas”, yo les animaría a recordar que quiénes somos en este periodo es importante, particularmente para jóvenes LGBTIQ, jóvenes de color y otras/os jóvenes oprimidos. Y quiénes somos, deberíamos hacerme mejores en la lucha por nuestros intereses de clase, debemos plantear preguntas de cómo organi- zamos, y no si organizamos o no. Sólo como trabajadores podemos romper la cadena de mando en todos los sectores de nuestra sociedad a través de la unidad y la soli- daridad. Nuestra clase está formada por trabajadores, de todas/nos, de “el mundo, de diferentes nacionalidades, capacidades, géneros, sexualidades y más. Las miserables condiciones del capitalismo nos unen y hacen que nues- tra clase sea inmoriamente más fuerte y más revolucionaria que los patronos que trabajan para hacernos inhumanos.

He hemos recogido las armas en un perio- do diferente, pero no menos en el legado de la lucha revolucionaria. Se formarán alianzas imposibles; habrá muchas personas que tomen conciencia, pero se darán cuenta de que no pueden hacerlo por sí mismos, y debemos ser audaces porque sabemos que nuestra visión para un mundo socialista no sólo es posible, sino que es inevitable. El libro de Catalinoto es la mejor respuesta a lo que lo hará posible.

Los jóvenes pueden romper la cadena de mando

**U.S. gag rule garrote global health**

By Susie Davis

The first action President Trump took on his first work day in office was to sign a memorandum signaling a full-dledged attack on health care around the world. He made this attack, directed ostensibly at women’s health and rights, on Jan. 23, the day after the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and two days after the 5mil- lion-global Women’s March. Roe v. Wade was the Supreme Court decision that legal- ized abortion.

Trump’s memorandum is called the “global gag rule,” though its official title is the Mexico City Policy. It was initiat- ed by President Reagan in 1984 and re- newed by all subsequent Republican adminis- trations. The rule cuts funding for any agency, project, organization or institution around the world that provide abortions or any infor- mation about abortion, even if providers use their own funds and even if abortion is not the focus of their work. Prior to 1984, the Helms Amendment of 1973 prohibited the use of foreign aid funding for abortion as a method of fami- ly planning, except in cases of incest, rape and the need to save the woman’s life. The 1984 gag rule was revoked under the Clinton and Obama administrations, with funding fully restored to global family planning groups.

Not only is the gag rule been shown to increase the rate of illegal abortions worldwide, but it has made illegal abor- tion one of the leading causes (25 percent) of pregnancy-related deaths. According to Guttmacher Institute statistics, about 42 million women with unintended preg- nancies choose abortions, though nearly half of those are unsafe, leading to the deaths of 68,000 women.

According to a Center for Health and Gender Equity (CGE) study, a post-gag rule study from Fordham Law School found “strict enforcement policy under the Bush admin- istration hampered Ethiopia’s efforts to reduce the rates of unsafe abortion.” A 2011 Stanford University study found in- creases in abortion rates in all sub-Sahar- an African countries and says “reduced financial support for family planning may have led women to substitute abortion for contraception.” (Rewire, Jan 23)

A January 25 New York Times editorial pointed out that, while health groups are trashing the “gag” language, “it would appear to apply to any international health funding” and “would seem to go well beyond family-planning aid.” The Center for Reproductive Rights, noted that “women will be the first casualty of [Trump’s] administration.” The new rule “will only lead to increases in unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal and newborn deaths.”

Resistance to the rule! The Dutch government announced plans Jan. 25 to establish an international fund for pay for contraception, abortion and health educa- tion for women, to help fill the gap cre- ated by the gag rule. The fund’s purpose, said Lilianne Ploumen, Dutch minister of foreign trade and development coopera- tion, was “So that women can continue to make their own decisions about their own bodies.” (Newswire, Jan. 25)

The Misogynist in Chief, in pen, is surrounded by white, male lawmakers, with white supremacist Stephen K. Ban- non, senior counselor to Trump, leaning in to smirk approval, as they attempt to shove a world of women back under rac- ist, patriarchal domination.

The recent global Women’s March suggests such smirks may not last long.
Firing of Yates

of groups, including Black Lives Matter

idents.

ied by some of the city's wealthiest res-

ended with a march to U.S. Senator Pat

you're not welcome in Philly” and “Black

all, no border wall,” “No Nazis, no GOP,

Chants included, “Health care for

Continued from page 5

demonstrators went around sanitation

Downtown

of China.

China's economic planners have the

because of its complicity in the home

foreclosure crisis and its interest rate

in China. The very large crowd was fired up with

speak of "the new中国的" city, referring to

sneakily resisting issues that personally

then rebranded as "socialism with Chinese characteris-

ties" — referring to all the problems that a very underdeveloped country faces in trying to build socialism.

themselves to be the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. But China has four times the population of the U.S. per cap-

it, still remains a low-end polluter. Nevertheless, it’s making big changes to its economy to meet the goals of the Paris Accords on limiting CO2 emissions.

The U.S. is a developed capitalist country with great wealth, an enormous part of which is concentrated in a tiny group of billionaires at the top. (Quite a few are in Trump's new cabinet.) Only two generations ago, China was one of the world's poorest countries. But it has made a great leap forward and is now the world's second-largest economy. This is much more enlightened. There are no "climate deniers" in China’s leading bodies.

However, China’s rapid industrial development has created a huge pollution problem, since coal has been its major source of power for both industry and home use. Not only does burning coal put CO2 in the atmosphere, but the gas and soot mixed with dust blown from China’s arid west creates dangerous smog in densely populated coastal cities. But China is doing something about it. It has in recent years become the world’s leading manufacturer and installer of nonpolluting solar and wind technology. It is building a new generation of nuclear plants that produce no CO2 and whose reactors automatically, without any human intervention, shut down in case of an accident.

And, just a month ago, it announced it would spend $560 billion over the next three years on additional renew-

ables. Now comes the news that it has also changed its long-term development plans and will build no new coal-fired power plants.

A planned economy makes the difference

The word to pay attention to here is "plans." China plans its economic de-

velopment. It had worked out plans that

cluded new coal-fired power plants be-

cause coal is abundant in China and the new plants would be more efficient and less polluting than the older ones. But, after considering the costs of CO2 pollu-

tion to the health of the people, it decided to stop against any coal-using plants.

A lot of people may think that because China has allowed capitalist enterprises to function and make money in recent decades, it is a capitalist country, just like the U.S., Europe and others. But that's not so. The Chinese leaders call it "socialism with Chinese characteris-

tics" — referring to all the problems that a very underdeveloped country faces in trying to build socialism.

The basic infrastructure of the Chi-

ese economy is still state owned and has been ever since the culmination, in 1949, of two decades of revolution-

ary mass struggle. And the Communist Party — with 90 million members — is currently waging a campaign against the corruption of government officials by rich business owners. Yes, in China milli-

cionaires can go to jail.

China’s economic planners have the

power to make decisions that cost a lot of

money, but will benefit the people — and

the world — over the long run. They’re not

driven by profits and each quarter’s profits, but will benefit the people — and

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Los jóvenes pueden romper la cadena de mando

Por L.T. Pham

La obra de John Catalinotto "Turn the Guns Around" (Voltea el arma) capta un período político en la historia, cuando la lucha estaba en alza: el movimiento para resistir la guerra en Vietnam, tanto por civiles como por soldados (en quienes Catalinotto se centra principalmente) y el movimiento de Poder Negro. Lo que se trabaja en conjunto en el libro sirve como una guía, no tiene la intención de prover respuestas, sino consideraciones sobre el tipo de organización y la conciencia necesaria para derrotar a los jefes y los bancos de hoy.

Al igual que las luchas de los años sesenta y setenta, hoy vemos la culminación de varios movimientos. Las personas negras y latinas, migrantes, personas con discapacidades e inclusive las/os primeros/�pero están fortificando nuestras filas para enfrentar la administración Trump.

El Partido Demócrata ha demostrado ser un partido de tipo "corrumpido" para la clase obrera y pro-austeridad. Las/os revolucionarios en todas las civilizaciones necesitan su organización, su reorganización, su cambio. Que la lucha para adelante vaya y se continúe.

Una reseña

La obra de John Catalinotto "Turn the Guns Around" (Voltea el arma) capta un período político en la historia, cuando la lucha estaba en alza: el movimiento para resistir la guerra en Vietnam, tanto por civiles como por soldados (en quienes Catalinotto se centra principalmente) y el movimiento de Poder Negro. Lo que se trabaja en conjunto en el libro sirve como una guía, no tiene la intención de prover respuestas, sino consideraciones sobre el tipo de organización y la conciencia necesaria para derrotar a los jefes y los bancos de hoy.

Al igual que las luchas de los años sesenta y setenta, hoy vemos la culminación de varios movimientos. Las personas negras y latinas, migrantes, personas con discapacidades e incluso las/os primeros/as están fortificando nuestras filas para enfrentar la administración Trump. Y la victoria en particular está encontrando un aumento en las agresiones sexuales, incluyendo violación, contra las mujeres de todas las edades - en los campus universitarios, en las escuelas secundarias, en el trabajo y en el hogar.

Grupos de mujeres están pidiendo a las/os revolucionarios en todas las civilizaciones necesitan su organización, su reorganización, su cambio. Que la lucha para adelante vaya y se continúe.

Los/as soldados/as también deja claro precisamente por qué era necesario organizar a los soldados que se resistieron a la guerra. Y más aún, por qué era importante que los GI (soldados) se alinearan más con su clase - la clase obrera - y no con los políticos y sus patronos.

"Voltea las armas" también deja claro precisamente por qué era necesario organizar a los soldados que se resistieron a la guerra. Y más aún, por qué era importante que los GI (soldados) se alinearan más con su clase - la clase obrera - y no con los políticos y sus patronos.

La clase dominante multimillonaria tiene que ser derrotada y sustituida en el mercado, en el ejército y en el hogar. Los soldados enviados a Vietnam sólo pretendían recuperar los asientos perdidos en el Congreso durante la administración de Nixon. Y la guerra en el exterior.

La elección de Trump ahora está alineada con las bandas de la hacha. El desafío para las/os revolucionarios en todas las civilizaciones necesitan su organización, su reorganización, su cambio. Que la lucha para adelante vaya y se continúe.

Los jóvenes pueden romper la cadena de mando

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