Unite to defend J20 protesters

On Jan. 20, more than 200 people protesting Trump’s inauguration in Washington, D.C., were arrested by heavily militarized cops who sprayed them with chemical agents and then detained them in the cold rain for many hours. They were charged with Felony Riot Act, which carries 10 years and a $25,000 fine. As one arrestee from Industrial Workers of the World in Baltimore told Workers World, “[Prosecutor] Kirkhoff has never prosecuted protesters before. She does a lot of homicide cases. She specifically asked for this case. My lawyer said it would be ‘consistent with her personality’ if she had a political axe to grind.”

Neo-Nazis (also known as all-right) are licking their chops at the prospect of more than 200 front-line fighters spending years in jail instead of in the streets shutting down their rallies. All-right spokesperson and Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos was slated to speak at the University of California, Berkeley Feb. 1, but massive protests caused the university to cancel last minute. There was one arrest. Donald Trump, in response, threatened to pull federal funding from the university.

The next day, legions of cops arrested 31 freedom fighters at New York University. Anti-fascist activists were trying to shut down white supremacist and VICE brand creator Gavin McInnes from speaking. Inside
**Fight racism, ultra-rightism: Build WW**

Racism is the centerpiece of Trump’s ultrarightist administration. And the progressive movement has come out swinging — whether at airports around the country against an illegal ban on peoples from Muslim countries, or at the University of California-Berkeley against a white supremacist. These actions give new meaning to the phrase “anti-fascist” in the modern day and to the importance of Black History Month this year.

Workers World always makes a big deal out of Black History Month, as we commemorate the myriad sacrifices and valiant struggles of African and African American people to delineate institutionalized racism, root and branch, in this country, and the many battles to throw off imperialist chains in African countries. The Workers World staff has earned the right to lead against racism to new heights and demands a united, militant response. And Workers World has responded. Based on our Marxist analysis, we see the need for a general antiracist response. And Workers World has responded. Based on our Marxist analysis, we see the need for a general antiracist response. And Workers World has responded.

But we can’t do that without your help. You can play a vital role, not just in the streets, on the job or by sharing WW with like-minded people, but by helping to build Workers World financially. We need funds to promote the kind of all-out fightback that’s needed to smash the oppressive system of capitalism, which is based on defending the capitalist class, racism, sexism, anti-LGBTIQ bigotry and exploitation.

You can always make a one-time contribution, or you can join the Workers World Supporter Program and build the paper year by year. We established the program 40 years ago in 1977 so readers could help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to make the revolutionary change that crushes capitalism and usurers of liberation

Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free trial subscriptions to the print edition — all for a donation of $75/year. For $200 you also get a new publication or book from World View Forum. For $300 or more a year (only $25 a month), you get your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. We are grateful for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S.

**Mundo Obrero/Workers World** is published every Friday by the Workers World Party of the United States. It is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, a revolutionary socialist organization dedicated to organizing workers to take control of the means of production. We are grateful for your help in building a revolutionary press in the U.S. 

**Who are we & what we’re fighting for**

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and distributed on the basis of need. This is the only way to end racism. The outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ lives standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is dragging the entire planet with an unplanned, profit-driven slowdown 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, degradation people because of their nationalities, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly exploit us 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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Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt;
Web Editor: Gary Wilson
Production & Art Editors: Coordinator Lal Rookh; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash
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Delaware uprising
Prisoners cite abuse & Trump

By Cody Webb
Smyrna, Del.

The Vaughn “Correctional Center” in rural Smyrna, Del., made international news on Feb. 1 when prisoners set in motion an organized rebellion. They took several pris- oners’ employees hostage, after having carried out a long and peaceful struggle in vain to improve inhumane conditions inside the prison.

During negotiations, while the hashtag # VaughnRebu- llation was circulating inside the prison, prisoners were able to get a phone call out to a local media outlet, The News Journal. The pa- per reported that a prisoner said: “We’re trying to explain the horrors of what’s being done here, what the system is doing to attack inmates with write-ups for per- sonal reasons. Inmates have no rights of due process in- side the prison, and the administration always sides with the media about Sgt. Floyd is false.”

The prisoner stated: “I knew Sgt. Floyd for 10 years, he was involved in at least one attempted murder and one murder. He was around long enough to be an expert in a system to attack inmates with write-ups for per- sonal reasons. Inmates have no rights of due process in- side the prison, and the administration always sides with the media about Sgt. Floyd is false.”

A full statement from the Vaughn prisoners will soon be released by Workers World Party.

The Vaughn Rebellion ended the morning of Feb. 2. Within hours, members of Workers World Party, the Bal- timore People’s Power Assembly and former Vaughn pris- oners, as well as family members of current prisoners and local supporters, gathered outside Vaughn to stand in soli- darity with the prisoners.

Demand investigation of inhumane conditions

The protesters demanded an independent investigation, separate from the police and prison administration, of con- ditions inside the prison as well as of the events during the rebellion. A crucial aspect of such an investigation includes members of the community being able to conduct uncen- sored interviews with inmates in order to gather informa- tion with whom the prisoners facing reprisals.

Former prisoners spoke about conditions inside Vaughn. Isaiah McCoy, whose 2012 conviction wasVacationed because of growing frustration and justifi- able, error, said he was beaten, had his food spit in and his letters tampered with while there. James Green, another former inmate, said the rebellion was the only possible outcome given mistreat- ment from correctional officers and the administration’s refusal to investigate the officers’ misconduct.

Shortly after the Vaughn Rebellion, a prisoner inside Vaughn contacted Workers World Party with information about their demands and some words for the general pub- lic. The prisoner emphasized that the narrative given by the media about Sgt. Floyd is false.

The prisoner stated: “I knew Sgt. Floyd for 10 years, he was involved in at least one attempted murder and one murder. He was around long enough to be an expert in a system to attack inmates with write-ups for per- sonal reasons. Inmates have no rights of due process in- side the prison, and the administration always sides with the media about Sgt. Floyd is false.”

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Racist atmosphere in southern Delaware

In addition to heinous misconduct in particular by Sgt. Floyd, reports of racism and torture inside Vaughn are backed up by recent investigations of the Delaware prison system. These include racist remarks from hundreds of lo- cal citizens calling for the lynching and beating of inmates and demonstrators.

Delaware, the second-smallest state, has an incarcer- ation rate 12 percent higher than the already bloated nation- al average. Two-thirds of prisoners in Delaware are Black, and 86.8 percent are incarcerated for nonviolent drug of- fenses. African Americans also make up two-thirds of the 344 percent increase in Delaware’s prison capacity over the last 20 years.

Local right-wing Delawareans showed up at the soli- darity demonstrations, carrying signs like “We demand what happened and how this happened . . . and we will make whatever changes are necessary to en- sure nothing like it ever happens again.”

But these horrible conditions exist in the context of a ra- cist system that is designed to victimize Black, Brown and Latinx people at a far higher rate than that of whites. When asked about the rebellion and the four hostages who were taken, Sharon Black, a leader of Workers World in Baltimore, replied, “Rebellions, as Dr. Martin Luther King said, are the weapon of those who’ve been silenced. What about the 2,500 prisoners who are being held hostage to the worst kind of slavery. If these are the conditions? We must hold Gov. Carney accountable to his statement and make sure he makes the necessary changes to conditions inside Vaughn and slavery will be a thing of the past.”

Workers World Party and the People’s Power Assembly will be working to hold a community hearing in Dover, Del., so that an independent investigation can move forward. Former prisoners, family members and members of the community can present evidence, tell their stories and call for the changes that need to happen inside Vaughn Correctional Center and other prisons across the U.S.

Delaware: a haven for ruling class, racism

By Deirdre Griswold

While the state of Delaware, where a prisoner re- bellion has just been crushed in Smyrna, is not in the Deep South, the southern part of this small state has been a racist hell for generations.

Northern Delaware is industrialized, home to Du- Pont and other chemical corporate giants. As of 2012, more than half of all U.S. publicly traded companies and nearly 18,000 millionaires living in Delaware. The state has more than a million reg- istered corporations — more corporations than peo- ple. All it takes to be incorporated in Delaware is a file. In 2016, there were more than 1,600 small businesses and nearly 18,000 millionaires living in Delaware.

The southern half of this rich state, on the other hand, is mainly agricultural and poor. Workers in the southern half of the state farm far fewer fields, and far- mingly African American. And they have been terribly oppressed since the days of slavery.

The southern half of Delaware, even be- fore the Civil War, was “free” — free to starve, that is. “Black Americans in Delaware: An Overview” by

James E. Newton explains: “The number of slaves in Del- aware decreased rapidly from almost 9,000 in 1790 to 3,700 in 1860. This number, however, had de- creased to 1,798. The usual explanation given is human- itarianism and religious feeling, abolitionist efforts, and runaways. In reality, Delaware farmers found it cheaper to hire free black labor than to keep slaves.

Furthermore, Delaware, the most northern of the slave states, had no great crop of tobacco or cotton to provide work after the ending of all seasons of the year. The land was wearing out, and state law forbade the sale of slaves out of state. Thus, slave owners could not benefit from breeding slaves as in a state like Virginia.”

Deteriorating U.S. prison system

The deteriorating conditions inside the U.S. prison sys- tem are usually given a spotlight in the media only when there is violence involving prison staff, as in this case or the bloody Attica Rebellion, in which both inmates and prisoners were gunned down by state police called in by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in 1971.

Prisoners, former inmates and advocacy groups across the country have been working for years to improve con- ditions inside prisons for both inmates and staff, but have met with silence and reprisals by prison administrations.

Phone calls paid for by family members cost much more than normal long-distance contracts that pro- vide kickbacks to the state prison system or county jails. Commissioners charge as much as double or triple what the same goods cost at public stores — similar to the old “company store” system in which isolated or sharecropper populations were exploited for profit.

A common meal served in prison is Nutraloaf, similar to wet dog food in composition. The work of preparation and serving meals is given to prisoners as punishment, and has been the subject of many lawsuits for violating restrictions on cruel and unusual punishment.

As forced labor, legal under the U.S. Constitution and called the last holdover of slavery, millions of prisoners are made to work for pitiful wages. Substandard medical care meets the legal requirement for negligence. Prisoners must often wait 48 hours to speak to medical staff, even in urgent situations.

Recent years have seen extreme cutbacks of necessary services on the pretext of nebulous “budget constraints” that do not explain why prisons are cutting services that are offered completely free by religious groups, non- profits, community advocacy groups, education charities and organizations such as Mathematic.

Delaware Gov. John Carney released a statement, saying: “This was a long and agonizing situation. Our priority now will be to determine what happened and how this happened . . . and we will make whatever changes are necessary to en- sure nothing like it ever happens again.”

But these horrible conditions exist in the context of a ra- cist system that is designed to victimize Black, Brown and Latinx people at a far higher rate than that of whites. When asked about the rebellion and the four hostages who were taken, Sharon Black, a leader of Workers World in Baltimore, replied, “Rebellions, as Dr. Martin Luther King said, are the weapon of those who’ve been silenced. What about the 2,500 prisoners who are being held hostage to the worst kind of slavery. If these are the conditions? We must hold Gov. Carney accountable to his statement and make sure he makes the necessary changes to conditions inside Vaughn and slavery will be a thing of the past.”

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MARCISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from the world newpaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination: Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery

Saladin Muhammad

This paperback book is $12.

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance

Omar Lowery

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The Struggle for Socialism is Key

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Domestic Workers Demand a Bill of Rights

Pat Chin

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Pat Chin

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior

Mona Mejia

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance

Omar Lowery

Haiti Needs Reparations

Pat Chin

Alabama’s Black Belt

Conselia Lee

Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion

John Parks

Available at major online bookstores.
Lessons of the victorious Harvard dining hall strike

The 750 striking Harvard University Dining Service workers — cooks, dishwashers, servers and cashiers — brought multillion-dollar Harvard University to its knees on Oct. 25, 2016. After a three-week strike, the university bosses caved, giving the members of UNITHE HERE Local 26 even more than they had initially demanded.

Most notably, all 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, a bastion of ultra-rightists.

Workers World contributing editor Martha Grevatt interviewed Chief Steward Ed Childs, a cook and leader in Local 26 for more than 40 years. This is the second in a series of articles based on the interviews where Childs explains how the workers won.

By Ed Childs

Well in advance of the Harvard University Dining Service strike, we knew we would need to build a solidarity coalition to take on the Harvard Corporation. We spent months laying the groundwork. (For Part 1, about strike preparations, go to tinyurl.com/zg0goex)

Once the strike began the coalition was critical. Harvard Medical School students staged two walkouts in support of the striking HUDS workers. The Student Labor Action Movement played a big role; they organized a dinner for us on campus where faculty, administrators, deans, parents and students spoke. Campus environmentalists saw worker health as necessary for a healthy campus environment. The Jewish student group Hillel hosted meetings with us and fed us, and rabbis spoke at our rallies.

Students from the Harvard School of Public Health and the medical school were in the forefront because they took their oath as doctors seriously: to not just treat illness in society but to prevent it. How can we prevent illness and promote good health if workers on our campus cannot afford healthcare? they asked.

The coalition also brought in the custodians whose contract was up, and there were similar issues around health insurance and were themselves threatening to strike. In fact, after the HUDS victory, their union, Service Employees Local 32 BJ, won a good contract that kept health care intact.

Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, the largest union on campus, comprised of 4,500 workers, was poised to join forces with us earlier in the year. When Harvard got wind of the striking HUDS workers it undid the HUCTW and got them to ratify a new contract in May. Although HUCTW has higher fees for various health care plans, racist claims, its new contract management had to cancel plans to impose deductibles to avoid a clerical strike. Clerical workers walked the picket line with us.

Members and leaders from the Graduate Student Association, who were filing for union recognition, joined the strike lines.

Building broad solidarity

We met with Cambridge and Boston city councils, and they both endorsed the HUDS workers’ struggle — the first time before the strike began and the second during the strike.

We knew a striking union has to create activities that promote bonding between workers. We worked with New York UNITHE HERE Local 100. They, along with locals in Atlantic City, Hartford and Philadelphia, sent large delegations to one of our biggest rallies. Local 100 expects to wage similar campus campaigns, and the International union is predicting a number of strikes across the country stemming from the Harvard strike. This kind of struggle raises consciousness and encourages militancy.

The HUDS unit is the largest in Local 26. When you’re building a strike coalition, you have to be sure your union leadership of the local and the International is — part of it. I don’t see a strike surviving without the union’s backing.

The local did not want to strike, but we knew we had no choice. So we voted and called for the strike. Then the union leadership had to go along with us, because they couldn’t let Harvard destroy their union. Losing would have had national repercussions with many contracts coming up. Hotels are becoming very difficult to organize, especially in misnamed “right to work” (for less) states, but universities are wide open.

Our group of workers in the local met often in order to steer the strike in a progressive and militant manner.

The International brought in full-time paid staff and mem- bers from engineers from around the country as a support team to do things like write media releases. At first their organizers tried to undo our structure. It was a struggle to have our leaders stay in leadership — issues arose like who was going to give a speech. While we were fighting when staff tried to disempower the coalition, we worked with them. And we succeeded because we had our structure already established.

In the end the union’s resources were indispensable.

Because we built the coalition the right way, we won!

Now we’re engaged in post-strike activism. We met with Is- landic students and held a joint forum Feb. 4. There we discussed fighting Islamophobia as well as lessons learned on strike and where we go from here. We put both in the context of the fight against Trump and fascism. We won a huge battle, but the struggle continues every day!

Phoebe Eckfeldt, Steve Gilliss, Martha Grevatt, Steve Kirsch- bauer, Milt Neidlinger and Minnie Bruz Pratt contributed to this series of articles.

Solidarity with Yemenis vs. travel ban

Over a thousand people marched to express outrage at the Trump administration’s announcement of a travel ban on Yemenis and seven Muslim-majority coun- tries. In New York and San Francisco, thousands of drivers reached advertised income levels, while actual incomes were on average nearly one-third lower. Uber’s car-financing programs also ended up costing drivers more than advertised, to which they complained. (phx.newsla.org, Jan. 30)

But Uber’s contempt for workers goes far beyond the way it ad- vertises for prospective drivers. The N.Y. Taxi Workers Alliance, most immigrants from Southwest Asia, called a one-hour strike at JFK International Airport on Jan. 28 to protest the detain- ment and deportation of Muslims traveling to the U.S. Rather than extending solidarity, Uber announced lower-than-normal fares for travelers to and from the airport, apparently in an at- tempt to break the strike.

Even before that, Uber CEO Travis Kalanick had joined Trump’s business advisory council, the Manufacturing Policy Forum, to help carry out the racist billionaire’s war on workers and the oppressed. After thousands joined calls to #BoycottUber, however, Kalanick announced Feb. 2 that he would step down from that post. Kalanick gave a bad signal to potential riders not to use racism to promote Uber, or he’ll get mass resistance! (arstechnica.com, Feb. 3)

Workers file 33 complaints against Puzder

Restaurant workers filed 33 complaints on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 against Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s franchises owned by Andy Puzder, CEO of CKE Restaurants Inc. and Trump’s nominee for labor se- cretary. The complaints charged wage theft with state departments of labor under assault. Puzder’s U.S. Employment Opportunity Commission and unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board. (nn.com, Jan. 26)

Millionaire Puzder operates basic worker rights — a living wage, paid sick leave and overtime, safe working conditions and benefits like health care and pensions — for some of the lowest paid U.S. workers, mostly women and people of color. No wonder restaurant worker and activist groups have mobilized nationwide against him. (Workers World, Jan. 19) After coast-to-coast protests on Jan. 12, Fight for $15 organizers held protests on Jan. 26 at quick-service restaurants in 31 cities, from Los Angeles to St. Paul, Minn.

Raleigh, N.C., raises living wage

The Raleigh, N.C., City Council voted Jan. 17 to adopt a univer- sal living wage — a measure will boost pay nearly 15 percent for the lowest-level, full-time city workers. Now all city workers will make at least $13.75 an hour by the next fiscal year. The measure is expected to cost the city an additional $300,000 annually for 213 security guards, mechanics and customer service reps. The measure makes Raleigh the tenth city in North Carolina to adopt a living wage measure. (Raleigh News & Observer, Jan. 17)

D.C. workers battle wage theft and win

Nearly two dozen mostly Latinx construction workers, hired by Genesis, a Washington, D.C., subcontractor, to build three large highrises in a mixed-use development, were owed tens of thousands of dollars in back wages. While work proved last fall, workers started receiving partial payments, but checks bounced; eventually, Genesis stopped paying wages entirely. So the workers quit and demanded payment, but Genesis stone- walled and general contractor Manganaro Midatlantic refused to accept responsibility for the stolen wages.

The workers turned to Trabajadores Unidos de Washington, D.C. The local advocacy group was able to use the District of Columbia’s 2014 Wage Theft Prevention Act — which both contractors and subcontractors liable. According to Arturo Griffiths, TWU/DWC executive director, the twenty-three Genesis workers were each owed more than $46,000 in back pay. Manganaro fired them on Nov. 10, two weeks after the first complaint. “This case is an important lesson for all DC workers,” says Griffiths. “[It shows] how important it is for ... workers to understand the new law”. And why all cities not only need laws to stop rampant wage theft, but also workers’ organizations and unions to enforce them. (dclabor.org, Jan. 25)

Uber: lies about driver earnings, attempts to break strike

Uber Technologies agreed Jan. 19 to pay out $20 million to settle claims that the online ride-sharing platform lied about how much drivers could earn. Uber offers on-demand taxi service at rates that match traditional cab companies by dumping the extra costs on its “independent contractor” drivers.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Uber’s adver- tisements promised drivers unrealistic earnings in 19 cities and the District of Columbia. In New York, Pennsylvania and a dozen other states, drivers reached advertised income levels, while actual incomes were on average nearly one-third lower. Uber’s car-financing programs also ended up costing drivers more than advertised, to which they complained. (phx.newsla.org, Jan. 30)

By Matty Stardust and Sue Davis

On the picket line

By Matty Stardust and Sue Davis

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Workers World Newsletter

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 PART 2

Workers.org
Solidarity grows for union fight at Nissan

By Martha Grevatt

After twelve years of a drive to organize workers at the Nissan plant in Canton, Miss., the company is still being accused of intimidating and firing union supporters.

Nissan opened the vehicle assembly plant in 2003. Within two years, the United Auto Workers began to organize the 5,000 workers, 80 percent African-American. These workers were already fed up with everything from racist abuse to life-threatening unsafe working conditions. They know only by having a union can they force the company to create a safe work environment.

Paint technician Morris Mock, on the UAW’s Volunteer Organizing Committee, told Workers World: “Workers are steadily getting injured. Nissan is continuing to ignore health and safety conditions inside the plant.”

Workers blame the injuries on a lack of basic safety equipment and the breakneck pace of the assembly line. They charge Nissan with forcing injured workers to return to work before they have recovered. Workers must decide whether to follow Nissan’s orders or the workers’ orders. Doing the latter has aggravated the workers’ original injuries or caused re-injury.

Last Sept. 22, workers and clergy held a candlelight vigil on the one-year anniversary of the on-the-job death of 37-year-old Derrick Whiting, who collapsed while working. Workers considered the company’s effort to save him inadequate. Many at the vigil wore shirts with Whiting’s picture and the message, “Derrick Whitting’s life matters.”

Another issue fueling worker anger is the widespread abuse of “temporary” workers. Hired by Kelly Service, the Kelly workers expected to eventually become permanent Nissan employees. Now about half the plant workforce, they make as little as $12 an hour, with no benefits, for the same backbreaking work as Nissan workers.

Workers not alone

While the workers are fighting an uphill battle, they are not alone. Several years ago, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees organized a nationwide campaign calling on all the banks that are funding the racist apartheid regime of South Africa to divest from the Stand- ing Rock, N.D., project.

Photo and caption by Joe Piette

Deception in capitalist democracy: Police accountability

By Dave Welsh

Jan. 25 was the first time I’d ever attended a Police Review Commission meeting in Berkeley, a California university town across the bay from San Francisco. I went with nine other community members to a special table at the North Berkeley Olym-pics. In July, the UAW blasted Renault-Nissan for refusing to meet with French parliamentarian Christian Huitin. The company maintains its hard-line, anti-union stance, having refused offers of mediation from the federal govern- ment. But out workers who give up at MAFFAN has called a “March on Mississippi” to “End Voter Suppression” — meaning Nissan’s intimidation of workers who would otherwise vote for the UAW. As Mock said: “We are steadfast and we are in it to win it. A movement like this will change how the South treats workers’ rights and cheap labor.”

Unions organize workers. The movement Mock envisions is crucial to union success. Unions have long neglected organizing Southern workers. Southern workers are extremely important. Nearly all the auto plants are in the South. None have been unionized.

The lack of a strategy to organize the South has had dire consequences for workers. To challenge the power of these plants, the UAW has to illustrate the need for unionization.

The city’s participation in the Urban Areas Security Initiative, aimed at containing and controlling the encampments, forced people out of their tents into the cold, rainy winter, causing several recent deaths from exposure.

• The city’s participation in the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center and its domestic spying operation, coordinated nationally by the FBI and used locally to spy on Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

Philadelphia activists: ‘Divest from Standing Rock!’

Protesters picked on Feb. 3 at Philadelphia’s main office of Wells Fargo Bank, which has over $400 million invested in the Dakota Access Pipeline. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees organized a nationwide campaign calling on all the banks that are funding the racist apartheid regime of South Africa to divest from the Standing Rock, N.D., project immediately.

This tent city at Old City Hall, set up by First They Came for the Homeless in late 2015, was one of many demolished by the Berkeley Police Department.

The city’s participation in the Urban Areas Security Initiative, initiated at a time when they were fighting to free South Africa from settler colonialism.

Govan Mbeki, an ANC and South African Communist Party militant, served on the Transkei Council. Mbeki himself famously likened it to “a toy telephone — you can say what you like, but your words have no effect because the wires are not connected to any exchange.” Similarly, toothless Bantustan “parliaments” set up by the settler regime were referred to contemptuously by ANC activists as “toy telephones,” showing the appearance but not the reality of participation in governance.

Nowadays, Berkeley has a proliferation of “commissions” designed to allow community input and advise the city council on various policy matters. Sometimes the commissions can play a useful role, and the people will rightfully make use of them to push for needed changes. Still and all, if Govan Mbeki were around today, I bet he’d put our Police Review Commission squarely in the “toy telephone” category.

Continued on page 9
Across the U.S. — ‘NO TO BIGOTRY’

By Gloria Rubac
Houston, Texas

Activists and football fans transformed Houston leading up to the Super Bowl. After the city and Harris County doled out undisclosed millions to get ready for hundreds of thousands of sports tourists, activists also prepared. They held planning meetings, banner-making parties, anti-Trump interviews with media and demonstrations at the nine-day ‘Super Bowl Live’ festival.

Houston is truly a city of immigrants. Our local workforce is made up of 1 million residents, 27.5% of whom were not born here. In the U.S. Harris County welcomes about 30 of every 1,000 refugees resettled by the United Nations anywhere in the world — more than its population of 4.5 million is the largest the city has ever seen. If Houston were a country, it would rank fourth in the world for refugee resettlement, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Trump’s anti-immigrant imprints and racist rhetoric are not popular here. On Jan. 29 and 30, thousands rejected his anti-Muslim travel ban at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport. At one point, crowds became so large that police closed the terminal. Demonstrators arriving late gathered outside for another protest.

On Feb. 4, the community rallied at a main business intersection. Houston Stands With Standing Rock protesters held signs and drivers blew horns, expressing unity. The most repeated chant was “Hey hey! Ho ho! Donald Trump has got to go!” Now the question is “Who’s next?”

Contributors to this article included Devin Cole, Josh Link, Joe Piette, Jeff Sorel, Gloria Rubac, and Workers World publishers Mary in Rockford, Ill., Milwaukee and Virginia.

Milwaukee, Wis.

By Gloria Verdieu

Super Bowl activism against racism

By Gloria Rubac
Houston, Texas

Across the U.S. — ‘NO TO BIGOTRY’

Continued from page 1

the-ground involvement to push protest demands and street actions into a movement that can challenge the whole rotten capitalist system.

In the South

Three hundred people converged at the Pensacola, Fla., International Airport on Jan. 20 against President Trump’s neo-fascist ban on immigration, despite the temporary halt the ban. Chair of “Refugees are welcome here!” and “No Trump! No KKK! No Fascist USA!” could be heard in every part of the airport as people of all ages and races gathered against fascism, racism and xenophobia.

One reporter asked, “Why is it still important you protest even though no refugees are being detained here?” This can best be answered with the Leninist rallying cry: “Workers and oppressed peoples and nations of the world, unite!” For there to be global liberation, international solidarity among workers must be considered and practiced. Solidarity is the path to world socialism and to stopping U.S. imperialism, colonialism and racism in other countries, as well as in this country.

In Milwaukee, a groundswell of revolutionaries, organizers and activists shut down Canal Street, one of the city’s busiest streets. The protest of working people shut down the city’s busiest streets. The protest of activists shut down Canal Street, one of the city’s busiest streets. The protest of activists shut down the city’s busiest streets.

The expected mass turnout, especially among young people, was not united. Neo-fascist, anti-LGBTQ, racist organizations were present.

In Virginia, protests from large urban metropolitan centers to rural communities have rejected Trump’s Islamophobia and his attacks on poor and working people.

A “No Ban, No Wall” demonstration was held Feb. 5, in Lynchburg, the site of Liberty University, home of Liberty Evangelical Falwell Jr., has been asked by Trump to lead a federal task force to “reform” higher education. Organizer Nick Castanes noted, “When the people are united, neither politicians nor big money can defeat us!” If it can happen in Lynchburg, this can happen in cities like Philadelphia.

In Roanoke, on Jan. 30, over 100 attended a lunchtime solidarity rally with refugees, immigrants and the undocumented. An all-day “Refugees Are Welcome Here” solidarity protest took place on Feb. 1 at the Roanoke-Blacksburgh Regional Airport. Additional protests rallied Feb. 2 at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke and at Washington and Lee University in Lexington.

All speakers stressed the need to build popular movements against the reactionaries and to unify this economically hard-hit region against the Trump administration’s racist agenda. The diverse crowd applauded speakers from Black Lives Matter-Gary, Assemblea Popular Nacion-Al, and Communist Solidarity—Solidarity with the Struggle for Self-Determination, and other local organizations. Workers World Party USA sent a delegation from Chicago, which met with organizers after the rally to plan future actions.

At the John Glenn International Airport on Jan. 29 in Columbus, Ohio, between 600 and 1,000 multinational participants marched a quarter mile to the airport terminal and staged a sit-in. The militant protest lasted three hours and targeted the Trump administration’s recent immigrant ban and proposed “wall.”

In Milwaukee on Jan. 31 there was a student-led protest called Alto a la separación de familias! End the separation of families!

On Feb. 2, the Milwaukee Coalition Against Trump rallied as “Milwaukee Trumps Hate” at the county courthouse. Demands included stop separating families, end the Muslim ban now, sanctuary city now, no more deportations, and indict and convict Sheriff Clarke.

The gathering was also a victory celebration of the coalition’s organizing against a Trump appearance scheduled for Feb. 2 at the Harley-Davidson manufacturing plant in Menominee Falls. The expected mass turnout, especially of poor and working people, resulted in Trump cancelling his speech.

Over 1,000 people showed up Feb. 4 at a #NoBanNoWall picket at the office of Paul Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, in Janesville, Wis. Participants traveled from across Wisconsin and northern Illinois to build solidarity and show that the racist, anti-immigrant policies by the Trump administration can be stopped by the people.

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison rallied on Jan. 31 against growing right-wing U.S. extremism. They specifically targeted the founding of a local chapter of the American Freedom Party. The AIP, like all “alt-right” groups, is little more than a fascist gang. In 2005, the founder of the UW branch, Daniel Droppik, admitted in a court of law that he had burned historically Black churches in Milwaukee and Lansing, Mich.

The campus-based Student Coalition for Progress convened the demonstration, which included a number of community organizations. A chant, “Shut down the root causes of the ‘refugee crisis’ — the bloody imperialist wars both U.S. capitalist parties have waged in the Middle East and Asia,” was repeated by organizers who were representing, including Students for Justice in Palestine, International Socialist Organization and Industrial Workers of the World. A Wisconsin Bail Out the People organizer and three supporters attended the event.

Speakers rejected Chancellor Rebecca Blank’s call to conduct criminal background checks on prospective students. All speakers stressed the need to build popular movements against the reactionary state. Only a working-class movement, with leadership from representatives of oppressed nations, can put an end to the fascist groundswell.

In the West

In San Diego, Calif., over 2,500 people came to Terminal 2 at the city airport on Jan. 29 to protest “No ban! No wall!” Local residents were there who originated from all over the globe: Africa, the Caribbean, the Near and Middle East, Asia, Europe and all across the Americas. On this second day of protest, the crowd had swelled to about 1,000 the day before.

There was drumming, chanting and marching back and forth across the airport entrance. Cars circled while spectators held signs and drivers blew horns, expressing unity. The most repeated chant was “No hate! No fear! Refugees and immigrants welcome!” Another crowd favorite was “Hey hey! Ho ho! Donald Trump has got to go!” Now the question is “Who’s next?”

Contributors to this article included Devin Cole, Josh Link, Joe Piette, Jeff Sorel, Gloria Verdieu, and Workers World publishers Mary in Rockford, Ill., Milwaukee and Virginia.

For more on Wisconsin protests, go to facebook.com/MilwaukeeCoalitionAgainstTrump, wibailoutpeople.org and facebook.com/wibailoutpeople.
The surge in the popular movement against Trump poses both a danger and an opportunity. The danger is that it will be channeled into a harmless path of reliance on the Democratic Party and the capitalist class. The opportunity is for the revolutionary movement to reach out to millions of people, especially youth, and offer them an independent working-class path to struggle.

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MLK's legacy
Class character of the freedom struggle

White backlash and opposition to the Vietnam War

SCLC moved into Chicago in 1966 to test its evolving program centered around jobs, housing and income. A year later, the organization publicly opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam, which Dr. King saw as an enemy of African-American and poor people.

In Chicago, white working-class and middle-class people, backed by Mayor Richard Daley's administration, resisted the Freedom Movement’s demands. Dr. King merely rejected the call for drastic action to eliminate slums, housing discrimination and poverty there.

A four-day rebellion, which erupted on July 12, was blamed on SCLC’s work, despite the organization’s commitment to nonviolent methods of struggle. Although the Chicago Freedom Movement won only limited results for the city’s people, it portended much for future developments.

An audience of 2,700 people met Dr. King at Grosse Pointe High School.

Seven months before Dr. King’s visit to Grosse Pointe, an affluent Detroit suburb, the city had exploded in a five-day rebellion, starting July 23, 1967, and led by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. He was to examine the debate over “open housing” for African Americans amid an unprecedented wave of urban rebellions across the country.

Jan. 30 — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sought to articulate a deeper program for the movement against national oppression and economic injustice from 1967 until his death in 1968.

Three weeks prior to his assassination, on March 14, 1968, Dr. King, co-founder and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, gave a talk titled “The Other America” at the invitation of the Grosse Pointe Human Relations Council. He was to examine the debate over “open housing” for African Americans amid an unprecedented wave of urban rebellions across the country.

The “Other America” is the nation’s poorest people — millions of African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, Native Americans and poor whites. They repeatedly interrupted his speech. Dr. King explained that they would never discourage him from linking the Civil Rights and anti-war movements together.

Dr. King identified the African-American struggle as having a class character due to the economic exploitation of the people, which he addressed: “We find in the other America, unemployment [at] astronomical proportions and Black people … living in a literal degradation.” Official 8.8 percent Black unemployment rates omit those “who have had so many doors closed in their faces that they feel defeated,” and stop looking for jobs, feeling “that life is a long and desolate corridor with no exit signs”, he said Black unemployment is 16 or 17 percent, reaching 40 to 45 percent for youth.

Underemployment leaves millions poverty-stricken despite working daily at such low wages they cannot function in U.S. economic life, explained Dr. King. A vast majority are “dispossessed and landless men, left on the island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity,” causing much anguish. “We have seen the angrier expressions of this despair arise in the violent rebellions” across our country.

(Read “The Other America” at tinyurl.com/yct7ypma.)

Towards a unified front opposing racism and fascism

During the Labor Day weekend in 1967, Dr. King spoke at the National Conference for New Politics held in Chicago. Thousands attended the event, which sought to draft Dr. Benjamin Spock, renowned Vietnam war opponent, as a 1968 presidential candidate with Dr. King as his running mate.

The NCNP sought to build a broad-based alliance purportedly independent of the Democratic Party, which would oppose the Vietnam War. However, other issues hampered the smooth operation of such a united front strategy.

Paralleling the NCNP was the Black Congress, also held in Chicago, which demanded that African-American liberation be placed on the NCNP agenda, and that nationally oppressed conference delegates be granted veto power over all resolutions and platforms.

Elements of the Black Congress program were manifested in the NCNP Black Caucus’ demands. These issues included taking a principled stand against Zionism; support for armed struggle in the liberation of Southern Africa; and recognition of African-Americans as the vanguard of the people’s movement in the U.S. There were grave concerns that appeals to adopt this agenda were conveniently left off the NCNP agenda.

James Forman, then Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee international affairs director, addressed the NCNP Black Caucus on Sept. 2, 1967:

“We Want Freedom” Mumia Abu-Jamal on Black Panther Party

By John Steffin

This past fall marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party. To celebrate the occasion, Common Notions, a publishing house in Brooklyn, N.Y., republished Mumia Abu-Jamal’s acclaimed history of this revolutionary organization. At a time when white supremacy is emboldened and capitalism is in crisis, “We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party” is a more timely read than ever.

In writing the book, one of Mumia’s goals was to fill in the gaps in the existing literature on the party. Much had been written about the party leadership, but what of the rank-and-file Panther? There is more than the life of a party; there are great speeches and mass uprisings, but the everyday struggles that sustain a party that has often lost. Mumia centers on these struggles, rooted in his own experience as a rank-and-file Panther in the Philadelphia chapter.

Mumia also brings to light the struggle of women against sexism in the party and the party’s progressive efforts to overcome sexism in its ranks. Women held key positions at every level of the party, and Mumia traces the experiences of several Panther women, from relatively more privileged members like Barbara Cox to Naima Major, one of the thousands of Panther women engaged in revolutionary organizing and study.

One of the most radical claims in “We Want Freedom” is about the relationship of the party to the legacy of Black liberation. In the words of Kathleen Cleaver, who wrote the book’s introduction, Mumia’s scholarship roots the BPP in a “discovered history.” He links the BPP to the long tradition of Black self-defense that is often erased from the defanged histories of Black struggle written by the ruling class and its lackey.

To push back against these revisions, we must arm ourselves with the proper history. “We Want Freedom” is just that, and it offers today’s militants a lot to work with as we continue the struggle. While the state, through the FBI’s COINTELPRO operation, may have systematically undermined the party, it did not have the last say.

The book can be purchased at the Common Notions website, commnotations.org. A 50 percent discount is offered to all prisoners.
Thousands protest massacre in Ukraine

By G. Dunkel

A white supremacist named Alexandre Bissonnette walked into the Grand Mosque in Quebec City, Canada, on Jan. 29, and killed six worshippers. Two were French-Canadians, a Syrian, a Pakistani, a Somali and a Nigerian. The last was a woman from Yemen. Three had come from Algeria, and the other two were from Somalia. All had been praying. These were the first murders in Quebec City in the past 21 months.

Bissonnette was a high-powered rifle, for which he received training from gun clubs in the Quebec City area, and a pistol. According to video on VTA, a Canadian news service, the rifle had enough power to propel bullets through walls in the mosque.

The names of the victims are brothers Mamadou Tanou Barry and Ibrahim Barry, Abdelkrim Hassane, Khaled Belkacemi, Aboubaker Thabti and Azziadeen Soddine. Although all were Canadian citizens, two were from Algeria, two from Guinea in West Africa, one from Morocco and one from Yemen. Basically, in all, they had 17 children, most of them young. (TYA, Jan. 31)

Most of the victims had professional or skilled jobs, which goes along with Quebecc’s deliberate attraction of educated immigrants who are French-speaking, from other parts of Africa and the Americas.

Fox News and the alt-right media immediately reported that it was two Muslims shouting “Allahu Akbar” that carried out the massacre. This report was picked up thousands of times and was trending as a top story. Fox News didn’t retract its false story until the office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called them.

Once the fact that the massacre had been committed by a white French Canadian was revealed, imbued with the racism of a white supremacist, the leader of France’s soft fascist National Front, U.S. media coverage of this massacre plummeted.

Biased news didn’t stop solidarity

But in Canada, one night after the massacre, thousands of people, many from the tight-knit Guinean community in Quebec City, filled the square in front of the mosque in bitterly cold weather — for a memorial vigil and demonstration. The prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau; the premier of Quebec, Philippe Couillard; and the mayor of Quebec City, Régis Labeaume, spoke after some prayers were offered by Muslim religious leaders of the city.

There weren’t a lot of signs, but the ones on the video clips from La Presse (Jan. 31) read: “Unity and Solidarity against hate” and “We are all Quebecers.” It was a solemn march. La Presse quoted a teacher from the University of Quebec at Rimouski (UQAR) that the words of Donald Trump had called out a monster.

Smallerg vignettes took place in the regions of Quebec to the east of Quebec City, on both sides of the Saint Lawrence River: Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie, Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Côte-Nord (North Coast). The North Coast has significant First Nation (Indigenous) communities. Both Rimouski, a city of 50,000 on the Gaspé Peninsula, and Sept-Îles, a terminus of a First Nation-owned nickel mine, have mosques.

UQAR is trying to figure out how to protect some 350 students who are Muslims. There has been quite a sharp, vigorous campaign mounted against “trash radio” (“radio poubelle”), which spews racism, sexism, xenophobia and Islamophobia and has called for the assassination to be pardoned.

The Obama administration condemned Russia’s reintegration of Crimea, imposed sanctions and worked for a significant change in the U.S. posture towards Ukraine that could lead to a de-escalation of the war.

In February 2014, a U.S-backed and U.S.-funded movement called Euro-maidan, led by neo-Nazis and right-wing Ukrainian nationalists, toppled the elected government of Ukraine. In its place, this movement installed an open dictatorship of oligarchs, neo-Nazis and politicians oriented to the U.S. and the European Union.

This Kiev junta declared war on the primarily Russian-speaking and working-class population of the country’s southeast. This led to uprisings in many cities and the unleashing of the so-called “anti-terrorist operation” by the oligarch regime which repressed the Russian Federation by referendum — and Donetsk and Lugansk. People in the Donbass mining region declared independence for Donetsk and Lugansk “people’s republics.”

The Obama administration condemned Russia’s reintegration of Crimea, imposing sanctions and using the same pretext to put the NATO military alliance on a provocative war footing in eastern Europe.

Armed and funded by the West, the Kiev regime declared war on Donetsk and Lugansk. Fighting raged for almost a year. Popular anti-fascist militias de-escalated Ukrainian forces in early 2015. The “Minsk II agreement” was then brokered by Russia, Germany and France. However, the Kiev junta and its Western backers dragged out negotiations while constantly violating the ceasefire agreement.

The United Nations reports that nearly 10,000 people, including more than 900 children, have died as a result of Ukraine’s war. Casualties span entire cities, villages were hit during the week. Targets included mosques, churches, schools, markets, hospitals, residens, Donetsk Deputy Commander Basurin the war crisis.

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Continued from page 1

the safety of a building, Melnitz was captured on film crying while making the report to the cops. A Workers World Party cadre cleared the crowd was a unified front against fasci- 

cism. It was good to see young commu- 

nists and anarchists working together. For the first time in the Workers World America Great Again' hat from a huri- 

otic white male who decided to walk through our crowd. We worked together to take his hat and start that Picer on 

fire, using communist flyers and an an- 

archist's lighter.

The right will know its best cham- 

pion is the state. Killer cops who gun down thousands each year and lock 

up millions of Black and Brown people take no issue with the neo-fascists or neo-Nazis. Go to a Klan rally to see for yourself who the cops are protecting and serving. After the murder of Alton Sterling the greatest weapon. Black Lives Matter activists were hunted through the streets of Baton Rouge, La., tackled and beaten by cops. The streets of D.C. on Jan. 20 were mainly bereft of right- 

wing paramilitaries, such as Bikers for Trump, because they knew, rightly so, that the state was now in the hands of out and proud neo-Nazis. The cops were the real fascist paramilitaries.

Many whites, finding themselves for the first time on the other side of a police 

baton, chanted at cops during airport shutdowns against the Muslim Ban be- 

ginning Jan. 4. ‘Take your fork off our meat!’ Don’t see no riot here!’ This is an error- 

one chant that could be misunderstood as separating the new masses in the struggle from the old — neo-Nazis in Stoning 

Rock and in Ferguson, Mo. It is right to 

resist, and whether they realize it or not 

they are standing against the same state as the Black Lives Matter move- 

ment and the Water Protectors.

Now the state wants to bring heavy charges against the demonstrators. Diffe- 

rent collectives and affinity groups have 

started raising money, and the strategy seems to be using busy public defenders. 

Since defendants come from all over the 

country, it’s difficult to get everyone in the same room for a meeting, much less 

agree to on a unified legal strategy. The fear is that while some white defendants 

might be able to secure decent legal rep- 

resentation, those who are poor or of 

color may not be able to do that. What 

an absolute tragedy it would be to have 

the state was now in the hands of 

other white community members threatened by 

ancestors to defend their members and 

other community members threatened by 

the Nazis, the KKK and their ilk.

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U.S. ports welcome Cuban delegation
By Cheryl LaBash
The Florida governor's tweeted threats to cut funding for Florida ports that do business with Cuba couldn't stop the warm embrace of a thousand well-wishers—tatives nor the first Cuban exports to the U.S. on Jan. 24.
A Jan. 27 Tampa Bay Times editorial responded that “Gov. Rick Scott under-mines the ports he promoted,” although he “calls himself the jobs governor.” According to a Florida International University report, 1.3 million shipping containers a year will also allow Mariel to serve as a trans-shipment hub for the region.

By Anne Pruden
New York
Demanding “This place is sanctuary!” three students were lead organizers of the Jan. 30 occupation at the New School. One of their many chants was “From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have to go!” With 100 other students and supportive faculty, a “mic check” was called. Sage demanded that New School President David Van Zandt declare the college a sanctuary for undocumented students, and that the school offer these students legal and financial aid. She asserted that “Trump’s executive orders are not the final word! No human is illegal!”

A Palestinian student spoke of her family’s persecution and the denial of their rights. Other speakers mentioned the increased attacks on students since Trump’s inauguration. A speaker affirmed that students are refusing the reg-istration of immigrants “by any means necessary!”

At the rally, “Don’t drink the Kool-Aid! We don’t want your wall!”

Student occupation says ‘all walls must go!’

By Berta Joubert-Ceci
On Jan. 1, 1994, the heroic Indigenous rebels of Chiapas under Zapataista (EZLN) leadership launched a war against the U.S., which was later being forced into the NAFTA trade pact. Now, in 2017, a larger part of the peoples of Mexico is engaged in various resistance struggles. Many of these struggles are the result of a reaction to that nefarious “free-trade” agreement that turned Mexico into a slave territory of the monopolistically predomi-nantly U.S. capital. Having lost its eco-nomic sovereignty, Mexico is at the mercy of Wall Street and, consequently, the cri-sis of big capital, led by the U.S.

The resulting economic and social de-teriorization has provoked on one hand, misery and social reproduction of the “giant of the north,” but on the other, mass indignation and a strong drive for popular struggle. From the struggle of the teachers and the miners, the fight demanding justice for the Ayotzinapa 43, to the recent and widespread protests ex-tending through the country against the imposition of a 20 percent increase in the price of gasoline — “call the gas-olína,” the people have been demonstrat-ing in millions.

As comrade Teresa Gutiérrez wrote in her article, “Warning to Trump: Bash Mexico, I will advisable,” in the Feb.-Workers World/Mundo Obrero, Mexico is ripe for revolutionary change. The Mexican government could be toppled at any moment were it not for the billions of dollars the U.S. sends under the guise of fighting drugs.

It is in this historical context that on the weekend of Jan. 27-29, the Second National Ordinary Congress of the New Central of Workers (the NCT) of Mexico was held. In the introduction, José Humberto Montes de Oca Lana, coordinator of the Executive Structure and exterior sec-retary of the Mexican Electricians Union (SME), said: “With the presence of nu-merous international guests from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, the United States, Nicaragua, Australia and Switzerland, as well as about 300 delegates from more than 50 organizations from 20 states of the [Mexican] Republic, our Second Con-gress has just completed.

Prior to the congress, the document, “About the Current Situation,” was sent out widely for analysis and political dis-cussion. After an analysis of the capitalist crisis, the text explained the national situation, ending with the “Tactics of the NCT in the Crucial Juncture of 2017.”

Some of the resolutions included in the communique illustrate the essence of this new labor central. These include the following statement: “Against Donald Trump’s anti-Mexican, racist, anti-immigrant, misogynist and retrograde policy, based on his protectionist and neo-Nazification of the United States, the NCT and its allies demand:”

• Strongly reject the gasoline price hike imposed by the government of Enrique Peña Nieto and pledge to support the popular protests — proposing that on Feb. 5, popular assemblies be held in all public squares to organize a great National Day of Struggle, a National Day of Protein, on Feb. 16 ...

• Express solidarity with all the main struggles and demands that the 43 students of Ayotzinapa reappear alive ...

• Launch a campaign for individuals and direct membership for unorganized workers — who are willing to form trade-unions or struggle committees to join the New Central ...

• Will also carry out a campaign for the organization of working youth.

• Support the struggles of Mexican immi-grants in the United States, with whom we will seek a binational coordination, to jointly fight against the massive deportations that Donald Trump intends to carry out.

• Call for a women’s strike on March 8, International Working Women’s Day, organizing a great mobilization against femicide and for women’s rights.

The resolutions also include solidarity with the struggles of Latin American peoples against neoliberalism and the Trump offensive. The communique concludes, “The NCT is beginning a new stage in its construction of the social, po-itical and economic emancipation of the working class of Mexico and the world.”

How did the NCT come about? In 2011, during a national trade union conference, the SME presented a paper titled, “For a new center of workers of the countryside and the city.” After deliberations, the proposal emerged for the construction of an inclusive, democratic and class-conscious central that would unite the diverse sectors of the working class.

The program’s proposal has been based on an in-depth analysis of the situation in Mexico, not only since NAFTA, but historically since the revolution of 1910-1917, within the international context and the advances of capitalism towards more predatory forms. The complete program can be read at nuevacentral.org.mx.

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The NCT describes itself as an autono-mous, democratic, anti-imperialist, inde-pendent and anti-capitalist central with emphasis on solidarity. It is made up of 60 organizations, among which are two trade union federations of the National Cooperative Alliance, a national cooperative alliance, with about 200 cooperatives.

Montes de Oca told Workers World – Mundo Obrero: “The congress was successful in that it was able to bring to-gether 50 trade union and popular orga-nizations from 22 states of the republic. Above all, its political definition will al-low us to launch a program of construc-tion that will include the organization of non-organized workers, highlighting the fundamental role of women and young people in this process.”

New Central of Mexican Workers takes the offensive
By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Ten governors have visited Cuba since the re-establishment of U.S.-Cuba diplo-matic relations, including those of Louisi-siana and Virginia, whose ports are on the itinerary of the National Port Adminis-tration of Cuba.

More than 15 percent of the 4.8 million ton-metric tons of food and humanitarian supplies sold to the Republic of Cuba since 2010 shipped from Florida ports. Crowley Maritime ships to Cuba three times a month from the Ft. Lauderdale port. (Miamiherald.com, Jan. 26)

On Jan. 24, the first Cuban export to the U.S. was received at Port Ev-erglades, two containers of artisanal hardwood charcoal made from marabu [a dense, woody weed] by Cuban cooperatives. Cuban marabu charcoal has long been exported to Europe. U.S. re-tailers will sell it under the Fogo Charcoal brand.

U.S. longshore and port workers have a long history of internationalism and collaboration with Cuban longshore and port workers. In 1972, the AFL-CIO’s Port and Warehouse Union delegation from the West Coast traveled to Cuba, defying the U.S. ban on the revolutionary process then unfolding.

The International Longshoremen’s As-sociation represents port workers on the East and Gulf Coasts. Royce Adams, former vice president of ILA Local 1291 in Philadelphia said: “Trade with Cuba is the cornerstone of normalization. Genuine, non-restrictive, non-embargo relations with Cuba—under the leadership of the ILA Executive and our friends, the International Longshoremen’s Association in Cuba—will end the illegal, illegitimate blockade of Cuba imposed by the government of Enrique Peña Nieto and the Trump administration, saying, “Virginia enjoys a uniquely competitive advantage that will continue as long as she can maintain her key international market ties to Cuba.”

Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced Virginia’s continued support of Cuba’s $1 billion port project, saying, “Cuba’s $1 billion port project will make Mariel the largest port in the Caribbean, Mariel the largest port in the Caribbean, and will also allow Mariel to serve as a trans-shipment hub for the region.”

According to CBS12.com, “Cuban maritime workers will create job opportu-nities for their families and communities.”

Mayor Thomas Masters (second from right) gives the Cuban government the key to the city of Riviera Beach, Fla., Jan. 27.

By Anne Pruden
New York
Demanding “This place is sanctuary!” three students were lead organizers of the Jan. 30 occupation at the New School. One of their many chants was “From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have to go!” With 100 other students and supportive faculty, a “mic check” was called. Sage demanded that New School President Virginia enjoys a uniquely competitive advantage that will continue as long as she can maintain her key international market ties to Cuba.”

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Mayor Thomas Masters (second from right) gives the Cuban government the key to the city of Riviera Beach, Fla., Jan. 27.
Protests in airports establish a new level of solidarity

By Fred Goldstein

30 de enero — La ola de protestas en los aeropuertos contra la prohibición musulmana de Trump representa una nueva marca en la solidaridad con las/os musulmanas en Estados Unidos. Estas manifestaciones pueden ser vistos como la feroz islamofobia alimentada durante años y medio por Donald Trump, junto con su discriminación contra México y muchos otros temas reaccionarios.

De hecho, la islamofobia ha reemplazado el antisemitismo en el siglo XXI como la principal estrategia divisa, racista, y de dictar y vender para for- mentar la guerra, la intervención y la vigilancia policial. Ahora los islamó- mos están siendo rechazados.

Desde el 11 de septiembre del 2001 y los bombardeos del World Trade Cen- tro, las/os musulmanas y aquellos en el movimiento que les apoyan contra el prejuicio de la clase dominante y la per- secución, los estados se han transformado en defensas. Las actividades solidarias han sido relativamente pequeñas y han permanecido en las sombras.

Al parecer, Donald Trump, Susan Ban- non, el General Michael Flynn y com- pañía, ahora apelaban en la Casa Blanca, no han encontrado una prohibición por 90 días contra las/os musulmanas de los países que ha designado el Presidente. Trump y su círculo reaccionario, que se mueve rapi- damente en una dirección autoritaria, provocaron un movimiento masivo que ha marchado en el país en contra de la prohibición.

100 manifestaciones en 42 estados

Hasta la fecha, se han llevado a cabo o se planean 100 manifestaciones en 42 estados. Decenas de miles de personas han ido a los aeropuertos para protestar. (Goround.com/airportprotest)

Las redes de televisión han cubier- to los más grandes y prominentes en Nueva York, Nueva York, Austin, Fort Worth, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta y así sucesivamente. El movimiento ha sido lo suficientemente poderoso como para obligar a los tribunales federales a reconsiderrar esas limitaciones. Los aviones musulmanos están saliendo de los aeropuertos y el EI. Washington ha bombardeado 11 países islamicos en los últimos 24 años. Los terroristas musulmanos han muerto por guerra y por terrorismo. (Politico, 5 de diciembre 2016)