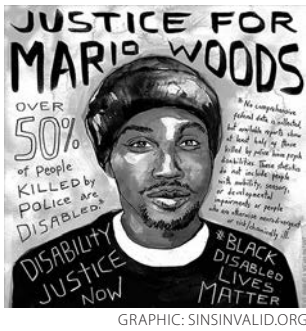




Autopsy finds 20 bullets

Cops executed Mario Woods

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 beanbag rounds also fired by San Francisco Police Department officers.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that one of the videos “showed one officer stepping in front of Woods, who was 26, as he shuffled along a wall, with the gunfire coming moments later from officers who had surrounded Woods. The report lists Woods as 5-foot-9, 156 pounds.” (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, bowing to the ongoing community anger over Woods’ killing, was forced to call for a federal investigation into Woods’ death and SFPD practices.

In 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 “need not use the least intrusive form of force 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.”

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

Repression & resistance

6-7



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN  
Monica Moorehead, right, with Dionne Smith, mother of James Rivera Jr., killed by police in Stockton, Calif.

Dear Rep. John Lewis,

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, what 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 at 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

An open letter:  
‘Standing on the wrong side of history’

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

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# Protesters challenge Democrats

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, protesters 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 and that the U.S. get out of 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 Antiwar 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 occupants.

At one point during the evening, Fight For \$15 workers occupied the media room for the debate, housed at UW-Milwaukee, to righteously and loudly demand social and economic justice.

Two days later, on Feb. 13, hundreds protested at a



PHOTOS: VIVIAN WEINSTEIN, YOUTH EMPOWERED IN THE STRUGGLE - UWM



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. □

## MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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

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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Phone: 212.627.2994  
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Web: www.workers.org  
Vol. 58, No. 7 • Feb. 25, 2016  
Closing date: Feb. 16, 2016

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.  
A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.  
Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.





# 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 sold-out 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. The organizers held signs at the entrance of the Sun Dome and organized chants such as “Dump Trump!” “Hey hey! Ho ho!

Donald Trump has got to go!” and “No more wars! No more hate! Donald Trump get out of our state!”

Various speeches 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 member Taina Pantoja, who spoke at the rally, stated, “We need to stand up against Donald Trump and other racist politicians’ capitalist agenda; we need to stand up against white supremacy and defend affirmative action!” Homam Nasser of 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-racist 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 building 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 LGBTQAI+ 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. Sen. Barack Obama was an enthusiastic candidate out of the state of Illinois with a platform promising progressive 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 opposes any grassroots efforts to change the conditions of workers and the oppressed.

In 2016, we are up against another bourgeois election dominated by the two big capitalist political parties. For the Republicans, one candidate is more reactionary 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 Clinton vying for the Democratic Party candidacy, many people — particularly young people — are excited about the prospect of electing a “socialist” into office. In Iowa, where 30,000 youth voters caucused for Sanders and Clinton, 84 percent of the youth caucused 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, rather than on any real changes Sanders can deliver at this stage of permanent capitalist 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 underpaying. There are no affordable homes and the ones that are affordable are supremely neglected by government housing agencies.

The idea of an affordable higher education belongs to decades past, as young people are now used to taking out massive amounts of loans in order to access the academy. Youth of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth; and working-class youth in general are facing heightened levels of political repression and are being killed by

cops and vigilantes.

So the demands young people are making are in many ways very simple. We want jobs, an education, housing and communities where we can be safe and free from fear and intimidation.

**A global youth struggle**

While some of Sanders’ promises seem appealing, we must think about what the impact of his capitalist 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 committed 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 education, but his take on foreign economic and social policy is almost identical to that of any candidate running for president of the two capitalist parties.

Similarly, his hesitancy to speak directly 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 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 socialism that recognizes the necessity of dismantling racism, white supremacy and capitalism as a necessary part of uplifting struggling communities around the world.

Globally, youth are facing attacks, whether it be displacement triggered by U.S. trade policies in Latin America, violence from the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine or austerity measures in Greece, where banks and politicians are getting bailouts before the people.

It is important to have this global perspective when we consider the bourgeois elections in the belly of the beast: the U.S. empire. The election of any candidate from the Democratic or Republican Party in this country means, for the global youth struggle, continued war, displacement, economic crises and exploitation. No politician whose power relies on the subjugation of developing nations will put an end to the imperialist conquests for more capital acquisition and destruction that requires the stolen labor of youth.



St. Louis mall protest on Black Friday, Nov. 27.

Now is the time more than ever to express our solidarity with young people globally who will be negatively impacted by the continued violence of the U.S. empire. We can do this best by understanding 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 power instead of capitalist politicians.

**Why we’re building toward a real socialist revolution**

It is clear that young people are looking 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 oppression. 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 revolution that prioritizes human 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 people. 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 capitalist system that they are wedded to, a system in crisis, under which young people are forced to believe we have no better options than the least of many evils. Our candidates, Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president, represent a 15-point program that seeks to address the most urgent demands of our communities while also offering a vision for a socialist society.

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

**The world we are fighting for**

Youth, workers and oppressed people 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 repression 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 living in.

*The writer is an LGBTQ youth organizer 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 countries. Like the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994, the TPP is expected to increase the profits of big businesses and banks while eliminating 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-legal 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. This new proposed trade deal will result in equal or 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 bodies. 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, the Communication 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, under NAFTA's supposed labor protections, 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**, demonstrators from Autoworker Caravan, Moratorium Now! Co-

Durham anti-TPP demonstration.

alition, 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 congressional representatives' offices. Besides the protests in the U.S., demonstrations of thousands took place in New Zealand, Peru and Chile. □



PHOTO: AIDEN GRAHAM

## Labor at the crossroads, part 2:

# Top-down changes in AFL-CIO, 1995 to 2005

By Carl Lewis

It was announced in 2005 at the AFL-CIO convention that a significant group of national unions, headed by the Service Employees union (SEIU), had disassociated themselves or otherwise "split" from their parent organization, the AFL-CIO. Also included were UNITE HERE, the Teamsters union, the Food and Commercial Workers union and the Carpenters union.

Interestingly, this was 10 years after John Sweeney of the SEIU had led the "New Voice" team that replaced AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland, successor to the anti-communist misleader and class collaborationist George Meany. Sweeney had promised to move forward with an aggressive plan for organizing the unorganized and turning around a long-declining membership.

After his victory, Sweeney called a number of high-level meetings with women's organizations, such as the Coalition of Labor Union Women, as well as establishment Civil Rights organizations, and met with the leadership of numerous central labor councils in different cities.

The new AFL-CIO agenda was focused on a "living wage" campaign in order to jumpstart the central labor councils, which were doing very little except endorsing "labor-friendly candidates." The model Sweeney used was a blitzkrieg-style organizing of low-income nursing home workers as well as janitors, most of whom were immigrants. This campaign mobilized under the slogan of "Justice for Janitors."

The campaign was notable not only for its militancy, but the fact that most of the workforce being organized came from El Salvador and other Central American countries, as well as Mexico. The demographics of these workers meant they did not need much prodding by the top-heavy staff of SEIU in order to be convinced; the militancy and determination they exhibited was part and parcel of

their own history and experience in their home countries.

### Top-down changes in AFL-CIO

Both Sweeney's initiative in 1995, as well as the departure of some of the major AFL-CIO unions to the Change to Win organization in 2005, had common ideological threads. It is an inescapable fact that both of these endeavors were top-down affairs, in which few rank-and-file members of the unions, or local union presidents, were aware of these proposed changes to "reinvigorate the labor movement."

This was especially true of the 2005 "split," which was based more on personalities and "turf wars," despite claims by both Change to Win and the AFL-CIO that it was about devoting more resources to organizing. In short, there was no motivation for any of the rank-and-file workers, especially workers from oppressed nationalities, to "rally to the cause." The issue then became one of a lack of credibility, because very few union workers at the base knew anything about what was going on.

SEIU President Andy Stern, who led the CTW faction and ironically had been groomed by Sweeney to be his successor, never elaborated on a precise program or strategy on how to reverse membership erosion and union decline, other than repeating the mantra of "organize the unorganized."

All the militant rhetoric about turning back the tide of eroding union membership, especially after the CIO merged with the AFL in 1955, lacked any political and historical analysis about the abysmal decline in both the membership and the strength of unions to mount a fight against capital. However, if the leadership of the labor movement had real political class consciousness, they would see that the answer to the decline is not difficult to find.

### Building a class and anti-racist struggle

First and foremost are the unquestioned adherence of the leadership of the

labor movement to subordination to the Democratic Party and their automatic acceptance of the profit motive. Forgotten is the militant history of the unions in the CIO, which embraced the idea of sit-down strikes and picket lines in defiance of the police and court "injunctions," and carried out broader efforts to mobilize the people of the communities to become part of the struggle, as well as their conscious effort to include oppressed workers as a unifying aspect of the struggle, which in essence meant a fight against racism.

Of course, all this would have been impossible without the contribution and leadership of communist and socialist organizations, which defined the struggle as one of class. The really historic split of the CIO from the craft unions in the AFL in 1938 was something that all workers could understand and identify with. It was the time when unskilled, mass-production workers were first brought into the fold.

Both the Cold War and anti-communism, with their demonization of the Soviet Union and its allies, as well as the imperialist war against People's Korea and the threats against the People's Republic of China, played no small part in diminishing the fight of labor against capital. The AFL and the CIO became complicit partners in purging leftists and expelling left and anti-imperialist unions from the fold, in conformity with anti-communism.

In the 1960s, with few exceptions, the AFL-CIO had to play catch-up to the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement. And even in this instance, they did not mobilize or educate the white rank and file about the importance of unity and the need for solidarity with the African-American masses.

### Rank and file lead strikes, walkouts

That said, there have also been some noticeable and stalwart exceptions to "business as usual." There was the 1970

walkout of 200,000 postal workers that started in New York and spread to other cities, in which Nixon was forced to call in the National Guard in order to move the mail. This was followed by a rank-and-file walkout of autoworkers in Lordstown, Ohio, against speedup and forced overtime in 1972. The rise of the Detroit Revolutionary Union Movement and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers beginning in 1968 was a reaction to the colorblindness of the United Auto Workers, which had allowed the auto bosses to keep Black workers in the lowest and most dangerous job classifications.

These movements were of critical importance 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 socialists the determination that there should never be a wall between class struggle unionism and the struggle for self-determination of oppressed nations. There is no contradiction between supporting independent movements for liberation and self-determination, and the unity of the working-class movement.

The struggle of the Appalachian Workers 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 socialists can fight by intervening in the labor movement from the "bottom up." (See the article on West Virginia in the Workers World of Feb. 4.)

This is also true whether it involves rank-and-file UAW support for auto workers in Colombia against General Motors, or visits by North American trade unionists, be they rank and file or leaders, to Cuba to see how labor unions operate under 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 racism and special oppression with the workers' movement. □



# ‘Make GM pay \$4 billion to Flint’

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

The Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs demonstrated Feb. 10 outside General Motors world headquarters in downtown Detroit. The coalition is demanding GM pay \$4 billion to cover Flint’s massive medical needs and completely reconstruct its water infrastructure.

Moratorium Now! holds GM responsible for impoverishing Flint, Mich., by closing most of its plants in the city where GM was founded 108 years ago, eliminating 72,000 out of 80,000 jobs. Since 1979, 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 Detroit, Pontiac, Saginaw and Flint. GM is complicit 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 after the city began drawing its water, which was highly corrosive, from the river and then failed to add anti-corrosive phosphates. This cor-

roded 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 wanton disregard for public safety, going back to the 1920s when GM’s major shareholder, DuPont, developed leaded gasoline to make GM’s engines run smoothly — and knock out competition from Ford. More recently, when GM realized the Flint River water was corroding its engine parts, the company arranged for an alternate water source but did not voice concern about the probable danger that the same water



WW PHOTO: ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

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 an event featuring Snyder was cancelled over fear of protests. “Flint Lives Matter” is becoming a rallying cry in the struggle for justice for Flint’s people. □

# Evidence against state mounts in Flint water scandal

By Martha Grevatt

Feb. 14 — Rick Snyder ran for Michigan governor in 2010 on the slogan “one tough nerd.” With no political experience, the Republican venture capitalist and former Gateway Computer CEO used his millions to outspend his opponent. Now, mass protests are calling for his arrest. Neither his nerdy toughness nor his personal fortune can pull him out of his current political crisis: the Flint water scandal.

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.

On Oct. 17, 2014, Susan Bohm 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, reportedly told Bohm, “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 Prysby 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, his appointees at the DEQ insisted Flint water met federal standards and was safe to drink and wash with.

**Criminals insisted: ‘Drink up, it’s safe!’**

Flint skipped a standard treatment practice of adding anti-corrosive phosphates to the water. Phosphates effectively coat the pipes, preventing toxic metals such as lead, copper, aluminum and chromium from leaching into the water. For months, the state blew off Environmental Protection Agency officials urging Flint to add anti-corrosives.

Penny-pinching austerity by the capitalist state exposed the entire city — including 27,000 minors, a third of them six or younger — to lead and other toxins. For months the EPA’s Miguel Del Toro fought to get his findings on the water’s high lead levels taken seriously — not only by the DEQ but by some higher-ups in his agency.



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the whistleblower who exposed Flint lead poisoning.

whose mothers ingested Flint water while pregnant. She is looking into a possible spike in miscarriages, stillbirths and low birth weights, which lead exposure can trigger.

“They killed my babies,” said Nakiya Wakes. “They knowingly poisoned the whole city of Flint.” She lost both twins she was carrying after drinking Flint water. One day after the second miscarriage, she received a letter advising pregnant women not to drink the city’s water. Researchers are finding that lead exposure during pregnancy changes DNA, even in the exposed mother’s grandchildren. (abc12.com, Feb. 12)

There is no degree of normalcy in this poor city. Parents, now dealing with their children’s learning and behavioral disabilities caused by lead, plan meals around how much water they have 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 have lost beloved pets that drank the poison water. Churches cannot conduct baptisms. “My students cannot even walk to a nearest fountain to quench their thirst. This has become their new normal,” Flint School Superintendent Bilal Tawaab told a congressional committee.

Every Feb. 11, United Auto Workers members gather at a Flint union hall to commemorate the victory of the 1937 sit-down strike that forced General Motors to recognize the union. They enjoy bean soup from a strike kitchen recipe. This year, cooks could not use tap water to make the soup.

A city that saw its living standards rise dramatically because of this union victory is now suffering unendurably. “Flint Lives Matter” shirts have become popular. The racist system that allows police to murder Black youth also allowed Michigan’s top cop, Rick Snyder, to poison the state’s second-largest, majority-Black city.

The governor and his cronies must face justice. The state and federal governments must produce the funds to address the medical crisis in Flint and to repair the water infrastructure top to bottom. The residents of Flint are due reparations. Not only the capitalist state but also General Motors and the banks — the ones who made Flint cash-starved to begin with — must pay for this genocidal mass poisoning. □

# S.F. union: ‘Labor 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 ever since the decision was made more than a year ago to use the contaminated Flint River as the source of drinking water; and

Whereas, it has now been revealed that Michigan’s Gov. [Rick] Snyder’s administration has known about Flint’s severe water problems for more than a year but lied to residents that the water was safe; and

Whereas, the deaths and permanent long-term damage from this disaster to tens of thousands of Flint’s predominantly Black residents, especially children, is the latest tragic consequence of human rights violations that elected and appointed officials in this country have made that disproportionately affects the health and well-being of Blacks; and

Whereas, failure to act decisively now can only lead to more man-made, inten-

tional public health crises;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Local 10 holds Michigan Gov. Snyder accountable for the Flint disaster and calls for a federal investigation to bring criminal charges against him and that he be suspended from office immediately pending its outcome,

And Be It Further Resolved that Darnell Earley, the Flint emergency manager when Flint switched its drinking water source to the poisoned Flint River water, also be a subject of federal criminal investigation, and that he be immediately removed from his position as emergency manager of Detroit Public Schools (the position to which Snyder promoted him in 2015) so that he can do no further harm to the children of Michigan;\*

And Finally Be It Resolved that upon approval, this motion will be taken to the San Francisco Labor Council and the California State Federation of Labor.

*\*Editor’s note: Earley announced his resignation Feb. 2 as DPS emergency manager, effective Feb. 29.*



# Sundiata Sadiq, gentle warrior



By political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal

His name was Sundiata, and for over 40 years, he fought for the freedom of his people. Headquartered in Ossining, N.Y., Sundiata worked in, or led, a number of groups working for Black Liberation and Social Justice. To list them all would exhaust our time, but just to mention a few: He chaired CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] in Rockland County [N.Y.] back in 1968 and 1969; in the 1970s, he chaired the Ossining Black Liberation Front; and later he led the NAACP’s Ossining chapter in suits against police brutality and helped spark the nation’s first environmental racism suit against a notorious Ossining waste transfer station. 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 struggles before their time(s). Sundiata Sadiq was, despite being a warrior for freedom, a truly gentle man. He talked to people with respect and dignity; he welcomed them; he cared about them — and they could feel it. MOVE’s Pam Africa always spoke highly of him, and when she said, “That’s a good brotha,” you could feel it, for he was. When I met him a few years ago, it seemed like we’d known 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 James; by his family; by his comrades; and by his people. Sundiata Sadiq — born July 1, 1955 — returned to his ancestors, the 29th of January, 2016. Peace, good brother. □

# 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 or stun guns. Tasers are proposed as nonlethal alternatives to guns but have proven to be fatal; the Washington Post revealed that 48 people died in 2015 alone after being tased by police. Many are enraged that the police chief is using the killing of Woods to justify reintroducing the proposal, which had previously been defeated by community campaigns. The community, led by Black activists in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood where Woods was killed, has been unrelenting in keeping the pressure on for justice for Woods. Demands include prosecuting the five cops who killed Woods, the firing of Chief Suhr and the resignation of Mayor Lee. Ronnisha Johnson and Rheema Emy Calloway of Black Lives Matter Bay Area

bought tickets to the Feb. 7 Super Bowl with the intent to get international publicity for Wood’s case, in juxtaposition to the multimillion dollar spectacle of the game. They succeeded in getting some of Beyoncé’s dancers to hold a sign after the halftime show reading “Justice for Woods” and, with raised fists, chanting the same. The dancers were dressed in all black, sporting Black-Panther-style berets, in what is widely regarded as Beyoncé’s tribute to the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party. Additionally, at Alicia Keys’ Feb. 6 concert in San Francisco the night before the Super Bowl, Keys said: “I want to thank you for your commitment to making sure justice is done for Mario Woods. As the mother of two Black sons, it breaks my heart to see what we’ve been seeing, the killings we’ve been seeing on camera and all the people that we’ll never see. Black lives matter, and we all of every color need to come together to end systemic racism.” (S.F. Chronicle, Feb. 8) □

# 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 Clinton, who personifies the political establishment, 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 is that radical change is unrealistic and she’s the realistic candidate. I’m sure, Brother Lewis, that when you were young, you were on the receiving end of many lectures about the need to be “realistic” and to be “patient.” You remember when older Civil Rights leaders made you tone down your speech at the 1963 march on Washington because they felt it was too militant. You remember your just criticism of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 because it did not address the prevalence of racist police bru-

talities. Surely you remember all the times you were told to slow down, cool down, and follow the lead of the older leaders. Indeed, 50 years ago this year, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was formed in part because old guard Civil Rights leaders were not doing anything to stop police violence against Black people. On the surface, this all seems like a generational struggle, and to some extent, it is. But it’s more than that. It’s a struggle between those who stand with the capitalist establishment and those who demand radical change. I still respect your contribution to our struggle for freedom. But this time, Brother Lewis, sadly, you are standing on the wrong side of history. Respectfully, Monica Moorehead Workers World Party 2016 presidential candidate

# 70 years after the Moore African Americans still n

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

One of the most outrageous and well-publicized lynchings in U.S. history took place on July 25, 1946, when two African-American couples were brutally killed by a white mob in Monroe, Ga., near Moore’s Ford Bridge. George W. Dorsey and Mae Murray Dorsey, along with Roger Malcolm and Dorothy Malcolm, all in their 20s, were employed as sharecroppers on the land of a white man named J. Loy Harrison. Two weeks earlier, Roger Malcolm allegedly stabbed in self-defense a white man named Barnette Hester, who was employed on the Harrison farm. Malcolm spent nearly two weeks in jail, but was released after Harrison paid his bail. Harrison drove Dorothy Malcolm and the Dorseys to pick up Malcolm when they were allegedly hijacked by a lynch mob who killed both couples. The Malcolms and Dorseys rode with Harrison from the local jail in Walton County where Monroe is located, ostensibly returning to the farm where they worked. Harrison claimed that he was stopped by a group of 15 to 20 men who first ordered the African-American men out of the vehicle and later took the women into custody. The racists tied the four people to trees, beat them severely and shot them to death while Harrison stood by in silence, he claimed. Mae Murray Dorsey was seven months pregnant at the time of the lynching. This cold-blooded, calculated slaughter was carried out after World War II during a wave of such killings throughout the South. George W. Dorsey had been out of the Army for nine months when he was murdered by the lynch mob.

## Lynching sparked national outrage

Despite a nationwide outcry demanding justice, no one was ever indicted for murder or violating the couples’ civil rights. A large number of FBI agents were sent to Monroe to investigate the lynching, take statements from potential witnesses and collect material evidence. U.S. District Judge T. Hoyt Davis impaneled and directed a 23-man grand jury, which included two African Americans. The grand jury began to hear testimony in the case on Dec. 2, 1946. Then-Georgia Gov. Ellis Arnall stated, “15 to 20 of the mob members are known by name.” (Atlanta Daily World, Dec. 4, 1946) Evidence collected from the investigation was delivered to the grand jury by U.S. District Attorney John P. Cowart and John Kelly, who were employed by the Department of Justice’s Criminal Division. Judge Davis “pointed out that federal courts have no jurisdiction over the offense of murder except under well-defined conditions.” (ADW, Dec. 5, 1946) The federal court, White House and the FBI said there was insufficient evidence to file charges against the 20 to 30 white men involved in the murders. One man who testified before the grand jury was charged with perjury for providing false information about his location at the time of the lynching. The Dorseys and Malcolms had worked on the plantation where they were subjected to slave-like conditions after an imperialist war that ostensibly was designed to end racial oppression and legal

impunity. Although Dorsey served overseas in the military for five years during WWII, he could only find work as a field hand after returning to the South. Some 2.5 million African-American men registered for the draft between 1941 and 1945, along with more than 6,000 Black women who volunteered for segregated units in the Army and the Navy. After experiencing racism in the military while deployed in the U.S., Europe, Africa and the Pacific, many veterans were not willing to accept legalized segregation and racial exploitation on their return to civilian life. A more militant political mood was evident in the South and other regions of the U.S. that began during the war and extended into the late 1940s and early 1950s. This discontent with the status quo prompted violent retribution by white racists who dominated law enforcement, agricultural production, business and public service. Another highly publicized racist attack occurred earlier on Feb. 12, 1946, against a recently returned African-American war veteran. The website Today in Civil Liberties History reads, “Hours after being discharged from the Army following World War II, Sgt. Isaac Woodard was taken from a bus in Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, beaten and blinded by police and then jailed. Reports of the brutal incident aroused national outrage.” The African-American press captured the exploitative and repressive conditions

# Nkrumah:



By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

On Feb. 24, 1966, a coup was carried out against Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, leader of Ghana’s independence movement and the chief architect of the 20th-century African revolutionary struggle. He founded the Convention People’s Party in 1949, which led the former British colony of the Gold Coast to national independence in 1957. During the coup, he was on a peace mission aimed at ending U.S. intervention in Vietnam. The president had stopped in Beijing to consult People’s Republic of China Premier Chou En-lai and had planned to go to Hanoi. When Nkrumah met with Chou, he informed him of the military coup in Ghana. Chou’s initial reaction was disbelief, yet the Chinese leader told him these setbacks occurred during the course of the revolutionary struggle. Lower-ranking military and police officers carried out the coup with CIA and U.S. State Department assistance and coordination. CPP leading members were killed, arrested and driven into exile while the party press and national radio and television stations were seized. The CIA and military-police clique that seized power encouraged counterrevolutionary mobs to attack CPP offices. Books by Nkrumah and other socialist leaders were burned. Coup leaders, who called themselves the “National Liberation Council” (NLC), deported cadre from national liberation movements who had taken refuge in Ghana and were receiving political and military training there. Other fraternal allies



# ory Month:

## 's Ford Bridge Lynching, murdered with impunity

in the post-WW II period; it was filled with accounts of police beatings, killings and mob violence. In 1948, the Dixiecrat Party arose, a splinter from the Democratic Party that was bitterly opposed to even minimal reforms granting civil rights to the formerly enslaved oppressed nation.

### "We Charge Genocide"

The powerful book "We Charge Genocide" was published by the Civil Rights Congress in 1951 as a petition to the United Nations. Attorney William L. Patterson, its main author, writes about the social atmosphere after WWII and the beginning of the Korean War: "Now there is not a great American city from New York to Cleveland or Detroit, from Washington, the nation's capital, to Chicago, from Memphis to Atlanta or Birmingham, from New Orleans to Los Angeles, that is not disgraced by the wanton killing of innocent Negroes. It is no longer a sectional phenomenon."

Patterson also reports, "Once the classic method of lynching was the rope. Now it is the policeman's bullet. To many an American the police are the government, certainly its most visible representative. We submit that the evidence suggests that the killing of Negroes has become police policy in the United States and that police policy is the most practical expression of government policy."

In the 1990s, interest in the 1946 lynching of the Dorseys and Malcolms

resurfaced. Demands were made to re-open the investigation into the killings. Nonetheless, these efforts did not result in the filing of criminal charges against any living participants in the murders.

Every year a re-enactment of the lynching is staged to continue to keep this horrendous crime in the minds of African Americans and their allies.

### Racist murders today

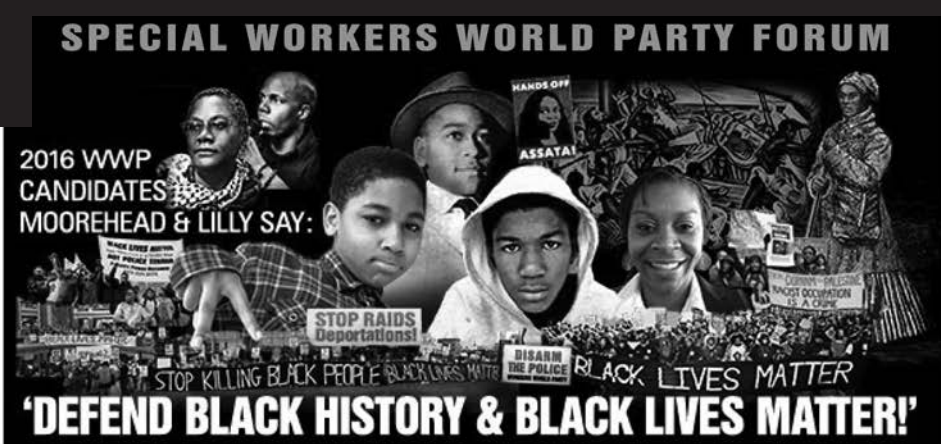
This pattern continues today as police and vigilantes routinely gun down African Americans with impunity. In the overwhelming number of cases, no one has been held accountable.

In most cases, local law enforcement agencies, courts and the federal government have proved incapable of prosecuting those who engage in racist violence against the oppressed. The Justice Department has admitted that it does not accurately document police killings and the racism involved.

The British Guardian's website documents police killings of 1,140 people in 2015. A significant and disproportionate number of these victims were African Americans.

Mass demonstrations and urban rebellions against the unjustified use of lethal force by the police have accelerated since the vigilante killing of Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012 and the police shooting of Michael Brown in Missouri in 2014.

Nonetheless, organized and racist state



## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF-DEFENSE

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violence against the nationally oppressed will not end until there is a structural transformation of the capitalist system.

Violence and repression against the oppressed and working people are designed to maintain capitalism and imperialism. □

## 50 years since CIA-led coup

of the Ghanaian and African revolutions were fired from their jobs in the government, the educational sector and media affairs.

CIA involvement was widely believed to be pivotal at the time, but later on, it was documented with the declassification of State Department files under President Lyndon Johnson's administration. U.S. Undersecretary of State for African Affairs G. Mennen Williams had sent a letter of protest to Ghana's embassy in Washington in late 1965 after the publication of Nkrumah's book "Neo-colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism." It outlined Washington and Wall Street's central role in the continuing underdevelopment of Africa.

### Nkrumah and African-American history

Nkrumah was born in Nkroful in Ghana's Nzima region in 1909. He traveled to the U.S. in 1935 to pursue higher education at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, the first Historically Black College and University in the country founded during slavery in 1854.

Lincoln was an ideal atmosphere for Nkrumah, who studied the social sciences, philosophy and theology. He became involved in the African-American struggle through work with the African Students Association, where he served as president for several years, and the Council on African Affairs with Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Dr. William A. Hunton and Paul Robeson.

During his college days, Nkrumah worked doing odd jobs and experienced poverty. He became a licensed Presbyterian minister, which enabled him to

speak in African-American churches.

After leaving the U.S. in 1945, Nkrumah settled in Britain for two years where he helped organize the historic Fifth Pan-African Congress at Manchester that year. Du Bois chaired the gathering, in which other African liberation movement leaders participated, including George Padmore of Trinidad, who had worked with the Communist International during the late 1920s and early 1930s; Amy Ashwood Garvey, spouse of Marcus Garvey, who held left-leaning politics; Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya; students; and representatives of trade unions and farmers' organizations.

After Nkrumah returned to Ghana in late 1947 and founded the CPP in 1949, he landed in prison twice for organizing against British imperialism. Due to his party's mass support during a colonialist-controlled reform election in February 1951, Nkrumah was released from prison and appointed Leader of Government Business as part of a transitional arrangement toward independence won in March 1957.

During the independence period, Ghana became a haven for African-American political figures, artists, professionals and business people. Some of them became staunch defenders of Nkrumah's government, which faced increasing CIA and State Department pressure after 1961.

Hundreds of African Americans took up residence in Ghana, including Maya Angelou, the writer, dancer and supporter of African liberation movements; Alice Windom of St. Louis, a social worker and educator who helped organize Malcolm

X's itinerary when he travelled to Ghana in May 1964; and Vicki Holmes Garvin, a labor activist and Communist Party member who worked with Robert Williams and Mabel Williams in China after leaving Ghana.

Julius Mayfield, the novelist and essayist who left the U.S. amid the attacks on Robert Williams, worked in Ghana as a journalist and editor of African Review, a Pan-Africanist journal supporting the CPP government. W.E.B. Du Bois was given Ghanaian citizenship and appointed director of the Encyclopedia Africana. Shirley Graham Du Bois, spouse of Du Bois, was a political organizer, Communist Party member, prolific writer and producer. Nkrumah appointed her to head Ghana National Television.

After the coup in February 1966, most progressive African Americans were forced to leave Ghana due to the NLC's pro-imperialist character. Dr. Du Bois had died in August 1963. However, Shirley Graham Du Bois, who worked as a leading figure in Ghana's government, was placed under house arrest by military police officials. She left Ghana and later lived in Egypt and China where she died in 1976.

### 50 years later: U.S. still destabilizing Africa

The anti-imperialist struggle against interventions in Africa is just as relevant today as it was in 1966. Five decades after the coup ousted Nkrumah, the CIA and State Department are still heavily engaged in destabilizing African states and progressive movements. The U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) is constructing

airstrips, drone stations and military bases in various regions across the continent.

U.S. imperialism designed Nkrumah's overthrow to halt the African Revolution's advance and the internationalization of the struggle of African Americans. However, global solidarity efforts accelerated from the late 1960s through the 1990s when the last vestiges of white-minority rule were eliminated in South Africa and Namibia.

It's important to note that African-American political organizations played a key role in influencing Nkrumah from the 1930s until his ouster in 1966 and up until his death in 1972 in Romania.

Younger generations of African-American activists can gain much from studying the intersection of the struggle for liberation in the U.S., the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and the African continent. During the period after World War II through the beginning of the 21st century, tremendous gains were won in the areas of national liberation, Pan-African unity and a socialist perspective.

With a strong emphasis in the U.S. today on demonstrations against police and vigilante use of lethal force against African Americans, identification with broader struggles taking place in the African world are often overlooked. This development, if gone unchecked, will break off the African-American movement from allies among like-minded forces within the entire African world. In addition, without an emphasis on internationalism, the African-American struggle will be hard-pressed to reach its full potential by winning global allies. □



## Haiti

# Hungry 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, the capital, and other major cities, poured into the streets to tell President Michel Martelly to get out. They were not going to allow him to extend his hold on power by a single day past Feb. 7.

February 7 was the 30th anniversary of the Haitian people’s uprooting of the dictatorial regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier. In 1986, they forced the dictator to drive his fancy car into a U.S. aircraft and fly to the French Riviera. The U.S. role has been up close and ongoing since even before U.S. Marines landed in Haiti in 1915. Last year was the 100th anniversary of that direct U.S. military and political intervention into Haiti’s internal affairs.

On Feb. 5, heavily armed men dressed in old Haitian army uniforms began riding pickups and trucks through the streets of Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes and other cities. In the capital they fired at protesters demanding the immediate departure of Martelly.

Answering this vicious attack from pro-Martelly forces, protesters threw rocks, killing a former soldier, and drove away the gangsters, who retreated

quickly, leaving their dead colleague in the roadway. Neither the soldiers of Minustah, the United Nation’s occupation force in Haiti, nor the Haitian National Police made any attempt to control these paramilitary gangs attacking protesters. (Haiti Elections blog, Feb. 9)

The day before he left office, Martelly announced a deal with the leadership of Haiti’s parliament. According to the deal, within five days parliament will select a provisional president, who will in turn select a prime minister and a head of the electoral commission. A runoff between the top two candidates from the 2015 presidential elections will take place April 24, with definitive results announced May 6.

The U.S. State Department and the Core Group, which represents Canada, France and Brazil and includes representatives from the Organization of American States and the U.N., immediately endorsed this “solution” to Haiti’s electoral crisis. Washington and the European Union issued another call to accept this deal on Feb. 12.

Haiti’s moderate opposition, based in a group called G-8, which consists of some of the major presidential candidates and their parties, condemned this agreement.

They pointed out that last Aug. 9’s parliamentary elections were neither fair nor free. With a third of those parliamentary seats still undecided, it was ridiculous to accept the Oct. 25 presidential elections as fair and free.

The more radical opposition, including Fanmi Lavalas, is calling for the head of the Cour de Cassation (Supreme Court) to be appointed interim president and for holding completely new, fair and free elections for parliament and president.

### Hunger and protests

Political mobilizations in Haiti are massive even though 75 percent of the people who join the protests live on less than \$2 a day. About 50 percent of them live on less than \$1 a day, according to U.N. estimates, and most lose even this meager wage when protesting.

Most Haitians don’t have a secure job, one with a paycheck and benefits. This makes real unemployment rates a guessing game.

The World Food Program, a U.N. agency, just released a report Feb. 9 estimating that 3.5 million Haitians are “food insecure,” a euphemism meaning they often go hungry. It further estimates that 1.5 million of them are “extremely food

insecure,” which means they almost always go hungry.

Although 50 percent of Haitians are farmers, Haiti has to import 60 percent of its food. With inflation at 11 percent annually and the gourde, Haiti’s currency, dropping in value compared to the U.S. dollar, the cost of food in Haiti is rising fast. And due to the weather phenomenon called El Niño, farmers in many parts of Haiti are facing the loss of their third crop in a row due to drought.

In the midst of Martelly’s succession crisis, a conference in Port-au-Prince on Feb. 4 of “patriotic” political parties and groups, mainly left-wing and in the struggle, demanded in their final statement an “urgent measure to satisfy the immediate economic demands of the popular masses,” which addressed the high price of basic necessities. (Haïti-Liberté, Feb. 10)

U.S. imperialism and its minions in Haiti want to impose their own candidate. But they don’t want to be as obvious as then-Secretary-of-State Hillary Clinton was when Washington imposed Michel Martelly in 2011, so they are working through an interim president. But the Haitian people suffered through Martelly, and are hungry for justice, democracy and a better standard of living. □

## San Francisco Labor Council: Stand with the Haitian people – overturn the stolen elections

*The following San Francisco Labor Council resolution was adopted Feb. 8 by unanimous vote.*

Whereas, in December 2003 the San Francisco Labor Council sent greetings of solidarity on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Haitian Revolution, “which abolished slavery and ended colonial rule in Haiti — an earth-shattering development in the struggle for the emancipation of labor all over the world.”

Whereas, on Feb. 29, 2004, the U.S., French and Canadian military overthrew the elected government of Haiti, abducting President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and flying him to exile in Africa on a U.S. military plane. The SFLC passed a resolution on March 8 demanding “an investigation into the Bush administration’s role in the coup” and “the immediate release of Aristide” and his “restoration as the democratically elected President of Haiti.”

Whereas, the SFLC initiated the Labor/Religious/Community Fact-Finding Del-

egation which visited Haiti in April and May of 2004. The delegation concluded 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.

Whereas, in 2015, after being excluded for 11 years, Aristide’s Lavalas party was finally able to run candidates again, headed by presidential standard-bearer Dr. Maryse Narcisse. However, the Aug. 9 and Oct. 25 “first-round” elections were marked by massive voter suppression, ballot stuffing, vote buying, armed coercion and naked vote rigging all the way from polling places to final tabulation. National police and paramilitaries fired automatic weapons into working-class areas to discourage the vote, killing scores of people. (Report of the Human Rights & Labor Fact-Finding Delegation to Haiti, November 2015)

Whereas, despite a mountain of evi-

dence documenting the fraud — which has given the lead position to the party of Haitian President Michel Martelly — the U.S. government has endorsed the elections. The U.S. paid \$31 million to finance the elections, plus \$2.8 million to the National Police to fund its election duties.

Whereas, the defiant Haitian people have mounted huge demonstrations and marches throughout the country to protest the stolen elections, over many months, involving tens of thousands of people in the street, demanding that their votes be counted and the stolen elections thrown out. They have been shot down, tear gassed, beaten and some have been killed. Yet they have come back the next day, denouncing what they call an “electoral coup.” Fanmi Lavalas, long the most popular political party in Haiti, has filed legal challenges. Still, the State Department and the U.N. occupying force continue to push the electoral coup forward.

Therefore be it resolved, that the San

Francisco Labor Council stands in solidarity with the people of Haiti and their inalienable right to self-determination, including the right to freely choose their representatives through fair elections free of coercion or intimidation. We support the Haitian people’s demand for invalidation of the demonstrably fraudulent Aug. 9 and Oct. 25 elections, and for an end to U.S. support for this “electoral coup.”

And be it further resolved, that we support the Haitian people’s demand for an end to U.S. financing of police and paramilitary forces, who have been terrorizing peaceful demonstrators. Haiti’s poor majority is marching for their votes to be counted, and for their country to be free from foreign intervention and control.

And be it finally resolved, that we contact our elected representatives and urge them to call a halt to the U.S. government policy of supporting electoral fraud and police terror in Haiti and of interfering with the democratic process in that country. □

# What’s Transdev’s role in German rail crash?

By John Catalinotto

A tragic head-on collision of two commuter trains in the German state of Bavaria that killed 10 people — drivers, conductors and passengers — on Feb. 9 and injured many more raised issues that reverberate through Europe and here in the United States.

Thirty years ago, people could set their watches by train schedules in Germany, France and Switzerland, where commuter and intercity trains carry the bulk of commuting passengers. Given all the automatic safeguards now, why should an accident occur in which two trains going in opposite directions were using the same track?

The New York Times often goes out of its way to extol the market economy. But

its article of Feb. 9 reporting the disaster raised the privatization of the European railroads as a negative factor leading to insecurity in the network:

“Many countries in the region have abandoned government-run monopolies in favor of privately-run rail systems, even as the European Union is spending billions of euros to modernize rail networks.

“The result is an increasingly precarious system, with a patchwork of old and new technologies in use at the same time, and with drivers, who are often alone in cars, shouldering more responsibility for safety.”

The Times found that leaving drivers alone in the cab — which is the private corporation’s way of increasing profits by employing fewer workers to do the same amount of work — added to the danger.

The other point to consider is which

private corporation took over the commuter trains in Bavaria.

Regional rail provider Meridian operated both of the trains in the crash. The parent company of Meridian is Bayerische Oberlandbahn, which in turn “[is] owned by the German subsidiary of the French railway conglomerate Transdev.” (Times)

Regular Workers World readers know that Transdev is a French-based transnational that handles bus and rail transportation, often replacing or attempting to replace government-owned utilities. Formerly a subsidiary of Veolia, which is involved globally in privatizing water supplies, Transdev is the company that tried and failed to break United Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston school bus drivers’ union.

It’s also the company that, when part of Veolia, ran an apartheid-like bus line in the occupied West Bank until last August, and had been the legitimate target of Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions activists who support Palestinian rights.

Veolia-Transdev’s history is that of taking over transportation and water systems from government-owned enterprises, breaking unions if they existed, and reducing the number of workers to keep increasing profits. They excel in profiteering, not in providing services.

Commuters in Bavaria and the unions of railroad workers would do well to investigate the cost-cutting measures that Transdev-Bayerische Oberlandbahn-Meridian put in place, which may have led to the tragedy 35 miles south-east of Munich, Bavaria’s capital. □



# With attack on Libya planned

## U.S.-NATO flag waves over Europe

*We reprint this article, written on Feb. 9 by Manlio Dinucci, the military analyst for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, about U.S.-NATO forces increasing pressure in the East against Russia and planning yet another invasion of Libya in Africa.*

Participating (as is now required) in the meeting of European Union defense ministers on Feb. 5 in Amsterdam, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg praised U.S. “plans to substantially increase their military presence in Europe, by increasing four times the amount 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 prepositioning of heavy equipment, 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. 5]

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 NATO military alliance as the channel of

U.S. influence and participation in European affairs, preventing the creation of solely European arrangements that would undermine the command structure of the alliance — that is, the U.S. command.

Mission accomplished: Twenty-two of the 28 EU countries, with more than 90 percent of the EU population, are now part of NATO under U.S. command, which the EU recognizes as the foundation of collective defense. By pressuring East European governments, which are closer to the U.S. than to the EU, Washington has been able to reopen a new Cold War on the eastern front, breaking growing Russia-EU economic ties that are dangerous to U.S. interests. Throughout Eastern Europe, on the highest flagpoles, the stars and stripes banner is now waving, along with that of NATO.

In Poland, new Prime Minister Beata Szydlo has held his press conferences with the flag of the EU lowered. Indeed the EU flag has often been burned in the streets by “patriots” who support the government’s refusal to host refugees (who were forced out of their homelands by U.S.-NATO wars), 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 a military “Schengen Area,” which allows U.S.-NATO forces to freely enter the country. [The Schengen Agreement allows movement of people inside the EU.]

On the southern front, connected to the east, the United States is about to launch a new war from Europe to occupy the economically and strategically important coastal zone in Libya, with the pretext of liberating this region from the Islamic State group, also called ISIS.

This is a move to regain ground, now that the Russian intervention in Syria in support of government forces has blocked 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 and supported by Turkey and others.

The operation in Libya “under Italian management” that the Pentagon warned would require “boots on the ground” — that is, ground forces — has come from an agreement of the U.S. not with the EU,

which does not exist in this arena as a unified entity, but individually with the dominant European powers, especially France, Britain and Germany. These powers are in competition with each other and with the United States, but they join together when their fundamental [imperialist] interests are at stake.

What was revealed recently in a 2011 email to Hillary Clinton, [from Sidney Blumenthal, Clinton’s adviser] when she was secretary of state, was emblematic of the policy toward Libya: The U.S. and France attacked Libya primarily to block Gadhafi’s plan to use the huge Libyan gold and silver reserves to create an African currency as an alternative to the CFA franc. The CFA franc is the currency set by France in its 14 former colonies. The Libyan plan [which Dinucci wrote about in Il Manifesto newspaper in April 2011] sought further to free Africa from the domination of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. For that reason Libya was destroyed, and the same forces that destroyed Libya are now preparing to invade Libya to bring “peace.”

*Translation by WW Managing Editor John Catalinotto.*

## NATO warships target refugees

By G. Dunkel

Feb. 14 — In 2015, over 1 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 assorted planes. While the pretext is to stop “human trafficking” and “terrorists,” the effect is to stop refugees from entering Europe.

In the beginning of 2015, most of the

refugees were single men. As the year progressed, many more women and children started taking part. Of those who entered Europe so far this year, 19,781 were minors.

What makes them so desperate to risk a winter crossing, instead of waiting for warmer weather, is that the political climate indicates relatively prosperous countries like Germany and Sweden may soon close their doors. Only 190 refugees of the more than 1 million who entered Europe in 2015 have been formally resettled, according to the Feb. 3 New York Times. The vast majority of the flow has been from Turkey to close-by Greek islands in the Aegean Sea.

Right-wing and fascist political groups use the presence of refugees, especially those from Muslim areas, to incite anti-foreign sentiment and demand EU countries close their internal borders.

This has pressured the EU government to use NATO warships to stop the flow at EU’s external borders.

### Real cause of refugee crisis

The European and U.S. media admit 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 3,692 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 intervention in Syria displaced millions of Syrians. Instead, the media hide the responsibility of the imperialist states and treat the refugees as if they are a natural disaster, flowing toward Europe like

a glacier flows to the sea.

There is documentation of the substantial aid that the United States and its major allies like Saudi Arabia and Qatar have given to a shifting constellation of forces trying to overthrow the Syrian government. But this is reported separately from the refugees, as if there were no connection between the two phenomena.

It’s as if the U.S. and its allies threw gasoline on the fires burning in Syria but denied responsibility for the resulting conflagration. They keep on lying about who started the fires, at the same time avoiding responsibility for what they’ve done.

Now major European imperialists like Great Britain and France are trying to use the threat of more terrorist attacks to justify new military intervention in both Libya in North Africa and in the region centered in Syria. □

## Film exposes neo-Nazis in Ukraine

By Greg Butterfield

For the first time, the role of fascist politicians and neo-Nazi gangs in the 2014 U.S.-backed coup in Kiev has reached a mass audience in the West with the Feb. 1 broadcast of journalist Paul Moreira’s documentary “Ukraine: Masks of the Revolution” on the French Canal+ television network.

The 55-minute film shines a bright light on the massacre carried out by ultra-right forces at the House of Trade Unions in the multinational port city of Odessa on May 2, 2014, where at least 48 anti-fascists and trade unionists were brutally murdered.

One of the film’s great strengths — though it makes for difficult viewing — is that it allows the neo-Nazis and supporters of the Kiev regime to indict themselves through interviews, juxtaposed with footage shot at the scene.

Paul Moreira wrote on his blog Jan. 30:

“Over 40 people were killed in a huge fire in the heart of a major European city in the 21st century. Everything was filmed by dozens of cameras and cell phones. Yet around me, no one remembered. ... It had been addressed, discussed, but never investigated.

“Why no investigation? Probably because the victims were Russian speakers.” (English translation at website The New Cold War: Ukraine and Beyond)

Moreira also lets anti-fascists give their perspective — something they are denied in Ukraine where their views are banned and criminalized.

Among those interviewed are Fatima Papura, mother of Vadim, a teenager and member of the Communist Youth who was the youngest victim of the May 2 massacre; and Alexey Albu, former Odessa Regional Council deputy and a leader of the revolutionary Marxist organization Union Borotba (Struggle), who survived the massacre and was subsequently

forced into exile.

Though focused on the Odessa events, Moreira’s film also exposes the role of the Western imperialist powers, especially the United States, in the February 2014 coup in Kiev. Shown is the collaboration of U.S. and European Union officials with known fascists in overthrowing the legally elected government of President Victor Yanukovich.

The film’s broadcast outraged the Ukrainian regime headed by oligarch President Petro Poroshenko. Ukrainian officials and the French capitalist newspaper Le Monde tried unsuccessfully to have Moreira’s film pulled before broadcast. Since then, a campaign of slander has been waged to discredit the director and the anti-fascists he interviewed.

Complete English- and Russian-dubbed versions appeared online after the French broadcast. Both were immediately censored by YouTube.

As of Feb. 8, the full film is available

with English subtitles on LiveLeak.com. (tinyurl.com/zspzppa or search “Ukraine Masks of Revolution”)

### Exposes lies of ‘democratic revolution’

The film’s broadcast marks an important breakthrough against the two-year conspiracy of lies and censorship by Western media and governments denying or ignoring the role of armed neo-Nazis and right-wing nationalists in Ukraine’s so-called “revolution of dignity.”

Their rise to power led to war against the mainly Russian-speaking Donbass region, formerly part of eastern Ukraine, where at least 10,000 people have been killed.

Washington and the EU continue to provide money, arms and political cover for both the Poroshenko government and the neo-Nazis while expanding the NATO military alliance to Russia’s western border.

*Continued on page 11*



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

# Scalia, SCOTUS and democracy

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, known for his reactionary, racist, anti-woman, anti-gay and anti-working class decisions, which he disguised as erudite, strict interpretation of legal text, died suddenly on Feb. 13. Recalling his 1986 appointment to the court, some may say that his death came 30 years too late. Taking into account the adage that one should say only good of the dead or nothing at all, we say nothing.

We do have something to say about the Supreme Court of the United States. Initial political reactions to Scalia's death suggest there will be a battle royale within the ruling class — in this case between the two big capitalist political parties — about the next appointment. Upcoming SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) votes are expected to be 4-4. The battle may be as bitter a conflict as that for the next presidency, although one with no popular vote. The question is: Can the working class jump into this internal ruling-class battle with independent demands?

Of the three branches of the U.S. government — the legislative branch, Congress; the executive branch, the president; and the judicial branch, the Supreme Court — SCOTUS is the most undemocratic. Its members are unelected, appointed for life by the president and approved by the Senate composed of millionaires, and it has been the most stable bulwark of class oppression and exploita-

tion. SCOTUS defended the slaveholders in the 19th century and the big capitalists and bankers against the working class and oppressed peoples in the 20th and 21st, with only a few exceptions in times of great mass struggle.

In a July 20, 1989, article, Workers World Party chairperson Sam Marcy wrote that despite the process extending voting rights to African Americans, women and youth since the Constitution was written, “there has been a simultaneous social and economic process which is superior in strength. That is the process of the concentration of power in undemocratic bodies. It comes from the concentration of the means of production in the hands of a ruling class which holds the power and distributes it in areas most conducive to them. So it's not an accident that power should ultimately be exercised by the Supreme Court. That's most reliable to them, most conservative, responsive only to those who have appointed them.” (For complete article, see [tinyurl.com/hqbw146](http://tinyurl.com/hqbw146))

With the Democratic and Republican parties clashing over whether SCOTUS should be a flexible or a rigid obstacle to social progress, working-class and oppressed people should use the opening this conflict creates, expose the anti-democratic nature of the court and demand an end to its role as an appointed body that defends the class rule of the super-rich. □

# Michigan legislature reinforces anti-LGBTQ bigotry

By Martha Grevatt  
Detroit

Logan was an Alaskan husky blinded 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, with most of the language written to prevent animal abuse. Who could be against that?

The controversy that has erupted on social media involves the one bill addressing the crime of bestiality. Rather than write new language that makes the crime animal-specific, the bill left intact words from the state's 1931 so-called anti-sodomy law. Thus, “a person who commits the abominable and detestable crime against nature either with mankind or with any animal shall be guilty of a felony,” and still subject to up to 15 years in prison. A person already “sexually delinquent” could be jailed for life.

It would have been ever so simple to delete the words “either with mankind or,” effectively striking down a law that is already unconstitutional and therefore unenforceable. In 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, to overturn the despicable 1984 *Hardwick* decision that upheld Georgia's law against anal sex. The high court ruled unconstitutional all state laws that prohibited private sexual acts between consenting adults — laws that were mainly used to punish same-sex relationships. Michigan was then one of 17 states that still had these laws targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people on the books; only five states, none of them Michigan, have eliminated theirs.

Why not make state law consistent with the U.S. Constitution and affirm the rights of all people to privacy in their sexual affairs — and not do so in the context of protecting defenseless animals?

Republican Sen. Rick Jones, a sponsor, gave his excuse: “The minute I cross that line and I start talking about the other stuff” — dropping the unconstitutional language — “I won't even get a hearing. ... Nobody wants to touch it.” Jones is saying essentially that he was powerless to change the wording because the Michigan Legislature is so bigoted it won't “touch” the issue of taking anti-LGBTQ laws off the books. Jones himself, however, has voted for every one of a slew of anti-LGBTQ, anti-reproductive rights and anti-labor bills introduced since the now notorious Gov. Rick Snyder took office in 2011. In June of 2015, Jones voted to allow “faith-based” adoption agencies to refuse to serve potential parents — i.e. same-sex couples — under the guise of religious freedom.

Any one of the legislators could have voted no, demanding a new Logan's Law without irrelevant language that reinforces hatred of the LGBTQ community. Yet the Democrats, who take LGBTQ votes for granted, voted with the Republicans. Thus, with a nearly unanimous bipartisan vote, Michigan legislators have again demonstrated their bigotry — or, at best, sheer cowardice in the face of bigotry.

Meanwhile, thousands of pets are dead or in terrible pain and suffering after drinking Flint's toxic water — but those poor animals don't seem to be a priority in Lansing. □

# 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 colonial oppression and deep poverty, 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 a history of virulent racism.

As reports of microcephaly became international news, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and other news sources on Feb. 1 reported that, according to the American Academy of Neurology, an estimated 25,000 newborns receive a microcephaly diagnosis each year in the U.S. Unlike in Brazil, where an outbreak of the Zika virus is suspected as the possible cause, there is no such link here. Microcephaly can be caused by many factors, but the prevalence of microcephaly in the U.S. must be evaluated in conjunction with other devastating news on children's and mothers' health care in this country.

## Racism and infant mortality

The U.S. has the worst rate of infant mortality in the industrialized or developed world, higher than any of the other 27 developed countries, according to a 2014 Centers for Disease Control report. The *Washington Post* called the CDC re-

port a “national embarrassment.” (Sept. 29, 2014)

The CDC report found high rates of low birth-weight babies and birth defects. Most of these problems are caused by premature births, which are very high in the U.S.

As a whole, the infant mortality rate — babies who die before age 1 — in the U.S. has dropped from 9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 6 in 2013. This figure, however, puts the U.S. behind 25 other industrialized countries. Even socialist Cuba, which has been under a U.S. blockade for more than half a century, has a lower infant mortality rate: 4.63 deaths per 1,000 live births.

However, this is not the whole story. For white America, the mortality rate is 5.2 infant deaths out of 1,000 live births, while for Black America the rate is more than double that: 11.5 deaths per 1,000 births. This means that Black babies in the U.S. have a survival rate lower than babies in 64 other countries, putting them at about the level of Thailand.

The role and responsibility of the capitalist class for this disastrous failing, here in the very center of world imperialism, must be highlighted. The clear impact of racism at every level of U.S. society and at every level of social services must be challenged.

## Maternal deaths increase in U.S.

In most of the world, health statistics are showing steady improvement. But not in the U.S. Consider the statistics on

the rate of maternal deaths, calculated during and up to 42 days after childbirth.

Globally, there has been a steady decrease in the rate of maternal mortality. The U.S. is the only one among the developed countries where the reverse is true.

A CNN report of Dec. 1, 2015, based on studies by the medical journal *Lancet* and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stated: “It's hard to comprehend how the United States, one of the wealthiest nations in the world, is now one of only eight countries — including Afghanistan and South Sudan — where the number of women dying as a result of pregnancy and childbirth is going up. ...

“First, the numbers: More than 25 years ago, in 1987, there were 7.2 deaths of mothers per 100,000 live births in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2011, that number more than doubled, jumping to 17.8 deaths per 100,000 births.”

The totals grew still worse, to 18.5 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, in 2014.

A woman in the U.S. is more than 10 times as likely as a woman in Austria, Belarus or Poland to die from a pregnancy-related cause, according to the comprehensive report “State of the World's Mothers 2015,” published by Save the Children. The report warned, “It's the worst performance of any developed country in the world.”

Almost every commentary on this continuing deterioration in the U.S. ex-

plained that in every other industrialized country, all women had access to free or low-cost medical care, including contraception.

The deterioration extends far beyond immediate health issues.

## Child poverty growing

Child poverty in the U.S. is also the worst in the developed world and growing with every passing day.

For the first time in at least 50 years, a majority of public school students across the country are considered “low-income” and in need of basic nutrition, according to a 2015 study by the Southern Education Foundation.

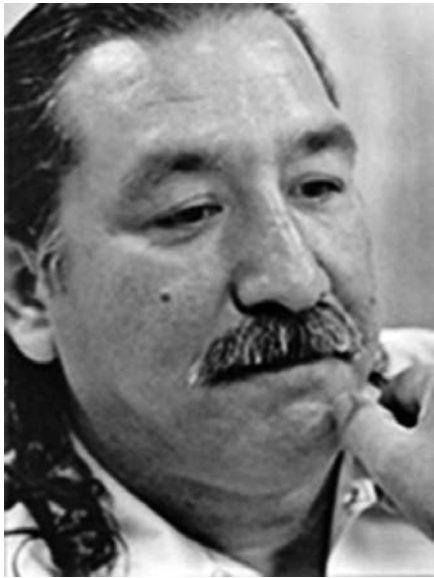
Of course, the growing poverty of children is connected to the growing poverty of parents. All families, but especially those headed by single mothers, are impacted by wages that have been falling for almost 30 years, according to a report from the Pew Research Center.

Life expectancy in the U.S., despite stunning advances in medical science, has not kept up with the rest of the developed world. The U.S. ranks below 41 other countries in life expectancy.

Two studies, one from the University of Wisconsin that evaluated data from 1992 to 2006 and the other from the University of Washington covering 1985 to 2010, found that female life expectancy had either stagnated or declined in 45 percent of U.S. counties. While advances in medicine and technology have prolonged

*Continued on page 11*





# Message from Leonard Peltier, unjustly imprisoned for 40 years

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 all I will say is safe journey and I hope to see you soon.

On February 6, I will have been im-

prisoned 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 Gorbachev that he would release me if the Soviet Union released a prisoner, but Reagan reneged. George H.W. 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 commute my sentence and send me home to my family.

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. You all worked hard — are still working hard — to spread the word about what is now being called the most outrageous 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 constitutional violations in my case and the government misconduct in prosecuting my case are issues far more important than just my life or 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, sovereignty and our very survival. If I should be called home, please don’t give up on our struggle.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse...

Doksha,  
Leonard Peltier

WORKERS WORLD  
**MUNDO OBRERO** ★

## Cómo trabajadores negros fueron diezmados por racismo

*Continúa de página 12*

Stergar le dijo a este escritor que 16 trabajadores negros fueron la clave para ganar una huelga organizativa en su pequeña fábrica en Milwaukee. Stergar era un líder del Partido WW-Mundo Obrero que falleció en 1996.

Los patronos sabían que los afroamericanos eran la piedra angular de las campañas de organización sindical. Clarence E. Elsas, dueño de la fábrica - ya cerradas - de textiles y bolsas Industrias Fulton en Atlanta, admitió en 1962 que él no contrataba a trabajadores negros para mantener fuera los sindicatos. (“Hiring the Black Worker” por Timothy Minchin) Hasta en el sur de hace 54 años, los patronos

temían que los afroamericanos pudieran influir en los blancos a sindicalizarse.

La huelga de brazos caídos de 1973 en Detroit en la planta Jefferson Avenue de Chrysler provocó una revuelta de trabajadores negros y blancos, en gran medida polo-americanos, contra las condiciones inseguras de trabajo en la planta Lynch Road Forge de Chrysler. (“Detroit: I Do Mind Dying”, por Dan Georgakas y Marvin Surkin)

Los patronos ponen las fábricas y almacenes nuevos en lugares remotos lejos de la última parada de autobús para evitar la contratación de trabajadores negros. Estas tácticas van junto a montar redadas de deportación de ICE contra las/os trabajadores inmigrantes durante

las campañas sindicales.

Durante décadas, el mayor empleador privado de afroamericanos era la Compañía Pullman, como porteros del coche-cama. Luego, la U.S. Steel y después la GM les contrataron y se colocaron en primera posición, con Ford y Chrysler siguiendo de cerca. Ese fue un gran salto hacia adelante.

Es un tremendo retroceso que la principal fuente de empleo de afroamericanas/os hoy en día es Walmart, con sus salarios de pobreza. Sin embargo estas tiendas representan una nueva concentración de trabajadoras/es que inevitablemente forzarán un contrato sindical a la familia Walton y su fortuna de \$149 mil millones. □

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

*Continued from page 10*

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 a new or unstudied virus, such as Zika, a climate catastrophe or an economic collapse that would wreak further havoc on the lives of millions who are struggling to barely survive.

Studies by respected international and national health organizations and concerned coverage in major corporate media can’t change these dynamics. The corporate ruling class in the U.S., with its tremendous control over the political apparatus, has been able to consistent-

ly sabotage government initiatives that could seriously reverse this slide, for one reason: profits. The concentration of wealth into fewer and fewer hands takes precedence over human needs.

This is the only statistic that is increasing at a rate never seen before — the concentration of wealth in the hands of a tiny group of corporate and financial owners. These figures on extreme capitalist wealth must be highlighted again and again when discussing the deteriorating conditions for millions of people.

To ignore the growing concentration of wealth hides the essence of the problem. The world’s 62 richest billionaires, many of whom use their financial clout to control U.S. politics, now have as much wealth as the poorest half of the world’s population. Their wealth has soared. Just five years ago, it was 388 megarich whose wealth equaled that of half of humanity.

Just to widen this to the richest 1 percent of the world, they now own more than the other 99 percent combined.

This is the roadblock to all human development. □

## 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 the crisis is heating up again.

On Feb. 5, First Head of the Donetsk People’s Republic Alexander Zakharchenko 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 replies to slanders

Regular readers of Workers World will recognize the name of Alexey Albu, the Borotba coordinator exiled from his hometown after the May 2014 massacre. WW has recently published interviews conducted by Albu with women fighters of the Ghost Brigade anti-fascist militia.

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 “Ukraine: Masks of the Revolution” about the Odessa massacre, and has come under vicious attack from Kiev’s propagandists seeking to discredit the documentary.

On Feb. 4, Albu released a statement: “All my life I’ve been a supporter of left-wing 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 Russian-language media long before the release of Moreira’s documentary, today they’re being uncritically published by Western media attempting to undermine the film’s impact.

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





# Ganancias récord dejan inseguridad a trabajadoras/es automotrices

Por Martha Grevatt

El 3 de febrero, la General Motors anunció sus ganancias en 2015. Aún descontando impuestos e intereses, GM registró las mayores ganancias en sus 108 años de historia, \$9,7 mil millones! Este anuncio se produce tras la noticia de Ford el 28 de enero informando su récord histórico de ganancias, \$7,6 mil millones en 2015.

La Fiat Chrysler Auto (FCA) tuvo un desempeño menos robusto, que atribuye principalmente a los costos de “reajuste del producto”. Sin esos cargos, la FCA habría hecho \$ 5,7 miles de millones en ganancias.

Estas tres compañías no hacen \$23 miles de millones siendo amables con sus trabajadoras/es o el medio ambiente. Tienen una larga y sórdida historia de anteponer las ganancias a las personas y el planeta.

Con el escándalo de agua en Flint ocupando los titulares, la gente está haciendo la conexión entre el empobrecimiento de Flint y la larga reestructuración de GM. La compañía y sus dependencias han cerrado 24 plantas en Flint y alrededor del condado de Genesee desde 1979. Ese cambio ha robado a Flint - lugar de nacimiento de GM - de 72.000 puestos de trabajo, dejando sólo 8.000 trabajadoras/es en la ciudad.

Todo el estado de Michigan ha sufrido por el cierre de más de 170 plantas de GM, Ford y Chrysler. Ahora parte de la FCA, Chrysler fue una vez el mayor empleador privado en Detroit, donde sólo Dodge Main

empleaba a 100.000 trabajadoras/es. Ahora hay sólo una planta de ensamblaje de Chrysler, altamente automatizada, construida sólo después de que Detroit le diera a la Chrysler una enorme exención de impuestos.

Después de Michigan, Ohio e Indiana han sido los estados más afectados. En los tres estados, las mayores pérdidas de empleo han sido en zonas urbanas, lo que ha tenido un impacto devastador en las familias negras de clase trabajadora. Con la introducción del divisivo sistema de pago dual y un repunte en las ventas impulsadas por el crédito fácil, las empresas empezaron a contratar a miles de jóvenes afroamericanos, pero ya no con un salario que podría mantener a una familia.

Los contratos recién negociados entre las Tres de Detroit y UAW elevaron sustancialmente los salarios para las/os trabajadoras nuevas. El problema que hoy enfrentan estas/os trabajadoras es que en un futuro próximo, lo que la compañía llama “reajuste del producto” podría significar despidos indefinidos.

El 27 de enero, cuando el CEO de FCA Sergio Marchionne anunció los resultados de las ganancias, indicó también que la FCA suspenderá la construcción de autos en EUA. Él tiene previsto suspender dos modelos, el Dodge Dart y el Chrysler 200. La compañía planea construir sólo camiones y vehículos utilitarios deportivos en sus plantas actuales con miembros de la UAW. Estos vehículos producen el mayor margen de ganancia.

Durante la votación del contrato, a las/

os trabajadores de la FCA se les presentó la proyección de pérdidas de empleos y ganancias en cada planta. Basado en estas estimaciones, el área de Detroit perdería alrededor de 750 puestos de trabajo en FCA.

Mientras tanto, Ford ha indicado que va a trasladar la producción de coches pequeños a México, donde los salarios bajos generarán enormes ganancias. La planta de ensamblaje de GM de Orión que fabrica subcompactos, reabrió en 2010 con un menor número de trabajadoras/es, muchos con baja paga. Orion ha visto una gran caída en los niveles de empleo. GM cerrará otra planta de ensamblaje durante la vigencia del actual convenio colectivo.

Las ganancias récord de hoy han llegado a costo de cientos de miles de puestos de trabajo en los últimos años - sin embargo, la reestructuración continúa. ¿Cómo les irá a estas/os trabajadoras jóvenes recientemente contratados en caso de una recesión económica?

## Ganancias vs. seguridad

Al menos una familia de GM no brindará por las ganancias récord de los patronos. El 2 de febrero, Terry Bodenbender, un electricista de GM en Defiance-Ohio, murió en una caída.

A nivel mundial, las/os trabajadoras automotrices sufren altas tasas de lesiones. En Bogotá-Colombia, la Asociación de Trabajadores Lesionados y ex trabajadores de GM Colmotores, han estado luchando durante más de cuatro años para obtener justicia para los trabajadores

lesionados y despedidos ilegalmente. Los trabajadores de GM en la India, donde los trabajadores antiguos hacen 92 centavos la hora y los nuevos 47 centavos, también tienen una alta tasa de lesiones.

El público conductor no tiene tampoco mejor seguridad. GM causó cientos de muertes por un interruptor de encendido defectuoso que la patronal eligió usar, ya que era más barato. Durante muchos años Chrysler luchó contra los requisitos de bolsas de aire para evitar el costo añadido.

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 en la gasolina del plomo, un veneno ya conocido durante mucho tiempo. Con el casi abandono de Flint, GM 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 corroer sus motores. En silencio, la empresa dispuso obtener agua de una fuente alterna. Si la GM hubiera hecho público su preocupación por la corrosión, 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 para una economía socialista planificada, donde las personas y el medio ambiente se anteponen a las ganancias. □

# Cómo trabajadores negros fueron diezmados por racismo

Por Stephen Millies

El gobernador de Michigan Rick Snyder no es el único criminal que debe ser castigado por el envenenamiento por plomo de las/os niños de Flint. General Motors empobreció a la mayoría negra de Flint al cerrar nueve de las 10 plantas que tenía allí. GM debe miles de millones en indemnización.

Flint era el centro de lo que fue la empresa manufacturera más grande del mundo. Así que ¿por qué GM masacró Flint?

GM y otros gigantes de la industria querían poner fin a su dependencia en el trabajo negro. Hace cuarenta y cinco años, una cuarta parte de los trabajadores de las fábricas de acero y las plantas de automóviles de EUA eran afroamericanos. (“Organized Labor and the Black Worker,” por Philip Foner)

Malcolm X había trabajado en la planta de Lincoln-Mercury de Detroit. También Berry Gordy, fundador de Motown Records.

La desindustrialización no fue sólo el resultado de la automatización y la sobreexplotación de trabajadoras/es en otros países. También fue una decisión política dirigida contra las/os trabajadoras negros.

Wall Street nunca olvidó cómo los afroamericanos sacudieron plantas de au-

tomóviles en los años 1960 y 1970. La Liga de Trabajadores Negros Revolucionarios condujo huelgas no aprobadas por el liderazgo sindical en Detroit. Había una banca del Partido Panteras Negras en la planta de GM en Fremont-California.

“Como una tremenda carga explosiva, el empuje irresistible por la libertad negra, un empuje que incluye necesariamente todas las nacionalidades oprimidas, está siendo impulsado en las plantas”, fue como Vince Copeland describió este período en el libro “Populismo sureño y trabajo negro”. Copeland fue el editor fundador de Workers World.

El 24 de julio de 1973, dos trabajadores negros - Larry Carter e Isaac Shorter - apagaron la planta Jefferson Avenue de Chrysler en Detroit. Esta fue la primera gran huelga de brazos caídos en 36 años.

La respuesta del capitalismo fue construir la mayor parte de las nuevas plantas de automóviles lejos de comunidades negras grandes. Esto se convirtió en una práctica habitual a partir de 1968, cuando GM abrió su planta Lordstown en Ohio.

La clase capitalista destruyó económicamente a Detroit, al igual que dejó ahogarse y pasar hambre al pueblo negro en Nueva Orleans.

Chrysler se deshizo de 35.000 trabajadoras/es en Motown. De 1979 a 1982, toda la

plantilla de Chrysler pasó de ser 70 por ciento afroamericana, a un 30 por ciento.

## Cárceles sí, trabajos no

La destrucción total de la industria pesada en el medio oeste hizo que el ingreso medio de las/os afroamericanos cayera un 36 por ciento entre 1978 y 1982. (Oficina del Censo) Una migración inversa comenzó de nuevo al Sur.

El despido de cientos de miles de trabajadoras/es negros en fábricas de automóviles, acero y otras ocupaciones sindicalizadas fue acompañado de su encarcelamiento masivo.

El capitalismo cerró las fábricas y vertió drogas y armas en las comunidades negras. Las/os 2,3 millones de presos en EUA son también trabajadoras/es.

El carácter racista de la nueva inversión capitalista se puede ver en Wisconsin.

El Condado de Milwaukee tiene grandes comunidades negras y latinas. Unos 55.000 empleos manufactureros fueron destruidos entre 1977 y 1992, antes de la implementación del TLCAN. Pero el resto del estado, el cual es con pocas excepciones abrumadoramente blanco, ganó 66.000 de estos trabajos. (Censo de Manufactura)

La comunidad negra de Milwaukee nunca se ha recuperado del cierre de la plan-

ta de monturas de autos A.O. Smith, del cierre de American Motors y muchas otras fábricas. Uno de cada 25 afroamericanos en este estado está ahora en prisión.

## Cuando las vidas de trabajadores negros importan, todos los trabajadores importan

Los ataques a las/os trabajadoras negros fueron una derrota para toda la clase trabajadora multinacional. Los contratos del UAW que las/os trabajadoras negros ayudaron a ganar a través de huelgas, se convirtieron en un estándar para las/os trabajadoras de costa a costa.

Aún las/os trabajadores no sindicalizados en oficinas y otros lugares de trabajo recibirían seguro dental y otros beneficios que llegaron a ser esperados como parte del paquete salarial.

La principal razón para la disminución de la afiliación sindical fue el cierre de miles de fábricas, muchas de las cuales tenían un gran número de trabajadoras/es afroamericanos.

El número de huelgas que involucraron a más de un millar de trabajadores se redujo de 424 en 1974 a sólo cinco en 2009. Eso es una caída del 99 por ciento. (Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales)

El militante organizador sindical Al

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