As U.S.-Cuba talks proceed

By Cheryl LaBash

Cuban and U.S. negotiators have announced progress after the second round of talks to formalize diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States. Both delegations characterized the discussions as professional, respectful and constructive. A sticky point, however, is the U.S. persistence in keeping Cuba on the so-called state-supported terrorism list.

To someone who knows the history of U.S.-Cuban relations since 1959, that the U.S. State Department could designate Cuba “terrorist” brings hypocrisy to a new level. When there is a crisis or disaster anywhere in the world, Havana sends doctors; Washington sends Navy SEALs, drones and snipers. The only reason Cuba is on the terrorism list, and the U.S. isn’t, is that Washington draws up the list.

Last Dec. 17, Cuban President Raul Castro announced that the U.S. and Cuba would begin talks to reestablish relations that the U.S. broke in 1961. Since then, one round of negotiations took place on Jan. 22 in Havana and a second on Feb. 27 in Washington, D.C. Amid what Cuba’s chief negotiator Josefina Vidal Ferreiro calls “permanent communication,” technical discussions are scheduled in March on civil aviation, human trafficking, marine preservation, Internet capacity and the structure of human-rights dialog. An interagency U.S. delegation will go to Havana to discuss regulatory changes. Vidal is director general of Cuba’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Division.

Cuba’s immediate concerns are Washington’s listing it as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism” (SST) and denying its diplomatic corps in the U.S. banking rights. On Dec. 17, President Barack Obama had instructed the State Department to review its designation of Cuba. More than two months and two rounds of discussion later, Cuba is still on the list.

Secretary of State John Kerry has stated that removing the designation was separate from the negotiations for diplomatic relations. In the press conference following the Feb. 27 talks, most questions addressed this issue.

Vidal answered that Cuba wasn’t making the talks dependent on removing Cuba from the list, but she reiterated what was told to a State Department delegation last summer: “It would be difficult to explain that Cuba and the U.S. have established normal diplomatic relations while Cuba is on that list.”

Cuba’s good reputation, Washington’s intervention

Cuba is renowned internationally for its quick and selfless intervention to save human lives in emergencies like the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, the earthquakes in Haiti and Pakistan, and mudslides and hurricanes in Central America. Cuba even offered to send 1,586 specialized health care professionals to the U.S. during hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Cuba has also taught millions to read, helping to eradicate illiteracy in many languages, including Indigenous dialects.

With the joint Cuban-Venezuelan “Operation Miracle,” Cuban doctors have performed cataract surgery that over the last decade restored or improved sight for more than 3 million people worldwide. Cuba even offered to send 1,586 specialized health care professionals to the U.S. during hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Cuba has also taught millions to read, helping to eradicate illiteracy in many languages, including Indigenous dialects. Cuba is renowned internationally for its quick and selfless intervention to save human lives in emergencies like the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, the earthquakes in Haiti and Pakistan, and mudslides and hurricanes in Central America. Cuba even offered to send 1,586 specialized health care professionals to the U.S. during hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Cuba has also taught millions to read, helping to eradicate illiteracy in many languages, including Indigenous dialects. With the joint Cuban-Venezuelan “Operation Miracle,” Cuban doctors have performed cataract surgery that over the last decade restored or improved sight for more than 3 million people worldwide.

Angered that an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address the U.S. Congress means a new war drive against the Palestinian and Iranian people, a diverse crowd defied a snowstorm to demonstrate in front of Fox News in Manhattan on March 1. Fox had Netanyahu on its payroll at one time and pushes his far-right agenda.

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UBNIONS FIGHT BACK
• Madison, Wis.: Labor, community say “No to RTW!”

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UNIONS FIGHT BACK

Madison, Wis.: Labor, community say ‘No to RTW!’

NEW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

‘Palestine yes, Netanyahu no’

A photo of protests that have taken place in front of Fox News in Manhattan. Angered that an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address the U.S. Congress means a new war drive against the Palestinian and Iranian people, a diverse crowd defied a snowstorm to demonstrate in front of Fox News in Manhattan on March 1. Fox had Netanyahu on its payroll at one time and pushes his far-right agenda.

Continued on page 8
Women make history: Build Workers World

March is Women’s History Month, when Workers World makes a special effort to cover the struggles of poor, working-class women of all nationalities that have advanced women’s rights. Given that it was Workers World Party that revived the militant tradition of International Women’s Day in the streets of New York in 1970, after years of reaction had suppressed this important socialist holiday, we always commemorate it with a roundup of activities by women in struggle all over the world.

As Marxists, we want to make history—the kind of huge changes that will turn society upside down and put the workers and the oppressed in the driver’s seat. A current struggle of the People’s Power Assemblies is to take control of the neighborhoods where they are fighting police violence and terror as the “Black Lives Matter” movement has spread like wildfire across the country. Women of color, especially, see the killing of youth as a direct attack on reproductive justice, because children must be allowed to grow up in safe, secure communities. Women have emerged as leaders in the fight against police violence and terror as the “Black Lives Matter” movement has spread like wildfire across the country. Women of color, especially, see the killing of youth as a direct attack on reproductive justice, because children must be allowed to grow up in safe, secure communities.

If you appreciate WW’s year-round articles on women’s struggles for justice and equality, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program and help build the newspaper. We published the WWSP in 1970 so readers could help build the many campaigns needed to make qualitative, revolutionary change.

For the past 38 years, WW subscribers have helped maintain the paper by joining the WW Supporter Program. We invite you to sign up today! Write checks to Workers World. Send them to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011. Include your name and address. Or donate online at workers.org/articles/donate/. It’s also possible to contribute through by joining the Workers World Supporter Program and giving either a lump sum or a monthly donation. Be sure to check it out.

Workers reject McDonald’s racism

After a pattern of racial discrimination and sexual harassment, 17 Black and Latino/a McDonald’s workers in the state of Virginia were told by management that they “need to get the pa-tho-ot out of the store.” Then management fired them. In response to a call for actions in solidarity with these workers, and all who face racism and low wages at work, the Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast. 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 36 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast. We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, degradation people because of their 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 revolution 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:

www.workers.org

Who are we & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society—where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outdated capitalist system is dragging down workers’ livelihoods 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 by forcing us to ruin the Earth to satisfy its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the world.

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 36 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast. We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, degradation people because of their 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.

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Contact a branch of WW in your area.

Workers World

In the U.S.

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Support for fired Boston school bus drivers

Wisconsin: Labor, community vs. anti-union bill

In second month of strike, workers picket Marathon

As pension cuts start, Detroit retirees keep fighting

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Actions planned for International Women’s Day

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Cops attack unity rally against police brutality

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Struggle against Ebola continues
Support for fired school bus drivers

What solidarity in action looks like

By Tony Murphy

Boston

The ruling class of Boston has tried everything to bust the school bus drivers union, United Steelworkers Local 8751. They brought in the global union-busting behemoth corporation Veolia in 2013. Veolia locked out the workers in October of that year and then fired four of the union leaders in November. The courts are now being used to go after the union’s grievance chair and founder, Steve Kirschbaum.

Along with the war against this political, social union is another war — on its contract. The wages, rights and benefits the union won over 40 years are the envy of the industry.

For over a year, a campaign waged to rehire the four has attracted significant national support from labor, Palestinian solidarity activists and others.

The last week in February saw perhaps the most decisive tactic of Boston’s 1% against Local 8751. At the bargaining table, the city proposed a deal: Forget about the four and we will make significant improvements in the contract.

The bargaining committee had none of it. Negotiators for the union made it clear that no agreement would be possible unless the four came back to work.

That is solidarity in action. And the scope of issues brought by the union bargaining team was wider than the situation of Local 8751. Bargaining committee members brought the Black Lives Matter struggle into negotiations. At the bargaining table, Andre Francois, the union’s recording secretary — and one of the fired four — assailed the mayor’s representatives for the mayor’s firing of a city worker who blocked traffic on I-93 in support of the upriasing against racism and police brutality.

This is in keeping with the tradition of this union — which has always been to see contract justice and the struggle against racism as part of the same struggle. That’s why the Boston school bus drivers union was the first AFL-CIO local to formally endorse and make a donation to the Black Lives Matter movement. Boston Black Lives Matter and the school bus drivers union also collaborated on a protest of the mayor’s address in January.

Boston’s Mass Mobilization Against Police Violence sent a representative to a Team Solidarity meeting convened by the school bus drivers. School bus drivers attended the first court appearance of the four, who blame Veolia in Rockford, Ill. — RTW is yet another form of brutal, Greece-like austerity coming from Wall Street and being enacted by bossy-paid-for-political-so-called-legislators.

As a young low-wage worker, I demand a future for my generation, those who blacks and Latinos, those who black and Latino, those who came here -- those who made this country, those who were here before and after us. I didn’t stop resisting in 2011 when we occupied the Capitol with hundreds of thousands to shut it down. And after RTW's passage, I’m not going to stop resisting any longer than necessary. We have to see the commonality between incarceration and poverty are state violence and ‘right to work’ is one of them. Mass mobilization against RTW is another form of brutal austerity.

This right-to-work-for-less legislation jeopardizes the future living standards of all workers, organized and unorganized, especially workers and communities of color, and the LGBTQI community, said Tommy Cavanaugh of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) in Rockford, Ill. — RTW is yet another form of brutal, Greece-like austerity coming from Wall Street and being enacted by bossy-paid-for-political-so-called-legislators.

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Cavanaugh participated in a FIST, Workers World Party and Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement delegation on March 25 to protest RTW at the state Capitol.

A series of events is being organized by the Wisconsin AFL-CIO and the Defeat “Right To Work” in Wisconsin coalition, with the support of numerous labor, community and youth/student organizations.

On March 4, a Students and Workers, Unite and Fight! Solidarity Rally Against “Right to Work” will take place at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. On March 5, a Fill the Capitol Shut down “Right to Work!” protest will begin at 8 a.m. at the state Capitol.

For event information, updates and resources to fight RTW: facebook.com/defeatrighttowork, facebook.com/wisact, wisulcio.typepad.com, wibailoutpeople.org.

In second month of strike, oil workers picket Marathon

By Martha Grevatt

Findlay, Ohio

Over 200 oil strikers and their support ers demonstrated here on Feb. 14 near the international headquarters of the Mar athon Petroleum Co. Despite harsh winds and near-zero temperatures, the crowd waited to begin the rally until the busload of Marathon strikers from Kentucky ar rived. The delegation had been delayed in the Northeast after negotiations between the United Steelworkers and oil industry representatives, led by Marathon, failed to produce an agreement. The USW represents 300,000 oil workers in 230 fa cilities across the country.

Initially, workers at nine refineries in Texas, California, Kentucky and Washing ton went out. On Feb. 7, the strike was expanded to two refineries in Indiana and Ohio.

Steelworkers District One Director Dave McCall, whose district represents all of Ohio, announced on Feb. 25 that workers at four more refineries — one in Texas and three in Louisiana — had joined the strike. The Port Arthur, Texas, refinery is the largest in the country.

Representing the union’s National Oil Bargaining Policy Committee, which neg otiates with the oil companies, Jim Sav age explained the number one issue be hind the strike: safety on the job.

Staffing cuts and excessive overtime are putting workers and the community at risk, as evidenced by a horrific explosion at a refinery near Los Angeles on Feb. 18 and the deaths of 27 USW oil workers in February.

Another issue is the high out-of-pocket health care costs that workers — in the most profitable industry in the U.S. economy — have been saddled with. Sav age spoke for the families of the 14 workers of the national negotiating team who had traveled to Findlay to attend the solidarity rally.

USW Local 799 President Dave Martin, who represents the Catlettsburg, Ky., refinery, thanked all the supporters and reported that solidarity remains high on the picket line as the strike heads into its second month.

A large number of strikers from the BP refinery near Toledo, Ohio, attend ed the rally, along with steelworkers and UAW members from Detroit and various parts of Ohio. After the rally, a boister ous march circled Marathon’s corporate offices several times.

Solidarity continues to build. On Feb. 25, the Steelworkers and North America’s Building Trades Unions issued a joint document defining the lines of demarcation between USW members and NAB TU contract tradespeople when both are working in a refinery. The unions agreed that “for the duration of the USW strike, NABTU units and their members shall respect the USW picket lines and refrain from performing strike work.”

Unionists from Great Britain, South Africa and Australia spent a week in Texas as visiting picket lines. Six refineries are on strike in that state.
As pension cuts start
Detroit retirees keep fighting
By David Sole
Detroit
Pension cuts to 32,000 retired city of Detroit workers went into effect March 1. Federal Judge Steven Rhodes had ordered the slashing of pensions following over one year of court proceedings. DAREA reports that many retirees feel that the court actions would not affect them so much. These retirees are now part of DAREA meetings.

First cut was the pensioners’ 2014 cost-of-living payment. That amounted to 2 percent of the pension. This is 1 percent annually, which is estimated to be an 18 percent reduction in pensions over a retiree’s lifetime. Then a general 4.5 percent reduction was shaved off the monthly checks. Finally “a recoupment of excess earnings” will take up to 15.5 percent from the pensioners’ 401(k) retirement money weekly from their checks. The city went back to 2003 to reduce the amount already paid in interest to those enrolled in the annuity savings plan. This recoupment will continue for at least 18 years.

Retired bus driver Joyce Griffin-Soile, for example, had her pension reduced from $1,279 a month to $1,076, about a 16 percent cut from a relatively small pension. Anger among retired workers and their survivors continues to build, months after the “Plan of Adjustment” was legalized in court. Protests inside and outside the federal court were ongoing even before the 2013 bankruptcy proceedings started, led by the Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee and Moratorium NOW! Coalition. A new formation, the Detroit Active Retired Employees Association, has been in the forefront in recent months. DAREA reports that many retirees feel they were misled by union leaders and older retirees associate into false hopes that the court actions would not affect them so much. These retirees are now part of DAREA meetings.

In January, DAREA filed a last-ditch appeal against the pension cuts in federal court, to be argued by rank-and-file retirees. On Feb. 25, Judge Rhodes and former emergency manager Kevyn Orr spoke to a dinner honoring them as “2014 News-makers of the Year,” sponsored by Crain’s Detroit Business. Orr said that retirees massed across from the entrance for an hour as guests arrived, chanting “The banks got bailed out! We got sold out!” and “Hands off our pensions! Make the banks pay!”

Banks’ tool: ‘We could have taken it all’
At one point, Orr, the overpaid tool of Wall Street, came across the street shouting at the retired workers: “We could have taken all of your pensions!” For a moment, it looked like violence might erupt. Judge Rhodes showed his larger aim in all this: Schwartz Michigan public pensions to be slashed using federal bankruptcy law. “Other cities need to consider moving away from costly pension plans and transition employees to 401(k)-style defined contribution retirement plans,” he declared.

(Detroit News, Feb. 25) Defined contribution plans pay huge fees to Wall Street firms to administer individual accounts. They also hold the danger that workers would have the little cash they receive and when the stock market crashes.

From the beginning of the bankruptcy: Continued on page 11

Tenants protest occupies
Brooklyn realtor

Tenants spoke about horrid conditions of neglect, including cracks in the walls, while in the renovated apartments tenants are being raised to triple the amount formerly paid, without guarantees of heat and hot water. They described how the landlords try to scare and pressure families to leave so they can provide apartments at higher rents or convert to condos. All the current tenants are working class and most are people of color.

According to the CHTU website, the “Crown Heights Tenants Union is a tenant of Union of Tenants Associations that began meeting in October 2013 in response to rampant gentrification, displacement, and illegal rental overcharges in the neighborhood. There are over 40 buildings in our union that have come together to demand new, stronger protections that guarantee tenants’ rights.”

The CHTU uses a “collective bargaining strategy to demand both stricter enforcement of existing tenants’ rights in addition to new, stronger protections that eliminate loopholes in the law that favor landlords.” Our demands call for a stronger tenants’ union to protect tenant rights and include a five-year rent freeze and restrictions on tenant evictions.

“The Crown Heights Tenants Union has identified a cycle in which low paying tenants are pushed out, and newer tenants are charged rent far higher than the legally regulated limit. In response to this cycle, we have adopted a unique UNITE AND FIGHT strategy where long-term tenants and new residents of the neighborhood come together with the understanding that the landlords are the true target. We hope to set an example for changing neighborhoods across New York City and the rest of the country.”
International Women’s Day Actions planned for on such topics as the Black Lives Matter. The march will gather at 10 a.m. at 135 South LaSalle, Suite 4300.

Food Is a Right Chicago People’s Assembly will be involved in the many activities scheduled to take place in the United States. Here are some of these events.

In celebration of International Women’s Day in Chicago, a “Food Is a Human Right” march and forum on Friday, March 3, will be being sponsored by Dominican University Nutrition Science and the Food Is a Right Chicago People’s Assembly. The march will gather at 10 a.m. at the Dirksen Federal Building at 219 S. Dearborn at Adams; the forum starts at 12 p.m. at 155 South LaSalle, Suite 4300.

Participants are invited to speak, and the floor will be open for discussion on such topics as the Black Lives Matter movement and proposals for action. Some of the issues raised include stop all cuts to SNAP (food stamps) and other government food programs; healthy, affordable food for all (no food deserts); and economic justice for food, agricultural and all workers, including a $15 an hour minimum wage and the right to unionize. For more information, call 708.524.6904.

The National LGBTQ Task Force and the National Women’s Law Center are hosting the second annual Women’s Speakout for Liberation and Justice on March 7 to commemorate International Women’s Day. Women have participated in and led many struggles in the past generation, including defending the city’s people against big banks and the emergency manager’s bankruptcy; demanding hands off retiree’s pensions and health care; marching and blockading to stop mass water shutoffs, foreclosures and evictions; and fighting racism and repression.

All women are invited to share their stories and struggles in the spirit of camaraderie and solidarity. The program, including dinner, starts at 5 p.m. at 5920 S. South Shore Dr. For more information, call 312.378.2369.

The march, led by women, will begin its journey at 3:30 p.m. to the women’s detention center at Fallsway and Eager streets and then on to the Unitarian Church hall. A dinner and rally there will include music, song and poetry. To get involved, call 410.218.4835.

Sharon Black, TeriKay, Monica Moorhead and J. White contributed information for this report.

Continued on page 11
Oscars & mass incarceration show why BLACK LIVES MATTER
By Monica Moorehead

This was touched upon by multiple-Grammy-winner John Legend in his 30-second acceptance speech on Feb. 22 upon winning an Academy Award for Best Original Song in the movie “Selma.” As an audience of at least one billion people watched the Oscars telecast, Legend first gave credit to the great artist Nina Simone by saying: “Nina, you inspired me to reflect the times in which we live.”

Legend went on to say that the U.S. is the most incarcerated country in the world and that legend referred to as being the prison-industrial complex: the growth and expansion of the prisons that began in the 1980s, when privatized, industrial crime were being replaced by low-wage service jobs, due to the technological revolution and the introduction of robotics. The result was that the prison-industrial complex was growing unabated.

A Latino high school student addressed the school board, which is part of the larger “Occupy” movement was an expression of anger and disillusionment among a growing layer of these youth, many of whom have become allies of the “Black Lives Matter” movement.

Build solidarity with the most oppressed
The Black Lives Matter struggle needs the solidarity of the entire movement, including organized labor, more now than ever. The labor movement must build a strong alliance with Black and Brown communities of Baltimore will remain de facto in the face of political terror.
ever. While it's important to be in solidarity with the families seeking justice for their loved ones — like Kyam Livingston, Shante Davis, Brandon Tate-Brown, Frank McGowin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Tamir Rice, John Crawford III, Jessie Hernandez, Antonio Zambrano-Montes, Kevin Davis, Terrence Martin and countless others murdered by the police or vigilantes — these are more than just cold statistics. These stolen lives are part and parcel of an unprecedented genocidal war that was fueled by an intractable capitalist crisis resulting in a systematic disregard for the lives of the colorless and oppressed.

Organized labor has a duty and obligation to reach out to bring young people, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous and disadvantaged white, into the unions, and provide them with vocational and educational training. A national strategy like this will both strengthen the U.S. labor movement and classwide unity. Black youth understand more than anybody that if there are no jobs and education for them, their destiny as well as their chil- dren’s futures will be doomed by either mass incarceration or becoming another victim of police terror, like Michael Brown or 12-year-old Tamir Rice.

These youth see the capitalist system as the problem. This is why they have put their lives on the line from Oakland, Calif., to Ferguson, Mo., to New York City by facing down state repression — because they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. As Malcolm X stated just one week be- fore he was assassinated, 50 years ago on Feb. 21, 1965: “It is incorrect to classify the revolts of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against White, or as a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploit- ers and aggressors of all the world.”

This quote, from the text of Malcolm’s “Road to Revolution” speech, appears today to the current Black Lives Matter upsurge which reflects the ongoing rebellion led by oppressed youth against a repressive force that represents the interests of Wall Street. The entire working class, regardless of nationality, gender, sexual orienta- tion or other factors, must join its ranks to achieve real justice with revolution. □

Cops attack unity rally against police brutality
By Betsey Piette
Bridgeton, N.J.

A peaceful protest against police brutality and other forms of state violence held and organized by the local police department and led by Rev. Edward Pinkney was convicted by an all-white jury in November and sentenced to 30 months in prison. He is currently housed at Marquette Correctional Facility near Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he is facing re-election later this year. Support to his death by several law enforcement of $18,000. (U.S. Census) The estimated workers.org March 12, 2015

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A motions hearing in Berrien Coun- ty, Mich., on Feb. 27, 2015, of the imprisoned community leader Rev. Edward Pinkney, pending the outcome of an appeal to overturn his conviction on five felony charges for forgery charges. Pinkney was convicted by an all-white jury in November and sentenced to 30 months in prison. He is currently housed at Marquette Correctional Facility near Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he is facing re-election later this year. Support to his death by several law enforcement of $18,000. (U.S. Census) The estimated workers.org March 12, 2015

Pinkney was convicted of a felony in November and sentenced to 30 to 120 months in prison. He is currently housed at the county’s Correctional Facili- ty, a 10-12-hour drive from his home in Benton Township.

He was indicted after a group of resi- dents collected signatures of registered voters seeking the recall of Benton Har- bor Mayor James Hightower. Dismissal with Hightower stemmed from poor economic conditions in the majority Afri- can-American city, where unemployment and poverty are widespread. St. Joseph, the county seat, is nearly all-white and far more affluent.

Over 48 percent of the residents of Ben- ton Harbor live below the poverty line, with a median income of $25,000. The me- dian income of the county is nearly all-white and far more affluent.

Political implications of Pinkney’s case
Pinkney links the Black Autono- my Network Community Organization (BANCO) local to Benton Harbor. He alleged- ly changed the dates of five signatures on the recall petitions. During his trial, not one witness claimed to have seen him change any dates.

As the result of a Michigan appeals court decision, the recall election was cancelled and Hightower remains in office, although he is facing re-election later this year. Sup- porters of the recall, including BANCO, accuse Hightower of being a surrogate of Whirlpool Corp, based in Benton Harbor.

The evidentiary hearing on two of the motions filed, he would not set an appeal bond for Pinkney. The ACLU argued, “Rev. Pinkney’s like- hood of success on appeal in this case is extremely high. … If bond pending appeal is not granted in this case, Rev. Pinkney will suffer irreparable harm because he will have served much more than a 93- day sentence.”

The immediate issue during the Feb. 27 proceedings was that he was denied release until a Michigan appeals court makes a decision on the constitutionality of his conviction. There was also a request to lower the amount of the appeal bond, which would be closer to Berrien County so his family and local counsel can consult with him on important matters. Judge Schrock refused.

People attended the hearing from throughout Michigan and Illinois. Many organizations had representatives, in- cluding BANCO, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, National Lawyers Guild, Mich- igan Welfare Rights Organization and the People’s Tribune newspaper.

The evidentiary hearing on two of the motions filed is scheduled for April 14. Local and national civil rights and human rights activists are urging people to continue to support for the BANCO leader. Nothing ‘routine’ about deadly traffic stops
Jerame Reid was killed within a min- ute of the time police pulled over the car in which he was a passenger, allegedly for failing to signal a turn to a full stop at a traffic sign. The incident was captured by a patrol car camera that showed Reid was unarm and had his hands up when Bridgeton Police officer Brian Bays re- peatedly shot him as he stepped out of the passenger’s side of the car.

In 2014, the Newark, N.J.-based People’s Organi- zation for Racial, Economic and Legal Rights invited those gathered to participate in the 39th anniversary observation of the May 13, 1985, police bombing of a MOVE home in Philadelphia that killed 11 adults and children and destroyed 61 homes.

This is not the first time New Jersey police or vigilantes have tried to silence their opponents. Nothing ‘routine’ about deadly traffic stops
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A peaceful protest against police bru- ity and other forms of state violence held and organized by the local police department and led by Rev. Edward Pinkney was convicted by an all-white jury in November and sentenced to 30 months in prison. He is currently housed at Marquette Correctional Facility near Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he is facing re-election later this year. Support to his death by several law enforcement

The demonstration, initiated by the Salem County-based civil rights group National Awareness Alliance, was held to unite families from New Jersey and Phila- delphia who have been demanding justice for loved ones killed or injured by police. Starting at the intersection where police killed Jerame Reid, 36, of Bridgeton on Dec. 30, 2014, it was the 60th event de- manding justice for Reid since his death.

Reid’s mother, Sheila Reid, led a half- mile march of nearly 200 protesters to the other side of one side of her walked Tanya Brown Dickerson, whose son Bran- don Tate-Brown, 26, was killed by Phila- delphia police on Oct. 7. On Reid’s side was Regina Ashford, whose son Ka- shaad Ashford, 23, was killed by Ruther- ford, N.J., police on Sept. 16. They were de- manding justice for Jerame Reid, 26, and Bridge- ton police officer, blaring out commands that the road be cleared, barreled toward pro- testers. When demonstrators refused to disperse, an SUV coming close behind the police car rammed into the crowd and hit a man, who responded by kicking the tire of the car. Within seconds, dozens of police vehicles descended on the demon- stration and cops arrested the man who was hit, letting the SUV speed away.

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U.S.-Cuba talks proceed—End the blockade!

By John Catalinoto

Haitian and Dominican organizations in New York held a rally at noon and later a vigil at the Consulate of the Dominican Republic on Feb. 26 to protest against the lynching of a Haitian man in the Dominican Republic earlier in February. The lynching of Henry Claude-Jean “Tirilé” followed his burning of a Dominican flag to protest anti-Haitian legislation that re- volverized citizens rights of Haitians who had resided for a long time in the Dominican Republic.

The Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York and the organization “We Are All Dominicans”—a group of university students, mostly from John Jay College, and young community members who support the rights of Haitian-origin people living inside the United States—publicly sponsored and came to the Feb. 26 actions.

A day after the lynching of Henry Claude-Jean, Dominican citizens living abroad wrote an article to Dominican President Danilo Medina expressing their concern and making public their “condemnation of the dangerous hate campaign unleashed in our country,” including death threats against journalists who advocate for the rights of those whose citizenship rights are threatened.

Dominicans join Haitians to protest lynching

By Cheryl LaBash

The U.S. State Department announced on Feb. 20 that it would send a representative to the peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) in Havana, Cuba. That same day, the Peace Delegation of FARC—which is the revolutionary opposition to the Colombian government—issued a statement asserting this step and saying in part, “We consider it a necessity, given the presence and the permanent impact that the United States has in the political, economic and social life of Colombia, that the U.S. would now be able to contribute to the establishment of social justice and democracy, to overcome inequality and poverty, which is the right way to open the path to peace.”

U.S. perspective is different

During a meeting in December 2014, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos asked of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that the U.S. “take a more direct role in and more directly in support of peace process.” (state.gov)

For this role the U.S. chose Bernard Aronson, former assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, who was involved in the peace processes in El Salvador and Nicaragua. In El Salvador, Aronson refused to sign an order to cut off funds to those involved in death squads. In Nicaragua he is notorious for his statement: “The great myth of the 20th century is that the U.S. would now be the right way to open the path to peace.”

It was but Aronson himself during the visit when the FARC refused to recognize the U.S. role in Colombian negotiations. By saying that the U.S. will stand by the Santos government, he already made its partisan intent clear. He reinforced that stance by declaring that it is time that the FARC forever renounce violence, with or without access to a bank. All has been done on Cuba’s terms. In 1995, the U.S. government began a terrorist campaign unleashed in our country,” including death threats against journalists who advocate for the rights of those whose citizenship rights are threatened.

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Continued from page 9

and overthrew the Libyan government, leaving the land in chaos. In the hemisphere, the U.S. trained military forces throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out torture and counter-insurgency campaigns.

The School of the Americas described this branch of terrorism in a December 2014 press release: “[T]he Peruvian government was forced to release seven Spanish-language training manuals that were used at the School of the Americas. The materials provide comprehensive and unlawful interrogation techniques such as torture, extortion, blackmail and the targeting of civilian populations.”

There have been many others, such as at the “School of the Americas,” now in Georgi- a, and, since, 2001, renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Throughout the 1970s the U.S., in collusion with the military and intelligence services of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, carried out “Operation Condor” that led to the murder of 60,000 people, mostly left politi- cians, students and their sympathizers.


U.S. to join Colombia ‘peace process’ in Havana

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The U.S. State Department announced on Feb. 20 that it would send a representa- tive to the peace talks between the Colom- bian government and the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) held in Havana, Cuba. That same day, the Peace Delegation of FARC—which is the revolutionary opposition to the Colombian government—issued a statement attacking this step and saying in part, “We consider it a necessity, given the presence and the per- manent impact that the United States has in the political, economic and social life of Colombia, that the U.S. would now be able to contribute to the establishment of social justice and democracy, to overcome inequality and poverty, which is the right way to open the path to peace.”

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German imperialism and the Greek debt crisis

By Fred Goldstein

For five years the European Central Bank, dominated by German finance capital, has engineered bailouts and im- posed austerity on Greece, Spain, Portu- gal, Ireland, Italy and others. This is done by various establishment economists, politi- cians and pundits in the U.S. like Paul Krugman and James Galbraith have been fre- quently called out for this.

Their complaint? Capitalist Europe is in an economic crisis. Austerity will make the working class suffer. What do the bankers and the ECB listen to reason? Why pursue such a destructive policy, which harms the economy and causes un- toleerable suffering?

They cannot understand why German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and Chancellor Angela Merkel are ruthlessly enforceable, taking a hard line with Greece, despite Greece’s being in its own Great Depression. But it is not a question of temperament or bad judgment. It is a question of econ- omics. The answer to this question can be found in the nature of German finance capital. It had a developed scientif-

ic-technological establishment behind its industry and at the service of its military. It had all the prerequisites for becom- ing a premier imperialist power.

But despite all its industrial and mili- tary potential, it had relatively few colo-
nies to dominate. Although it had key areas of finance capital — to grabbing natural resources, cheap labor, big profits and imperialist power.

Germany’s ruling class wanted to reverse its situation by ridding the colo-
nies from England and France through “a place in the sun,” as German Foreign

Minister Bernhard von Bulow put it in an “ensraum” — room for German capitalism in Europe, as well as the Soviet Union, and visionaries and fast-moving massive ground troops, backed up by its air force and V-2 rockets. From military aggression to competition with the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and other socialist counti-

eries in eastern Europe.

From military aggression to economic aggression

During WW II, German imperialism invaded the rest of Europe with tank di-

visions and fast-moving massive ground troops, backed up by its air force and V-2 rockets. It was the main capitalist country in Europe, with debt collectors. The Euro- pean Central Bank is con-

trolled financially and politically by its German financial center in Frank-

furt was a formula for future domination of Greece. As the strongest financial and industrial power on the continent, it was inevitable that German finance capital would gain a stronghold over much of Europe, esp-

ecially the weaker capitalist economic powers. These weaker powers effectively gave up a large part of their sovereignty, having lost control over their currencies and their ability to self-finance.

The European Central Bank is con-

trolled financially and politically by its largest contributors. Germany has the largest contribution, France is right be-

hind Germany and Italy. The rest of Europe is far behind. So German bankers dominate the ECB, the euro and the eurozone eco-
nomically.

German capitalism has not changed its nature

The nature of German capitalism, al-

though it has been militarily disarmed since the two world wars, has not changed its need to expand. It has the strongest in-
dustrial-technological base in Europe. It has the most advanced capitalist econo-

my. And it has never ceased to look for “its place in the sun.”

In addition to leading it over the weak-

er imperialist countries in western and southern Europe, Germany has expanded since the 1980-901 collapse of the USSR into the dependent central and eastern European countries with investments, exports and outsourcing to take advan-

tage of drastically lower wages in Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and so forth. In this sphere, it is in competition with U.S.-Anglo capitalism.

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ment in Germany. The German Social Demo-

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This is because during the strugg-

le with the socialist camp, before the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe, German capitalism had to compete with the full employment, free health care, day care centers, generous vacations, sports and cultural development, and many oth-
er social benefits that workers in the Ger-

man Democratic Republic enjoyed.

This is what forced the German bosses to make concessions to the unions and keep wages at a low level, and cut unem-

ployment benefits at a relatively high level. Once the Berlin Wall came down, the basis for con-

cessions to the working class evaporated. Today the reality is that German workers is just the opposite of what it was during the Cold War.

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This is what forced the German ruling class and all its political parties and media made a sharp right turn in 2003 and opened up a campaign to drive down the wages of German workers, slashing unemploy-

ment benefits and pushing back union

limits.

Agenda 2020: Bosses’ united front of low wages

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ers tell mass suffering?

Why pursue such a destructive policy, bankers and the ECB listen to reason?

The German ruling class got behind the Nazis — who earlier could count on years of liv-

ing off unemployment. So, the bosses were instead forced to take “mini-jobs.” Un-

employment insurance benefits were lowered. Part-time jobs were expanded and pushed by the bosses in place of previously

stable full-time jobs.

Today, poverty stalks German work-
ers, according to the Institute for Em-

ployment Research, the research arm of Germany’s federal employment agency, 25 percent of all German workers earn less than 9.54 euros ($11.00) an hour. In Europe, only Lithuania has a higher per-

cent of low-wage earners — who earn less than two-thirds of the national aver-

age wage. (The Guardian, Aug. 13, 2013)

“Between 1999 (when the euro launched) and 2010, unit labor costs in-
crusted 20 percent in Spain, 41 percent in Italy and a more modest 5 percent in France; Germany’s barely budged at 0.6 percent. All Mediterranean economies face unemployment, especially the weaker ones, rather than factories closed.” (Investopedia, Dec. 3, 2012) That is because unions in those countries resisted austerity more strongly.

Low wages at home and control of the euro allowed the German bosses to use their powerful, dynamic industrial base to make semi-colonies out of their poorer imperialist rivals on the continent.

The expansion of trade and invest-

ment into southern Europe is part of the same “Lebensraum” tendency described earlier — only expressed economically instead of militarily. It is driven by the same ruthless, aggressively expansionist character of German capitalism that led to the two wars.

And that is why, to the puzzlement of the European left, Europe’s ex-

clusive banker, the European Central Bank, the Frankfurt bankers are running roughshod over the Greek people and all the semi-colonies of Europe and causing devastation to the working class, without the slightest inhibition or regret, regardless of the consequences. Nothing comparable to the climate of the work-

ing class can stop them. It is hoped that the push-back by the masses in Greece and southern Europe will begin to drive the boss against the banker-imposed austerity program of Merkel and company.

During WW II, German imperialism invaded the rest of Europe with tank divisions and fast-moving massive ground troops, backed up by its air force and V-2 rockets. Today Germany is expanding by subduing Europe, especially southern Europe, with debt collectors. The Frank-
International Women’s Day is a good time to examine some crucial struggles for women, including pay equity and livable wages.

This topic arose starkly at the Feb. 22 Academy Awards when a well-known actor, Patricia Arquette, stressed in her acceptance speech that it’s time for “all the gay people and the people who we’ve fought for to fight for us now.”

This set up an “us vs. them” scenario, implicitly leaving women of color and people of color that we’ve fought for to be left behind. But she added that it was time for “all the gay people and the people of color that we’ve fought for to fight for us now.”

Immediately, social media was awash with objections to these remarks by African-American women, Latinas and LGBTQ people. These communities have been fighting for decades for decent jobs, pay equity, as well as an end to bigotry and discrimination.

The “Black Lives Matter” protests against police brutality, as well as as brutality against LGBTQ individuals, starkly show that deep oppression continues. It is every progressive person’s duty to support such struggles wholeheartedly — in words and in deeds. Opposing police brutality IS a women’s issue!

As for pay equity, women overall earn just 78 cents for every dollar men make in the U.S. However, African-American women earn 64 percent of white male workers’ salaries, and Native women earn 85 percent and Latinas 55 percent.

Women make up two-thirds of those earning minimum wage ($7.25 an hour) or less, and often involuntarily work part-time jobs with no benefits. Thirty percent of single mothers, 35 percent of Native women, 23 percent of African-American women and Latinas, and 20 percent of women immigrants live under the poverty level.

Who benefits from paying women lower wages, doubly exploiting women of color? The capitalist owners of corporations, banks and property. Their CEOs do very well, too. The bosses rake in megaprofits from all workers’ labor and pay them only a fraction of the value they produce.

That’s the basis of the for-profit capitalist system and how multinationals are made. While the net worth of the richest 400 individuals in the U.S. in 2014 was $2.2 trillion, the billion dollars of money taken from the women a year before, says Forbes, working people are losing real income.

In 2014, 1 out of 10 women in the workforce were paid the same rate as the high-est-paid male workers, that would total hundreds of billions of dollars. If all work-ers were paid the full value of what they produce, it would amount to trillions. But these corporate parasites will underpay every employee, going as low as they can — sometimes even fighting to wrench higher wages from them.

Look at Walmart: 500,000 workers just tried to win a $15 an hour wage hike. $9 per hour, going to $10 next year, through strong, brave protests, with community support and union support. And yet even with these raises, can single mothers, many only as-signed part-time work, pay rent and cover their children’s needs?

Warren is part of the Walton family. Four of its members, worth a total of $188 billion, are in Forbes’ top 10 list of the U.S.’ wealthiest people. Their rich- es come from exploiting their workers, especially women. In 2011, 1.5 million women sued Walmart for wage and other unfair practices. The Wal-mart lawsuit has already failed and now the Supreme Court refused to back them.

Congress blocks equal rights, pay hikes

What is wrong with this picture? There is not even an Equal Rights Amendment on the books, a simple law stating that women have equality, because right-wing millionaires mounted a campaign to defeat it. Their politicians in Congress have also obstruct-ed the Paycheck Fairness Act because it would give women more legal tools to fight wage discrimination. They refuse to raise the federal minimum wage to $10.10 that would help all low-wage workers, although it still wouldn’t pay today’s bills.

React�行 companies have fought every law that would help women gain equal rights and pay equity, while trying to erase women’s reproductive and other health care. Their crimes in 22 state legislatures refuse to expand Medicaid for low-income people, including single mothers.

On this International Women’s Day, what does and what its socialist counterparts intend to be. Fighting women’s hardships, poverty and oppression is a cornerstone of the struggle to end this vicious capitalist system. □

Stop cops from killing people with disabilities

By WWP Members with Disabilities Caucus

A case before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking police exemption from the Amer-icans with Disabilities Act has gained importance for all those seeking to stop unwarranted police killings. This case involves police shootings of people with mental illnesses. Intervention is needed to stop the high court from using this case to strengthen the hand of the police and lessen police accountability in the killings of people with disabilities. Many of those killed were people of color.

Oral arguments are set for March 23 in the case of Sheehan v. San Francisco, brought before the Supreme Court by the city of San Francisco.

More than 40 civil rights and disabil-ity activist groups have signed a letter urging San Francisco officials to drop the appeal. They ask that concerned people contact their U.S. senators and representa-tives (H.Res. 514) The Workers World Party Peo-ple with Disabilities Caucus is one of the groups circulating and getting signatures for this letter.

Please join this crucial effort. Copy and sign the letter below and mail or email it to San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

Dear Mayor Ed Lee and City Attorney Herrera:

I/we join more than 42 civil rights and disability rights groups and many progressive individuals in urging you to withdraw your appeal in the case of City and County of San Francisco v. Sheehan currently pending in the U.S. Supreme Court where you oppose a result from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the most comprehensive civil rights law for individuals with disabilities. Your appeal puts the ADA at risk, and could lead to an increase in unwarranted police killings of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities need the ADA’s protections when they encounter law enforcement. A 2013 study by the Treatment Advocacy Center and the Na-tional Sheriff’s Association revealed that at least half of the people who are killed by police have psychiatric disabilities. At times these police had been called to help a person in a psychiatric crisis. Often police who are first on the scene quickly respond with deadly force, without waiting for a unit specially trained to deal with people with major disabilities.

The ADA’s protections are needed so that people with disabilities are not targeted when they encounter police, but protected.

The ADA needs to be expanded and honored, especially when it comes to encounters with police. Having a disability must not be a death sentence!
By Abayomi Azikiwe

Struggle against Ebola continues
Despite reported decline

African leaders, health care professionals, international humanitarian organizations and others have praised the work battling the latest and most deadly outbreak of Ebola.

In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, there has been an apparent outbreak of the deadly pandemic, a dramatic decrease in the number of cases has been reported. The World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that some 9,000 people have died of the 20,000 infected over the last year.

Nevertheless, as borders reopen throughout West Africa and life returns to some form of normalcy, experts and leaders warn that vigilance is still required. An increase in new cases in Sierra Leone over the last several weeks in February has once again prompted concern.

According to WHO’s Feb. 25 Situation Report, the number of cases in Sierra Leone from December to the end of January were constant, with transmission widespread. In Guinea cases continued to rise from unknown chains of transmission. In Liberia, transmission continues but at very low levels, with only one new case reported in the week up to Feb. 22.

Renewed alert in Sierra Leone

The new outbreak of cases in Sierra Leone is of unknown origin. It is suspect- ed to have originated from newly arriving workers in the fishing industry who have traveled inland to the capital of Freetown. There were 14 confirmed new cases in Freetown the week ending Feb. 22, with additional infections discovered from what is described as unknown chains of transmission in the capital and other locations.

Serious is the current threat that Vice President Samuel Sam-Sumana placed himself in quarantine after one of his security guards died from Ebola on Feb. 24.

Sam-Sumana’s office released a statement on Feb. 15. “This virus has affected thousands of our people and has nearly brought our country to its knees. We all have a collective responsibility to break the chain of transmission. We must keep the sick and reporting all known contacts, by not touching the dead. … We cannot be complacent. We must work together as a nation to end Ebola now.”

As pension cuts start
Detroit retirees keep fighting

Continued from page 4

Continued from page 5

whacked and it killed him.

I feel proud of [my red beret from the army], and I wear it at all the union meetings. Not very many 17-year-old girls had that. She was 17, because she had been one of the first strike leaders that year. In Stockton, the city itself did not even try to go after pension funds in its bankruptcy.

“On White Shirt Day,” the annual observance of the sitdown victory, workers wear a white shirt to demonstrate they are just as important as “white shirts” — the bosses. Until 1977, when Genaro John tolls in the Whitney National Organization for Women, the celebrations downplayed the role of women. Of course I always go to White Shirt Day service [hymn]. I went to the 40th anniversary. Genaro got up and made a speech. But there was some controversy over it, too. The white woman was a group from the “up on the left hand side, right in front of the stage, and in the balcony. After that [Genaro] joined NOW. She was a tireless fighter for women’s rights.

I told the head of Planned Parenthood here, “If you got anything that I can do, why, let me know.” I made two trips to Washington for big marches, one in 1992 and the other one in [2004]. [At that one, I was afraid I couldn’t walk that far, but my niece’s son wheeled me around in a wheelchair.] Thank you. … I believe in so strongly. No woman should have a child she doesn’t want just because some man puts one in her. No way.”

Interview with Geraldine Blankenship

Women and the Flint sit-down strike of 1937

Continued from page 8

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“Right-to-Work” for less legislation.

Bright up to her death throughout the region, and only a resurgence of anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist sentiment can move the people toward genuine independence and sovereignty.

U.S. to join Colombia ‘peace process’

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As pension cuts start
Detroit retirees keep fighting

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whacked and it killed him.

I feel proud of [my red beret from the army], and I wear it at all the union meetings. Not very many 17-year-old girls had that. She was 17, because she had been one of the first strike leaders that year. In Stockton, the city itself did not even try to go after pension funds in its bankruptcy.

“On White Shirt Day,” the annual observance of the sitdown victory, workers wear a white shirt to demonstrate they are just as important as “white shirts” — the bosses. Until 1977, when Genaro John tolls in the Whitney National Organization for Women, the celebrations downplayed the role of women. Of course I always go to White Shirt Day service [hymn]. I went to the 40th anniversary. Genaro got up and made a speech. But there was some controversy over it, too. The white woman was a group from the “up on the left hand side, right in front of the stage, and in the balcony. After that [Genaro] joined NOW. She was a tireless fighter for women’s rights.

I told the head of Planned Parenthood here, “If you got anything that I can do, why, let me know.” I made two trips to Washington for big marches, one in 1992 and the other one in [2004]. [At that time, I was afraid I couldn’t walk that far, but my niece’s son wheeled me around in a wheelchair.] Thank you. … I believe in so strongly. No woman should have a child she doesn’t want just because some man puts one in her. No way.”

“Right-to-Work” for less legislation.

Bright up to her death throughout the region, and only a resurgence of anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist sentiment can move the people toward genuine independence and sovereignty.

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Syriza cede ante banqueros de eurozona

Por Fred Goldstein

24 de febrero — El gobierno izquierdista Syriza en Grecia ha aceptado una reducción temporal de los términos de los préstamos de las “instituciones” europeas después de dos semanas de negociaciones con el BCE y la CE, que muestran una debilidad sindical impresionante en el caso de Grecia. En lugar de una oposición clara a la austeridad, la izquierda ha tomado el camino más fácil y ha propuesto garantías adicionales para los intereses de los banqueros de eurozona. Por tanto, Syriza ha cedido ante el poder por sólo un mes y no tenía tiempo para tener un control sobre el gobierno o sus finanzas, ni hablar de prepararse para la agresión económica después de una ruptura de negociaciones. La mayor parte del mes se consumió en discusiones con banqueros. Así que Syriza no estaba preparado para defenderse del estrangulamiento económico amenazado por Berlín.

Gran cambio hacia Syriza siguió las elecciones

Este acuerdo con las “instituciones” es inaceptable. Podría ser alterado por una re- benzamiento contra Syriza, pero la falta de cooperación impide la posibilidad de derrocar al gobierno. Pero por el momento hay una pausa temporal en la lucha. Y es necesario evaluar el suceso para seguir adelan- te. Hay muchos aspectos de la lucha para examinar.

En primer lugar, ¿qué significó la victoria de Syriza? Y más importante, ¿qué significará el aumento de la popularidad de Syriza después de hacer promesas audaces? ¿Podría la lucha de Syriza contra la austeridad, los programas de corto plazo, ser un medio para defenderse del estrangulamiento económico amenazado por Berlín.

No basta con simplemente denunciar Syriza

El denunciar a Syriza y mantenerse al margen diciendo que la lucha está per- dida sería negligente. En este sentido, es importante analizar las posiciones intrínsecas de Syriza. Y es importante analizar la lucha de Syriza contra la austeridad, la lucha contra el monopolio de la línea política. Así se entrega la lucha política a la socialdemocracia. Pero el objetivo es ganar a las masas y distanciarlas de los socialdemócratas. Mientras las/os marxistas traen su programa completo para la lucha contra la austeridad, sus:/os socialdemócratas se mantienen al margen, o intentan desestabilizar la lucha de Syriza.

Para eso, las/os marxistas deben estar en la lucha contra la austeridad, contra la lucha contra el monopolio de la línea política. Así se entrega la lucha política a la socialdemocracia. Pero el objetivo es ganar a las masas y distanciarlas de los socialdemócratas. Mientras las/os marxistas traen su programa completo para la lucha contra la austeridad, sus:/os socialdemócratas se mantienen al margen, o intentan desestabilizar la lucha de Syriza.

Syriza conservó cierta flexibilidad para permitir que el gobierno grie- so se comprometiese con una nueva “acuerdo” y la lucha. Pero este acuerdo de Syriza fue un fracaso. En realidad, Syriza nunca ha sido el eje de esta lucha. De hecho, Syriza está defendiendo su propia supervivencia como partido. Pero el objetivo es ganar a las masas y distanciarlas de los socialdemócratas. Mientras las/os marxistas traen su programa completo para la lucha contra la austeridad, sus:/os socialdemócratas se mantienen al margen, o intentan desestabilizar la lucha de Syriza.

Por otro lado, el eurozonte está defendiendo su propio “acuerdo” y la lucha. Pero este acuerdo de Syriza fue un fracaso. En realidad, Syriza nunca ha sido el eje de esta lucha. De hecho, Syriza está defendiendo su propia supervivencia como partido. Pero el objetivo es ganar a las masas y distanciarlas de los socialdemócratas. Mientras las/os marxistas traen su programa completo para la lucha contra la austeridad, sus:/os socialdemócratas se mantienen al margen, o intentan desestabilizar la lucha de Syriza.