

# The people can defeat Trump's NEST OF VIPERS

By Fred Goldstein

Feb. 27 — As the Trump administration opens up new attacks on the masses, the split between the White House and the capitalist establishment is growing ever sharper.

The head of the Department of Homeland Security, John Kelly (retired general, U.S. Marines), has signed sweeping memos that vastly expand the definition of undocumented immigrants immediately subject to deportation. Random arrests have taken place across the country. Fear is stalking neighborhoods from Long Island to Los Angeles to Chicago and the border areas. Immigrants are afraid to get in a car or go to the store for fear of being snatched by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Coming across the border is now considered a deportable crime. This applies to 11 million people.

In addition to deportations there is an escalation of arbitrary harassment. For example, Muhammad Ali Jr. and his mother were stopped at a Florida airport and held for two hours because of their Muslim names. A Holocaust scholar from Paris who was born in Egypt narrowly escaped deportation. An undocumented worker, Sara Beltran Hernandez, who was hospitalized for treatment of a brain tumor in Texas, was seized by border control agents and put in a detention center. Incidents such as these are multiplying across the country.

### The Trump/Bannon budget

Meanwhile, Trump is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on Feb. 28 at which he will announce the Trump/Bannon budget. Stephen Bannon is an ultra-rightist and the president's top advisor.

Advance advertising about the budget calls for a \$54 billion increase in military spending, which currently stands officially at \$584 billion. The proposed increase is 9.2 percent. (This excludes the Energy Department, which oversees nuclear weapons.)

According to the Feb. 27 Reuters: "Trump has previously said he would expand the Army to 540,000 active-duty troops from its current 480,000, increase the Marine Corps from 23 to 36 battalions — or as many as 10,000 more Marines — boost the Navy from 276 to 350 ships and submarines, and raise the number of Air Force tactical aircraft from 1,100 to 1,200." He has also been talking about increasing the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

"An official familiar with the proposal said Trump's request for the Pentagon included more money for shipbuilding, military aircraft and establishing 'a more robust presence in key international waterways and choke points' such as the Strait of Hormuz and South China Sea."

The push to expand the military off the coasts of China and Iran flows from Bannon's worldview that there

*Continued on page 8*

## Planning the fightback



WW PHOTO

Pictured here are some of the participants in a people's assembly held by the Triangle Unity May Day Coalition in Durham, N.C., on Feb. 25. The attendees strategized on moving the people's struggles forward in North Carolina, organizing for May Day and other topics.

- Justice for mother slain by cops 2
- Environmentalist behind the walls 3
- Trans people resist repression 6,7
- Stop the war against immigrants 8
- Behind Milo's 'misfortune' 11



## INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Black women break barriers 6-7

### Subscribe to Workers World

4 weeks trial \$4  1 year subscription \$30

Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program:  
[workers.org/articles/donate/supporters\\_/](http://workers.org/articles/donate/supporters_/)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Workers World** 212.627.2994  
 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011 **workers.org**

Ecuador election *Editorial* 10 Romania turmoil 10  
 War crimes in Donbass 10

# Federal court hears Yvette Henderson case

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

Supporters of Yvette Henderson's family gathered at the U.S. Courthouse here on Feb. 23 and packed the courtroom. The city of Emeryville was presenting a motion to dismiss the family's wrongful death federal lawsuit. Civil rights attorney Dan Siegel had filed the suit on behalf of her family on Oct. 29, 2015.

The U.S. Courthouse security seemed to be intentionally taking as much as five minutes to process each individual as Henderson's supporters lined up to witness the proceeding. This led to some people missing as much as 45 minutes of the testimony as they waited to get in. Henderson's sister was denied entry, solely because she wasn't carrying ID.

A 38-year-old mother of two children, Henderson was shot and killed by the Emeryville Police Department on Feb. 3, 2015. She had been identified by a Home Depot security guard for alleged shoplifting. After she left Home Depot that day, she tried to flag down a passing bus. Henderson was then cornered by the EPD at the Extra Space Storage Facility garage in Oakland, a few blocks from the Home Depot.

According to a press release issued by the Anti Police-Terror Project: "Witnesses and police have presented conflicting accounts of the circumstances of the shooting. However, what is clear is that the amount of force used against Yvette was grossly excessive and unjustified. Michelle Shepherd and Warren Williams shot at Yvette seven times at close range. Officer Williams killed her with a shot to the head from an AR-15 assault rifle — a military-grade weapon, the same weapon used by the United States military in wars throughout the world."

Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu questioned the plaintiff's lawyer, Dan Siegel, and the defense attorneys represent-



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Supporters demand justice for Yvette Henderson.

ing the city of Emeryville on the defense's motion for a summary judgement (essentially to dismiss the suit).

Siegel stressed, along with many other arguments, that "the facts were incontestable" with respect to the third volley, which was the fatal shot to Henderson's head. He said Henderson was on the ground on her right side, shot in her right arm and didn't have the gun. Her back was to the gun, which was three to six feet away. Williams then shot her in the head.

The defense claimed there was no evidence that Williams understood the extent of her injury, but conceded that he knew she was unarmed before he shot the fatal third volley. The defense argued that, as a police officer, Williams had qualified immunity.

Siegel cited four different cases where qualified immunity did not apply when the victim was injured and not armed.

Judge Ryu stated she would try to issue her decision before a planned settlement conference on March 28. □

## WORKERS WORLD this week

### ★ In the U.S.

- Nest of vipers ..... 1
- Federal court hears Yvette Henderson case ..... 2
- Visit with an activist prisoner ..... 3
- Mumia Abu-Jamal: What's a 'jailhouse environmentalist'? ..... 3
- Marxism-Leninism and unionism ..... 4
- Los Angeles: Press conference calls May 1 actions ..... 4
- Solidarity ends 10-month Honeywell lockout ..... 5
- Iowa workers fight anti-union law ..... 5
- Protest held outside racist restaurant ..... 5
- A medical trailblazer: Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward ..... 6
- Regime OKs discrimination against trans students ..... 6
- Protests support trans students ..... 6
- Lucy Parsons: A working-class founder of May Day ..... 7
- Transgender immigrants under attack ..... 7
- Bay Area protesters: 'No more deportations!' ..... 8
- Brooklyn tenants demand: 'Kill the bill!' ..... 8
- Wave of terror unleashed on immigrants ..... 9
- Wisconsin: Marchers support immigrants ..... 9
- Hard times befall fascist bigot ..... 11
- Los Angeles: Syria event exposes truth ..... 11

### ★ Around the world

- Romania: Protests demand an end to corruption ..... 10
- Actions will condemn war crimes in Donbass ..... 10

### ★ Editorial

- U.S. hands off Ecuador! ..... 10

### ★ Noticias en Español

- Clase dominante rechaza acercamiento de Trump hacia Rusia ..... 12

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
Vol. 59, No. 9 • March 2, 2017  
Closing date: Feb. 28 2017



Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Andrea Bañuelos, Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis  
Copyright © 2017 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

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](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [workers.org/email.php](http://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.

## 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 59 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

### Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**National Office**  
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
[wwp@workers.org](mailto:wwp@workers.org)  
**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)  
**Baltimore**  
c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)  
**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)  
**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
712 Main St #113B  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716.883.2534  
[buffalo@workers.org](mailto:buffalo@workers.org)  
**Chicago**  
312.630.2305  
[chicago@workers.org](mailto:chicago@workers.org)  
**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)  
**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)  
**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)  
**Huntington, W. Va.**  
[huntingtonww@workers.org](mailto:huntingtonww@workers.org)  
**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

**Lexington, Ky.**  
[lexington@workers.org](mailto:lexington@workers.org)  
**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
[la@workers.org](mailto:la@workers.org)  
323.306.6240  
**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)  
**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)  
**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)  
**Portland, Ore.**  
[portland@workers.org](mailto:portland@workers.org)

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585.436.6458  
[rochester@workers.org](mailto:rochester@workers.org)  
**Rockford, Ill.**  
[rockford@workers.org](mailto:rockford@workers.org)  
**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)  
**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)  
**Virginia**  
[virginia@workers.org](mailto:virginia@workers.org)  
**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, DC 20037  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)

### [workers.org/wwp](http://workers.org/wwp)

# Visit with an activist prisoner

By Suzanne Ross  
Frackville, Pa.

Joe Piette of the International Action Center in Philadelphia and I, of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal in New York City, headed from our respective cities on Feb. 13 to meet in Frackville Prison to visit the environmental activist prisoner Bryant Arroyo. (Frackville, Pa., is just a few miles away from Mahanoy Prison, where Mumia Abu-Jamal is housed).

Joe arrived a little before I did. By the time I got there, he had already been told he was not on the approved visitors' list, that there was no record of his scheduled visit, and that he could not visit Bryant. We asked the guards to check the list again, which they claimed to do, but they refused to show Joe any of the documentation they were supposedly reviewing.

Two hours later, they allowed me in. They claimed the delay of my visit was due to Bryant not being in his cell. Bryant told me that he had never left his cell and had told the guard that he was remaining there, even cancelling his law library visit, just to be sure not to miss us. Not a very auspicious beginning — and one highly suggestive of targeted hassling of particular visitors.

Both Joe and I wrote letters to the superintendent of Frackville about the disturbing behavior of the prison authorities in dealing with our visit. Bryant has filed a grievance on the disruption of his visitors' ability to see him and of his ability to receive them. This morning I received an apology from the prison superintendent for the delays.

When I finally got to see Bryant, I was struck by how calm he was since I had showed up without Joe and arrived so many hours after we had said we would be there. Life in prison inures people to arbitrary delays, postponements and cancellations for many reasons out of the prisoners' control. They often don't even get explanations later. People "adjust."

I had spoken to Bryant many times on the telephone, and we had corresponded some as well, but this was the first time I met him. I was struck by his polite, informal and very respectful manner. Now in his mid-forties, he has been in prison for 23 years. He has fought to establish his innocence throughout these many years. It now looks as though his legal filing for wrongful conviction will finally be heard in court within the next year or two. He is very encouraged by that and hardly refers to the outrageous length of time this struggle has taken.

Bryant grew up in Lancaster, Pa., in a



Bryant Arroyo and Suzanne Ross, Feb. 13.

Puerto Rican family that owned different small businesses over the years. He was a 10th grade high school dropout when he became a father, but he earned a GED diploma. He later studied computers, drafting and, more recently, "the science of law."

Bryant had been sentenced to life in prison without parole — a sentence that is being challenged across the U.S. as unconstitutional. Because of the upcoming likelihood of court action, I am respecting Bryant's request not to discuss the details of his case, which are, nonetheless, available on the internet.

Bryant says he has managed to keep his focus through more than two decades in prison for a crime he vehemently denies he committed by his determination to prove his innocence and get out of prison. After his release, he would continue the work he began while incarcerated, but on a larger level. He proudly states that he has never taken any psychotropic medicine, and has never spoken with a psychologist or psychiatrist. (He noted humorously [that he meant] anyone other than me, a practicing clinical psychologist.) He says philosophically or due to his faith that he turned the nightmare that was forced on him into a blessing.

## Bryant: Frackville's water polluted

I contacted Bryant when we learned several months back, through Mumia, that the water at Mahanoy was dark and smelly, and that this situation was affecting other Pennsylvania prisons, too, including Frackville. Bryant has filed several grievances about the water at Frackville, but there has been no im-

provement in the water quality.

As Bryant sees it, the water problem in Pennsylvania prisons is not unique to the prisons, but is a community problem. It is, however, almost always a problem at the prison. It is very noticeable when the water is brown or black, but even when it looks clear, it foams in a way that suggests an impurity, and it often smells of sulfur. There is something wrong with it chemically.

The brothers at the prison constantly go to the infirmary for intestinal problems and frequently visit the bathrooms, especially if they drink a pint or so of water in a single series of gulps. At Frackville, clean bottled water can only be purchased in the visiting room, not in the commissary. The guards' dining room has bottled water available all the time. The prisoners have no option but to drink the polluted water that makes them sick.

Bryant has written to both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency, but he doesn't believe their reports are truthful. First, the monitors who come

to the prison do not test the water on the block but rather test somewhat cleaner water. Second, one government branch often covers up for another. Didn't we see that in Flint, Mich.?

Schuylkill, the county in which Frackville is situated, has been called a cancer hotbed because it is so polluted and the cancer rate is so high. Bryant says the government has both the funds and the resources to clean this up.

Bryant had brought a legal suit against a corporation that was going to build a coal-processing plant next to SCI Mahanoy, where he was then housed. He won the legal battle! The plant was not built. When Mumia met Bryant after his own release from death row in 2011, he was obviously impressed. (See Mumia's column, "What's a 'jailhouse environmentalist'?" )

We will surely be hearing more from Bryant Arroyo as he has become a passionate and very skillful fighter for justice, one who challenges the authorities whenever they violate the rights of prisoners. He is determined to make people aware of these human rights violations. □



## What's a 'jailhouse environmentalist'?

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*Taken from a Feb. 17, 2013, audio column on prisonradio.org*

Most of us have heard of jailhouse lawyers — guys and gals who battle in court for themselves or others.

But I'd wager few of us have ever heard of a "jailhouse environmentalist." Truth is, I didn't think such a thing existed.

Well, it's real, and his name is Bryant Arroyo, a bilingual Puerto Rican who has spent a third of his life in prison at SCI Mahanoy in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Arroyo didn't plan on such an endeavor, as he is already a jailhouse lawyer. But, like much in life, it was forced on him.

In 1998, a former Pennsylvania governor, Tom Ridge, invited an area businessman to join him on a trek to South Africa. He, John W. Rich Jr., was a power plant operator and a major landowner in the Mahanoy-Susquehanna County area, a distressed, impoverished region where coal mines closed down decades ago. Rich met and made deals with the South African Sasol energy and chemical company, and before long, he announced plans for a major coal-to-liquid-gas project, literally right next door to the state prison in Mahanoy.

By every measure, this was a done deal, for Rich, his family and colleagues contributed to federal, state and local politicians (who supported his plan without dissent), and he was even bipartisan in this effort, gaining the praise and support of Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell.

State permits were issued for the \$800 million plant, and state subsidies cut the costs by hundreds of millions of bucks.

But Arroyo, a curious and inquisitive man, having read about the proposed

plant in local papers, felt uneasy.

"What if this isn't safe?" he wondered.

He visited the prison library, asked for the environmental impact statement (a study required by the Environmental Protection Agency), read it — read it again — and determined he would do everything in his power to stop it.

But what could one man — a prisoner at that — do?

He talked to everybody he could — gangbangers, guards — everybody. Under prison rules, petitions are forbidden. So, he wrote a letter — and made hundreds of copies — to Mahanoy Township supervisors, each copy mailed by one prisoner. Within weeks, the local township supervisors had received over 400 letters — and these politicians appeared in a local paper looking disturbed.

When a local reporter tried to belittle him by referencing his criminal conviction, Arroyo simply went back to work, and before long over 900 letters flooded the offices of the township supervisors.

His activities even attracted the attention and support of CELDEF — the Community Environmental Legal Defense and Educational Fund — which crafted an ordinance for the township barring any nonrenewable energy projects that threatened the area's health and safety.

Even prison guards, through their union local, opposed the project, with union secretary Timothy Teltow (a prison guard and resident of nearby Shenandoah), telling reporters, "I just can't see why this facility is being built right next to a state penitentiary."

Eventually, within a few years, the done deal was done. Over. Dead.

An \$800 million coal gasification plant, supported by powerful corporations (like Bechtel and Texaco) and politicians (like the late Sen. Arlen Specter and ex-Sen. Rick Santorum) had to submit.

But it began when one man, Bryant Arroyo — a prisoner no less — became a 'jailhouse environmentalist' — and said no. □

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.  
Edited by Monica Moorehead.

**Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes

**Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy

**Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell

**The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead

**Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights**

Imani Henry

**Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad

**Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal

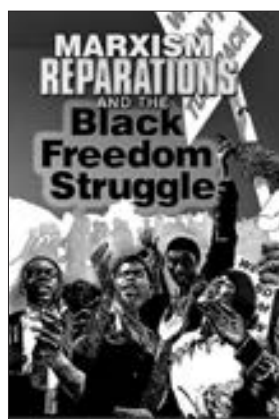
**Racism & Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales

**Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin

**Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee

**Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker

Available at all major online booksellers.



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

# Lessons of the victorious Harvard dining hall strike

## Marxism-Leninism and unionism

Part Four

By Ed Childs

Beating back the attack on health care — saving it from the 1% — is the beginning of something with national and international significance. People see Trump attacking even the limited Affordable Care Act and feel hopeless about the fight for health care. We showed we can win.

By the third week, Harvard's position was crumbling. We pushed them over the edge when students occupied the building where we were negotiating. Seizing the means of production isn't just about factories. When you are up against a for-profit university, where finance capital trains its own, a classroom building is the means of production.

Occupations are a left tactic communists perfected in the 1930s. As Sam Marcy explained in the book "High Tech, Low Pay," "Seizure and occupation of the plants and other facilities have the effect of hastening a crisis in the relationship between the employers and the workers. ... It can change the form of the struggle, take it out of its narrow confines and impart to it a broader perspective. In truth, it brings to the surface a new working-class perspective on the struggle between the workers and the bosses. It says in so many words that we are not tied to a one-dimensional type of struggle with the bosses at a time when they have the levers of political authority in their hands."

That is as true in a restaurant, hospital or university as inside a plant.

In the middle of the occupation, the Boston Globe and the Boston Herald, which had not covered us since the first day, suddenly had an editorial saying to settle with the workers. TV news, which had been negative, said the same. Even Harvard's own press people told the media to say it was time for Harvard to settle.

Now the UNITE HERE International has claimed the Harvard strike as its own. Because it was so successful and had so much support, they wanted to call for a general strike on Inauguration Day. The international president of the union could not convince anyone in the AFL-CIO, but he said that the Harvard strike proves it can be done. The union

*The 750 striking Harvard University Dining Service workers — cooks, dishwashers, servers and cashiers — brought multibillion-dollar Harvard University to its knees on Oct. 25. After a three-week strike, the university bosses caved, giving the members of UNITE HERE Local 26 even more than they had initially demanded. Most importantly, all the health care takeaways the Harvard Corporation had demanded were off the table.*

*The strike victory holds valuable lessons for the workers and oppressed in the age of global capitalism — particularly now, under the Donald Trump administration and with the rise of fascist, racist elements. Workers World's Martha Grevatt interviewed Chief Steward Ed Childs, a cook and leader in Local 26 for more than 40 years. This is the fourth in a series of articles based on the interviews, in which Childs explains how the workers won.*



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

also asked its employers to give workers the day off to protest immigrant-bashing. Would this be happening inside our union if we had not waged a successful strike against Harvard — and indirectly against Wall Street?

### Employing communist tactics

With the strike victory behind us, we need to absorb its lessons. What is the role of communists in unions: What do they do? All of our tactics have to be viewed as Leninist tactics as distinct from ultra-leftism. We need to revive a revolutionary Leninist union perspective and not let Lenin's union work be lost.

What Lenin wrote in "Left-Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder" describes revolutionary tactics to a "T."

Lenin was worried that his experience leading to the success of the Russian Revolution would be lost because Russia was a backward country and the bourgeoisie was organizing to crush it.

Union leaders like Samuel Gompers in the U.S. and others in Europe laughed at Lenin, but Lenin said to fight it out with the labor bureaucracy!

Look at the union leadership in the U.S. since the American Federation of Labor's founding in 1886. There have only been six presidents: Gompers, Green, Meany, Kirkland, Sweeney, Trumka — the first three were for life. But Lenin said to stay in the unions.

There has been a debate in the labor movement about what won our strike, but it was classic Leninism: We won with a

political struggle. I've learned from Sam Marcy, Milt Neidenberg and others how we struggle — "mild in manner, bold in matter" — by bringing the officials along but controlling our message and getting the politics across. If we ignore the fact that this was led and nurtured by communists, we lose half the meaning of this strike.

All of my work in the union has been about applying a classic Marxist-Leninist approach to a current situation. Workers World Party has been the guiding light of this union from the time when we first organized, through past strikes and last year's battle. Workers World was the only news source anywhere to chronicle every event of the strike from the workers' viewpoint.

What Marx wrote in "Trade Unions: Their Past, Present and Future" in 1866 applies totally today: "Apart from their original purposes, [unions] must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class, in the broad interest of its complete emancipation. They must aid every social and political movement tending in that direction. Considering themselves and acting as the champion representatives of the whole working class, that cannot fail to enlist the non-society [workers] into their ranks.

"They must look carefully after the interests of the worst paid trades, such as the agricultural laborers [and today the service proletariat, including precarious workers], rendered powerless by exceptional circumstances. They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions."

Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes, speaking to party labor cadre in September, brought this up to date: "The organization of the working class must advance to encompass larger and larger numbers, whatever their circumstances — not based on an industry or a country, but on overthrowing capitalism."

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

## Los Angeles

# Press conference calls May 1 actions

About 100 people gathered at a press conference Feb. 23 in Los Angeles to announce a mega-march in that city and a national general strike on May 1. The conference was held at the historic Placita Olvera in downtown Los Angeles under the slogans: "The People vs. Trump!" "A Day Without an (Im)migrant!" and "No Ban! No Wall! Sanctuary for ALL."

The press conference was a great show of unity. All the founders of the historic March 25 and May 1 actions of 2006 that brought over 1 million people out in the streets were there. It also included many of the organizations that have fought for immigrant rights since 2006.

Speakers at the conference were a mix of voices from moderate to militant, united against Trump, racism and the anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-women agendas of his administration. The LA Resistance Coalition, which has helped organize the large protests against Trump here in L.A. and includes many who were involved in the Bernie Sanders



WW PHOTO: JOHN PARKER

campaign, was also present, as was the Filipino organization BAYAN-USA.

The many speakers included Daniel Montes from Unión del Barrio, John

Parker of the International Action Center, Councilmember Gil Cedillo, Gloria Saucedo and Nativo López of Hermanidad Mexicana, and DACA (Deferred Ac-

tion for Childhood Arrivals) students and others directly targeted by Trump's immigration terrorism.

— WW Los Angeles Bureau

# Solidarity ends 10-month Honeywell lockout

By Martha Grevatt

Starting in mid-March, all locked-out Honeywell workers will be returning to work. Members of United Auto Workers Local 9 in South Bend, Ind., and Local 1508 in Green Island, N.Y., voted to ratify a new contract on Feb. 25. They had maintained round-the-clock picketing since May 9, when Honeywell bosses walked them out of the plant in the wee hours of the morning and locked the gates.

This new contract pushed back some of the worst terms Honeywell was demanding the union concede. The workers voted to reject these terms two days before the May lockout. They rejected the same contract again in November, even though by then the workers had nearly run out of state unemployment benefits.

The company's original proposal would have allowed management to deny workers their shift preference and force them out on layoff without regard to seniority. The company could also have arbitrarily and unilaterally cut health benefits and made other changes to the contract without negotiating with the

UAW. This language was taken out of the ratified agreement.

The breakthrough came shortly after a Feb. 11 labor-community solidarity rally in South Bend. Drawing a range of supporters — UAW members, other unions, Jobs with Justice, clergy, elected officials, Detroit's Moratorium Now! Coalition and women's rights activists — the rally demonstrated to Honeywell the high level of community support for the locked-out workers.

"We want to thank our members and their families for their sacrifice and solidarity during a difficult year," said Local 9 President Todd Treder, "and for all of the support our local communities and brothers and sisters from the UAW and labor across the country have given us." (uaw.org)

While the Green Island local overwhelmingly approved the new contract, in South Bend the contract passed by only a slim majority. Workers are still unhappy about increased out-of-pocket health care costs that, for some, amount to a significant pay cut.

Another issue is the elimination of

being paid time-and-a-half — 50 percent more than the regular hourly wage — for time worked after eight hours in a single day. Now workers must work more than 40 hours a week — what the Fair Labor Standards Act already mandates for even non-union workers — to collect premium pay.

The UAW conceded this point on overtime pay at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler during the 2009 bankruptcies. This earlier concession has made it hard for other UAW locals to hold onto language that insists workers receive premium pay after an eight-hour day.

The UAW has also just ended two short strikes. Local 291 in Oshkosh, Wis., which struck Feb. 6 over contract demands, ended its strike Feb. 12. Local 710 in Kansas City, Mo., won a first contract Feb. 21 after striking Challenge Manufacturing for



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Solidarity rally with Honeywell workers, Feb. 11 in South Bend, Ind.

three weeks. The victory came after Ford workers from Local 249 and GM workers from Local 31 — whose plant provides parts for Challenge — held a "picket party" with 150 supporters. □

## 'Worse than Wisconsin'

# Iowa workers fight anti-union law

By Mike Kuhlenbeck  
Des Moines, Iowa

Iowa workers are fighting to save the collective bargaining rights of public sector employees after Gov. Terry Branstad signed an anti-union bill into law on Feb. 17 despite a public outcry against it.

Republican legislators, who dominate every branch of state government, have declared war against workers in the Hawkeye State with a slew of bills aimed against organized labor. Plotting behind closed doors, they introduced legislation on Feb. 7 aimed at destroying the bargaining rights of over 184,000 public employees, previously protected under the Iowa Public Employment Relations Act.

House File 291 quickly passed by a vote of 53 to 47 in the House and 29 to 21 in the Senate. In blitzkrieg style, it took Gov. Branstad just 10 days to enact it into law. Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, who will take over for Branstad when he leaves office to become the new U.S. Ambassador to China, also supports the union-busting law.

The Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa sent representatives from Iowa City to Des Moines to protest the changes and stand in solidarity with the workers during the legislative debate and the public hearings. In a public statement, CWJ noted that the law "removes civil service protections established in the early 1900s to prevent nepotism and corruption," adding that it is "devastating to our state, our workers, and our public services."

The new law strips away worker protections that have been on the books for over 40 years, since their signing in 1974. With the exception of negotiating base wages, the new law prohibits unions from discussing a multitude of issues, including health insurance and working conditions.

Workers can now be fired without just cause, union dues can no longer be deducted from payrolls, and it will be more difficult to raise union funds. This law will help pave the way for dismantling public sector unions as well as attacking unions in the private sector.

Iowa AFL-CIO President Ken Sagar

has said, "This bill will mean that workers, like teachers and nurses, would not be able to speak for themselves to make sure they're safe on the job." He called it "just another attack on working people by extremist lawmakers and their wealthy campaign donors." In other public statements, the Iowa AFL-CIO has called provisions of the bill "worse than Wisconsin" or "Wisconsin on steroids."

Just as with Wisconsin, GOP legislators were heavily influenced by right-wing think tanks such as Americans for Prosperity and such groups as the American Legislative Exchange Council. Before the law passed, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who conspired with fellow Re-

publicans to pass similar measures in his state in 2011, communicated with Iowa GOP legislators during a caucus meeting while ignoring their constituents.

The Iowa GOP, steadfastly aligned with the reactionary policies of President Donald Trump, is not showing any signs of slowing down its assault on workers. Iowa workers are vowing not to back down in the fight to save collective bargaining, which is just another battle in the class war being waged in the state.

### 'Kill the bill!'

Thousands of Iowans have been storming the state Capitol building in Des Moines. Crowds have been showing up to

local legislative public forums in record numbers across the state to show their opposition to these anti-worker assaults. An audience at the Statehouse chanted "Kill the bill!" during a Feb. 14 hearing, displaying the raw emotions of those to be hit hardest by HF 291.

On Feb. 20, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Iowa filed a lawsuit against HF 291 even as the Polk County District Court challenged the constitutionality of the law.

"We didn't start this fight," Sagar is quoted as saying by the Cedar Rapids Gazette. "We did not want this fight, but we will not give up on this fight for the rights and lives of working Iowans." (Feb. 16) □

# Protest held outside racist restaurant

Kris Hamel  
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

When three African-American women went on their monthly social outing on a Saturday evening, they were served up with some ugly racism in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

TaNisha Prater, Adrienne Savage and Kimberly Hudson were dining at the Blufin Sushi restaurant on Feb. 18 when the general manager asked the women to vacate their seats at the bar to accommodate other patrons. The women believe they were singled out because they are Black. The Blufin is located on Mack Avenue just across the street from the Detroit city border.

In a courageous act, the women decided to speak up and be heard right then and there. Prater began a Facebook Live video which went viral, receiving close to 85,000 views. The manager could not offer a policy about sitting at the bar, and Prater called her a racist. Then the manager called the police, claiming the women were intoxicated, which they weren't. The cops arrived and proceeded to question the women in a



WW PHOTOS: KRIS HAMEL

Protest outside Blufin restaurant, Feb. 22. TaNisha Prater, left, and Adrienne Savage.

way that defended the manager.

It was the resolve of the women not to let this racist incident be swept under the rug. Since going public, former employees of Blufin have come forward, stating the racism they experienced or witnessed by Blufin management.

With the support of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice, the Moratorium Now Coalition, the Michigan People's Defense Network, Workers World Party and others, Prater and the other women called a demonstra-

tion outside the Blufin on Feb. 22, during the evening rush hour. Some 150 people of various ages and nationalities came out to denounce Blufin's racism and show their solidarity with the women and all those facing racist attacks.

The local corporate media have promoted the Blufin owner's claims that the women's version of events was not accurate. People are asked to boycott the Blufin and other establishments in the Grosse Pointe communities until a resolution is announced. □



By Dolores Cox

African-American history is part of U.S. history. In reclaiming that history, one African American to be remembered is Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward, the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in New York state and the third in the U.S. She practiced medicine for 48 years.

Born in the historic village of Weeksville, Brooklyn, N.Y., in March 1847, Smith became a student of music early in her life. However, she turned her focus to studying medicine, and in 1867, Smith enrolled at the New York Medical College for Women. Earning her medical degree in 1870, this brilliant woman was the valedictorian of her graduating class.

The following year Dr. Smith married the Rev. William McKinney, who died in 1892. They had two children. She set up her own medical practice in Brooklyn from 1870 to 1895; co-founded the Brooklyn Women's Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary for the African-American community; and obtained a postgraduate degree. She also practiced at other hospitals, with specialties in prenatal care and childhood diseases.

# A trailblazer in medicine

## DR. SUSAN SMITH MCKINNEY STEWARD

Dr. Smith McKinney married the Rev. Theophilus Steward, an Army chaplain, in 1896, and traveled westward with him, obtaining medical licenses in Montana and Wyoming. Wilberforce University in Ohio hired the doctor in 1898 as a campus physician and faculty member. There she taught nutrition and health and lived out the rest of her life.

A public speaker, Dr. Smith McKinney Steward was frequently invited to address conferences and meetings. She spoke about Black women in the U.S. at the first Universal Race Congress at the University of London in 1911. Three years later she spoke on "Women in Medicine" at the convention of the National Association of "Colored" Women's Clubs. She was also an advocate for women's suffrage.

Dr. Smith McKinney Steward's achievements were so great and she was so well-respected that W.E.B. Du Bois gave the eulogy at her funeral in March 1918. She was buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

A Brooklyn school was renamed Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward Junior High School in 1974 to honor this groundbreaking woman. Two years later, African-American women doctors named a National Medical Association chapter for her.

The area known today as Brooklyn was originally inhabited by the Indigenous Lenape Nation, then by Dutch colonizers and then by the British beginning in the 1600s until their ouster in 1783. By 1834, the city of Brooklyn had consolidated and was incorporated.

The village of Weeksville where Dr. Smith McKinney Steward was born has a unique history. In 1838, James Weeks, a longshore worker and formerly enslaved person from Virginia, bought a two-acre plot of land in the eastern area of Brooklyn, only 11 years after the abolition of slavery in New York.

Weeks founded a village there that grew eventually to include 700 families; it was one of the first "free" African-American communities in New York state. It was named Weeksville after him.

Land was easily available for purchase then. Many African Americans saw acquiring land as their chance to obtain economic and political freedom by building their own communities. In New York, before the Civil War, men of color had to own property valued at a minimum of \$250 and pay taxes on it in order to vote.

Weeksville founders were Black political activists, artisans and land investors. By the 1850s, the village had become a refuge for more than 500 people from around the East Coast; nearly 40 percent were born in the South. The community was also a safe haven for many African Americans fleeing the violent, virulently racist 1863 New York

draft riots in Manhattan.

Weeksville had its own churches, a cemetery, an orphanage and a home for the elderly. One of the first African-American newspapers, the "Freedman's Torchlight," was published there. The village became the national headquarters of the African Civilization Society in the 1860s. The community's school for African-American children was the first such school in the country to integrate its staff and student body.

Soon after the Hunterly Road Houses were discovered in 1968, the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History was established. It is now the Weeksville Heritage Center, a national historic district bordering the neighborhoods of Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant. Four residential buildings remain, which were built during and after the 1860s in the Black community of Weeksville.

The wooden-frame dwellings sit alongside a road dating back to Native peoples' habitation of the area. The houses were declared New York City landmarks in 1970, purchased by the preservation society in 1973 and then rehabilitated in the 1980s. Education and cultural centers were built adjacent to the houses. All facilities are open to the public.

Sources: *BlackPast.org*; "Brooklyn's Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York" by Judith Wellman (NYU Press, 2014); *Brooklyn Historical Society*.

## Regime OKs discrimination against trans students

By Mattie Starrdust

Protests against the Trump regime erupted across the country once again on Feb. 23 in response to the administration's rollback of protections for transgender students in public schools.

A Feb. 22 executive order issued by the Trump-appointed Department of Justice and Department of Education instructs public schools to disregard an earlier order issued by the Obama administration providing guidance on how to accommodate trans students in single-sex restrooms. The Obama executive order, which only provided "significant guidance" and did "not add requirements to applicable law," instructed public schools to allow transgender students to use whichever restroom is most in accordance with the individual student's gender identity.

In reality, Obama's order only suggested that public schools not endanger trans students by forcing them into the wrong restrooms and locker rooms, while Trump's order takes back this common sense suggestion. Neither executive order carries the force of law. However, the Trump order in effect gives the green light to school officials to openly discriminate against transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

The Trump order appears to have exposed some political divisions within the administration. According to a Feb. 22 New York Times article that wrote of her differences with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, "[Betsy] DeVos initially resisted signing off and told Mr. Trump that she was uncomfortable because of the potential harm that rescinding the protections could cause transgender students, according to three Republicans with direct knowledge of the internal discussions."

A Slate.com Feb. 22 editorial reported: "Yes, [DeVos] ultimately caved, and she remains either terrible or ignorant on most other issues. But she also forced the trans question all the way to the Oval Office,

compelling Trump to issue a direct verdict rather than delegating the unseemly task to his bigoted attorney general."

### What does this difference mean?

Should billionaire school privateer Betsy DeVos really be seen as an ally to transgender students? Hell no! DeVos' entire political career has been about raiding Michigan's already decrepit and grossly unequal public school system, breaking teachers' unions and funneling state funding into private, unregulated, for-profit charter schools. Unlike public schools, private schools that do not receive federal funding are able to ignore federal laws prohibiting discrimination against people of color, people with disabilities and LGBTQ people.

In reality, the so-called struggle between DeVos and Sessions isn't left-versus-right, or even moderate-versus-reactionary. DeVos has no history of caring about trans students, whose right to an education free from discrimination she actively opposes.

DeVos and Sessions, along with the entire two-party system, are united behind Trump's racist, anti-trans and anti-worker program of war and austerity.

Both Sessions and DeVos fully intend to carry out Trump's war on oppressed people, both in the U.S. and abroad, even if they differ on tactics. Progressives in the U.S. should recognize the opportunity offered by this division in the ruling class without overestimating it. Now's the time to build an anti-racist, anti-capitalist united front against the entire ruling class!

Not DeVos, not the "moderate" Republicans and certainly not the Democrats are allies of workers and the oppressed. But the discord that currently exists between these ruling-class groupings will make any united political action by progressives all the more bold and powerful.

*Disclosure: The writer is a transgender public community college student who occasionally has to use the bathroom.*



Chicago

WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL



Buffalo, N.Y.

PHOTO: PAUL MORGAN

## Protests support trans students

**Chicago, Feb. 25.** Over 500 people rallied and marched today in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood to protest the administration's attacks on transgender youth and their right to use bathrooms of their choice in public schools. The mostly trans speakers explained that Trump, like most cowardly bullies, has launched his assault on fundamental rights by targeting the most vulnerable sectors of the oppressed — particularly immigrants and trans people of color. They urged a united resistance move-

ment in the weeks and months ahead.

**Buffalo, N.Y., Feb. 26.** LGBTQ activists and supportive community turned out today to stand up to the president's attack on the rights of transgender youth and students. They filled the downtown square with pink-and-blue flags and their determination to defeat the administration's attempts to divide the working class. A broad range of organizations supported the rally.

— Reports by Jeff Sorel and Ellie Dorritie, respectively

## Women change history:

Workers World always commemorates the socialist holiday of International Women's Day, March 8, with a roundup of women's protests for freedom, justice and equality the world over. While all issues are women's issues, WW focuses this year on women bearing the brunt of Trump's racist, sexist, xenophobic agenda, such as working-class immigrant women being deported for the "crime" of daring to cross borders in search of work so they can provide for their families.

Women are already in motion around the globe this year. On Jan. 21, there were more than 600 women's marches, over 5 million strong in total. That was followed in the U.S. by "A Day without Immigrants" on Feb. 16, when thousands upon thou-

sands of workers and students walked out across the country, demanding their rights. An unprecedented International Women's Strike is planned on March 8, with actions in more than 30 countries. And then there is May 1 — May Day — when WW has joined the call for a global workers' strike.

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history but to make it — to bring about major changes needed to put the workers and the oppressed first instead of last. Struggle is the only way to bring about change. Like the struggle of the Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and transgender activists, which boldly counters racism and demands redress for centuries of oppression. Women are also powering the fight for \$15 an hour and a union. That's be-

# Lucy Parsons:

## A working-class founder of May Day

By Jeff Sorel

The class struggle was at fever pitch in Chicago in 1885. Unemployment was high, wages were low, and food prices were rising steeply. On April 28, thousands of workers expressed their anger over spreading hunger by demonstrating against a lavish dinner celebrating the opening of the new Board of Trade building.

The workers, mostly European immigrants, filled LaSalle Street, chanting against price-fixing, speculation and the injustice of starvation amidst so much wealth. At their head, proudly carrying a red flag, marched Lucy Parsons, an African-Native-Mexican-American woman who devoted her life to fighting poverty, racism, sexism and capitalism.

Parsons was born a slave in Texas in 1853. In 1871, after emancipation, she married Albert Parsons, a white Reconstruction supporter involved in registering Black voters. The rise of Klan terror at the end of Reconstruction led the young interracial couple to move to Chicago in 1873.

Chicago was in turmoil. Thousands had been left homeless and destitute by the great fire that destroyed the city two years earlier. Millions of dollars donated to help the victims had been “borrowed” at no interest by big businessmen on the relief society’s board of directors, including George Pullman and Marshall Field, to invest in their own companies. News of this theft led 10,000 workers and unemployed to protest at City Hall, Parsons’ first big demonstration.

Albert found work as a printer and got involved in trade union organizing and socialist politics. He helped found the Knights of Labor, the first big national labor federation in the U.S. Socialist meetings were held at the Parsons’ apartment, where Lucy learned about labor history and socialist theory.

### Strikes and agitation

In 1877, railroad workers struck nationwide, and many were massacred by federal troops in Chicago. Parsons saw firsthand that the state, far from neutral, always sided with the bosses. She also saw her spouse get enough votes for local office as a candidate of the Workingmen’s Party, only to have it stolen from him by massive fraud. She learned that militant action, not electoral politics, had to be the main vehicle for social change.

Parsons began to write for working-class newspapers and to speak publicly for the Working Women’s Union, exposing the horrors of factory life and the oppression experienced by women servants. An outstanding orator, she ex-

plained that only the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system could overcome this suffering.

She organized seamstresses into the Knights of Labor to fight for the eight-hour day. She joined the International Working Peoples Association, an anarcho-syndicalist organization that made one of its six founding principles: “Equal rights for all without distinction as to sex or race.”

She performed all this activity while maintaining a small dress shop to help support her two children.

On “Thanksgiving” Day 1884, Parsons led thousands of unemployed down Prairie Avenue, an exclusive street lined with the mansions of such leading capitalists as George Pullman, Philip Armour, Gustavus Swift, Cyrus Hall McCormick and Marshall Field III to dramatize how little the poor had to be thankful for. The workers rang doorbells and hurled angry epithets at their exploiters.

### Giving birth to May Day

The movement for an eight-hour day began to grow rapidly over the next two years. The murders of peacefully striking picketers at the McCormick reaper plant May 3-4, 1886, culminated in the famous Haymarket rally and frame-up of working-class leaders, including Albert Parsons. These events are still commemorated by workers around the world on May 1 or May Day.

Lucy organized support for her jailed spouse and his colleagues, speaking to large crowds in 17 states, while doing extra sewing to support her family. After the trial, a New York paper urged that “Parsons be let out as a compromise to get Mrs. Parsons to stop talking.”

In fact, Lucy herself was often arrested and harshly treated. Indeed, on the morning of the executions, she and her children were stripped and thrown naked into a jail cell and released only after the hanging. The next day, Albert’s coffin was brought to her apartment. Overcome by emotion, she found the strength to retrieve the red flag she had carried in the Board of Trade demonstration, which she draped across Albert’s body.

Ten thousand workers filed through the Parsons’ apartment during the night to view the body. The next day, over 200,000 people lined the streets for the funeral procession of Albert and his fellow martyrs.

### Devotion to workers and oppressed

Lucy Parsons organized against the U.S. imperialist war with Spain in 1898. She was active in every major 20th-century workers’ defense case, including those

of Big Bill Haywood, Sacco and Vanzetti, and Alabama’s Scottsboro Brothers. She was an original member of the Socialist Party, wrote a weekly column for the Industrial Workers of the World and distributed communist literature. She supported the Russian Revolution of 1917, breaking with anarchist colleagues.

In her articles and speeches, Parsons repeatedly addressed the specific oppressions faced by Black people and women. She campaigned against racist lynchings and criminal injustice, and fought for women’s suffrage, equal pay, birth control access and abortion rights. In the 1920s, the Chicago Police Department described her as “more dangerous than a thousand rioters.”

In the 1930s, Parsons, close to 80 years old and too poor to afford a nickel for a streetcar, walked regularly six miles to downtown Chicago to sell socialist and communist pamphlets. She could still be counted on for every major picket line and rally against capitalist injustice.

Her main focus continued to be organizing the unemployed, frequently taking the lead in hunger marches. She helped formulate the sit-down-strike tactic, urging strikers not to “go out and starve, but to remain in and take possession of the necessary property of production.”

In 1941, at one of her last public appearances, Parsons spoke to strikers at International Harvester, successor to the company that had provoked the Haymarket events 55 years earlier. She stressed



the continuity of the struggle against the capitalists and the police, urging the workers to keep fighting till victory.

Lucy Parsons died in 1942. Virtually blind by then, her wood stove caught fire and she was trapped in the burning house. As a final indignity, the FBI stole her historically valuable library of 1,500 books and personal papers.

Parsons was a woman of color who became an extraordinary leader in the struggle for the liberation of the workers, oppressed and women. Her spirit lives on today in the new generation of women fighting for liberation and socialism. She merits remembrance on International Women’s Day. Her militant legacy remains feared by her foes. In 2004, the Fraternal Order of Police tried, but failed, to stop the naming of a Chicago park after Lucy Parsons.

*This article ran originally in WW on Sept. 6, 1984. There are a number of biographies of Parsons for further reading, but a primary source is “Lucy Parsons: Freedom, Equality & Solidarity — Writings & Speeches, 1878-1937.”*

## Transgender immigrants under attack

By Ava Lipatti

The U.S. ruling class’s relentless onslaught against the global working class aggressively targets the most oppressed segments of our class. Both the immigrant community and the transgender community increasingly came under fire during Barack Obama’s administration and now even more harshly under Donald Trump’s administration. One population is particularly in danger: transgender immigrants.

Last Dec. 28, Nina Chaubal was detained by the Border Patrol in Arizona while traveling with her partner, Greta Martela. Chaubal is an Indian trans woman and co-founder of Trans Lifeline, a crisis hotline run by and for transgender people. She was reportedly detained because the gender marker on her Indian passport does not match her gender identity and because her work visa had expired, despite being married to a U.S. citizen and despite showing her marriage certificate.

Chaubal was held at Eloy Detention Center in Arizona. Eloy is a privately operated prison run by CoreCivic (formerly the Corrections Corporation of America). LGBTQ detainees in general are 15 times more likely to experience sexual assault, according to a 2013 study by the Center for American Progress; Eloy in particular has a reputation for violence.

Marichuy Leal Gamino, a trans woman detained at Eloy in 2014, was raped by her male cellmate. Karyna Jaramillo, another trans woman detained at Eloy, was denied access to her hormones and antidepressants; she contemplated suicide. Transgender individuals in Eloy are commonly held in solitary confinement. (Washington Blade, Dec. 8)

Chaubal was released six days after her

arrest; bail was raised by a crowdfunding effort.

### Trans detainees face no protection

Yet another transgender immigrant was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in early February. The woman was at the El Paso County Courthouse in Texas, where she had just received a protective order based on domestic violence reports she had filed. She had filed three reports in total, beginning last October; the most recent incident involved a weapon.

After her court hearing, the woman was followed by ICE agents into the hallway, where they arrested her. County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal said she has never seen ICE agents go into the domestic violence court to detain immigrants in her 20-plus years at the courthouse. Bernal reported there were no state court warrants. She suspects that border authorities may have received the tip from the woman’s abuser. (CBS News, Feb. 16)

The woman, who has been deported from the United States at least six times, is being held at the El Paso County Jail. Sudden arrests like this discourage undocumented immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence from seeking protection.

For U.S. law enforcement, profit reigns over basic human rights. ICE holds more than 60 percent of its detainees at private facilities, according to a November Washington Post article. These private prisons are subject to very few regulations, which means few protections for LGBTQ detainees. Ultimately, this rotten, white supremacist system must be replaced with a system based on human need, rather than profit. □

## Build Workers World!

cause two-thirds of low-wage workers are women, often women of color and mothers solely responsible for their families.

If you appreciate WW’s year-round coverage of struggles that assert and advance the rights of women, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program and help build the newspaper. We established the WWSP some 40 years ago so readers could invest in the paper and promote working-class truth needed to make revolutionary change.

You can always make a one-time contribution, or you can join the Workers World Supporter Program and build the paper all year long. We established the program 40 years ago in 1977 so readers could help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth

and build campaigns needed to make the revolutionary change that crushes capitalism and ushers in socialism.

Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free trial subscriptions to give to friends — all for a donation of \$75 a year. For \$100 you also get a new publication or book from World View Forum. For \$300 or more a year (only \$25 a month), you get your pick of five books or videos from the Peoples Video Network.

Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at [workers.org/donate/](http://workers.org/donate/). We are grateful for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S. □

# Bay Area protesters: 'No more deportations!'

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

Trump Tuesdays have become days of action against the U.S. president in the Bay Area, promoted by a new coalition called Bay Resistance. On Feb. 21, people rallied and marched from the Oakland Federal Building to the office of Gregory Ahern, the Alameda County sheriff. Ahern, who is also the president of the California Sheriff's Association, has declared his intention to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, even though Alameda County is a sanctuary county.

The event, entitled "Not My Sheriff! Not My President! No Deportations," was organized by Alameda County in Defense of Immigrant Rights. According to the Feb. 21 East Bay Express, "The sheriff handed over information on 339 people



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

March for immigrant rights in Oakland, Calif., Feb. 21.

to ICE since July 2015."

Demands included that "Alameda

County Sheriff Ahern rescind his policy to participate in mass deportations! Sheriff

Ahern is not aligned with the community and the rest of Alameda County elected officials who already stand on the side of the community to reject ICE entanglement and affirm Due Process for all regardless of immigration status.

"We call on Sheriff Ahern to cease and reject any further entanglement with ICE and mass deportations. Ahern must comply with community demands to not participate in Trump's Policing and Militarization state. His anti-immigrant and racist policies have no place in our County.

"We demand Sheriff Ahern withdraw his support and participation in the Militarization program Urban Shield, which is deeply related to ICE entanglement, SWAT raids, criminalization of Arabs and Muslims, and collaborations between law enforcement that terrorize Black, Latinx, Middle Eastern and other immigrant communities." □

# Brooklyn tenants demand: 'Kill the bill!'

By Anne Pruden  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Feb. 25 — Motivated by groups including the Crown Heights Tenants, unionized construction workers and civil rights activists, a working-class rally today in Brooklyn's mostly West Indian neighborhood of Crown Heights demanded that the block-wide/long, publicly owned Bedford-Union Armory become affordable housing with services for the people.

New York City politicians have been talking to luxury developer BFC Partners, a Donald Trump supporter, about gentrifying the armory. BFC hires non-union construction workers.

"BFC has got to go!" demanded a leader in Construction and General Building Laborers' Local 79, speaking on behalf of the union. Referring to the nearby

campus of the City University of New York, Medgar Evers College, he said Civil Rights leader "Medgar Evers wouldn't stand for this!"

Evelyn, a tenant leader from nearby Ebbets Field Housing, also spoke. Her huge housing complex — formerly home field of the Brooklyn Dodgers before they left for Los Angeles in 1958 — once had 600 tenants. Now the complex has lost 160 tenants to unfair displacement. The threat of eviction today is mainly directed against immigrant tenants.

Soon the armory rally became a march in the streets to the office of missing City Council member Laurie Cumbo. Since Cumbo holds the single vote that can cancel the rezoning bill for the Bedford-Union Armory and stop the developers from getting it, the Brooklyn marchers repeatedly chanted, "Kill the bill!" □



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN  
Brooklyn rally, Feb. 25.

# The people can defeat Trump's NEST OF VIPERS

Continued from page 1

will be wars in the Middle East and the South China Sea within the next 10 years.

Washington already has the largest military budget many times over than any other country. Furthermore, it is not now engaged in any major wars of a conventional character. One can only speculate that this military budget is preparation for future major military adventures.

The expansion of the military budget is also a resort to the time-honored method of creating jobs, a pledge Trump has been saying over and over since his campaign began. High-tech warfare is technology-intensive and does not produce many jobs. But Trump's preparation for conventional battlefield, air and sea warfare is part of his jobs program. He is also trying to build political support among the military-industrial complex, both the brass and the corporations.

**Bannon and the 'Strategic Initiatives Group'**

The budget may not survive as projected by Trump. But it has Bannon's fingerprints on it, reflecting his warlike ideology. To further these militaristic goals, as well their anti-immigrant goals, he and Trump have created a behind-the-scenes

group, parallel to the National Security Council. This body is called the Strategic Initiatives Group.

The NSC is supposed to be the authoritative body that advises on policy and intervention all over the world. It has been the traditional forum for mainstream capitalists, their foreign policy establishment and spy agencies — e.g., the State Department, the Pentagon, the CIA, etc. The NSC is traditionally the most powerful body advising the president on policy.

The Strategic Initiatives Group is supposed to be a "think tank" inside the NSC, but in fact it is a select group inside the White House. It consists of Bannon, Jared Kushner (Trump's son-in-law), Steven Miller and other unnamed Breitbart loyalists. One of them, Sebastian Gorka, is the son of an anti-communist Hungarian refugee who was decorated by the Nazis. The son is a fanatical Islamophobe who has been photographed wearing his father's Nazi medal. (thedailybeast.com, Jan. 31)

Despite its think tank cover, the SIG makes policy proposals, such as the refugee travel ban, among other things. It circumvents the State Department, the CIA, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other organs that are supposed to be in the loop. It is a dangerous cabal. While this cabal suffered

a severe setback when three courts ruled against the travel ban, the Trump/Bannon group is trying to reinstate the ban.

**Trump administration split**

Bannon and the SIG operate independently and in opposition to the establishment agencies. For example, just before Vice President Michael Pence was to go to Brussels to affirm the Trump administration's support for the European Union, the German-dominated federation of European states, Bannon had a lengthy telephone conversation with the German ambassador to the U.S.

According to a Feb. 21 article in Reuters: "[S]ources described a longer meeting in which Bannon took the time to spell out his world view. They said his message was similar to the one he delivered to a Vatican conference back in 2014 when he was running the right-wing website Breitbart News.

"In those remarks, delivered via Skype, Bannon spoke favorably about European populist movements and described a yearning for nationalism by people who 'don't believe in this kind of pan-European Union.'"

Shortly before this conversation, Peter Navarro, the head of Trump's National Trade Council, accused German bank-

ers of being currency manipulators. This came as a shock in Berlin. It is undoubtedly part of an attempt to sharply escalate antagonisms with German finance capital. Navarro is also a currency hawk against China.

This is part of the Bannon/Trump strategy to maneuver with Russia while fulfilling Bannon's nationalist line.

Similarly, Trump has been repeatedly quoted about "taking Iraqi oil." Secretary of Defense James Mattis (retired general, U.S. Marines) had to go to Iraq and disavow any intention to take Iraq's oil. Of course this was a lie; the entire Iraq war was about trying to get Iraq's oil. (The effort failed.) But Mattis had to cover up for Trump's public belligerence.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and DHS Secretary John Kelly went to Mexico to smooth out relations after Trump told President Enrique Peña Nieto that Mexico would have to pay for a wall and that the U.S. would send troops to "clean up bad hombres" there.

Kelly told a press conference on Feb. 23 that there would be no mass deportations and no military mobilization against undocumented workers in the U.S. Shortly thereafter, Trump said there would be a

Continued on page 11



# Wave of terror unleashed on immigrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

A wave of terror is hitting the migrant and refugee communities in the United States. Violent roundups are being carried out at this very moment by the Trump administration, pushed by the racist ideology coming from Trump and the likes of his chief strategist, arch-reactionary Steve Bannon.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from the Department of Homeland Security are being unleashed around the country, aimed especially at Black and Brown people in every small town and large city where communities of migrants live.

The results are a cruel and ominous attempt to demonize immigrant workers, expel both the undocumented and documented from this country, and instill such fear that workers not rounded up are driven so deeply underground they virtually “disappear.”

Some immigrant advocates liken it to a police state being imposed on immigrant workers.

## Trump/ICE plan

The Trump administration announced on Feb. 21 plans to carry out his long-standing campaign goals on immigration.

The current guidelines were announced even as a second draft of Trump's order banning people from mainly Muslim countries is awaited. Fortunately, his first attempt was knocked down by the people's movement and by those among the capitalists who profit from a more open immigration policy.

The administration's goal is to carry out and enforce immigration laws much more aggressively than before. They aim to unleash the full force of the government to “find, arrest and deport” the undocumented.

The administration says it wants to “unshackle” the power of ICE agents — an ironic term, as they clearly are itching to shackle immigrant workers.

This vile campaign against immigrant workers, especially the undocumented, did not start with Trump. The modern anti-immigrant campaign began in 2006. Each administration since — Republican and Democrat — has carried out campaigns against immigrant workers.

Despite some liberal propaganda, this campaign is nothing new in U.S. history. During economic booms, the capitalist class welcomes cheap, vulnerable labor. During hard times when undocumented labor is not as needed, there's a campaign to demonize and deport.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, deported more immigrants than any previous U.S. president, over 2 million workers, earning him the title “Deporter-in-Chief.”

But the Trump administration takes this anti-worker campaign even further.

Here are some of the proposals in Trump's new guidelines: The Trump directive will strip immigrants of privacy protections guaranteed in the past. Other administrations provided some legal protections for information collected by DHS. It was not shared with other agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service. But it will be now. Alleged crimes will now be publicized. According to immigration lawyers, this jeopardizes those who had applied for legal status, as the alleged information turned in can now be used to deport them.

The guidelines will revive Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which calls for local police officers

to enforce immigration laws. As Omar Jadwat, director of an immigrant rights project, stated, “When you tell state and local police that their job is to do immigration enforcement, it translates into the unwarranted and illegal targeting of people” because of their race, language and the color of their skin. (New York Times, Feb. 21)

Trump is threatening to cut federal funds from cities that have declared themselves “sanctuary cities,” where police allegedly will not act as immigration agents. As immigrant activists point out, however, the concept of sanctuary cities has been more propaganda than reality.

At the same time, the government will build even more detention facilities to hold the increased number of those detained. This mirrors the mass incarceration in the U.S. of primarily Black and Brown people, which already amounts to major humanitarian violations and a crisis.

The directive speeds up deportations by expanding a program that lets government officials bypass due process protections, such as court hearings. Under Obama, “expedited removal” was used only for immigrants arrested within 100 miles of the border who had been in the country for less than 14 days. It will now include any undocumented people who have been in the country for up to two years, regardless of where they were picked up.

The guidelines also violate Mexico's sovereignty by not guaranteeing that every worker deported to Mexico is Mexican. This means that Hondurans, Haitians or other non-Mexican deportees will be deported to Mexico, making their situation even more precarious.

The new rules expand the definition of “criminal aliens.” Now anyone who crossed into the U.S. without papers or has used a false Social Security number can be considered a “criminal” and be deported.

The guidelines also call for hiring at least 10,000 more ICE agents and could even empower tens of thousands of National Guard to enforce immigration law. But no new immigration judges are expected to be hired, further strengthening the lack of due process.

Finally, Trump's new guidelines call for creating an office in ICE to help families of those supposedly killed by undocumented immigrants. This office will be known as “Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE).”

## Immigrants falsely defamed

Both as a candidate and now as president, Trump appeals to his reactionary, nativist base by painting a picture of undocumented workers as “violent criminals” and members of “drug cartels and gangs” who have carried out a wave of crimes against “U.S. citizens.”

The creation of VOICE is totally offensive to the people in this country who have been victimized by heinous police terror, unleashed primarily against African Americans and other people of color. Killer cops remain free — often still on the payroll — after shooting down or choking to death innocent people, no matter their age or mental capacity. Where are the government offices demanding justice for them?

Trump and the Steve Bannons in this country cry that “law and order will be restored” and tell supporters that the undocumented fill jobs that should belong to them, drain public resources and step over the line for visas that others wait years for.

None of this is true. The vast majority of the undocumented in this country, like those around the world, are victims of forced migration. They are forced to leave their countries by Washington and Wall Street's policies of military and economic intervention.

Study after study documents that fewer crimes are committed in immigrant communities than in those of people born here. But more than that, crimes by the state overwhelm any infractions by workers.

Despite how Trump's proposed guidelines will be implemented, they nonetheless have led to a chilling climate for immigrant workers. Besides the undocumented, people with documents, those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status (who arrived as children), plus those in the system awaiting their day in court are all in jeopardy of being detained and deported.

ICE agents who are ideologically right-wing and outspoken supporters of Trump can now pick up and remove anyone convicted or even just charged with a criminal offense — for something as minor as a broken tail light. Any person of color lacking the right “papers” is in danger.

Parents in fear of deportation are keeping their children out of school. Immigrants are staying in their homes, which especially hurts businesses owned

by immigrants. Illnesses are not being treated as workers fear going to a hospital or doctor.

This climate of fear now gripping the immigrant community is what is criminal.

## Stop ICE, stop the right wing

Resistance both inside and outside the immigrant community is phenomenal. In Chicago, principals of some public schools are directing teachers not to let ICE in without warrants and are providing know-your-rights information. In California, groups are blocking ICE buses. Throughout the country, activists are attempting to reach out to their neighbors and friends to get the word out: “You are not alone. We have your back.”

This solidarity must be seen a thousand-fold on May Day 2017. Immigrant and U.S.-born, Black, Brown and white, union workers and the unorganized, young and old, women, men and LGBTQ people must all be in the streets on Monday, May 1 — not just to defend immigrant workers' rights, but all workers' rights.

In order to stop these attacks, in order to defeat the Trump/Pence/Bannon agenda, in order to let the U.S. ruling class know “We will not be pushed back,” May Day 2017 must be a day of no school, no shopping, no work — and unity of all working and oppressed people. □

## Wisconsin

# Marchers support immigrants

By Workers World Staff

A 300-person-strong march was held in support of immigrants' rights in Madison, Wis., on Feb. 11. The march was organized under the auspices of the José Rea campaign. Rea is a candidate for Madison City Council, District 14 — an ethnically diverse, working-class neighborhood. Wisconsin Bail Out The People Movement organizers and Workers World Party friends attended.

Starting in Brittingham Park at midday, participants marched a mile north to the Dane County Executive Office where several speeches and performances were given. The Omeyocan Dance Company performed a traditional Aztec dance, and later the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin gave a dance performance.

The event was a powerful testament to the fighting spirit of the multinational working class. Multiple self-identified Latinx women took to the microphone, and most speeches were in both Spanish and English. One college student read “A Litany for Survival,” a poem by the Black



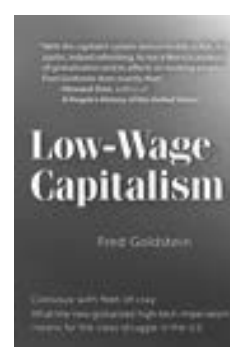
PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY

Day without immigrants, Milwaukee, Feb. 13.

feminist-socialist poet Audre Lorde. Many revolutionary groups were present.

Groups supporting the immigrants' rights march included Jewish Voice for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine and other anti-Zionist organizers. The cause of anti-Zionism has unfortunately been stymied in Madison until fairly recently. Pro-Palestine signs brought an international perspective, further connecting the struggles of oppressed communities at home and abroad.

For more information on upcoming peoples' events in Wisconsin, visit [www.wibailoutpeople.org](http://www.wibailoutpeople.org) or [facebook.com/workersworldpartywisconsin](https://facebook.com/workersworldpartywisconsin). □



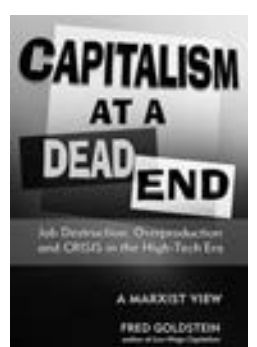
## Capitalism at a Dead End

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

### Low-Wage Capitalism

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to [LowWageCapitalism.com](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)

Available at all major online booksellers.



# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### U.S. hands off Ecuador!

A careful count of votes in the Ecuadorian elections of Feb. 19 showed that Lenin Moreno, the presidential candidate of the current governing party, Alianza Pais, came within a hair of victory on the first round, finishing way ahead of the other seven candidates.

Since the election for president will now go to a second round on April 2, there remains the likelihood of active intervention by U.S. and European Union imperialism to prevent a victory by Moreno, the more progressive candidate. Imperialist meddling and subversion to support reactionary forces in Latin America have already resulted in a close electoral victory in Argentina and a parliamentary coup in Brazil. They are also maneuvering to overthrow Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela and Evo Morales in Bolivia, in addition to the Alianza Pais government in Ecuador.

Rafael Correa, who has been president of Ecuador for three terms, is backing Moreno, who got 39.4 percent of the vote. Moreno ran more than 11 points ahead of banker Guillermo Lasso, the main candidate of Ecuadorian big capital and imperialism, who received 28.1 percent. The Ecuadorian neo-liberals were split, with a second pro-imperialist candidate getting about 16 percent of the vote.

Moreno has paraplegia and has been a longtime advocate for people with disabilities.

According to Ecuador's election law, to win in the first round a candidate must either get more than 50 percent of the vote or receive 40 percent of the vote and be 10 percent ahead of the runner-up. So Moreno fell short by very little. In elections for the National Assembly, however, Alianza Pais won nearly 60 percent of the seats, a clear victory.

While it might appear that the large margin separating Moreno from Lasso would give him an easy victory in the second round, there is no guarantee. U.S. imperialism, under Donald Trump just

as under Barack Obama, is hell-bent on thwarting any moves by countries south of the border toward sovereignty and economic independence. Especially since Hugo Chavez was elected president of Venezuela in 1998, Washington has treated all progressive moves in those countries as threatening U.S. imperialism's economic and strategic interests.

Ecuadorians know that the Trump administration would like to see a White House puppet in Quito who would rip up Rafael Correa's progressive heritage. In his three terms, Correa developed an international policy of affirmation of national sovereignty, breaking the historical submission by the Ecuadorian ruling class to the demands of Washington. This included kicking out the U.S. military base in Manta.

Even if Lenin Moreno is elected, as many still expect, the new government will face major problems in an unfavorable political and economic climate.

Like other countries in South America that moved in a progressive direction, Ecuador under Correa was able to use the funds it earned through high prices of raw materials in the first decade of the 21st century to pay for social programs that benefited the poorest of its residents.

With the fall in prices for these commodities on world markets, it has become more difficult for progressive governments to fund these programs and maintain a stable economy, leaving them more susceptible to imperialist subversion. Of all the countries south of the U.S. border, only Cuba has carried out a socialist revolution that put the state and the economy firmly in the hands of the workers and farmers.

Anti-imperialists inside the United States should oppose any U.S. interference in the Ecuadorian presidential election or its aftermath, and support the defeat of Lasso and his rich backers in Ecuador who want to grow even richer by serving world imperialism. □

## ROMANIA

### Protests demand an end to corruption

By Carl Lewis

Beginning on Feb. 1, almost a half-million protesters gathered in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, to protest a decriminalization decree that would basically "forgive and forget" any present or future punishment for stealing funds or otherwise punish corrupt civil servants. The government, headed by the Social Democratic Party, stated the reason for the decree was that it "was needed to relieve overcrowding in Romanian prisons."

However, the protests could be a double-edged sword for the Romanian working class.

A Feb. 7 article by Pavel Grigorchuk, a former political prisoner in neighboring Moldova and editor of Grenada.md, stated that most of the problems stem from outside imperialist influence:

"In recent years Romania has become a country that has completely lost sovereignty in foreign policy. Of all the eastern European members of the European Union, Romania most dutifully performed all the decisions of the European bureaucracy and the United States. This is proven by a wealth of evidence, including the scandal over secret CIA torture prisons, as well as the deployment of U.S. missile defense and U.S. military bases in the country," said Grigorchuk.

"Romanian financial and political elites are willing to make any concessions to them as long as they are allowed to use the internal resources of the country for their own enrichment with impunity. In other words, the oligarchy that ruled the country for all these years was formed and strengthened with the direct connivance of the European Union and the United States." (Grigorchuk's full article is available in English at [tinyurl.com/z87oj74](http://tinyurl.com/z87oj74).)

#### Demand resignation of government

The fact that these military bases are close to Russia and the border with Ukraine and Moldova should give pause for thought. (See article by Manlio DiNucci in May 20, 2016, Workers World, "U.S. missiles in Romania and Poland

put Europe on the nuclear frontline.") The rampant corruption is not limited to the Social Democrats, but includes other capitalist parties.

The military encirclement of the region, along with Turkey and Bulgaria, is part and parcel of the NATO/U.S. alliance to surround Russia, which has a strategic naval base on the Black Sea. Although the events in Romania may be interpreted by some as another false flag "color revolution" instigated by the U.S., and even though the allies of the demonstrators are international financial institutions, the demonstrators have strenuously rejected attempts by any Romanian political parties to hijack the movement.

Imperialism and the Romanian ruling class are wary of further spontaneous demonstrations that might target austerity measures and worry that the mass movement might imitate what happened in Greece. Said Grigorchuk, "The liberal opposition and President Klaus Iohannis stepped up attempts to lead the protests, [but] not everyone liked it." And, "The effort to turn the action into a rally for the National Liberal Party did not succeed."

Although the Romanian government repealed the corruption amnesty on the sixth day of the demonstrations, the protesters have declared that the government of Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu should resign en masse. The maneuvers of the Social Democrats should not be seen as an attempt to gain some "independence" from imperialism, but rather an attempt to increase lining their own pockets, which was the purpose of the decree in the first place.

The decree emanated over the trial of outgoing PSD party leader Liviu Dragnea, who was convicted of electoral fraud. The "liberal" support by the U.S. and the European ruling class is more about their fear of destabilization in Romania rather than any motives for "democracy."

After the gruesome murder of Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu in December 1989 and the collapse of the Romanian Communist Party, there has not been a revolutionary socialist movement to give leadership to the mass movement. □

## Actions will condemn war crimes in Donbass

By Greg Butterfield

Since late January, people living in the Donbass mining region of eastern Europe have been battered by the worst wartime bombing from neighboring Ukraine in nearly two years. Schools, hospitals, water treatment facilities and chemical plants have been targeted, as well as residential homes in cities and villages along the front line.

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed in the region since a right-wing coup overthrew the elected government of Ukraine in 2014.

In response to the intensified attacks, people have been taking to the streets, from Russia and Italy to South Africa and Britain, demanding an end to war crimes by the U.S.-backed regime in Kiev.

More than 230,000 residents of the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and thousands internationally have also signed a petition to leaders



PHOTO: 101LIFE.NET-THE LOST CHILDREN OF DONBASS

of Russia, Germany and the United States demanding that they force Ukraine to abide by the Minsk peace agreement.

Despite signing this agreement in 2015, President Petro Poroshenko's government

continues to violate it every day.

Meanwhile, the new administration in Washington — which raised expectations of a peaceful resolution to the Ukrainian crisis in the Russian-speaking world with Donald Trump's campaign overtures to Moscow — has taken an increasingly belligerent tone, threatening a new nuclear arms race while condemning nonexistent Russian "aggression" in Ukraine at the United Nations and reassuring NATO allies of its commitment to the imperialist alliance.

Now, an international day of action has been called for Sunday, March 5, to press the demand for an end to Ukraine's war, which is enabled by U.S. funding and NATO military training and assistance.

Protesters will also call for Ukrainian President Poroshenko to be charged with war crimes at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Actions are planned in at least 16 cit-

ies in Europe, Asia and North America, at Ukrainian embassies, United Nations sites and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe offices.

In New York, Solidarity with Novorosiya & Antifascists in Ukraine, a project of the International Action Center, has called for a picket at the United Nations on March 5 at 12 noon. Protesters will gather at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza at First Avenue and 47th Street, across from U.N. headquarters.

There, anti-war and anti-fascist activists will also demand freedom for Alexander Kushnarev, who was arrested by the Ukrainian Security Service on Feb. 23. Kushnarev's son Gennady was among at least 48 people killed in the fascist massacre at the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014. This latest attack on the victims' families is part of Kiev's campaign to cover up its complicity in the massacre.

For more information on the protest, visit [No2NATO.org](http://No2NATO.org). At the website, readers can also find out how to sign the international petition. □

# Hard times befall fascist bigot

By Ava Lipatti

Right-wing demagogue Milo Yiannopoulos was set to speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference, organized by the American Conservative Union Feb. 22-25. He was also set to release a book entitled "Dangerous" with publisher Simon & Schuster.

Then Yiannopoulos suffered a reversal of fortune. He lost both deals after a video interview from last July surfaced in which he made several remarks condoning pedophilia.

Following publicity about the video and the loss of his CPAC slot and book deal, Yiannopoulos resigned as an editor of Breitbart News, the far-right media outlet. His claim that this was solely his decision seems unlikely given his other reversals.

While Yiannopoulos' statements in the video were horrendous on their own, it seems no accident that his comedown took place after heroic anti-fascists took to the

streets and shut down his speaking appearances at both the Davis and Berkeley campuses of the University of California earlier this month.

It was ultimately this militant resistance that exposed him for the fascist that he is. The video is not new; it had circulated before. If not for the protests, it may never have resurfaced.

Yiannopoulos is an openly racist gay man, known for harassing women and people of color on Twitter. He also has been known to harass transgender students, to fetishize Black men and to espouse anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant rhetoric.

As a prominent journalist with Breitbart, Yiannopoulos had become a major mouthpiece for the so-called "alt-right" — a term referring to a wide array of far-right groups and individuals that all adhere to white supremacist beliefs in one form or another. Thus Yiannopoulos' rhetoric and actions, much like Donald Trump's, have emboldened white supremacists and fas-

cists to terrorize immigrants, oppressed nationalities, transgender people and other oppressed groups.

## Complicity of the media

Both the establishment and right-wing media accepted Yiannopoulos' consistent anti-immigrant, anti-trans, misogynistic bigotry without criticism. In fact, all the corporate media helped Yiannopoulos, giving him a platform on TV shows and at events. In effect, the monopoly media normalized his fascist views.

On "Real Time with Bill Maher" in late February, Maher greeted Yiannopoulos warmly and offered no opposition. They quickly found common ground in defending oppressive humor and dismissing anyone who might be offended. Although Maher claims to have many differences with Yiannopoulos, he is equally eager to use misogynistic insults to dismiss criticism of offensive speech.

Maher offered no opposition to any of Yiannopoulos' bigoted beliefs, allowing him to voice without argument his transphobic views and even his completely fabricated lie that trans people disproportionately commit sexual assault.

Instead, the only criticism Maher and his panel were willing to voice is the alleged ties between Russia and the Trump administration. When Yiannopoulos praised Trump, Malcolm Nance, a U.S. counterintelligence officer on the panel, asserted that Yiannopoulos is in fact supporting "Russian spies."

Instead of building genuine opposition to Yiannopoulos, Trump and the rising alt-right for their attacks on all oppressed peoples and workers, Maher and Nance spun the narrative to drum up hostility against Russia. They followed the agenda

of the Democratic Party and the establishment media, which is not to resist Trump, but rather to redirect discontent to Russia, a major target of the U.S. ruling class.

## Building resistance

It wasn't the corporate media, comedians or "establishment" conservatives who struck a blow at Yiannopoulos' career. It was the mass protests that showed he was losing his value as a voice for the right.

The demonstrators showed that fascism cannot be debated away; it must be smashed! When Yiannopoulos fabricates lies about transgender people, degrades Black people or slanders immigrants and women, he is not making good faith arguments in the interest of rational discussion. Rather, he is making these statements to incite violence and stir up right-wing bigotry.

Hate speech is symbolic violence that encourages physical violence. Debating, ridiculing and "exposing" fascists won't make them go away. The goal should be to stop them. This can only be done with genuine, left-wing resistance on all fronts.

Ultimately, the only way to stop the rise of the far-right, whether that be the Trump administration or Yiannopoulos and Breitbart, is through militant, leftist organizing of the working class and oppressed. The Democratic Party and the corporate media will not do anything substantive to fight fascism and right-wing bigotry. They have facilitated its rise by normalizing the oppressive views of their ultra-right competition.

It is imperative to unite all anti-racist, anti-capitalist forces to build a strong leftist opposition to the rising far-right and the entire ruling class. □

# NEST OF VIPERS

Continued from page 8

wide campaign against undocumented workers and described it as a "military operation."

During his campaign Trump said that Japan and south Korea should develop their own nuclear weapons because the U.S. shouldn't have to pay for them. This called into question the inter-imperialist alliance in Asia. Mattis had to go to Seoul and Tokyo to reaffirm U.S. alliances with both countries.

Trump met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu without the secretary of state. He then told a press conference that he was for a one-state solution to the Palestinian question. This was a sharp departure in words (not deeds) from decades of U.S. official policy.

Nikki Haley, Trump's U.N. ambassador, then had to state categorically at the U.N. that Washington stands "firmly behind" a two-state solution.

In short, the Trump/Bannon worldview is in struggle with the mainstream military/imperialist view. The mainstream view is rooted heavily in the policy of surrounding Russia in alliance with the NATO powers and pushing into central and Eastern Europe.

This conventional U.S. worldview is also rooted in gradually ratcheting up pressure on China by moving military assets to the Pacific and arming both Japan and south Korea. At the same time, Wall Street and the transnational corporate monopolies have steadily invested in China and built up global supply chains that depend upon stable U.S.-China relations.

The mainstream view is an Atlantic/Pacific strategy of U.S. imperialism that has been built up over decades.

## Beware the 'adults in the room'

Many liberals and even moderate Republicans were overjoyed when Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster was appointed to replace Islamophobe Michael Flynn as Trump's National Security Adviser.

McMaster is supposed to be a no-nonsense general who has a record of speaking truth to power — that is, telling civilian authorities to stop trying to manage the military in matters of warfare. McMaster, General Kelly, General Mattis and Tillerson are supposed to be the "adults in the room" who will deal with immature, out-of-control Trump and his fanatical adviser Bannon.

However, to look to these Pentagon generals and the former CEO of the larg-

est private oil company in the world to protect the progressive interests of the masses in the face of Trump is a dangerous and foolish course.

If the generals are opposed to the Trump policy, it is only because they fear he will ruin their plans to dominate the Middle East, Eastern Europe, China and the rest of the world. The military and the oil companies are cunning and deceitful in their plans for global domination.

They are not "adults" to be relied upon. They are enemies of workers and oppressed peoples worldwide. They are the architects of military intervention and aggression around the world. Their goal is conquest and imperialist expansion.

## 'Deconstructing the administrative state'

"Deconstructing the administrative state" is the phrase Bannon uses to describe sweeping away all institutional protections for the masses, for the environment, for women, immigrants, people of color, the poor and all who are victimized by the workings of capitalism and capitalist politics.

Whatever rules and regulations that exist to slow down the aggression of capital against the people, or to institutionalize the gains they made in the struggle, are in most cases in the regulatory agencies. One look at Trump's cabinet appointments for the domestic agencies shows that he and Bannon mean to pulverize all the regulatory protections that exist for society as a whole.

To pay for the \$54 billion increase in military spending, the offset is going to come from deep cuts in the budgets of the State Department and all the domestic regulatory agencies. This is why Trump's cabinet picks for Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, etc., are all people who want to destroy the fundamental missions of the very departments they are supposed to lead.

If Trump and Bannon are to be stopped, they must be stopped by the mobilized masses — in the communities, in the unions, on the campuses, in the factories and workplaces. A united movement of organized workers and the oppressed acting militantly will interfere with and halt the plans of this reactionary cabal.

*Goldstein is the author of Capitalism at a Dead End and Low-Wage Capitalism. Both are available via online booksellers.*

# Syria event exposes truth

Hollywood was giving an Oscar to the Netflix propaganda documentary "White Helmets," which has been exposed many times as a piece of fiction promoting terrorists serving the interests of U.S. imperialism and Saudi Arabia. The same day, Feb. 26, Arab Americans for Syria (AA4Syria) sponsored a real documentarian on the Syria crisis at a forum in Los Angeles County at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada.

Carla Ortiz, Bolivian actor and filmmaker known in the U.S., Latin America and Spain, spoke about her new documentary on the Syria crisis. She also gave eyewitness testimony reflecting her wide travel throughout Syria before, during and after the armed conflict. This included the Syrian army's liberation of Aleppo from U.S.- and Saudi-funded mercenaries.

Ortiz gave detailed eyewitness knowledge of the crisis and brutality perpetrated by mercenaries, most of whom are not Syrian. She cut through the lies manufactured by the U.S. government with the help of nongovernmental orga-



WW PHOTOS: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO  
Carla Ortiz, left. Some of the forum attendees, Feb. 26

nizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others. These organizations never put a foot in Syria, but instead use information supplied by so-called rebel forces that the U.S. and Saudi Arabia back.

Johnny Achi, founder of AA4Syria, and John Parker of the International Action Center, who were both part of an earlier fact-finding delegation to Syria, also spoke at the event.

— WW Los Angeles Bureau

## WORKERS WORLD MUNDO OBRERO

Continúa de página 12

que no sólo se opone a su intento de reorientación hacia Rusia, sino también a su prohibición musulmana racista y autoritaria y, en general, a sus amenazas para revocar los fundamentos básicos de la estabilidad burguesa.

El sabe que los medios de comunicación fueron utilizados en las luchas contra Joseph McCarthy, contra la Guer-

ra del Vietnam del Pentágono, contra Nixon en Watergate. Sus ataques contra la prensa son medidas preventivas contra los intentos de la burguesía de desacreditar su régimen.

La clase obrera necesita libertad de prensa tanto para proteger su propia prensa y porque puede obtener información valiosa de la prensa capitalista para llevar a cabo la lucha de clases. Los medios capitalistas venales y anti-obreros no son nuestros amigos, pero la libertad de prensa es un derecho democrático que la clase obrera debe defender. □

## Clase dominante rechaza acercamiento de Trump hacia Rusia

Por Fred Goldstein

¿Qué hay detrás de la expulsión del Asesor de Seguridad Nacional de Donald Trump, el general jubilado del ejército Michael Flynn, y del aumento en los intentos por generar pánico sobre los “vínculos de Trump con Rusia”? ¿Qué preocupaciones debe tener la clase obrera y las/os oprimidos en este asunto?

Se está desarrollando una importante lucha sobre la orientación diplomática y militar del imperialismo estadounidense. Se encuentra entre la Casa Blanca de Trump, por un lado, que ha estado buscando un acercamiento con Rusia, y, por el otro lado, la clase capitalista dominante, grandes sectores de los militares, el establecimiento político de demócratas y republicanos, y los medios de comunicación, todos los cuales tienen una orientación firmemente anti-rusa.

### Lucha sobre dos políticas de guerra imperialistas

Esta lucha es básicamente sobre dos políticas diferentes de agresión imperialista. El grupo Trump, que incluye a Steve Bannon, su consejero de estrategia, y Michael Flynn (ahora despedido), quiere utilizar un reajuste con Rusia en contra de China y quiere una guerra expandida en Oriente Medio, presuntamente contra el Islam.

La clase obrera, las/os oprimidos y el movimiento progresista deben oponerse a ambos campos y buscar una política independiente en oposición a la postura agresiva de Washington hacia Rusia y al mismo tiempo no ser atraídos al llamado campo de “paz” de Trump.

Para que la clase obrera y las/os progresistas puedan tener una visión clara del asunto, lo mejor es dejar de lado toda especulación sobre lo que Flynn y otros podrían haber dicho a los funcionarios rusos, quién pudo haber infiltrado los correos electrónicos o afectado la elección. No es necesario saber nada de eso para entender esta lucha.

Pero, para mayor claridad, citaremos la revista Time del 27 de febrero al 6 de marzo. En un artículo titulado “¿Qué está mal con Rusia?”, Time dio su versión del conflicto con Rusia y continuó:

“Quizás el frente más importante en este nuevo conflicto se ha estado desarrollando en el Ala Oeste de la Casa Blanca. A lo largo de los últimos tres meses, de acuerdo con altos funcionarios de la administración Trump y otros que han participado, se han celebrado conversaciones discretas pero consecuentes sobre si EUA debe resistir a Putin en su nueva campaña, o ceder a Rusia una esfera de influencia en el Este Europeo, a cambio de una alianza contra ISIS, que trabajen para reducir los arsenales de armas nucleares y ayuden a limitar a China.

“Donald Trump ha enunciado públicamente partes de ese acuerdo, al igual que los principales asesores Steve Bannon y Michael Flynn. Los funcionarios de la Casa Blanca que han abogado por tal acuerdo ... ven al nacionalismo como la base de todas las luchas importantes contra el extremismo islámico y el ascenso de China.

“Oponiéndose a ese acuerdo con Rusia están el secretario de defensa James Mattis y el secretario de estado Rex Tillerson ... respaldados por prácticamente todo el

establecimiento de política exterior.

“La expulsión de Flynn hace que sea políticamente más difícil para aquellos que quieren avanzar una estrategia pro-Moscú”.

### Trump pidió un realineamiento durante toda la campaña

Esté correcto o no el artículo de la revista Time en sus detalles o formulaciones, no es difícil entender el eje de la lucha. Trump lo ha estado diciendo desde que comenzó su campaña.

Él ha exhortado constantemente en su plataforma, entre sus diatribas racistas, misóginas y anti-inmigrantes y sus salvajes ataques contra los medios de comunicación: “¿No sería bueno entendernos bien con Rusia? Podríamos unirnos y luchar contra ISIS ... y el terrorismo”.

Ha estado diciendo durante más de un año: “Podríamos reducir las armas nucleares”, etc. Y cada vez que lo dice, dispara alarmas en el Pentágono, en las agencias de espionaje, en la prensa anti rusa, en el establecimiento político y en las juntas de las corporaciones militares.

### Bannon, el ideólogo detrás de Trump

La maniobra política de Trump con Putin, que ya pudo haber fracasado, es promovida por su gurú político, el ideólogo derechista Steve Bannon. Éste tiene una cosmovisión apocalíptica que convoca a la guerra contra el Islam y China.

El South China Morning Post informó el 17 de febrero sobre la perspectiva de Bannon: “EUA y China librarán una guerra dentro de los próximos diez años sobre islas en el Mar de China Meridional, y ‘no hay duda de eso’. Al mismo tiempo, EUA estará en otra guerra ‘importante’ en Oriente Medio”.

Este intento de reorientar la política exterior de Washington, sin embargo, es un movimiento completamente ingenuo de Trump. Su excesivo ego lo lleva a creer que es posible destruir todos los planes del Pentágono, el Departamento de Estado y la CIA para someter a Rusia.

Es por eso que los halcones más grandes del Senado, los senadores pro-Pentágono John McCain y Lindsey Graham, han encabezado la acusación para investigar a Flynn y la Casa Blanca. Mientras tanto, el secretario de defensa Mattis, el secretario de estado Tillerson y el vicepresidente Mike Pence, estaban en Europa defendiendo a la OTAN, advirtiendo a Rusia que no habría colaboración militar y prometiendo apoyar a Ucrania.

### El alto mando militar quiere que Bannon salga

Es significativo que el vicealmirante retirado Robert Harward rechazara dos veces la solicitud del gobierno de Trump a que tomara el puesto de asesor de seguridad nacional de Flynn. Harward era Navy SEAL, subcomandante del Comando Central de EUA, representante del Presidente al Estado Mayor Conjunto en el Centro Nacional de Contraterrorismo y director de estrategia y política del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional (CSN).

Es casi sin precedentes que tal ex oficial de alto rango rechace al presidente. Harward explicó sus objeciones: Trump y Bannon se negaron a permitirle tener su propio personal. Más aún, Harward le dijo a la Casa Blanca que “él quería una

cadena de mando clara que reportara directamente al presidente, y lo más importante, que se restaurara la estructura del CSN de las administraciones anteriores ... para que asesores políticos como Steve Bannon no tuvieran un asiento en el Comité de Directores”. (All In with Chris Hayes, MSNBC, 17 de febrero)

El alto mando militar se opone a que Bannon les diga dónde y cuándo hacer la guerra. Además, volver a la estructura anterior del CSN significaría devolver el Presidente del Estado Mayor Conjunto a una posición permanente en el Comité de Directores del CSN, un comité de dirección que se reúne frecuentemente y es el órgano más poderoso en la estructura de política exterior y militar.

Las fuerzas de Trump reorganizaron el CSN para poner a Bannon en el Comité Principal y al mismo tiempo quitaron al presidente del Estado Mayor Conjunto y al jefe de la Inteligencia Nacional, reduciéndolos a miembros que serían invitados sólo en “ocasiones apropiadas”.

Está claro por qué los Jefes Conjuntos y el jefe de la Inteligencia Nacional fueron removidos. Se opondrían a un acercamiento con Rusia.

Todo el Pentágono, Wall Street y el establecimiento político han estado preparados para amenazar a Rusia desde que Washington no pudo tomar completamente a Ucrania. El golpe fascista en 2014 fue creado por el Departamento de Estado de Clinton y la CIA y comenzó con la Unión Europea. Su progreso fue frenado por la resistencia en la región de Donbass, en el este de Ucrania.

Washington y el Pentágono estaban furiosos cuando el gobierno de Putin se movió rápidamente para retomar Crimea. (Crimea, que tiene mayoría rusa, era originalmente parte de la Unión Soviética, separada de Ucrania). Rusia apoyó eficazmente a la insurgencia en el este contra el gobierno imperialista pro-occidental en Kiev, respaldado por tropas fascistas.

Rusia estaba tratando de impedir que la OTAN avanzara más hacia el este hasta sus fronteras. La toma de Crimea puede entenderse como un movimiento estratégico para impedir que el Pentágono y la CIA se apoderen del único puerto de Rusia en el Mar Negro, el Sebastopol.

La incautación de Ucrania por Washington había sido precedida en 1999 por la incorporación de Polonia, Hungría y la República Checa a la OTAN, en violación a las promesas de Washington de no hacerlo.

### Para trabajadoras/es y oprimidos ‘el enemigo está en casa’

En la lucha entre Rusia y Washington, las fuerzas obreras, oprimidas y progresistas de este país deben seguir el dictado leninista de que “el enemigo está en casa”. Debemos estar en contra de nuestra propia clase dominante que está tratando de subordinar Rusia al imperialismo EUA.

La dirección del Partido Demócrata está promoviendo vigorosamente la línea contra Rusia para explicar su pérdida en las elecciones presidenciales, agregando así su peso a la política agresiva y belicista de Washington hacia Rusia. Las masas de activistas que se están movilizand para resistir la agenda racista, anti inmigrante y reaccionaria de Trump no deben caer en la trampa de los demócratas.

De la misma manera, las/os trabajadores, las/os pequeños agricultores y los pueblos oprimidos de Rusia, mientras defienden a su país contra el imperialismo estadounidense, deben luchar contra Putin y su propia clase dominante oligárquica.

### ¿Quién es Putin?

Putin representa a los oligarcas que ingenieron la destrucción de la Unión Soviética, dividieron la propiedad socialista para enriquecerse y convirtieron al país en una pesadilla capitalista.

Putin quiere expandir el control de Rusia hacia el “exterior cercano”, lo que significa las antiguas repúblicas soviéticas que también han pasado a ser capitalistas. Putin apoya la derecha en Europa, la mayoría racista, nacionalista y anti-gay. La derecha se opone a la UE y algunos también se oponen a la OTAN, pero sobre bases reaccionarias y nacionalistas.

Moscú financió el Frente Nacional racista de Marine Le Pen con préstamos bancarios en 2014. (Politico, 4 de enero) Le Pen acaba de llamar “escoria” a las masas que se rebelaron contra la brutalidad policial en París. El gobierno ruso firmó un acuerdo de cooperación a largo plazo con el derechista Partido de la Libertad en Austria. Y se han celebrado en Moscú conferencias de la derecha Europea.

Putin defiende la “moralidad” cristiana, el nacionalismo ruso y las leyes anti-homosexuales contra la exhibición pública de afecto entre miembros del mismo sexo, justificándolo como protección a los niños.

Y lo más importante, desde que Putin llegó al poder después de que el pro-EUA Boris Yeltsin fuera derrocado, los oligarcas millonarios rusos han consolidado las finanzas y las corporaciones industriales rusas; sus inversiones directas en el exterior han pasado de \$40 mil millones en 2000 a \$406 mil millones en 2013. Poseen propiedades en todo el mundo, desde Latvia hasta África y Europa. Hay más de 100 multimillonarios en Rusia.

### Trump y la prensa

Trump ha estado atacando a la prensa desde que comenzó su campaña. Trump y Bannon han llamado a la prensa el “partido de la oposición”. Y recientemente Trump llamó a la prensa “el enemigo del pueblo estadounidense”. Este es un pronunciamiento ominoso de una figura autoritaria.

La prensa capitalista representa a varias facciones de la clase dirigente. En realidad, es una parte informal del estado capitalista, a veces llamado “cuarto estado”. Los medios son el medio moderno de la presión ideológica. Promueven la línea general de la clase dominante, informando a la burguesía de las tendencias y los acontecimientos importantes para ella. También se utiliza para perseguir a las/os líderes de las/os trabajadores y oprimidos o las/os radicales.

Pero a veces, cuando los intereses de grandes sectores de la burguesía son puestos en peligro por una parte del gobierno capitalista, la prensa se utiliza para ayudar a hacer cumplir la disciplina de la clase dominante.

Trump lo sabe y está tratando de contrarrestar la actual campaña de prensa.

Continúa a página 11