



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE
Jan. 26 Philadelphia

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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WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE
Philadelphia International Airport

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Firing of Yates

Trump, on the night of Jan. 30, fired the acting attorney general of the U.S., Sally Q. Yates, for refusing to defend the president’s executive order barring refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries. Trump’s order has caused tens of thousands around the country and the world to demonstrate at airports in defense of immigrants and freedom to travel. Yates was an official left over from the Obama administration, and Trump’s firing of her and others is also meant to open up jobs for his coterie of office seekers. Make no mistake. The opposition by Yates and the rest of the State Department has nothing to do with the kind of

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PHOTO: MICHIGAN PEOPLES’ DEFENSE NETWORK
Hundreds gathered on Jan. 29, in Hamtramck, Mich., a city inside Detroit that is home to many people from countries on Trump’s ban list. They then converged with thousands more on Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

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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, 1937, 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 up executive councils that ran the plants.

“Once a sit-down strike has become a state of occupation, there is little a company can do.”

Those who took the side of labor back then enthusiastically agreed. “The sit-down is labor’s weapon of economic self-defense,” stated Maurice Sugar, attorney for the United Auto Workers during the Flint Sit-down. The 44-day occupation forced mighty GM, then the world’s biggest corporation, to recognize the union.

In October of 2016, almost 80 years later, we saw the occupation tactic force the mighty Harvard University Corporation to abandon its attempt to impose austerity demands on dining hall workers belonging to UNITE HERE Local 26. As students and workers occupied the very building while negotiations were going on, Harvard was forced to grant the striking workers what they wanted. (Workers World, Oct. 31)

There is much we can learn from the sit-downs of long ago about effective tactics in today’s class struggles.

Advantages of the sit-down

Journalist and eyewitness to the Flint strike Mary Heaton Vorse wrote, “[T]here are manifold advantag-



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.

es for workers in the sit-down. The strikers are far less vulnerable than they are on the picket line because employers hesitate to attack the sit-downers when it may injure 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 closed 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 figure does not include 15 shot down in marches of the unemployed, 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 Sharecroppers Union lynched in Alabama, or two Filipino cannery 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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Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Part 1: Advance preparation

Lessons of the Harvard dining hall strike victory

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, run by the likes of Citigroup and Goldman Sachs?

We had a militant rank-and-file committee, but most were new to organizing a fightback. Our strike was spread out over 20 different locations in eight schools in two different cities. How did we overcome these challenges?

We began preparing for a possible strike well in advance, holding numerous meetings in every dining hall, on every shift, as well as constituency meetings. These included constituencies within the union — cooks, dishwashers, servers and cashiers — but also constituencies on campus: law students and medical students; Black, Muslim, LGBTQ and women’s organizations; and other campus unions. At every meeting we went over Harvard’s takeaway demands point by point.

The need for affordable, quality and preventive health care is universally understood. Our rank and file was part of that experience. They recognized later

The 750 striking Harvard University Dining Service workers — cooks, dishwashers, servers and cashiers — brought multibillion-dollar Harvard University to its knees on Oct. 25, 2016. After a three-week strike, the university bosses caved, giving the members of UNITE HERE Local 26 even more than they had initially demanded. Most importantly, all the health care takeaways the Harvard Corporation had demanded were off the table. The strike victory holds valuable lessons for the workers and oppressed in the age of global capitalism — particularly now, under the Trump administration and the rise of fascist, racist elements. Workers World’s Martha Grevatt interviewed Chief Steward Ed Childs, a cook and leader in Local 26 for more than 40 years. This is the first in a series of articles based on the interviews where Childs explains how the workers won.

PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 26



why all these seemingly endless meetings were necessary.

Building union structure

Through 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 turnover of top leaders, so we focused on building leaders in the dining halls

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 years before that they would target us. It was a political campaign to undercut pensions, to keep layoffs with no compensation, but particularly to cut our

health care. They never said they couldn’t afford it. They said, “This is the industry out there.” To settle our health care demand would have cost them less than half a million dollars. But they offered \$1 million to \$1.5 million worth of stuff we weren’t even asking for if we would just drop our demand to hold the line on health care. Our ranks knew that.

On June 20 our contract expired. The usual summer layoffs took out all but 200 of our members. In September everyone came back ready to fight. There was a near-consensus on campus to support us if we struck for health care. We gave the bosses an ultimatum: If you don’t give in, we are going out.

Building coalition around health care benefits

Coalition building was paramount. Spending over 40 years in the leadership of Workers World Party has taught me 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 adequate or affordable 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 by the health care industry under capitalism. They had a stake in the coalition, which was built up slowly and with patience over time. 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.

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 in April, and this cemented the coalition among our members, students, faculty and other campus unions. A lot of radical students, including those in SLAM, live at Adams. Two progressive professors hosted the meeting. The union offi-

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Sit down!

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took place from 1935 to 1937, only 25 were physically attacked, and there were no fatalities.

In every case, strikers returned to work with a newfound sense of power. For example, in 1935 an Akron rubber worker wrote to the local newspaper about his dreary existence, concluding, “We’ve nothing to look forward to. We’re factory hands.” But after one of many successful sit-downs, another Akron rubber worker proclaimed, “Now we know our labor is more important than the money of the stockholders, than the gambling in Wall Street, than the doings of the managers and foremen.”

Almost 50 years after that sit-down strike wave, Sam Marcy wrote in “High Tech, Low Pay” that a workplace occupation “can change the form of the struggle, take it out of its narrow confines and impart to it a broader perspective. In truth, it brings to the surface a new working-class perspective on the struggle between the workers and the bosses. It says in so many words that we are not tied to a one-dimensional type of struggle with the bosses at a time when they have the levers of political authority in their hands.”

Marcy keenly observed the impact of high technology on the working class, anticipating its ravaging effects and looking for methods of struggle that would give exploited labor its greatest advantage. Towards this end he drew upon the accumulated lessons of the sit-downs.

The bold strike tactics, including occupations, that workers used to win against the Harvard Corporation confirm the potential of sit-downs and occupations as struggle-expanding strategies. □

BLM and union hold joint protest

By Chris Fry
Albany, N.Y.

When Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan gave her annual State of the City speech on Jan. 25, she was confronted by a disruptive demonstration called jointly by Black Lives Matter and the Albany Blue Collar Workers Union, Local 1961 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Other organizations, such as the Capital District Showing Up for Racial Justice, also participated. Despite a large contingent of cops, the protest maintained chanting and singing throughout the mayor’s speech.

On April 2, 2015, Dontay Ivy, an unarmed 39-year-old Black man who suffered from mental illness, had been taking his normal nighttime walk when he

was surrounded by several Albany cops. Ivy was Tasered, clubbed and tackled. As he lay on the sidewalk, Ivy suffered a heart attack and died.

Prosecutors refused to charge the cops. None were even fired. No explanation was offered as to why Ivy was stopped in the first place.

This is the second year that Black Lives Matter activists have disrupted the mayor’s speech to demand justice for Ivy. Mayor Sheehan responded by saying: “That’s an easy solution that doesn’t actually accomplish anything. It might sound simple and it might make them feel good, but it doesn’t change a department.” (timesunion.com, Jan. 27)

This comment drew the full fury of the protesters, who called for not only firing the cops involved but also firing the po-

lice chief and disarming the police department.

The Blue Collar Workers Union has been forced to work without a contract or a pay raise since 2013. The 2017 Albany city budget offers no raises for the city’s blue- or white-collar workers, but does give a pay hike to some non-union staff, which city administrators say is necessary for them to “remain competitive.” (timesunion.com, Nov. 7)

Albany cops, however, do get their “step” pay increases in the new budget. (timesunion.com, Oct. 11)

So the chants of “No justice, No peace!” as well as “Hey! Ho! Kathy Sheehan’s got to go!” hurled nonstop at Mayor Sheehan reflected the sentiments of both Albany’s oppressed community as well as its city workers. □

Trump regime escalates attacks on millions

By Abayomi Azikiwe

After just seven days of President Donald Trump’s administration, a host 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; muzzling communications from government agencies; threats of withholding federal assistance to municipalities that refuse to turn over people designated as “illegal” by the state; and other actions.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto was scheduled to travel to the White House for a meeting with Trump to discuss bilateral relations. On Jan. 26, Mexico announced that the meeting was cancelled.

The administration’s insistence that a wall be built on the southern border and that Mexico pay for it has created tensions between the two nations. The Mexican government has repeatedly rejected Trump’s assertion that Mexico will finance the project, eliminating the basis for any normal relations.

The Mexican leader issued the following tweet: “This morning we have informed the White House that I will not attend the meeting scheduled for next Tuesday with the @POTUS.”

Worsening national and political repression

People of Latin American descent have been designated as the largest national minority in the U.S. From an historical perspective, the Southwest and West Coast of the U.S. were seized from Mexico during a war of annexation in the mid-19th century. Many Mexicans, even those with U.S. citizenship, face systematic discrimination and national oppression. Another major executive order would resume construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines. The DAPL is slated to run through lands still controlled by Native people. A massive solidarity movement sprang up in 2016 involving millions across the country and the world. Thousands of people traveled to the Standing Rock Sioux lands to serve as “human shields” against attacks carried out by law enforcement, the military and private security personnel working

on behalf of the corporations spearheading the pipeline, which would transport 500,000 barrels of oil per day. Trump noted that 93 percent 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 by the pipeline. According to Eurasia Review, “A lawyer for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said the decision was made ‘hastily and irresponsibly.’ The tribe said it intended to pursue legal action against Trump’s order, adding that the pipeline posed a risk not just for their water supply 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.” 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, 228 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 Di-

visions were 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 civilians. Local police agencies have been supplied with military equipment such as armored personnel carriers, long-range acoustical devices, chemical agents, helicopters and sophisticated intelligence technology by the federal government. Under the present regime 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 gains 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 of course does not translate into an improved standard of living for working people. Poverty and deprivation are increasing in the U.S. and internationally wherever capitalism is the dominant economic system. The megaprofits 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 a “recovery” and “prosperity.” The previous administration of President Barack Obama many times declared the end of the financial crisis. Nevertheless, millions remain jobless, underemployed and poor in the U.S. despite an “official” unemployment rate of less than 5 percent. The labor participation rate, a more accurate measurement of the state of the working class and nationally oppressed, remains at an abysmal 62.7 percent. (Business Insider, Jan. 6) Nonetheless, the rising stock market indicates Wall Street is satisfied that the Trump program of far-right domestic and foreign policy imperatives is compatible with the unbridled quest for maximum profits by international finance capital. 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 defense corporations. None of the members of his team have any identifiable history of concern with the plight of the workers and oppressed.

Toward a united front in present period

Trump’s approach to electoral and administration politics has prompted mass demonstrations and disaffections from the system. Millions of women protested 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 people were arrested, including six journalists. These media workers, along with activists, are being charged with felony riot. The cellphones 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 ascendancy of Trump provides an important opportunity for building a broad-based united front of democratic forces, including African Americans, Latin Americans, Native peoples, immigrants, women, LGBTQ communities, environmentalists and other working-class constituencies. However, this alliance, which represents 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 racist 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 spokespeople at the global Women’s March on Jan. 21 seemed to be suggesting that the Democratic Party can be reconstituted under different leadership, which can provide a way forward for the masses. Such illusions could not be further from the reality in which the capitalist U.S. and the world are entangled. A revolutionary mass party of the working class and the oppressed is the only solution to the current political and 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. □



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

By Kris Hamel

The struggle has been nonstop since the Jan. 20 inauguration of billionaire arch-bigot Donald Trump as the 45th president of United States. Many of these protests, occurring in cities and towns large and small, are often only told about and shown on social media by the partic-

ipants themselves. These reports, photos and videos are reposted and shared with untold numbers around the U.S. and globally. Here are eyewitness reports by Workers World Party members on a few of these many demonstrations. (A separate article covers the airport demonstrations.) Fast food workers organized by Fight

for \$15 rallied outside the **Chicago** offices of the federal Department of Labor on Jan. 26. They were there to oppose Trump’s nomination of billionaire restaurant executive Andrew Puzder as DOL secretary. Workers explained that Puzder has led the industry fight to deny them a

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What's next for revolutionaries in the Trump era?

Excerpted from a talk by Larry Holmes at the Jan. 29 forum on "What next? Organizing the Resistance to Trump: A Revolutionary Socialist Perspective" in New York City. Holmes is WWP/Partido Mundo Obrero First Secretary. To view the whole talk, go to tinyurl.com/gqjek7h.

Trump has declared war on everybody with all these executive orders. It is a serious crisis that is unprecedented. Building the "Wall" and this ban on Muslims are fascist acts.

These are fascist acts for political reasons to help Trump and those inside his regime, who are neofascists, rally on a racist, white supremacist, neofascist basis.

Pay attention to the Black Lives Matter movement. The first thing Trump did was put on the White House web page that he was "going to change this anti-police atmosphere."

That's a green light for Black and Brown people to have targets on their backs, especially the youth. It's scapegoating and keeping his movement going.

It's time to ratchet up the resistance. We should be thinking in terms of preparing for a general strike.

Some might say only the labor movement can do that. But I'll give you this example: When millions of people came out on Jan. 21 — most of them in this country but also in other countries — if their orientation was to just "Shut shit down," instead of getting back on a bus or other transportation, that would give you a new idea, in part, of what a general strike could be.

When we think of general strikes, we think of workers walking off the job and shutting shit down — and that's part of it. But people, when determined, can shut shit down with occupations, maybe on May Day, and let's not forget International Working Women's Day in March.

Right now the character of the struggle is defensive. It's hard to know which demonstrations to go to, as long as Trump's issuing orders against everybody.

Think of how we can ensure that we're not running all over the place. Even though we have to defend a lot of people, that does not contradict that our politics must be ambitious and offensive, and we have to advance new ideas.

The capitalist crisis is responsible for Trump, and the neoliberal bourgeoisie has crashed politically. Here and around the world, they have been the managers of this huge assault on the workers and

the oppressed. And now they are paying the political price.

Workers World Party believes that history is demanding that we open up a worldwide campaign against capitalism and for socialism. Millions are waking up and attending some of these demonstrations. And many of the people who are waking up can be radicalized.

We want to be with the militants. We also want to be where the struggle is — the unions or other mass movements.

We have to have some kind of guide moving forward for the party. Probably since the election, we've almost doubled our membership across the country.

But what the party can do on its own is limited. We are going to do more in the name of Workers World Party. When some racist, white supremacist, misogynist act is done in "the name of workers," it's really good for Workers World Party to be the entity calling a demonstration against it — to show that this is what workers really think.

However, our forces have to be stronger as soon as possible.

Build internationalism with united front

Therefore, what we are considering — and it's just a rough outline — is a call for a revolutionary united front. We don't know whether it should be against Trump or maybe it should be against fascism because of the executive order banning Muslims from entering the U.S.

It might be good to say a revolutionary united front against fascism because the people, the groups to be united, are the communists, the socialists, the anti-capitalists and the anarchists who can work with communists and socialists.

The anti-capitalists must come together, particularly those political forces from marginalized and oppressed communities, whether they are unionists, in Black Lives Matter, in the immigrant rights/ICE-Free movement, in the LGBTQ or women's movements, or artists. We've got to come together.

I'm not saying that it's easy. But let's figure out a way to unite a revolutionary movement. And the objective is not to



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Speakers on Jan. 29 were, left to right, Alex Majumder, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Holmes, Monica Moorehead and Taryn Fivek. The standing-room-only forum was sponsored by Workers World Party.

separate itself from the masses, but to go into the mass movements and influence those movements. We reserve the right to take actions that tend to push protest into resistance.

One of the tenets of such a front must be stopping the Democratic Party and the bourgeoisie from killing the movement. The Democratic Party is the graveyard of movements.

Our first priority must be to understand, support and defend the most oppressed — the Muslims, the immigrants, women, LGBTQ people, Black Lives Matter and all the oppressed peoples, not only here but around the world.

We must reject dismissing oppressed peoples under the category of "identity politics." Oppressed peoples are the heart and soul of the working class. They are central to the working class. They will bear the burden of making the revolution.

This is not about being "politically correct" or "moralism." This is smart. This is about working with those who are already in an advanced political position. The other sectors of the working class need the oppressed. If they don't have the oppressed, they would probably be at a standstill and, in some instances, go backwards. That ends up as a very dangerous problem.

We must win all generations, but revolutions are not made without the youth. A lot of youth who have shut down bridges and highways, have gone to jail time and time again, sometimes look at peo-

ple who call themselves socialists and communists as conservative: "You seem to just want to hold us back. You seem to just want to tame us. We don't want to be tamed. We want to shut shit down!"

We have to support the militancy of the youth.

Finally, we need to expand international solidarity. We cannot have a conception of a nationwide struggle and that's it. The world is too small. Our class has never been more able to communicate and work with each other. All the boundaries — geography, language — are there. But they are not as important as they used to be. An example of that is the ability to have these demonstrations all around the world.

When our comrades and allies demonstrate on every continent, it tells the neofascists — from Paris to Washington — that we are together on a global basis, and our struggle is a global struggle.

Whatever the challenge, this crisis that we face in the wake of the Trump phenomenon should be a reason for everybody who wants a revolution and wants to be in touch with revolutionaries around the world to reconsider the question of a new international.

We realize our party can't do it alone. However, we're going to make damn sure that people begin taking the idea of the necessity for a new international very, very seriously because this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. □

Thousands protest Trump and GOP

By Workers World Philadelphia Bureau

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. 25-27 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 Rager" dance party outside the Loews Hotel. Waving rainbow flags and wearing glow beads, the energetic throng of dancers and demonstrators 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

Philadelphia



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

za across 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 orga-

nizers, including immigrant rights activists, Affordable Care Act advocates, labor unions, Standing Rock solidarity supporters, Black Lives Matter organiz-

ers, Muslim groups 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. A number of hospital 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 multinational, 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-

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WW PHOTOS: ABOVE, RANDI NORD; RIGHT, DAVID CARD

DETROIT

People’s power at the airports

Continued from page 1

their feet wet for the first time.

Hundreds in downtown **Baltimore** took part in a march Jan. 28 initiated by several local university student activists, as well as the People’s Power Assembly and WWP. The diverse crowd defiantly marched in the streets in solidarity with all immigrants facing government repression. They went to several landmarks, including an Army Corps of Engineers office in solidarity with Standing Rock; Lexington Market, a Black community landmark slated for gentrification; Planned Parenthood, whose funding is under attack; and the immigration offices at the federal building.

The next day, thousands gathered at Baltimore-Washington International Airport to protest Trump’s anti-Muslim ban on people entering the U.S.

‘Let them in!’

Hundreds of demonstrators met Jan. 29 in front of the **Hamtramck, Mich.**, City Hall and police headquarters in solidarity with Muslims and undocumented immigrants. Hamtramck, a small, multi-national city located inside the city of Detroit, is home to many people from countries on Trump’s ban list.

Later, thousands gathered at **Detroit** Metropolitan Airport. Called by the Women’s March in Michigan and the

Michigan Muslim Community Council, the Jan. 29 demonstration was endorsed by more than 20 local organizations, including the recently formed Michigan Peoples’ Defense Network.

The line of cars to enter the airport was backed up for miles. Travel was no doubt disrupted for some airport patrons. Protesters first organized themselves outside the terminal chanting, “Let them in!” and “Refugees are welcome here!” As the crowd grew to thousands, they flooded the inside of the terminal.

Around 6:30 p.m., airport police and some protesters started encouraging the crowd to leave. Anarchists along with protesters from Workers World Party remained militant, chanting slogans like “From Palestine to Mexico, border walls have got to go!”

A large crowd, including many new activists, gathered inside the terminal at **Buffalo Niagara** [N.Y.] International Airport the evening of Jan. 28 to protest Trump’s order. A sense of great urgency and inspiration from other demonstrations at airports all over the country brought people out to protest despite a heavy snow.

‘Refugees are welcome here!’

In **Syracuse, N.Y.**, 600-plus people occupied the lower level of Terminal B at Hancock International Airport for three

hours the night of Jan. 29. The outraged protesters waved homemade signs and chanted nonstop slogans like “No wall, no registry, down with white supremacy!” Speaking at the protest, called by the Central New York Solidarity Coalition, were undocumented Latinx workers assisted by the Workers’ Center of Central New York and representatives from Black Lives Matter, the Syracuse Peace Council and local Muslim and refugee communities. Syracuse has been a sanctuary city since the abolitionist movement against U.S. slavery, a position strongly reaffirmed by Mayor Stephanie Miner.

Thousands packed the International Terminal at **San Francisco** International Airport Jan. 28 and 29, demanding the release of those being held illegally. Chanting, “Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here!” and “No ban, no wall, sanctuary for all!” they shut down the arrivals area and both departure gates. Lara Kiswani, of the Arab Resource Organizing Committee, announced that all five known detainees had been released.

In **Portland, Ore.**, hundreds gathered Jan. 28 at the International Airport for a “No Ban, No Wall” protest that had been scheduled in 2016. The evening before the demonstration, Trump signed his

executive order. The demonstration halted mass transit to and from the airport. The following afternoon, airport management closed upper-level roadways and informed travelers to expect delays. Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler joined the protests on both days.

Thousands of people protested at **Seattle-Tacoma** Airport Jan. 28. Many solidarity activists carried signs reading, “No Ban, No Wall!” After many hours, 30 people were arrested and protesters were pepper sprayed.

Immigrant rights lawyers, using the services of a U.S. District judge, were able



UTAH



BUFFALO, N.Y.



SYRACUSE, N.Y.

WW PHOTOS: TOP, MARTHA GREVATT; ABOVE, ELLIE DORRITTE

WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT



BALTIMORE

to gain the release of two people who had been detained. The next day a huge rally drew at least 7,000 people. This action spilled over into the streets, completely tying up traffic. There were also demonstrations at the U.S./Canadian border and at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, where over 1,600 immigrants are held, including recent arrivals from Haiti.

Contributors include Jasen Vyvyan Balmat, David Card, Sage Collins, Ellie Dorritie, Sara Flounders, Mond Jones, Terri Kay, Jim McMahan, Randi Nord, Joe Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Gloria Rubac.



SAN FRANCISCO

WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY



HOUSTON

WW PHOTO: ABOVE, GLORIA RUBAC; RIGHT, JIM CAREY



DETROIT

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 for a year and a half by Donald Trump, along with his Mexico bashing and many other reactionary themes.

In fact, Islamophobia has replaced anti-communism in the 21st century as the primary divisive, racist, divide-and-conquer strategy to foment war, intervention and police surveillance. 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 hunkered 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 3.3 million people who demonstrated 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. (getgroundgame.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 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, Rinne Priebus, Flynn and company showed no concern for all the students from the seven Islamic countries covered by the ban who were returning to continue their studies. They did not care about workers, scientists and technicians returning to their jobs. They showed utter contempt for people coming to be with their families. Even after several court injunctions were obtained, CBP officials refused to allow attorneys to see some detainees and turned away members of Congress 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 communities to push back the Trump administration. 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 J21 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 poison 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, Iraq, 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. — have prospered

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. against 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 geostrategic Muslim 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 openly anti-imperialist, all the socialist and communist forces in the Middle East.

But the imperialists have not stopped their plunder and their oppression. They have taken Iraq’s oil. They have destroyed Libya and taken its oil. They have financed a devastating war trying to topple the independent government of Syria. The region is strewn 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.

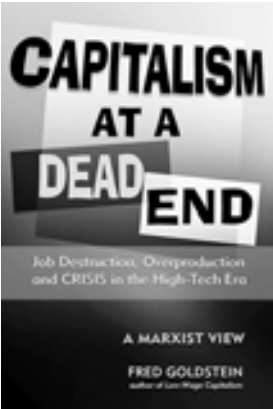
Under such conditions, with all progressive and secular forces weakened if not destroyed, it is inevitable that the vacuum of resistance will be filled by reactionary forces. The IS group is a patriarchal, medieval, theocratic organization pledged to drive the Western powers from the Middle East — the 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 has to do with reasserting the dominance of imperialism over the oil-rich 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 must see the commonality of racism, misogyny, LGBTQ and all gender oppression, anti-immigrant poison and the struggle against the multinational working class 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 booksellers.



Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**

Available at online major booksellers

Unity and diversity at Tribute to Fidel

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

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. 26 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; Coalición Fortaleza Latina Pennsylvania; International Action Center Philadelphia; the MOVE Organization; political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal; Mundo 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 overtime 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 and Cuban music were interspersed between speakers. The audience was diverse in race, age and gender.

Community activist Asantewaa Nkrumah-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



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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 Guerrero, with the Coalición 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 Akilah, of the Black and Brown Workers’ Collective, spoke on Cuba’s support for the Haitian people. Akilah’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 had to do to survive.

Palestinian writer and human rights activist Susan Abulhawa spoke of Cuba’s solidarity with the Palestinian people who have been without a country after Isra-

el seized their homes in 1948. Abulhawa read from her poetry collection, “My Voice Sought in the Wind.”

Gail Walker, executive director of 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 Assata 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. □



TURN THE GUNS AROUND
Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

— **Pvt Larry Holmes** *GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemans’ Union 1972-74.*

Available at online booksellers

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 blustering inauguration, but who knew that it would be this vast?

To paraphrase Trump, “It was huuuuuggge!”

If ever anyone wondered what millions of women thought of the new American president, they answered with a thousand thunderclaps.

From toddlers in strollers, to crones in wheelchairs — and everywhere in between — women poured into the streets of the capital, and in hundreds of cities, to denounce President Trump.

Not since President Bush announced his invasion of Iraq have we seen such sheer spectacle. Seldom have people demonstrated so clearly against an elected politician. To anyone who saw it, such a sight will not be soon forgotten.

Their signs ran from the silly to the serious, but almost all referenced women’s demands for equal rights and freedom.

They demonstrated, by their incredible numbers, that women are a force to be reckoned with. □

Lessons of the Harvard dining hall strike victory

Continued from page 3

cialdom of UNITE HERE Local 26, who came at our invitation, tried to change the coalition-building character of the meeting and run it like a regular membership meeting, but we wouldn’t let that happen.

A lot of 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 our union got behind them. They were fantastic when they spoke. That meeting was where we first met the medical students.

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 our fighting infrastructure well-established.

Phebe Eckfeldt, Steve Gillis, Steve Kirschbaum, Milt Neidenberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt contributed to this series of articles.

Images, memories honor Cuban leader

By **Cheryl LaBash**
Lansing, Mich.

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 Felix 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 comple-



PHOTO: JOHN W. HARDY

tion 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. □

Warning to Trump: Bash Mexico, incite revolution

In Donald Trump’s first week as president, a shitstorm of U.S. international diplomatic relations hit the fan. One crisis was with the U.S. neighbor to the south: Mexico.

On Day Six, Trump signed the Executive Order on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements. This authorized hiring an additional 5,000 Border Patrol agents, immediately constructing or contracting for more “detention facilities” at the Mexican border, empowering state and local police to function as immigration enforcement, and other repressive measures.

And, to fulfill his campaign promise to “build the wall,” Trump used the Executive Order to instruct the Department of Homeland Security to commence immediate construction of a 1,900-mile-long wall along the border with Mexico, using existing federal funds. At the signing Trump said, for what sounded like the millionth time, that he would get Mexico to “pay for the wall,” a cornerstone pledge of his campaign.

But the Executive Order was issued at the very same time that a delegation representing the Mexican government was in Washington to prepare for a state visit from Mexico’s president. The signing of the Executive Order before the two-nation meeting insulted Mexico and threw those preparations into chaos.

The pressure was on for the Mexican government to defend the nation’s sovereignty and make it look as if Mexico was not a puppet of U.S. imperialism. Mexico’s president Enrique Peña Nieto declared he would not be coming to the U.S. after all and reiterated forcefully that Mexico would not pay for “the wall.”

Trump — ever the man-child — lied that he and Peña Nieto had decided together to cancel the meeting, and boasted that as long as Mexico did not respect or treat the U.S. fairly, there would be no

meeting.

With these actions, Trump earned the ire not only of the people and government of Mexico, Mexican migrants and all those opposed to his anti-immigrant posturing, but even of the ruling class, which is probably worried now about Trump’s actions.

Mexico is a Third World country despite its many riches. It is a capitalist country whose sell-out government is beholden to the U.S.

Trump said he would cancel the meeting until Mexico treated the U.S. “fairly.” But the relationship between Mexico and the U.S. is not a fair or equal one to begin with — one is an oppressed nation and the other is the vile oppressor.

The many multinational corporations that operate in Mexico do not want their profits jeopardized by Trump. There are 11 U.S. banks that do business in Mexico. They have a combined \$96 billion in cross-border claims. Citigroup alone has a \$65 billion investment. (CNBC, Jan. 26)

Walmart, Apple, GE, JP Morgan, General Motors are just some of the multinationals that operate in Mexico. These corporations want to continue to do business with Mexico unfettered, to steal Mexico’s wealth and continue to exploit Mexican workers.

This is one reason why Trump is a danger to the ruling class. He may serve their interests in some ways, but ultimately the business of capitalism must continue to run smoothly.

Economic crisis: fuel for revolutionary fires in Mexico

Trump’s tirades have thrown fuel on the fires in Mexico. He announced that he will make it hard for Mexicans living in the U.S. to send remittances home, which can potentially create an even more critical economic crisis in that country.

By saying that he wants to punish

Mexico by raising tariffs to pay for the wall, he challenges Mexico to assert independence from the gringos. He insults Mexico and jeopardizes the Mexican president’s relationship with the people, stirring up anti-Yankee sentiments that can easily turn into mass rebellions against the Mexican government.

Mexico is ripe for revolutionary change. The Mexican government could be toppled at any moment were it not for the billions the U.S. sends under the guise of fighting drugs. Plan Merida, for example, is actually used to train the police and military for repression against progressive and revolutionary movements.

Peña Nieto is at risk of being thrown out, and rightly should be. The cause could be rising fuel costs or the case of the Ayotzinapa 43 or boiling anger from decades of repression and exploitation, supported by U.S. imperialism. Anything could fuel the fire of revolutionary insurrection in Mexico — something the imperialists will do everything in their power to prevent.

Whether it is political or economic, the U.S. works to bail out the Mexican bourgeoisie. Yahoo Finance wrote on Jan. 29: “Whatever happens in Mexico ends up having an impact here. In 1982 and 1995, the U.S. came to Mexico’s rescue, spending tens of billions of dollars to prevent [it] from falling into the abyss.”

Solidarity, not walls

During the campaign, Trump’s fan base cheered every time he said he would get Mexico to pay for the wall. The fact is that if the wall is built and further militarized, the people of the U.S. will be billed for it.

Trump says he will raise tariffs on the many goods from Mexico that come into the U.S. to pay for the wall. That means higher prices for U.S. consumers on items from toothpaste to TVs. For instance, Procter & Gamble has several manu-

facturing plants in Mexico. In 2011 P&G spent \$250 million to build another factory to make Gillette razors and razor blades. Mexican workers play a role in producing HDTVs, so a tariff could easily raise their cost. (Washington Post, Jan. 27)

Since President Bill Clinton and every administration after that, the U.S. southern border has become extremely militarized, at a high budgetary and human cost. Parts of a wall have already been built to the detriment of nature, as well as the rights of Indigenous people and the deaths of migrants.

Trump supporters need to know that walls will not bring back economic prosperity or jobs. Economic security for U.S. workers will not come from an alliance with capitalists who reap the profits of workers’ labor. Only global solidarity among workers, who produce all the wealth of the world, will bring good jobs at union-level wages.

As even Frances Coppola, a columnist for Forbes magazine, writes: “If all the good jobs have gone across the border, how come so many Mexicans have come to the U.S. to work?” (Jan. 29)

Who does welcome the wall? One is none other than racist settler-colonizer Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, who tweeted: “President Trump is right. I built a wall along Israel’s southern border. ... Great success. Great idea.” Mexico’s Jewish population, estimated to be around 50,000, immediately responded with outrage to that statement.

This kind of outrage is also fueling the massive protests now sweeping the U.S., protests in solidarity with Muslim migrants in particular, who have been so demonized.

These militant actions, long overdue, are the real solution to Trump’s Mexico bashing and anti-immigrant racism. □



By Teresa Gutierrez

Thousands of Haitians trapped at U.S. border

By G. Dunkel

Since last summer, thousands of Haitians have hit a roadblock on the Mexican side of the U.S. border while trying to use a wrinkle in U.S. immigration laws, called Temporary Protective Status, to enter the United States.

Haitians stuck in Tijuana have overflowed all temporary shelters, many of which lack facilities to handle such large numbers. Some Haitians have been forced to seek shelter in Mexicali, a large town east of Tijuana.

Gloria Verdieu’s Dec. 31 Workers 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 force some Haitians to sleep outdoors.

Haitians gained TPS, which allows them to live and work in the U.S., because conditions in Haiti were unsafe after 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 2015 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 handle 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 estimated 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.

Valéry Numa, a Haitian journalist quoted by the Sept. 24 Miami Herald, estimates that 40,000 Haitians left Brazil for Chile in 2014-15. But Chile was just a way station to the United States. Most of the Haitians began the long, arduous and dangerous trek north, confronting cops, people smugglers, bus companies and bandits.

Even though Jeh Johnson, President Obama’s secretary of Homeland Security, declared Sept. 22 that conditions in Haiti 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 were no jobs and a totally devastated economy.

What makes all these Haitians patiently waiting for their immigration reviews on the Mexican border more significant is the role of Breitbart News. Last fall, when it was controlled by Trump’s current political strategist Stephen Bannon, Breitbart published at least 10 articles on Haiti. (Some reports say Bannon is responsible for Trump’s immigration

policy.)

Most of the Breitbart articles were about the horrible 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. □

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. (Reuters, 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 exempt green card holders from Trump's ban on travelers from Muslim countries. (New York Times, Jan. 29)

While Bannon was given a permanent seat on the NSC, the position of Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, an Obama appointee who heads the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was downgraded. Dunford will attend NSC meetings only when invited. So will the Director of National Intelligence.

The NSC is already led by former Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, the ex-head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, who was fired from that post by President Obama in 2014.

Since then Flynn has tweeted about Hillary Clinton being involved with "child sex trafficking" and having "secretly waged war" on the Catholic Church. Flynn also accused Obama of having "laundered" money for terrorists. (Politico, Dec. 5, 2016)

Making Flynn National Security Adviser and promoting Bannon while demoting Gen. Dunford means the NSC can conduct meetings with only Trump allies. That's a sinister formula for a police-state takeover, perhaps in coordination with the FBI.

This could be a real option if there's a new war or just to crush any opposition

to Trump. In the last 75 years, U.S. capitalism hasn't gotten out of an economic crisis without a new war.

Helping this nightmare scenario are Senate Democrats. Only one senator voted against confirming "Mad Dog" 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 of the military. The rest of the "world's greatest deliberative body" had no problem with the brass hat, who has declared, "It's fun to shoot some people." (ABC News, Dec. 1, 2016)

A mere 11 senators voted against confirming John Kelly — another ex-Marine four-star general — as Trump's Secretary of Homeland Security. Kelly's airport cops have since violated federal court orders by carrying out Trump's racist directive to keep out Muslim immigrants.

It's not so surprising that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer voted for Mattis and Kelly. But so did Sen. Bernie Sanders. That's not why millions of voters cast their ballots for Sanders in last year's Democratic primaries.

Sanders' vote supporting "Mad Dog" and Kelly wasn't so much a capitulation to militarism as a vote to ally with it. Liberals like Sanders actually believe that surrounding Trump with "grown-ups" like these two ex-generals will somehow restrain the White House.

That illusion was blasted when Trump appointed Bannon to the National Security Council. Only the people can stop Trump. Stay in the streets! □

Firing of Yates

Continued from page 1

solidarity with immigrants being shown by the multitude of demonstrators. It is motivated strictly by the effort to defend the interests of U.S. imperialism's foreign relations and business interests, built up over years, and which Trump is trampling on at the moment.

As Trump tries to consolidate his administration, promoting far-right, racist ideologues like Stephen Bannon to a strategic position in the National Security Council (see editorial, page 10), he is stoking the fires of mass resistance. Never has a president been so opposed by the masses right from the gitgo.

He is also causing panic even in his own class of billionaires, who fear that his positions on trade and globalization will undercut their ability to exploit freely

around the world and shift alliances away from U.S. control.

There's only one real answer to the Trump gang and that is to keep the mass resistance growing. Already, newspapers of the Wall Street establishment like the New York Times are counseling Trump to rely on more "thoughtful, experienced hands" like — the new Secretary of Defense James Mattis, a former Marine Corps general, and Joint Chiefs head Gen. Joseph Dunford!

The workers, the oppressed, don't need to be "rescued" from Trump by the military-industrial complex or the Democrats, thank you very much! Our movement can push back this obscene attempt to go back to when racism, sexism and xenophobia were "great." Stay organized! Stay in the streets! □

WORKERS WORLD

MUNDO OBRERO

UNA RESEÑA

Los jóvenes pueden romper la cadena de mando

Continued from page 12

en EUA estar en un sindicato, era un modo de vida. Cuando esto se asoció con el potencial revolucionario de ese período, el sindicato se convirtió en un cuerpo de lucha por mejores condiciones, pero también contra la guerra y el racismo.

La ASU fue capaz de conectar a GI radicales entre sí, para llevar las luchas de los GI a los civiles, y crear la relación ideológica clara entre los intereses de los GI y los intereses de los vietnamitas que defienden a su país y los del pueblo negro en EUA a resistir la violencia estatal. El desarrollo de la ASU y su éxito reforzaron la importancia de la organización, que en este período será también esencial para defender y unificar a la clase trabajadora. Hay cientos de miles de personas que no sólo tienen hambre por entender mejor el mundo, sino que

también quieren cambiarlo, y debemos construir organizaciones capaces de atraer a la gente a nuestro movimiento.

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

Para las/os jóvenes revolucionarios que tomen "Voltea las armas", yo les animaría a recordar que quiénes somos en este período es importante, particularmente para jóvenes LGBTQ, jóvenes de color y otras/os jóvenes oprimidos. Y quiénes somos, deberíamos hacernos mejores en la lucha por nuestros intereses de clase, debemos plantear preguntas de cómo organizamos, y no si organizar o no.

Sólo podemos romper la cadena de mando en todos los sectores de nuestra sociedad a través de la unidad y la solidaridad. Nuestra clase está formada por trabajadores y personas oprimidas a nivel mundial, de diferentes nacionalidades, capacidades, géneros, sexualidades y más. Las miserables condiciones del capitalismo nos unen y hacen que nuestra clase sea infinitamente más fuerte y más revolucionaria que los patronos que tratan de hacernos inhumanos.

Hemos recogido las armas en un período diferente, pero no menos en el legado de la lucha revolucionaria. Se formarán alianzas improbables; habrá muchas personas que tomen conciencia, pero se darán cuenta de que no pueden hacerlo por sí mismas; y debemos ser audaces porque sabemos que nuestra visión para un mundo socialista no sólo es posible, sino que es inevitable. El libro de Catalinotto narra los hechos y la historia de lo que lo hará posible. □

U.S. gag rule garrotes global health

By Sue Davis

The first action President Trump took on his first work day in office was to sign a memorandum signaling a full-fledged attack on health care around the world. He made this assault, 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 5-million-global Women's March. Roe v. Wade was the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the U.S.

Trump's memorandum is called the "global gag rule," though its official title is the Mexico City Policy. It was initiated by President Reagan in 1984 and renewed by all subsequent Republican administrations. The rule cuts funding for any family planning services around the world that provide abortions or any information 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 family 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 has 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 (13 percent) of pregnancy-related deaths. According to Guttmacher Institute statistics, about 42 million women with unintended pregnancies 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 fact sheet, a 2010 study from Fordham Law School found "strict enforcement policy under the Bush administration hampered Ethiopia's efforts to address high rates of unsafe abortion." A 2011 Stanford University study found increases in abortion rates in all sub-Saharan African countries and says "reduced financial support for family planning may have led women to substitute abortion for contraception." (Rewire, Jan. 23)

Ignoring such facts, Trump has destructively expanded the gag rule. Formerly it applied only to U.S. funding of global family planning groups, amounting to about \$600 million a year. Trump has now included all U.S. funding for health care worldwide, about \$9 billion a year. Such funding addresses global epidemics like malaria, Zika, Ebola, HIV and other health threats as well as cancer care. The gag order now means that a pregnant woman infected with Zika, and carrying the risk of a microencephalic fetus, could not be counseled that abortion is an option if she were seen at a facility receiving U.S. funds.

A Jan. 25 New York Times editori-

al pointed out that, while health groups are studying the new gag language, "it would appear to apply to any international health funding" and "would seem to go well beyond family-planning aid from the Agency for International Development and the State Department, to also include money from all American governmental agencies and departments."

"With this action, Donald Trump has turned his anti-women rhetoric into [global] policy," said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, in a statement. Nancy Northrup, CEO of 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 unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal and newborn deaths."

Resistance to the rescue! The Dutch government announced plans Jan. 25 to establish an international fund to pay for contraception, abortion and health education for women, to help fill the gap created by the gag rule. The fund's purpose, said Lilianne Plouman, Dutch minister of foreign trade and development cooperation, was "So that women can continue to make their own decisions about their own bodies." (cnn.news.org) Canada announced on Jan. 27 that it will contribute to the global fund. (theguardian.com)

Such international cooperation suggests the U.S. is no longer king of the capitalist world. However, the corporate me-

dia photo that publicized signage of the gag rule shows the Trump administration hasn't gotten the message.

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

The recent global Women's March suggests such smirks may not last long. □

No ‘climate deniers’ there

China takes another big step away from CO2

By Deirdre Griswold

The contrast couldn't be sharper. On one side of the world, a president takes office and makes his first priority to eradicate any government programs that would reduce his country's huge responsibility for global warming.

On the opposite side of the world, a government announces it has canceled plans to build 100 new coal-fired power plants because they would have added to its carbon emissions.

It's the U.S. versus the People's Republic of China.

Three years ago China overtook the U.S. as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. But China has four times the population of the U.S.; per capita, it still remains a low-end polluter. Nevertheless, it's making big changes to its economy to meet the goals of the Paris Accord on limiting CO2 emissions.

The U.S. is a developed capitalist country with great wealth, an enormous part of it 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. And it 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 \$360 billion over the next three years on additional renewables. 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 development. It had worked out plans that included new coal-fired power plants because 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 pollution to the health of the people, it decided 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 Chinese economy is still state owned and has been ever since the culmination, in 1949, of two decades of revolutionary 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 millionaires 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 bottom line. In countries where the super-rich run and control everything, you get a well-financed campaign of lies by

the polluting corporations to turn public opinion against science and the environmental movement. But not in China.

Part of the plan involves the workers, especially coal miners and steelworkers, whose jobs are shut down. They're not left out to dry. Billions of dollars are being allocated to retrain them and provide an income until they get another job. And with modernizing the infrastructure and greater emphasis on building a service economy, there will be plenty of jobs.

Even the World Bank reports that 500 million Chinese people have worked their way out of poverty since 1981, accounting for three-fourths of the world's global poverty reduction.

It's a damn good thing for the Chinese working class — and all of us — that capitalist rule has not been restored in China. □



WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL

Continued from page 4

livable wage. As one McDonald's worker put it, "Let us run the Labor Department and wages and working conditions will improve in a hurry!"

In downtown **Detroit**, dozens of activists of differing ages and nationalities gathered in front of Chase Bank headquarters on Friday, Jan. 27, to protest the Trump administration's decision to allow construction to continue on the Dakota Access and Keystone pipelines. Both oil pipelines were stopped by the protracted struggle of Indigenous peoples, environmentalists and others. Camps of Indigenous water protectors are still in place in Standing Rock, N.D., where they are determined to stop the DAPL from being built under the Missouri River. Protesters expressed their solidarity with the #noDAPL struggle.

Rush-hour motorists honked their horns in agreement as protesters chanted "No blood for oil! U.S. off Native soil!" and other slogans. Chase is one of the financiers involved in the pipelines and its Detroit office has been the site of many Detroit demonstrations over the years

because of its complicity in the home foreclosure crisis and its interest rate swindles against the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The demonstration was called by Workers World Party and covered on Fox2 News.

A "Water Is Life" walk gathered in downtown **Buffalo, N.Y.**, on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 29, and marched to the waterfront for a rally opposing the construction of oil pipelines, which intrude on Indigenous tribal lands, ignore the sovereignty of Native nations, and put all lands and waters at risk for serious contamination and pollution.

The very large crowd was fired up with outrage at Trump's green light to the KXL and DAPL pipelines. The march was a declaration of solidarity with Indigenous peoples and nations, and a vow of resistance. The protest was co-hosted by Buffalo Solidarity with Standing Rock, Buffalo Supports Standing Rock Water Protectors, Burning Books, Indigenous Women's Initiatives, the Sierra Club and the WNY Peace Center.

Ellie Dorritie and Jeff Sorel contributed to this article.



WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

Philadelphia

Thousands protest Trump and GOP

Continued from page 5

ing on overhead scaffolding were seen with fists raised in support.

Chants included, "Health care for all, no border wall," "No Nazis, no GOP, you're not welcome in Philly" and "Black Lives Matter!"

Police and Homeland Security had erected a strong metal barrier around the Loews Hotel to prevent protesters from getting inside, but demonstrators occupied the streets, effectively shutting down Center City for hours. Outside City Hall, #NoDAPL activists covered the pavement with banners reading "Philly with Standing Rock," "Stop the pipeline" and "Respect Native sovereignty."

Some demonstrators also carried signs denouncing pro-Brexit British Prime Minister Theresa May, who joined Trump in addressing the GOP retreat. The event ended with a march to U.S. Senator Pat Toomey's Philadelphia office to confront him for supporting Trump's agenda, including the dismantling of health care.

Later in the day on Jan. 26, thousands of activists gathered to protest again, this time starting with a rally at Rittenhouse Square. The historic area is surrounded by many high-rise condominiums occupied by some of the city's wealthiest residents.

The rally was initiated by a coalition of groups, including Black Lives Matter PA, Philadelphia Socialists, Jewish Voice for Peace and others. It was followed by a march that snaked its way through Center City for several hours, getting close to the Loews Hotel at one point after

demonstrators went around sanitation trucks parked in the road to block access. A contingent of activists with disabilities joined the march. Several immigrant rights activists in the march then set up a smaller rally just a block from the hotel.

Mayor challenged on lack of 'sanctuary'

While Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney sought to grab the spotlight with claims that "Philadelphia is a sanctuary city," spokespeople for the immigrant rights organization Juntos issued a strong statement explaining that "Philadelphia is NOT and has never been a Sanctuary City" in the true meaning of the term.

It noted that while Philadelphia abides by Fourth amendment requirements that Immigration and Customs Enforcement produce a warrant if they want to hold someone, ICE can and does conduct raids and deportations. Juntos noted that while city officials took initial steps, much more is needed "to declare Philadelphia a sanctuary, not just for immigrants but for Black and Brown folks, poor people, workers, etc. This would have to include an end to low-level policing policies like 'Stop and Frisk' and an end to racial profiling" and more.

From the turnout and street response to the protests, it was clear that Trump's across-the-board attack on workers and oppressed people provides a unique opportunity for people to connect many different struggles. The next step is increased consciousness, from spontaneously resisting issues that personally affect them to class consciousness and an anti-capitalist agenda. □



Bogota, Colombia



San Francisco, Calif.

Millones se unen a las marchas de mujeres ‘Resistencia a Trump’ se vuelve global

Por Monica Moorehead

Considere estos asombrosos números: 750.000 en Los Ángeles; 500.000 en Washington, D.C.; 500.000 en la ciudad de Nueva York; 250.000 en Chicago; 150.000 en San Francisco; 150.000 en Boston; 150.000 en Denver; 100.000 en Oakland; 100.000 en Londres. Estos números representan algunas de las manifestaciones más grandes que tuvieron lugar el 21 de enero (J21), estimuladas por la inauguración del racista, misógino y xenófobo Donald Trump como el 45º presidente de EUA.

Se estima que más de 4 millones de personas, la gran mayoría mujeres, participaron en éstas marchas en más de 500 ciudades de EUA. También protestaron en más de 100 ciudades fuera de EUA - en todos los continentes, incluyendo la Antártida. Estas cifras estimadas fueron compiladas por Jeremy Pressman (@djpressman) en la Universidad de Connecticut y Erica Chenoweth (@ericachenoweth) en la Universidad de Denver, basados en numerosos informes de medios de comunicación, incluyendo Facebook y Twitter.

Desde las masivas protestas mundiales del 15 y 16 de febrero de 2003, justo antes de la guerra contra Irak, tantas personas no habían salido a la calle el mismo día en solidaridad y resistencia, esta vez con los derechos de las mujeres como foco principal. Por la enorme magnitud numérica de estas demostraciones, las marchas del J21 no podían ser ignoradas por los medios de comunicación convencionales o la administración entrante de Trump.

Lo que empezó como un modesto llamado en Facebook a una marcha el 21 de enero contra Trump por una mujer basada en Hawái la noche de las elecciones presidenciales del 8 de noviembre, explotó en un fenómeno trascendental. Los medios sociales se utilizaron una vez más como el catalizador para catapultar a millones de personas a las calles contra - sobre todo - la visión misógina que Trump representa.

Y estas protestas no sólo tuvieron lugar en las grandes y medianas zonas urbanas. Según NBC News, el 21 de enero, en muchas ciudades y pueblos más pequeños, por lo menos el 20 por ciento o más de la población general asistió a las marchas J21. Para poner estos números astronómicos en una perspectiva más amplia, se estima que 160.000 personas asistieron a la inauguración de Trump en Washington, un tercio del número que asistió a J21 en el D. C. (New York Times, 22 de enero)

Quién asistió a J21 y por qué

Mientras que en las marchas más grandes en EUA, las fuerzas del Partido Demócrata, las celebridades de Hollywood, líderes de sindicatos, elementos socialdemócratas y moderados dominaban la tarima, la mayoría de las personas en las calles estaban a la izquierda o estaban abiertas a políticas más radicales. Muchas mujeres recibían positivamente las ideas anticapitalistas y pro-socialistas.

Las mujeres que asistieron eran en su mayoría jóvenes, incluyendo niñas, pero también había mujeres mayores, personas con discapacidades, lesbianas, bisexuales, transexuales y no conformistas. Aunque la composición social era abrumadoramente blanca, había muchas mujeres negras, latinas, asiáticas, musulmanas e indígenas.

Los creativos carteles y banderas exigían justicia reproductiva, especialmente en vista de que la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio fue desmantelada por Trump; En defensa de Black Lives Matter, los derechos de las/os inmigrantes y Planned Parenthood; Por \$15 la hora y un sindicato; Por la vivienda, la educación, el cuidado de los niños y el agua potable; El fin de la guerra y la ocupación; Y muchos llamando a “Dump Trump” (Fuera Trump). Había carteles que decían “Hacer que América piense de nuevo”, un juego de palabras contra el tema de Trump “Hacer América grande de nuevo”,

y una que decía “Lo siento mundo – pero arreglaremos esto”.

Estas marchas ayudaron a empoderar a las mujeres que están justificadamente enojadas y disgustadas por el “pussy grabbing” (declaraciones obscenas y denigrantes hacia la mujer) de Trump, junto con su odio hacia las/os inmigrantes. Para esta escritora, que asistió a la marcha de Nueva York, quedó claro que las mujeres estaban de acuerdo en que cada tema social y económico es un asunto de la mujer y con la necesidad de solidaridad, especialmente con las mujeres más oprimidas y marginadas.

¿Por qué J21 es tan importante?

Queda cada vez más claro que un día de masivas marchas globales no revertirá los ataques globales contra los derechos de las mujeres, arraigados en la austeridad capitalista mundial. En su primer día en el cargo, Trump está avanzando con planes para menoscabar los programas contra la violencia femenina del Departamento de Justicia de EUA.

Si el Congreso lleva a cabo los deseos de Trump, los programas financiados por el gobierno federal, tales como los centros de crisis de violación locales e incluso la Línea Directa Nacional de Violencia Doméstica serán cerrados. Ya ha habido 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 ejército y en el hogar.

Grupos de mujeres están pidiendo a la gente que llame a sus representantes demócratas del Congreso para votar en contra de estos recortes. Pero esto no es suficiente.

El Partido Demócrata ha demostrado ser impotente cuando se trata de luchar contra la extrema derecha del Partido Republicano. Esto se debe a que los partidos Demócrata y Republicano representan los intereses de los grandes negocios, no

los de la clase obrera multinacional y especialmente de las mujeres.

El Partido Demócrata está más interesado en recuperar los asientos perdidos en el Congreso durante las elecciones de mitad de mandato de 2018 y las riendas de la Casa Blanca en 2020. Esperan atraer a sus filas a las millones de mujeres que salieron en J21 para que voten por el PD.

La clase dominante multimillonaria tenía sus esperanzas y sueños en que Hillary Clinton se convirtiera en la siguiente presidente por ser una imperialista inveterada, educada en el uso de la diplomacia para llevar a cabo recortes en el país y guerra en el exterior.

Ahora, EUA corporativo tiene que depender del poco diplomático Trump para llevar a cabo la siguiente ronda de austeridad en EUA que la mayoría del mundo ha estado experimentando desde la crisis bancaria de 2007-08. Esto ha llevado a una crisis irreversible de declive para el capitalismo mundial.

Mientras que la austeridad para la clase trabajadora está en un rumbo de colisión con las promesas de campaña de Trump, que prometía aumentar los empleos en EUA, su nominado para secretario de trabajo refleja las verdaderas intenciones - es descaradamente anti-obrero y pro-austeridad.

No puede ignorarse que las más de 670 marchas J21 en EUA y en todo el mundo demuestran que las mujeres, sin importar dónde vivan, están sufriendo el peso de los ataques políticos y económicos de las fuerzas de la reacción.

La elección de Trump ahora está alimentando las llamas de la lucha. El desafío para las/os revolucionarios en todas partes es unirse para ayudar a guiar a aquellas/os que quieren convertir la lucha en un movimiento mundial para un verdadero cambio revolucionario y sistémico. J21 muestra que las mujeres liderarán el camino de la construcción de un movimiento de este tipo. □

Los jovenes pueden romper la cadena de mando

Por L.T. Pham

La obra de John Catalinotto “Turn the Guns Around” (Voltea el arma) capta un periodo 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 proveer 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

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de varios movimientos. Las personas negras y latinas, inmigrantes, personas LGBTQ, mujeres, personas con discapacidades e incluso las/os prisioneros están fortificando nuestras filas para enfrentar la administración Trump. Y la juventud en particular está encontrando maneras de conectar los temas con una causa común: un sistema capitalista que ya no es capaz de sostenerse, por lo que recurre cada vez más a la policía, las redadas de ICE y las detenciones de migrantes, y a otros “cuerpos de hombres armados” para hacer valer sus intereses.

Para las/os jóvenes como yo, que recurran a la historia para comprender mejor

cómo herir al capitalismo en su núcleo y acercarlo a su muerte, hay valiosos puntos de vista para que todas/os los jóvenes revolucionarios lo consideren.

Desde el principio, el libro nos recuerda que “la vida determina la conciencia”. Las/os revolucionarios debemos comprometernos con el proceso de cambio, debemos estar abiertas/os a la capacidad de la clase obrera para cambiar su conciencia porque es nuestra clase la que está constantemente bajo ataque y forzada a vivir y trabajar en oposición directa a nuestros verdaderos intereses.

Los soldados enviados a Vietnam sólo pudieron romper la propaganda del estado violento al atestiguar por sí mismos hasta qué punto las/os trabajadores, cam-

pesinos y oprimidos estaban dispuestos a defender su lucha por la liberación. Esto, unido a las condiciones de explotación en las que ellos mismos se vieron obligados a luchar, vivir y trabajar, hicieron que los GI (soldados) se alinearan más con su clase -la clase obrera- y no con los políticos y los patronos.

“Voltea las armas” también deja claro precisamente por qué era necesario organizar a los soldados que se resistían a la guerra. Y más aún, por qué era importante que los GI radicales fueran parte de una organización. El Sindicato de Servidores Americanos (ASU por sus siglas en inglés) se formó porque para muchos trabajadores

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