Cops executed Mario Woods

Autopsy finds 20 bullets

By Terri Kay
San Francisco, Calif.

According to an autopsy report released Feb. 11 by San Francisco Chief Medical Examiner Michael Hunter, the five San Francisco police officers who killed Mario Woods put a total of 20 bullets into his body, many from behind, and one additional “probable gunshot graze wound” to his right cheek. (San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 11) Investigators found at least 27 bullet shell casings at the scene. The firing-squad-style execution on Dec. 2 was captured by three eyewitness videos.

Hunter found Woods’ cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds to his head, back, abdomen, buttocks, legs and hands. Woods also had four clear bruises from his right cheek. (San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 11) In a playback of the same video proved the first shot was fired before Woods’ arm was extended. (Feb. 11)

John Burris, the family lawyer, described the third video coverage in a press conference on Dec. 11: “Mario’s arms were at his sides. He was not committing a dangerous act. He was not threatening police officers at the time. He was walking slowly. It was the police officer that created confrontation when he jumped in front of him.” (S.F. Chronicle, Dec. 12)

SFPD Chief Greg Suhr tried to claim the usual “police were in fear of their lives” at a town hall called two days after the shooting. Displaying an enlarged frame from one of the videos showing Woods with his arms extended, Suhr claimed it showed that Woods was pointing a small kitchen knife at the officers. The slow motion playback of the same video proved the first shot was fired before Woods’ arm was extended.

On Jan. 21, even San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, hailing to the ongoing community anger over Woods’ killing, was forced to call for a federal investigation into Woods’ death and SFPD practices.

In a response to a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Woods’ family, San Francisco Deputy City Attorney Sean Connolly has claimed that the SFPD acted lawfully in killing Woods. According to the Feb. 12 Chronicle, city attorneys claimed police officers “used not use the least intrusive force of form when dealing with an armed suspect who poses a threat to the public or police officers. Police officers need not wait until they or a member of the public are assaulted before using lethal force.”

I am a Black woman, who, like you, was born in Alabama at the dawn of the modern day Civil Rights Movement. My parents supported the Montgomery Bus Boycott. I, like millions of others, suffered through the indignities of Jim Crow, including watching, as an adolescent, my mother being “escorted” out of a white-only public bathroom by the police.

So I understand firsthand and respect your bravery and your contribution to the Black freedom struggle.

I know that half a century ago, you were nearly beaten to death when state troopers and Klansmen attacked the march from Selma to Montgomery.

Back then, you faced the reality of racist violence and the possibility of your own death on a daily basis. Back then, you were in the vanguard of the Civil Rights revolution. Nobody can ever take that away from you.

With all due respect, however, you did the other day during the announcement of the Black Congressional Caucus Political Action Committee’s support for the candidacy of Hillary Clinton was counterrevolutionary.

The problem isn’t that you didn’t see Bernie Sanders or the 1963 March on Washington or during the freedom rides. The problem is that you are not seeing the millions of young people, especially young Black people and other people of color, who are using the Sanders campaign to send a message to the capitalist political establishment.

They are using the Sanders campaign to say they are tired of waiting for justice. They are using the Sanders campaign to say they are sick and tired of young people of color being murdered for the crime of walking, talking, or driving while Black.

They are saying they are tired of the police war on Black America, and they are tired of mass incarceration. They are saying they are not willing to support establishment politicians merely because some of us have known them.

They are saying they don’t want to be told to stay in their place, to be patient, to be realistic and support the status quo. They are saying they want more than the false promises of incremental change; they demand radical, revolutionary change and they want it NOW.

Bernie Sanders refers to himself as a socialist (that’s good because it has people talking about socialism). Actually he’s more of a New Deal liberal.

I’m a real socialist, a revolutionary socialist with a capital S. I believe that the Democratic Party is a political prison for the workers and oppressed, because, just like the Republican Party, it is controlled by and serves the interests of capitalism.

Frankly, Sanders is not great on racism. He’s said that he opposes reparations for Black people to compensate for the crimes against them dating back to slavery. It’s taken considerable pressure to get Sanders to take the struggle against racism seriously. And he still has a long way to go.

Continued on page 6
By Vivian Weinstein and the Workers World Milwaukee Bureau

Hundreds took to the streets Feb. 11 in Milwaukee to confront the Democratic Party debate between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton held at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee’s Zelazo Center.

Despite dozens of police and other repressive state agents’ harassment, protests with signs and banners from the Fight For $15 movement marched to demand a living wage. Activists from Youth Empowered in the Struggle demanded an end to raids and deportations of migrants that have the U.S. government target Latin America and the Caribbean. Students for a Democratic Society and other campus organizations demanded a future without crushing debt, expressed support for campus workers and called for resources to benefit students of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and women students in general; and workers.

Retirees and other workers, including many Teamsters and members of the Wisconsin Committee to Protect Pensions, demanded a secure retirement and an end to the theft of their hard earned retirement funds. Black Lives Matter activists demanded an end to police terror and justice for Dontre Hamilton, who was killed by a Milwaukee police officer in 2014, and all those killed and brutalized by the police.

Other organizations such as the Latin American Solidarity Committee, the Milwaukee Antiracist Committee, the Milwaukee Palestine Solidarity Coalition, the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement and Workers World Party demanded an end to imperialist wars and money for the people, not the Pentagon and the banks. Anti-war activists reminded protesters that the UW-Milwaukee library is named after the late Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir, who led the apartheid settler state to steal Palestinian land and butcher its original occupant the poor, who do not produce the carbon that the imperialists do. The candidates must be forced to face these issues. Wars and the U.S. military are enormous users of oil, hence they are producers of carbon. U.S. wars are bad for the Earth, and the cost impoverishes our cities and towns.

Two days later, on Feb. 13, hundreds protested at a Democratic fundraiser in Denver attended by presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. The demonstrators demanded an end to fracking and for development of renewable energy.

The young protesters understand the connections — which not a single candidate has addressed — between trade deals and environmental imperialism — the disproportionate misery of the poor, who do not produce the carbon that the imperialists do. The candidates must be forced to face these issues. Wars and the U.S. military are enormous users of oil, hence they are producers of carbon. U.S. wars are bad for the Earth, and the cost impoverishes our cities and towns.

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 is the Workers World Party. Join us!

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So. Florida students: ‘Dump Trump’

By Jared Austin
Tampa, Fla.

Students for a Democratic Society Tampa hosted a “Dump Trump” rally on Feb. 12 in front of the University of South Florida Sun Dome, where Donald Trump was given permission to host a glad- rags rally promoting his racist political message.

Hundreds of USF students organized en masse to let Trump know his racist, misogynistic and anti-LGBTQ message was not welcome on the USF campus. They were joined by hundreds of supporters at the dome and Sun Dome and chanted organized such as “Dump Trump!” “Heyy! Ho! Ho! Donald Trump has got to go!” and “No more war! No more hate! Donald Trump get out of our state!”
The Students for a Democratic Society of Tampa Bay, the Committee to Stop FBI repression, the Students for a Democratic Society of Tampa Bay, and the Students for a Democratic Society of Tampa Bay were also given by groups, including Tampa Bay SDS, the Committee to Stop FBI repression, the Teamsters union and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. Activist and Tampa Bay SDS mem- ber Taina Pantoja, who spoke at the rally, explained why students support Donald Trump and other racist politi- cians’ capitalist agenda; we need to stand up against white supremacy and defend affirmative action and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression followed this sentiment, stating that “the rally was important to countering right-wing populism on our campus, which seeks to undermine progressive and popular demands. I attended this rally because, like anyone else, I did not want USF complicity in promoting and propagating hate and violence against oppressed peoples to go unchallenged.”

Tampa Bay SDS extended the anti-rac- istic message of the protest to all racist politicians, not just Donald Trump. This included former Florida Sen. C.W. Bill Young, whom the campus ROTC build- ing is named after. Young was an active member of the Johns Committee, which actively persecuted homosexual students across Florida in the 1960s, including at USF, and targeted Civil Rights activists and other “subversives” who might be sympathetic to communism.

Tampa SDS activist Jack Ling spoke about this point directly: “While we protest the monstrous queer-phobia of Trump and his supporters, let us also recognize that atrocities were committed against LGBTQ+ students and faculty on this campus that we will never be able to correct so long as a building, which university officials have regarded as the core of the university moving forward, enshrines a legacy of hatred and violence against queers on campus.” The group is currently leading a campaign to change the name of the ROTC building.

A message to young people voting for Bernie Sanders

By L.T. Pham

In 2008, we saw an increase in the mainstream political participation of young people, housing and communities. Bernie Sanders was an enthusiastic candidate out of the state of Illinois with a platform promising pro- gressive change. In the past eight years of President Obama’s administration, we have seen young people become yet again disillusioned by two-party politics and a government that continually represses and oppresses any grassroots efforts to change the conditions of workers and the oppressed.

If we are up against another bourgeoisie election dominated by the two big capitalist political parties. For the Republicans, one candidate is more re- actionary and racist than the next, and openly so. The Iowa caucuses gave the United States insight on who may win in this political circus.

With Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clin- ton vying for the Democratic Party candi- dacy, many people — particularly young people — are excited about the prospect of electing a “socialist” into office. In Iowa, where 30,000 youth voters cau- sued for Sanders and Clinton, 84 per- cent of those under age 18 cauused for Sanders. Recently, in New Hampshire, Sanders won again, with 60 percent of all voters and, according to exit polls, more than 83 percent of the youth.

The desperate state of young people

With a campaign slogan of “A Future to Believe In,” it’s understandable why so many young people are canvassing, advocating and voting for Sanders. What is important to consider is how the youth vote for Sanders is more of a reflection on the desperate state of young people, rath- er than an endorsement of real changes Sanders can deliver at this stage of permanent capital- ist crisis.

From Black Lives Matter to the fight for a living wage, from immigrants’ rights to the struggle for a Free Palestine, young people are under attack. There are no jobs and the jobs that are available are often insecure and do not provide the homes and the ones that are affordable are are now under threat of eviction and communities are being increasingly neglected by government housing agencies.

The idea of an affordable higher education belongs to decades past, as young people are now used to taking on massive student loan debt in order to access the academy. Youth of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth; and working-class youth in gen- eral are facing heightened levels of po- litical repression and are being killed by cops and vigilantes.

So the demands young people are making are in many ways very sim- ple. We want jobs, an education, housing and communities that can be can be safe and free from fear and in- timidation.

A global youth struggle

While some of Sanders’ promis- es seem appealing, we must think about what the impact of his capital- istic populist agenda means not just for youth here in the U.S. but also for young people all around the world. We should be clear that Sanders is com- tained to the same corporate-funded Democratic Party as Hillary Clinton, even if he is not officially a member. Of the two Democratic candidates, Sanders has shown more success in attracting young people.

Sanders knows how to speak to the urgent issues impacting youth when it comes to the economy and higher edu- cation, but his take on foreign economic and social policy is almost identical to that of any candidate running for presi- dent of the two capitalist parties.

Similarly, his hesitancy to speak di- rectly and boldly about the role racism plays in preventing young people from obtaining jobs, housing and education exposes the real nature of his campaign. His program is not about socialism — where the wealth created by the workers and the oppressed are in our own hands, where we decide how our communities will share and distribute resources. And it definitely is not about a kind of social- ism that recognizes the necessity of dis- tributing wealth and resources to the U.S. and in solidarity with communi- ties all across the world who experience the harm of U.S. imperialism.

Now is the time more than ever to ex- press our solidarity with young people globally who will be negatively impacted by the continued violence of the U.S. em- pire. We can do this best by understand- ing how our struggles are interconnected and how the U.S. plays a significant role in preventing us from building a global youth struggle that relies on people pow- er instead of capitalist politicians.

Why we’re building toward a real socialist revolution

It is clear that young people are look- ing for leaders who are bold, who have experience fighting for change and who have the vision to create a world where all people can thrive. Yet, we cannot continue to believe that the promises of capitalist politicians will be delivered without continued damage on the lives of workers and oppressed people.

Sanders says openly he does not want an end to capitalism, the system that relies on dividing workers through op- pression. Sanders calls for reforms that provide temporary Band-Aids that still leave gaping wounds in other parts of the world.

We need to build a real socialist rev- olution that prioritizes the real needs and the self-determination of oppressed communities. The only way that this is possible is by organizing together — as youth, as workers and as oppressed peo- ple. A socialist revolution does not rely on the fake democratic process that is currently propagandized to us as the only option. We cannot vote our way out of the dangers of capitalism, we can only fight.

Workers World Party is running an election campaign because we want to ex- pose the bourgeois elections and the cap- italist system that they are wedded to, a system in crisis, under which young peo- ple are forced to believe we have no better options than the least of many evils. Our candidates, Monica Moorehead for presi- dent and Lamont Lilly for vice president, represent a 13-point program that seeks to address the most urgent demands of our communities while also offering a vi- sion for a socialist society.

Workers World Party’s candidates want reparations, an end to the murders of transgender women of color, an imme- diate stop to the deportations and raids, and U.S. troops out of Asia, Latin Amer- ica, Africa and the Middle East. We want to build a working-class struggle here in the U.S. and in solidarity with communi- ties all across the world who experience the harm of U.S. imperialism.

The world we are fighting for

For Youth, workers and oppressed peo- ple deserve a world where our needs are met; where access to jobs, education and housing is unquestionable; where we do not live in fear of police and state repres- sion because we are Black and Brown, LGBTQ+ homeless, with disabilities or poor; where we are not displaced from our homes because of gentrification or war; where we have control over our communities, our labor and our wealth; where the dangers of capitalism do not exist and in capitalism’s place, a kind of socialism that is revolutionary, radical and worth struggling for.

We are fighting for a world worth liv- ing in.

The writer is an LGBTQ youth orga- nizer of Vietnamese descent in North Carolina.
Pacific trade pact protested in 25 U.S. cities

By Dante Strobino and Martha Grevatt

Worker and community organizations in more than 25 U.S. cities held a day of action on Feb. 4 to protest the Trans Pacific Partnership signed by the U.S. and 11 other Pacific Rim economies. Like the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994, the TPP is expected to increase the profits of big businesses and banks while eradicating workers’ jobs all over the country and the world, driving smaller businesses and small farmers into bankruptcy. Many call the TPP “NAFTA on steroids.”

Most of the TPP language is not trade-specific, but it creates a supra-national structure that allows corporations to sue countries if national laws interfere with corporate profit making. If the TPP becomes law in all 12 countries, there could be a loss of jobs, a drop in workers’ incomes, and threats to laws protecting the rights of labor, the environment, food and drug safety, and other areas.

For example, since NAFTA was passed North Carolina has lost more than 138,000 jobs because of “free trade” deals, including many textile and other manufacturing jobs. A new NAFTA-style trade deal will result in even more job loss.

All 12 countries signed the pact in New Zealand on Feb. 3, but it must still be ratified by each country’s legislative or parliamentary body. This could take months in the U.S.; opponents of the TPP are trying to build public pressure to “flush the TPP.”

In Durham, N.C., on Feb. 3, a broad coalition of labor unions, environmental and community groups, including Food & Water Watch, Communications Workers union, North Carolina AFL-CIO, Black Workers for Justice, A. Philip Randolph Institute and United Electrical Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, held a press conference outside Rep. G.K. Butterfield’s office opposing the TPP and highlighting how prior trade deals have harmed the people of North Carolina.

In 2012, the UE filed a complaint, un- der the TPP’s secret investor-state arbitrations, about the ban on public sector collective bargaining rights in North Carolina. The National Administrative Office of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation found the public employees’ basic human and labor rights were violated. Yet the state Legislature, the Obama administration and the Department of Labor refused to act on these findings.

In Detroit, demonstrations from Auto- worker Caravan, Moratorium Now! Coali- tion, Detroit Light Brigade and other groups demonstrated downtown.

In Chicago, TPP protesters joined forces with Chicago Teachers Union members gearing up for a strike. In other cities people demonstrated outside con- gressional representatives’ offices.

Besides the protests in the U.S., demonstrators also went on strike in New Zealand, Peru and Chile.

These movements were of critical impor- tance in the development of Black Power and the right of oppressed nations to self-determination. More recently, the struggle of the Boston School Bus Drivers should instill in revolutionary sociali- sts the determination that there should never be a wall between class struggle unionism and the struggle for self-determi- nation of oppressed nations. There is no contradiction between supporting in- dependent movements for liberation and self-determination, and the unity of the working-class movement.

The struggle of the Appalachian Work- ers Alliance in West Virginia against a “right-to-work” anti-union law being proposed by the West Virginia Senate is an example of how revolutionary sociali- sts can fight by intervening in the labor movement from the “bottom up.” (See the article on West Virginia in the Workers World, Feb. 3.)

This is also true whether it involves rank-and-file UAW support for auto work- ers in Colombia against General Motors, or visits by North American trade union- ists, be they rank and file or leaders, to Cuba to see how labor unions operate un- der socialism, or the struggle for $15 an hour. Let’s get involved with the central labor councils, when and where we can, to unite the movement against capitalism and special oppression with the workers’ movement.

Durham anti-TPP demonstration.

Durham anti-TPP demonstration.

Durham anti-TPP demonstration.
Evidence against state mounts in Flint water scandal

By Martha Grevatt

On Oct. 17, 2014, Susan Bobin of the state Department of Health and Human Services wrote that Liane Shekter-Smith, chief of the state Department of Environmental Quality’s Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, was told by Birnbaum, ‘‘There have been numerous complaints about the Flint water, that the Governor’s Office had been involved and that any announcement by public health about the quality of the water would certainly inflame the situation.’’ That same month, after General Motors found an alternate water source because Flint water was corroding parts at its engine plant, DEQ district engineer Michael Fydrich wrote, ‘‘I stressed the importance of not branding Flint’s water as ‘corrosive’ from a public health standpoint simply because it does not meet a manufacturing facility’s limit for production.’’ (Detroit News, Feb. 12)

From April 2014, when Flint disconnected from Detroit’s water system, to October 2015, when Gov. Snyder ordered Flint to go back to Detroit water, there were calls to get his findings on the water. The DEQ insisted Flint water met federal standards and was safe to drink and wash with. (abc12.com, Feb. 12)

S.F. union: ‘Labour action needed for Flint’

The following resolution was passed unanimously at the January membership meeting of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10, based in San Francisco.

For Labor Action to Stop Flint’s Poisoned Water Crisis and Hold Michigan’s Governor Accountable

Whereas, the drinking water in Flint, Mich., has been poisoned with lead since 2014, when the city sprayed with lead, losing 72,000 out of 80,000 jobs. Since 1975, GM has closed over 170 plants, the majority of them in Michigan and 24 of them specifically in Flint’s Genesee County. The selective closings by a company with a history of racism have devastated majority-Black Michigan cities like Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw and Flint. GM is implicated in the environmental racism that has left 100,000 people without safe drinking water. Signs called on GM to pay reparations to the people of Flint.

GM is also responsible for polluting the Flint River with its toxic waste over the past century. The lead poisoning in Flint came about when the city, when Flint switched its drinking water, which was highly corrosive, from the river and then failed to add anti-corrosive phosphates. This corroded the pipes, allowing lead to leach into the water supply. The demonstration was announced Feb. 3 after GM reported its earnings for 2015: an all-time record high of $9.7 billion after paying taxes and interest. A leaflet pointed out GM’s Warren discretion for public safety, going back to the 1920s when GM’s major shareholder, Du Pont, developed lead-based gasoline to make the GM’s engines run smoothly — and knocked out competition from Ford. More recent- ly, when GM realized the Flint River water was corroding other parts, the company arranged for an alternate water source but did not voice concern about the probable danger that the same water posed to public health.

While Detroiters were protesting GM, dozens were demonstrating outside Gov. Rick Snyder’s swank new condo in Ann Arbor. Mich. Others were demonstrating at the state Capitol in Lansing. University of Michigan students held a march even after Gov. Snyder issued an order saying Snyder was so cowed over fear of protests. ‘‘Flint Lives Matter’’ is becoming a rallying cry in the struggle for justice for Flint’s people.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the whistleblowing pediatrician who exposed Flint lead poisoning, was called before a congressional committee. ‘‘They killed my babies,’’ said Nakiya Wakes. ‘‘They killed my babies.’’

The public has obtained access to 24,000 pages of emails and other communications, released under the Freedom of Information Act, between federal, state and Genesee County agencies. These records form part of a mountain of evidence against the state, whose officials repeatedly ignored Flint residents’ complaints about medical problems and water quality. Potentially life-saving information, not only about lead in the water but of a deadly Legionnaires’ disease outbreak, was deliberately suppressed.

Feb. 14 — Rick Snyder ran for Michigan governor in 2010 on the slogan ‘‘one tough nerd.’’ With no political experience, the Republican candidate, former federal and local Gateway Computer CEO used his $90 million to outspend his opponent. Now, mass protests are calling for his arrest. Neither his nerdy toughness nor his personal fortune is over Flint’s poor city. Parents, now dealing with their children’s learning and behavioral disabilities caused by lead, plan meals around how much water they can get on hand; a short supply means no soup or pasta. They weigh the cost of bathing in bottled water against the health consequences of using tap water. Families of the deceased are suing the DEQ, and beginning in Flint is suffering unendurably. ‘‘Flint Lives Matter’’ is becoming a rallying cry in the struggle for justice for Flint’s people.
Cops execute Mario Woods

Continued from page 1
Community keeps up unrelenting struggle

Just the day before, on Feb. 10, Chief Suhr had brought out a revised proposal to equip some officers with Tasers stun guns. Tasers are proposed as nonlethal weapons. Many are enraged by the killing of Mario Woods to justify reintroducing the proposal, which had previously been defeated by community campaigns.

He shined not just as a leader, but as an organizer, working for freedom for political prisoners.

His quiet, reassuring manner attract- ed younger activists, who came to admire and respect Sadiq, for how he invited them into the Movement — and taught them about struggle before their time.

Sundiala Sadiq was, despite being a warrior for freedom, a truly gentle man. He talked to people with respect and dignity; he listened to them and — they could feel it.

MOVES' Pam Africa always spoke high- ly of him, and when she said, "That's a good brother," you could feel it, for he was.

When I met him a few years ago, it seemed like we knew each other for years. He was kind, gentle, determined — and he loved his people.

He was a Freedom Fighter, who will be sorely missed by his partner, Debra Jamarion, by his family, by his comrades, and by his people.

Sundiala Sadiq — born July 1, 1955 — returned to his ancestors, the 29th of January, 2016.

Peace, good brother.

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

An open letter:
"Standing on the wrong side of history"

Continued from page 1
But within the narrow confines of the Democratic Party, next to Hillary Clin- ton, who personifies the political estab-

ishment, Sanders looks radical.

Sure, Clinton has felt the pressure to give more lip service to fighting racism, sexism, and LGBTQ oppression. But Clinton's real campaign message was young, you were on the receiving end of many lectures about the need to give more lip service to fighting racism, sexism, and LGBTQ oppression. But Clinton's real campaign message was..."
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Hunger masses demand Martelly leave, set new elections

By G. Dunkel

In the first week of February, tens of thousands of Haitians, both in Port-au-Prince and in other parts of the country, took to the streets in opposition to President Michel Martelly, who was not allowing them to extend his hold on power by a single day past Feb. 7. February 7 was the 50th anniversary of the Haitian people’s uprising of the dictatorial regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier. In response, the people drove away the gangsters, who retreated alone in the cab — which is the private sector’s concept of security in the network: “Many countries in the region have turned to the European Union for technical assistance in privatizing rail systems from government-owned enterprises as a negative factor leading to increasing public awareness that the coup had led to serious attacks on Haiti’s trade unions, deterioration in living conditions, and a wave of killings, jailings and persecution directed at those associated with the popular movement.”

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With attack on Libya planned

U.S.-NATO flag waves over Europe

By Greg Butterfield

Feb. 14 — In 2015, over one million refugees entered Europe, the greatest human flow of desperate people since World War II. So far in the first six weeks of 2016, 80,000 people fleeing their homelands have entered Europe, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

At an emergency meeting on Feb. 9, the European Union authorized sending a flotilla the next day to the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey. The NATO flotilla is under German command, with a Turkish ship operating in Turkish waters and a Canadian ship, as well as a U.S. one near the Turkish coast. According to U.S.-NATO warships, calling them “non-white invaders.”

While they prepare for the NATO Summit, set in Warsaw in July, Poland plans to establish a joint brigade of 4,000 soldiers along with Lithuania and Ukraine (which are already in NATO), trained by U.S. forces.

In Estonia the government announced on Feb. 9 by Manlio Dinucci, the military analyst for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, the military analyst for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, U.S. “plans to substantially increase their military presence in Europe, by increasing funds for an amount that they spend on military presence in Europe, so they can fund more troops in the Eastern part of the Alliance, so they can finance the transportation, tanks, armored vehicles and other kinds of heavy equipment. And also more exercises and more investments in infrastructure.” In this way, according to Stoltenberg, “EU-NATO cooperation is reinforced.” [nato.int, Feb. 3]

But it had a very different purpose. Immediately after the end of the Cold War in 1992, Washington emphasized in a “white paper” on military strategy, the fundamental importance to preserve the Cold War in 1992, Washington emphasized in a “white paper” on military strategy, that fighting and turmoil in Syria have compelled many people to leave for Europe, and they describe the desperation and dangers the refugees face. Some 3,062 refugees died in 2015 trying to reach Europe.

These same media avoid explaining what is behind the fighting in Syria and the turmoil in the region: First, U.S.-NATO aggression against Libya destabilized all of North Africa and then U.S.-NATO plans to demolish the Syrian state, using, as they did in Libya in 2011, groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, armed and trained by the CIA, funded by Saudi Arabia, supported by other imperialist powers, the main exporters of petro-dollar oil that is, ground forces — has come from the United States, in the February 2014 coup in Kiev, where at least 10,000 people have been killed.

President Petro Poroshenko. Ukrainian and the same forces that destroyed Libya are now preparing to invade Libya to help with the flag of the EU lowered. Indeed, as U.S.-NATO wars, calling them “non-white invaders.”

Painting with big brush, the Pentagon warned “borders of the Middle East” (as defined by U.S.-NATO warships) and “the eastern front, breaking growing Russia-EU economic ties that the U.S. and its European allies want to use NATO warships to stop the flow at Europe’s external borders.

Real cause of refugee crisis

The European and U.S. media admit that the fighting and turmoil in Syria have compelled many people to leave for Europe, and they describe the desperation and dangers the refugees face. Some 3,062 refugees died in 2015 trying to reach Europe.

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With no Zika virus, U.S. falls behind in health

By Sara Flounders

With much attention being paid to the recent birth of more than 4,000 babies with microcephaly — abnormally small heads — in Brazil, an underdeveloped country with a history of political oppression, social injustice and questionable medical care and technology, it is time to also turn a spotlight on infant mortality, maternal deaths and longevity in the United States, one of the most developed and wealthiest countries in the world, but one with a large number of very poor people and an unhealthy environment.

As reports of microcephaly became international news, the New York Times, the Washington Post and other news sources included the term “Zika” in their stories. According to the American Academy of Neurology, an estimated 25,000 newborns with microcephaly were diagnosed in Brazil in 2016, and it has been the most brutal case of class oppression and exploitation these people and their families have experienced.

Michigan legislature reinforces anti-LGBTQ bigotry

By Martha Grevett

Logan was an American husky bashed when someone doused him with acid. The dog died a few months later. Logan’s Law is a package of four bills in the Michigan legislature that would make it a felony to water any dog in public or any animal that is not a farm animal. The bill seeks to make it a felony to water any dog or any animal that is not a farm animal. It would also make it a felony to water any dog or any animal that is not a farm animal.

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Message from Leonard Peltier, unjustly imprisoned for 40 years

Continua de página 12

Continua desde la página 9

Feb. 6 – Greetings friends, supporters and all Native Peoples.

What can I say that I have not said before? I guess I can start by saying, “See you later,” to all of those who have passed in the last year. We Natives don’t like to mention their names. We believe that if we speak their names it disrupts their journey. They may lose their way and their spirits wander forever. If too many call out to them, they will try to come back. But their spirits know we are thinking about them, so I will say is safe journey and I hope to see you soon.

On February 6, I will have been imprisoned for 40 years! I’m 71 years old and still in a maximum security penitentiary. At my age, I’m not sure I have much time left.

I have earned about 4.5 years good time that no one seems to want to recognize. It doesn’t count, I guess? And when I was indicted the average time served on a life sentence before being given parole was seven years. So that means I’ve served nearly six life sentences and I should have been released on parole a very long time ago. Then there’s mandatory release after serving 30 years. I’m 10 years past that. The government isn’t supposed to change the laws to keep you in prison – except if you’re Leonard Peltier, it seems.

Now, I’m told I’ll be kept at USP Coleman I until 2017, when they’ll decide if I can go to a medium security facility – or NOT. But, check this out: I have been classified as a medium security prisoner now for at least 15 years, and Bureau of Prisons regulations say elders shall be kept in a less dangerous facility/environment.

But NOT if you’re Leonard Peltier, I guess. As you’ll remember, the history of my bid for clemency is long. My first app was with Jimmy Carter. He denied it. Ronald Reagan promised President Mikhail Gorbatchev that he would release me if the Soviet Union released a prisoner, but Reagan reneged. George HW. Bush did nothing. The next app was with Bill Clinton. He left office without taking action even though the pardon attorney did an 11-month investigation (it usually takes nine months) and we were told she had recommended clemency. George W. Bush denied that petition in 2009. And in all of the applications for clemency, the FBI has interfered with an executive order. That’s illegal as hell!

Today, I’m facing another dilemma – an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). It’s the size of an AAA battery. The doctor told me if it bursts, I can bleed to death. It’s also close to my spine and I could end up paralyzed. The good news is that it’s treatable and the operation has a 96-98 percent success rate. BUT I’m in a max security prison. We don’t get sent for treatment until it is terminal.

As President [Barack] Obama completes the final year of his term, I hope that he will continue to fight to fulfill his promises and further the progress his administration has made towards working in partnership with First Peoples. It gives me hope that this president has worked hard to affirm the trust relationship with the Tribal Nations. With YOUR encouragement, I believe Obama will have the courage and conviction to commit my sentence and send me home to my people.

Looking back on the 40 years of efforts on my behalf, I am overwhelmed and humbled. I would like to say thank you to all the supporters who have believed in me over the years. Some of you have been supporters since the beginning. You made sure I had books to read and commissary funds to buy what I may need to be as comfortable as one can be in this place.

You made donations to the defense committee so we could continue fighting for my freedom, too. And worked hard — are still working hard — to spread the word about what is now being called the most flagrant conviction in U.S. history. There are good-hearted people in this world, and you’re among them. I’m sorry I cannot keep up with answering all of your letters. But thanks for the love you have shown me. Without it, I could never have made it this long. I’m sure of it.

I believe that my incarceration, the commodification of my image and the government misconduct in prosecuting my case are issues far more important than just my personal freedom. I feel that each of you who have fought for my freedom have been a part of the greater struggle of Native Peoples — for treaty rights, self-determination, sovereignty and very survival. If I should be called home, please don’t give up on our struggle.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse... Doha Leonard Peltier

Film exposes neo-Nazis in Ukraine

Continued from page 9

The war against Donbass continues today, and the threat of a wider outbreak of war hangs over the heads of Donbass residents, who voted for independence in a popular referendum in May 2014. Today this is being heated up once more. On Feb. 5, First Head of the Donetsk People’s Republic Alexander Zakharichenko stated, “The number of attacks [by Ukrainian forces] has increased tenfold. … Judging by what is going on, Ukraine is preparing a full-scale provocation. We are waiting. We are ready.” (DONI News)

Odessa communist leader repudiates fascists

Regular readers of Workers World will recognize the name of Alexey Albu, the Borotba coordinator exiled from his hometown after the Maidan uprising. Albu currently lives in the Lugansk People’s Republic where he helps to coordinate the economic development and social welfare programs of the Ghost Brigade. He was interviewed in “Masks of the Revolution” about the Odesa massacre, and has come under vicious attack from Kiev’s propagandists seeking to discredit the documentary.

Albu issued a statement: “All my life I’ve been a supporter of leftist and progressive ideas, based on non-discrimination against people on the grounds of nationality, race and sexual, cultural or ideological grounds.

“Paul Moreira managed to accurately convey the atmosphere of fear and powerlessness prevailing today in Ukraine. … The film shows the truth that the Ukrainian authorities try so carefully to hide.”

Though these same charges were made and publicly refuted in Ukrainian- and international-language media, the non-release of Moreira’s documentary, today they’re being uncritically published by Western media attempting to undermine that impact.

Read Albu’s complete statement at RedStarOverDonbass.blogspot.com.

With no Zika virus, U.S. fails behind in health

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life expectancy and decreased premature deaths overall, women in almost half the counties in the U.S. were dying five years earlier than their mothers did.

This falling behind the rest of the developed world in infant mortality, in the percentage of children born with severe birth defects, in maternal mortality and in life expectancy is especially alarming because it has been happening under what are considered normal conditions. But lurking behind all these studies is the growing awareness that the U.S. is unprepared to deal with new or extraordinary crises, whether it is the outbreak of climate catastrophe or an economic collapse. These are the conditions for millions of people.

But NOT if you’re Leonard Peltier, I guess. As you’ll remember, the history of my bid for clemency is long. My first app was with Jimmy Carter. He denied it. Ronald Reagan promised President Mikhail Gorbatchev that he would release me if the Soviet Union released a prisoner, but Reagan reneged. George HW. Bush did nothing. The next app was with Bill Clinton. He left office without taking action even though the pardon attorney did an 11-month investigation (it usually takes nine months) and we were told she had recommended clemency. George W. Bush denied that petition in 2009. And in all of the applications for clemency, the FBI has interfered with an executive order. That’s illegal as hell!

Today, I’m facing another dilemma – an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). It’s the size of an AAA battery. The doctor told me if it bursts, I can bleed to death. It’s also close to my spine and I could end up paralyzed. The good news is that it’s treatable and the operation has a 96-98 percent success rate. BUT I’m in a max security prison. We don’t get sent for treatment until it is terminal.

As President [Barack] Obama completes the final year of his term, I hope that he will continue to fight to fulfill his promises and further the progress his administration has made towards working in partnership with First Peoples. It gives me hope that this president has worked hard to affirm the trust relationship with the Tribal Nations. With YOUR encouragement, I believe Obama will have the courage and conviction to commit my sentence and send me home to my people.

Looking back on the 40 years of efforts on my behalf, I am overwhelmed and humbled. I would like to say thank you to all the supporters who have believed in me over the years. Some of you have been supporters since the beginning. You made sure I had books to read and commissary funds to buy what I may need to be as comfortable as one can be in this place.

You made donations to the defense committee so we could continue fighting for my freedom, too. And worked hard — are still working hard — to spread the word about what is now being called the most flagrant conviction in U.S. history. There are good-hearted people in this world, and you’re among them. I’m sorry I cannot keep up with answering all of your letters. But thanks for the love you have shown me. Without it, I could never have made it this long. I’m sure of it.

I believe that my incarceration, the commodification of my image and the government misconduct in prosecuting my case are issues far more important than just my personal freedom. I feel that each of you who have fought for my freedom have been a part of the greater struggle of Native Peoples — for treaty rights, self-determination, sovereignty and very survival. If I should be called home, please don’t give up on our struggle.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse... Doha Leonard Peltier

Film exposes neo-Nazis in Ukraine

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The war against Donbass continues today, and the threat of a wider outbreak of war hangs over the heads of Donbass residents, who voted for independence in a popular referendum in May 2014. Today this is being heated up once more. On Feb. 5, First Head of the Donetsk People’s Republic Alexander Zakharichenko stated, “The number of attacks [by Ukrainian forces] has increased tenfold. … Judging by what is going on, Ukraine is preparing a full-scale provocation. We are waiting. We are ready.” (DONI News)

Odessa communist leader repudiates fascists

Regular readers of Workers World will recognize the name of Alexey Albu, the Borotba coordinator exiled from his hometown after the Maidan uprising. Albu currently lives in the Lugansk People’s Republic where he helps to coordinate the economic development and social welfare programs of the Ghost Brigade. He was interviewed in “Masks of the Revolution” about the Odesa massacre, and has come under vicious attack from Kiev’s propagandists seeking to discredit the documentary.

Albu issued a statement: “All my life I’ve been a supporter of leftist and progressive ideas, based on non-discrimination against people on the grounds of nationality, race and sexual, cultural or ideological grounds.

“Paul Moreira managed to accurately convey the atmosphere of fear and powerlessness prevailing today in Ukraine. … The film shows the truth that the Ukrainian authorities try so carefully to hide.”

Though these same charges were made and publicly refuted in Ukrainian- and international-language media, the non-release of Moreira’s documentary, today they’re being uncritically published by Western media attempting to undermine that impact.

Read Albu’s complete statement at RedStarOverDonbass.blogspot.com.
Cómo trabajadores negros fueron diezmados por racismo

Por Stephen Millies

El gobernador de Michigan Rick Snyder no es el único criminal que debe ser juzgado por el envenenamiento por plomo en Flint. GM y otros gigantes de la industria automotriz sufrieron altas tasas de lesiones. La negligencia ambiental ha definido el comportamiento de la industria desde sus primeros días. La excesiva dependencia de la FCA en motores devoradores de gasolina está contribuyendo al cambio climático. Para hacer que sus motores funcionaran sin problemas, la GM promovió en la década de 1920, el uso de la gasolina del plomo, un veneno ya conoci- cido durante mucho tiempo. Con el casi abandono de Flint, dejó el suelo y río contaminados. Cuando Flint comenzó a usar el agua del río Flint, GM se dio cuenta de que el agua podría correr sus motores. En si- lencio, la empresa dispuso obtener agua de una fuente abierta. Si la GM hubiera hecho público su preocupación por la cor- rosión, una ciudad entera podría haberse salvado del envenenamiento por plomo.

Estas y otras razones hacen que la industria automotriz esté lista para la toma por las/os trabajadoras/os para una economía socialista planificada, donde las personas y el medio ambiente se anteponen a las ganancias.