



Harlem, N.Y. on March 5.

Pro-choice women tell Supreme Court ‘Keep our clinics open!’

By Sue Davis

While several thousand pro-choice activists held a spirited, multinational, multigenerational rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on March 2, the first major abortion rights case in nearly 25 years was heard by the court.

The case, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, challenges two provisions in the 2013 Texas law HB2 that the state alleges are needed to protect women's health. One is that abortion clinics must be ambulatory surgical centers (ASC), which meet stringent architectural standards, equipment regulations and procedural requirements. The other is that doctors performing abortions must have admitting privileges at hospitals up to 30 miles from where they work.

The main argument in the case is whether or not these provisions pose an “undue burden” on women's access to abortion. The legal term “undue burden,” originating in the 19th century, is widely used in U.S. constitutional law. It was first applied in 1992 to women's right to choose abortion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor introduced the term to ensure that “the regulation does not ‘unduly burden’ the fundamental right.”

Progressive justices ask pointed questions

Stephanie Toti, representing the clinics on behalf of the Center for Reproductive Rights, told the court that the Texas rules “are unnecessary health regulations that create substantial obstacles to abortion access.” She stated that partial implementation of the law had closed about half of the state's more than 40 clinics and full implementation would reduce it to 10 or fewer in a state with over 5 million women of reproductive age. (Washington Post, March 2)

When Justice Samuel Alito noted there was little specific evidence about why the clinics had closed, Justice Elena Kagan pounced, calling it “an almost perfect controlled experiment. ... It's like you put the law into effect, 12 clinics closed. You take the law out of effect, they reopen.”

According to the Post, U.S. Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., representing the Obama administration, stated that when most clinics in a state are closed that puts “extreme stress” on the remaining clinics and “exponentially increases the obstacles” on women seeking abortions. Verrilli added that the average number of abortions performed in Texas each year is 65,000 to 70,000, but ASCs clinics are only able to perform 14,000.

Both Kagan and Justice Sandra Sotomayor noted that ASC are not required for liposuction and colonoscopies, procedures that carry much higher risks. Surgical abortions, among the safest procedures, have a complication rate of less than one-tenth of 1 percent. (New York Times, Feb. 28) They also have a very low death rate — just 0.6 per 100,000 procedures, according to a 2012 study. (RH Reality Check, March 3)

Justice Stephen G. Breyer questioned the admitting



WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

Celebrating International Women's Day in Harlem, N.Y. at a statue of Harriet Tubman, the amazing Civil War hero who helped hundreds escape slavery. They then marched to spotlight the many issues women face today. Article, page 7.

privileges requirement. He asked for evidence that a woman was turned away from a hospital because her doctor did not have credentials. After Texas Solicitor General Scott A. Keller admitted there was no such record, Breyer asserted: “What is the benefit to the woman of a procedure that is going to cure a problem of which there is not one single instance in the nation?” (Mother Jones, March 2)

When Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked Keller how many women live more than 100 miles from the nearest

clinic, he said 25 percent, not including women in the El Paso area who have access to a New Mexico clinic a mile over the Texas border. Ginsburg leaned in: “Send them off to New Mexico, where they don't get either — no admitting privileges, no ASC. And that's perfectly all right? Well, if that's all right for the women in the El Paso area, why isn't it right for the rest of the women in Texas?” Keller did not answer the question.

The case presented by the state of Texas was supported by briefs from anti-choice physicians and groups

Continued on page 6

- RACE AND ELECTIONS 3
- DEFEND NORTH KOREA Editorial 10
- IRAN Why its progress threatens imperialism 11
- Picket lines vs low wages 5

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_/

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City / State / Zip _____

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

Trump challenged in every state

By Lyn Neeley

Almost everywhere presidential candidate Donald Trump goes in recent days, he has had to contend with protesters challenging his racist rhetoric.

Police kept about 50 anti-Trump protesters a half-mile from the stadium where Trump spoke in **Madison, Ala.**, on Feb. 28. But the mostly Latino/a group lined the road leading to the event so that Trump supporters had to see their placards and hear their protest songs in Spanish and English. Inside, activists chanted “Black lives matter!” and raised clenched fists as they were carried out by security forces (see accompanying article). This followed Trump’s refusal to repudiate an endorsement by longtime Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. His racist response was, “All lives matter!”

The next day, dozens of university students and Black Lives Matter protesters linked arms and interrupted Trump numerous times in **Radford, Va.** Trump yelled to one protester, “Are you from Mexico?”

That evening, more than 30 mostly Black students, standing quietly at the top of bleachers, were ejected from a Trump rally at Valdosta State University in **Valdosta, Ga.**, some 30 seconds after the rally started. According to 11 of the students, who posted videos on YouTube, they were not at the rally to disrupt but to educate themselves about Trump. They wore black as a sign of unity. The university was whites-only until 1963.

The Trump crowd cheered when one of the students, responding to a verbal attack by a white Trump supporter, was handcuffed. Similarly, Shiya Nwanguma, a young African-American student at the University of Louisville, was repeatedly shoved and called racist and misogynous names while protesting at a Trump rally in **Louisville, Ky.**, on March 1.

The morning after a powerful demonstration of several hundred people outside the GOP debate in **Detroit** on March 3, Donald Trump came to Macomb Community College in **Warren, Mich.**, to hold one of his infamous rallies. A very impromptu demonstration was organized and a small group of activists from Detroit joined some students from the college to take a stand against Trump and the neofascist elements he has refused to disavow. Activists demanded an end to deportations, war and the

scapegoating of refugees. Several people went inside to disrupt the rally on their own, and a few of them joined the demonstration after they were ejected. Though numbers were small and the specter of Trump providing a cover for fascist thugs hung in the air, the protest was spirited and brave.

Protesters took over the Trump rally in **New Orleans** for nearly eight minutes on March 4. Coordinated groups, including Black Lives Matter and other individuals, staged a constant stream of interruption and dropped to the ground as security forces tried to evacuate them. Trump derided the protesters as “stupid people.”

Trump was interrupted dozens of times by protesters who stood at the entrance of his rally at the University of Central Florida in **Orlando** on March 5. When security forces pushed and shoved a protester, Trump responded, “He’s lucky it’s not 10 years ago.” (Orlando Sentinel, March 5) Trump has complained that in “the old days” police didn’t fear for their jobs when they roughed people up. In Las Vegas, he said, “[In the past] they’d be carried out on a stretcher.” (Washington Post, Feb. 23)

At the same time, a group of Muslims marched toward the rally protesting Trump’s call for banning Muslim immigration. Bassem Chaaban said, “We ... express our discontent with the message Trump has sent about not only Muslims but minorities, women and veterans.” (Orlando Sentinel, March 5) Dozens of UCF students carried signs in protest. Student Amanda Ortman said: “He wants to make America great again, but what does he want to make great again? Like 1960s great? Like segregation and a lot of racism?” (Orlando Sentinel, March 5)

Trump is heading to the University of Illinois at **Chicago** on March 11 and a group has called for a protest before the rally’s doors open. Within two hours after Trump announced the event, more than 300 signatures were collected to keep Trump out of UIC. The anti-Trump protest had 1,600 RSVPs by early evening, including groups like the Service Employees union, Fight for 15, UIC’s Greek Council, the Black Youth Project 100, Students for Justice in Palestine, the Not One More Campaign, and students from DePaul University and the University of Chicago.

Joe Mshahawar contributed to this report.

WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.	
Pro-choice women to Supreme Court, ‘Keep clinics open’...	1
Trump challenged in every state.....	2
Elections no solution to racism, poverty	3
SW Virginia: Multinational unity disrupts Trump	3
Alabama resists racism	3
EPA ignores fire threatening nuclear waste landfill	4
UN march: Money for human needs, not war	4
Behind the death of energy mogul Aubrey McClendon ...	4
Auto parts workers fight for safety, recognition.....	5
Steelworkers ratify contract at ATI	5
On the picket line	5
National rallies to demand ‘Free Aafia Siddiqui’	6
Protest honors life of Tony Robinson.....	8
Ferguson rejects Dept. of Justice decree.....	8
Flint lives matter! Arrest Gov. Snyder!	8
Atlanta protests murders of Sudanese youth	9
Buffalo: Justice for India Cummings.....	9
Raleigh, N.C.: Justice for Akiel Denkins.....	9
Beloved Roanoke youth killed by cops.....	9
SF: Federal trial exposes police killing of Alex Nieto	9
Free Rev. Pinkney now!	10
Trump and Mussolini.....	10
★ Around the world	
Message from the IAC regarding Berta Cáceres	7
Iran’s revolution still a threat to U.S. imperialism.....	11
★ Women’s History Month	
Trans* lives and ‘bathroom bullies’	6
Harlem, N.Y.: Women rally for justice, liberation	7
Akai Gurley’s aunt: ‘Time to dismantle this system’.....	7
★ Editorial	
Why People’s Korea needs a strong defense	10
★ Noticias en Español	
Apple y FBI – corporación más rica del mundo contra federales	12
Editorial: La mujer, la lucha y el socialismo	12

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

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

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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Bay Area
1305 Franklin St. #411
Oakland, CA 94612
510.600.5800
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.286.6574
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
712 Main St #113B
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
312.229.0161
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Huntington, W. Va.
huntingtonwv@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Lexington, KY
lexington@workers.org

Los Angeles
5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org
323.306.6240

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

Rockford, IL
rockford@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Virginia
Virginia@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, D.C. 20037
dc@workers.org

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 58, No. 10 • March 17, 2016
Closing date: March 8, 2016
Editor: Deirdre Griswold



Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead; Web Editor Gary Wilson

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

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Keith Fine, Bob McCubbin

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

Mundo Obero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Ramiro Fúnez, Teresa Gutierrez, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis
Copyright © 2016 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.
A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

Elections no solution to racism, poverty

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

Donald Trump’s hesitancy and denial of knowing much about the Ku Klux Klan in response to an endorsement by former neo-Nazi and Grand Wizard David Duke speaks volumes about the Republican Party’s political character and its electoral base.

Trump was asked about Duke’s support by Jake Tapper on CNN’s State of the Union program on Feb. 29. He denied knowing about the far-right organization and said there might be “groups in there that are totally fine. ... So give me a list of the groups and I’ll let you know.” Tapper responded with, “OK. I’m just talking about David Duke and the Ku Klux Klan here.” Trump claimed he didn’t know Duke, had never met him and knew nothing about him.

Despite efforts to clean up these statements, Trump has been attacked by anti-racist organizations and political figures from the Democratic Party and even his own Republican Party. Other forces used the statements to further illustrate the racist and neofascist character of the Trump campaign and its following.

Trump’s far-right family ties

Trump’s remarks came after a Feb. 28 Washington Post article noted the arrest of his father, Fred Trump, during a disturbance involving the Klan in New York in 1927. Numerous publications have reported this. The Post wrote that on Memorial Day in 1927, Fred Trump was one of seven men arrested in a brawl in Jamaica, Queens, during a march of 1,000 Klansmen. The elder Trump was detained

“on a charge of refusing to disperse from a parade when ordered to do so.”

Donald Trump denied the credibility of the report, although it was published at the time in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. He said that his father was “never there,” was “never arrested” and this incident “never happened.” He said he was “never even charged,” and the report is “a completely false, ridiculous story.”

Trump’s rallies have been a gathering point for racist and extreme right-wing elements who are emboldened by his primary victories and the end of the Obama administration. At Trump’s rallies, protesters have been treated with extreme rudeness, pushed, roughly escorted out and even assaulted. (See accompanying article.)

The scene was tense outside the Republican candidates’ debate on March 3 at the Fox Theater in downtown Detroit. Police and Secret Service agents set up a law enforcement barricade between protesters from civil rights, labor, anti-war and immigrant rights organizations — who were angered by Trump and the other candidates’ presence — and their reactionary white supporters.

Flint: Site of Clinton/Sanders debate

At the same time, Hillary Clinton, former U.S. senator and secretary of state, has not prompted any hope for African Americans, although she is pandering to this key electoral base of the Democratic Party. Clinton spent considerable resources in Flint, Mich., attempting to

exploit the plight of this majority African-American city of 100,000 people. Under Republican Gov. Rick Snyder’s administration, Flint’s water system has been poisoned with lead.

Clinton secured the endorsement of Flint’s new mayor, Dr. Karen Weaver, and used videos of her speeches at African-American churches in campaign commercials. In those, she pledged to address the water crisis. A nationally televised debate in Flint on March 6 between Clinton and Sanders was acrimonious.

Sanders has been criticized for not speaking out strongly enough against racial profiling by law enforcement — and about the special oppression of the African-American people. Nonetheless, the Vermont senator has recently garnered key endorsements from some leading Detroit political officials and community leaders.

Clinton administration and African Americans

African Americans were severely damaged during Bill Clinton’s presidency due to many measures. They include passage of the ominous crime bill, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the so-called welfare “reform” bill, as well as building prisons, placing tens of thousands of new cops on the streets and further deregulation of the financial industry.

Millions of African Americans lost their homes due to predatory lending, while many more suffered from layoffs and impoverishment. Meanwhile, Wall Street bankers, empowered even more under the Clinton government, were rewarded un-



SW Virginia

Multinational unity disrupts Trump

Workers World Staff Report

Donald Trump and his racist, bigoted supporters miscalculated when they thought they could have a recruitment rally in Southwest Virginia without opposition.

Southwest Virginia is an area of Appalachia that is continuing to be devastated by coal barons and bankers. Workers there face mass unemployment, environmental

disasters, starvation, homelessness and other horrendous effects of Wall Street plunder.

Historically, one of the only organizations that has brought real relief and a livable quality of life to the workers and their communities in Southwest Virginia has been the United Mine Workers union — not Wall Street and certainly not racist bigots like Trump.

Trump thought he’d come to Southwest Virginia and have an open field to recruit white workers to his racist, anti-worker, pro-imperialist program by blaming immigrants, migrants, Muslims, Black and other people of color for the ongoing capitalist depression and its effects. In the spirit of the best fighting periods of the UMW, he got something else.

Immediately upon learning that Trump had booked the Dedham Auditorium for a Feb. 29 recruitment rally at Radford University in Radford, Va., students and their allies began protest plans through social media, campus leafleting and other organizing.



Radford University, Feb. 29.

Protesters began arriving at Radford University early on the morning of Feb. 29 and took positions on the sidewalks leading to the auditorium and right outside the facility. They didn’t leave for hours, until Trump was off campus. Anti-racist, working-class placards went up, such as “Muslim lives matter,” “Jobs not racism,” “Black and migrant lives matter”

and “Stop right-to-work, say no to racism and union-busting.” A banner reading “Donald Trump: racist tool of the rich, enemy of the poor” was unfurled.

By the time the doors opened, thousands were waiting, and not all going inside were Trump supporters. This became clear when almost immediately upon speaking, Trump was repeatedly interrupted. At one point, numerous Black students linked arms and began chanting, disrupting the entire proceedings, and then marching out en masse to the protest outside.

While the disruptions were going on inside the event, outside, hundreds of multinational protesters — Black, Arab, Muslim, Mexican and working-class white students and workers — began chanting slogans such as “Racist, sexist, anti-gay! Right-wing bigots, go away!” At one point hundreds of students, many wearing white T-shirts with anti-racist slogans, stood on the foyer roof of the auditorium, chanting and telling Trump and his fellow racist bigots to get out of Radford and don’t come back. □

Alabama resists racism

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

On-the-ground Alabama organizers are continuing the fierce, fighting spirit of the Selma-to-Montgomery march. The 51st anniversary of that historic journey, made by thousands in the teeth of Klan violence and racist state terror, fell on March 6.

On Feb. 28, about 40 members of Shut Down Etowah carried an empty coffin and sang outside the Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden. They were protesting the death of Ethiopian national Teka Gulema, who was paralyzed from a bacterial infection while detained. A case of “fatal neglect,” he was released by authorities only to die two weeks later in a local hospital. As supporters marched, detainees inside could be heard banging on the prison walls. The Etowah Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility has been condemned by Detention Watch Network as one of the worst facilities in the U.S. (weldbham.com, March 1)

Also on Feb. 28, at a rally of 30,000 near Huntsville, several groups disrupted racist, anti-immigrant presidential candidate Donald Trump. Protesters with fists up chanting “Black Lives Matter!” heroically marched past Trump on the podium and also interrupted his speech later. These were students from Alabama A&M University and Oakwood University, two local historically Black colleges. Veterans Challenge Islamophobia held up signs: “We stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters” and “Veterans say end hate speech.” The vets were roughly ejected as Trump exclaimed, “Isn’t this fun?”

To get to the stadium, thousands of Trump followers had to walk by about

der two successive administrations with trillions of dollars in bailout funds allocated by Congress and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Even under a Democratic Party government, oppressed nations both internationally and domestically are subjected to militarized repression and superexploitation.

It should be noted that Hillary Clinton was the public face of the U.S. policy aimed at the destruction of Libya and the escalation of the Pentagon’s Africa Command (AFRICOM) throughout the continent. Under the Obama administration, AFRICOM has been strengthened and enhanced. On March 7, the Pentagon launched a bombing operation in Somalia against the al-Shabab group, resulting in 150 deaths.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties pose grave dangers for African Americans and the working class as a whole. Irrespective of their rhetoric, Clinton and Trump are on record supporting globalization and all capitalist-inspired trade deals.

The suppression of wages and today’s mass joblessness and impoverishment are essential to the current phase of capitalist economic production and relations. Wall Street financiers and their Pentagon allies will remain in supreme control, short of a fundamental transformation of U.S. society.

An independently organized fighting movement is the only possible response to the political culture that is developing, and will emerge full-blown in 2017. Notwithstanding the national elections, the contradictions within capitalist society will continue to emerge and be manifested in various social forms. □



#VetsVsHate outside Alabama Trump rally after being ejected, Feb. 28.

50 sign-holding and chanting protesters from women’s groups, peace groups and the Alabama Coalition For Immigrant Justice. (whnt.com, waff.com)

On March 1, more than a dozen Black Lives Matter protesters repeatedly interrupted a session of the Montgomery City Council. The multinational group, composed mainly of Black women, were outraged by the death of Greg Gunn, an unarmed Black man shot by a white cop while Gunn was walking home in his own neighborhood.

Karen Jones stood directly in front of Mayor Todd Strange and said, “It is a travesty that this council can go on as if nothing happened, without even acknowledging (Gunn’s) death, his murder.” Jones is a local activist who led the group of protesters. The Council abruptly adjourned its meeting.

By the next day, the Montgomery County district attorney had charged the white cop, Aaron Smith, with murder, an action so unusual that it brought national headlines. In the last decade, Montgomery police officers were dismissed for planting evidence, jailing people on false charges and beating suspects. All those targeted were African-American. (Montgomery Advertiser.com, TruthInJustice.org) □

EPA ignores fire threatening nuclear waste landfill

By Betsey Piette

In 1973, thousands of tons of toxic radioactive waste from processed uranium for nuclear weapons were illegally dumped into the Westlake landfill in the town of Bridgeton, Mo., next door to Ferguson. The waste material from the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis originated as part of the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb.

The landfill, approximately 200 acres of property within the city limits of Bridgeton, was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund National Priorities List in 1990, when evidence of nuclear contamination began to surface. Toxic nuclear waste was polluting the creek waters and playgrounds where children played.

However, while the EPA monitored the

site, it has done little to contain the problem or clean up the mess.

For more than 30 years, Bridgeton residents voiced concerns over cancer clusters and the prevalence of birth defects. Department of Health surveys of eight zip codes surrounding the site confirmed the higher rates of cancer, including rare forms of leukemia among children.

Like many other Superfund sites, Bridgeton is predominantly a community of color with demographics much like nearby Ferguson. Many residents are low-income families forced out of St. Louis by decades of gentrification. Most are too poor to leave Bridgeton or relocate again.

The Westlake landfill is one of many examples of environmental racism, largely under the radar as far as the corporate media are concerned. However, things are about to get a whole lot worse

for area residents.

For months, fires have been burning in 200 feet of rotting garbage in an underground landfill dangerously close to the radioactive waste fill. In a response that echoes the government’s callous treatment of Flint, Mich., residents when lead was discovered in their water, local Bridgeton officials sent letters to parents advising them to “shelter in place” should the fires reach the nuclear waste.

While government officials sit on their hands for months, the fire continues to spread ever closer to the nuclear waste containment area. On top of the problem of the fire, radioactive contamination from the landfill has likely already migrated off-site, according to a study by the Journal of Environmental Radioactivity published in January.

The study of more than 200 samples of soil and sediments from an approxi-

mately 75-square-mile area around the landfill found dozens of incidents of radioactive lead. The toxic lead likely came from radon gas that escaped from the site. Some of the highest lead levels came from dust samples in several homes.

The EPA has claimed that putting out the fire would require extensive excavations and might increase the risk of toxic fumes should the fire breach the surface. They have ordered the landfill operator to construct a barrier between the two landfills. However, that could take years to build.

The Westlake landfill fire is eerily reminiscent of the fire that resulted when the city of Philadelphia bombed the MOVE home in 1985. Firefighters were told to stand down and let the fire burn. Eleven men, women and children died and more than 62 homes were destroyed as a result. □

U.N. march: Money for human needs, not war

By Tony Murphy
New York

New York City activists are calling for a March 13 march on the U.N. that is meant to solidarize the anti-war movement with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Under the banner “Stop the War at Home and Abroad,” the United National Antiwar Coalition will hold a protest march from New York’s busy Herald Square to the U.N., with a closing rally at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Other slogans include “Money for Jobs and People’s Needs, Not War,” “Rebuild Flint! Rebuild Our Cities,” “Stop Islamophobia” and “Defend the Black Lives Matter Movement.” The demonstration will feature speakers like former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, people’s lawyer Lynne Stewart and Lawrence Hamm, of the People’s Organization for Progress.

UNAC released a statement March 6, stating, “None of the major candidates for president have taken on the issue of Washington’s endless wars — unless they are defending them.”

“None of these candidates,” the statement continues, “address how the cost of militarism is literally poisoning our cities. The latest budget for the Pentagon is \$608 billion — while the cash-strapped city of Flint switched its water system to save money and left the children of this majority-Black city with irreversible brain damage.”

In addition to the call for money to be spent on people’s needs instead of war, UNAC activists have chosen the U.N. as a target because the contamination of water is against international law.

Sara Flounders of the International Action Center, one of UNAC’s coalition members, said, “We have chosen the U.N. because the Michigan authorities, by systematically and intentionally depriving Flint of clean drinking water, are in violation of international law.”

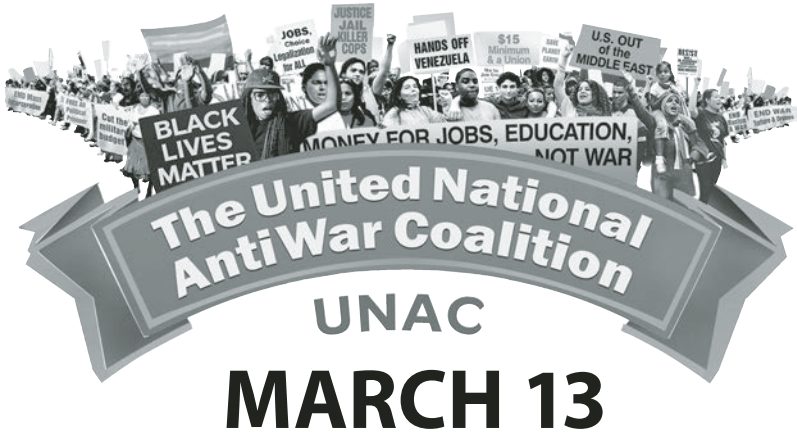
This echoes the concerns of Flint residents. Melissa Mays, of the activist group Water You Fighting For, has three sons who are anemic, have daily bone pain and miss school due to compromised immune systems. She herself has seizures and other complications from drinking and using the area’s contaminated tap water.

Mays told the Pacifica radio/TV show Democracy Now!: “It’s bad enough that the Geneva Convention says that as an act of war you cannot poison a city’s wa-

ter supply. We’re not in war, but guess what? It kind of seems like it, because a whole city’s water supply was poisoned by our state government.” (Feb. 17)

Mays is referring to Article 56, Section III of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949, which states that the authorities have

“the duty of ensuring and maintaining, with the cooperation of national and local authorities, the medical and hospital establishments and services, public health and hygiene in the occupied territory, with particular reference to the adoption and application of the prophy-



lactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.”

Last week’s UNAC statement called it appropriate to cite Geneva Convention statutes that refer to an occupying power since “Flint police delivering water filters also ambushed residents with arrest warrants. What are police in communities of color but occupying forces? In the case of Flint this extended all the way to the city’s state-appointed and unelected emergency manager, given authority over the mayor and city council.”

Flounders added, “The Black Lives Matter movement has proven that only the people can bring attention to society’s most pressing issues. Only the people can consistently oppose racism. Only the people can stop war, militarism and the elevation of profit over people’s needs.” □

Behind the death of energy mogul

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Aubrey McClendon did not invent fracking — the process that unleashed widespread drilling for natural gas — but he convinced Wall Street to invest in shale gas by purchasing land leases for future drilling sites. He became the recognized leader of the “energy revolution” in the U.S.

On March 1, McClendon was charged with conspiring to rig bids to buy oil and natural gas leases in Oklahoma from 2007 to 2012. The next day, when he was due to appear in Oklahoma City federal court, McClendon’s car slammed into a bridge embankment. He died in the crash.

The Department of Justice had charged McClendon with orchestrating a scheme between two large energy companies, unnamed in the indictment. According to a DOJ statement issued March 2, the companies conspired about which one would win a bid, and then the winner would give an interest in the lease to the so-called competitor, so in effect both won.

This price rigging first came to light in 2012 when Reuters News Agency reported that Chesapeake Energy, with McClendon as CEO, agreed with Encana not to bid against one another on leases for 1 million acres of public land in Michigan’s Collingswood Shale. Already a steal at \$13 an acre, these leases included water

vital to the fracking process. Chesapeake eventually paid \$25 million to landowners to settle the case.

The other company reportedly cited in the indictment was Sandridge Energy. Tom Ward, ex-CEO of Sandridge, co-founded Chesapeake Energy with McClendon in 1989. Less than 24 hours after McClendon’s death, the DOJ announced plans to drop the indictment. It’s uncertain if the DOJ will pursue one against Chesapeake, Ward or Sandbridge.

Big Oil: a family business

McClendon was a great-nephew of oil baron Robert S. Kerr, a former Oklahoma governor and senator. After graduation from Duke University and a short stint working for his uncle’s oil company, McClendon became a “landman” — the industry term for a negotiator of land leases for future drilling by oil and gas companies.

In a Rolling Stone magazine interview published on March 1, 2012, McClendon stated while “Geologists and engineers were the important guys — it dawned on me pretty early that all their fancy ideas aren’t worth very much if we don’t have a lease. If you’ve got the lease and I don’t, you win.” Winning was everything to McClendon.

In 1982 McClendon had formed Chesapeake Investments in partnership with Ward. They quickly recognized that fracking provided unlimited opportunities for

companies with access to shale-field land. In 1989, McClendon and Ward each invested \$50,000 to form Chesapeake Energy, focused primarily on shale gas. By 1993 the firm was worth \$25 million.

Chesapeake’s primary goal was to lock up land leases for future drilling. Key to their success was the promise, often unfounded, of unlimited wealth from yet undrilled and untested shale gas reserves. They also benefited from a largely unregulated industry.

Chesapeake’s profits came not from drilling or selling gas, but from buying and flipping leases on land that could potentially contain natural gas. The company became the largest leaseholder in the U.S., with drilling rights to over 15 million acres. McClendon described his business model to a group of Wall Street analysts, “I can assure you that buying leases for x and selling them for 5x or 10x is a lot more profitable than trying to produce gas at \$5 or \$6 per million cubic feet.” (Rolling Stone)

Chesapeake’s practices: a ‘Ponzi scheme’

Chesapeake often went into debt to purchase large areas of land. The company would drill a few wells to demonstrate the reserve’s potential to promote leases to bigger oil and gas companies looking to invest in shale gas.

Arthur Berman, a Texas energy consul-

Auto parts workers fight for safety, recognition

By Martha Grevatt

More and more, the face of an auto parts worker is that of a low-wage worker, often a worker of color who is laboring under unsafe conditions and being denied his or her legal right to organize a union.

At Ground Effects, a Ford supplier in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn, 100 workers are working around hazardous chemicals with inadequate ventilation. Many believe they need a union to fight for on-the-job safety and better wages. After losing a representation election, conduct-

ed by the National Labor Relations Board, by one vote, United Auto Workers supporters filed charges with the NLRB accusing the company of intimidation. Ground Effects management had threatened to move the plant if the UAW won. The NLRB agreed with the workers and ordered the company to schedule a new election and to pay back wages to 16 union supporters who were sent home early without pay.

However, two of the 16, John Salazar and Maria Sanchez, were subsequently fired. On March 3, the UAW held informational picketing outside the factory,

carrying signs that read, “Stop poisoning us.” Workers have suffered from skin rashes, hair loss and asthma, which they attribute to the isocyanate chemicals they work with. In addition to filing the NLRB charges, workers have filed 10 charges with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

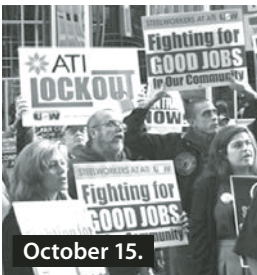
The picketing began at 3 a.m. and some truck drivers refused to cross the line. The workers will continue the struggle until they get union recognition, a signed contract, decent wages, job security and safe working conditions. □

Steelworkers ratify contract at ATI

By Martha Grevatt

On Aug. 15, 2,200 workers at Allegheny Technologies Inc. came to work and found the gates locked. The specialty steel company, which has 12 factories in six states, did not even give the United Steelworkers members a chance to vote on the 145 concessions they were asked to swallow. Perhaps anticipating a “no” vote, ATI locked the workers out pre-emptively.

ATI had prepared for this union-busting tactic for months, recruiting scabs to take union members’ jobs and guards to physically intimidate the workers. The National Labor Relations Board, finding in favor of



the Steelworkers, concurred with the union that the lockout was illegal.

ATI’s plans, which the union believes were to keep the workers locked out until their unemployment benefits expired and they were desperate enough to approve the concessionary “best” offer, were thwarted by the unbreakable solidarity on the picket line. On Feb. 22, ATI and the USW reached a tentative agreement that has none of the concessions demanded by management. On March 1, the USW announced that ATI workers had voted 5-1 in favor of the new contract.

“The contract protects retire-

ment benefits and maintains affordable, quality health care for active workers and retirees. It protects union jobs against outside contractors, maintains the grievance procedure and other important contract language,” the union reported.

No contract is perfect, and in the current anti-labor climate the bosses are usually able to push back on some traditional union gains. The USW release boasts of a new “profit-sharing” plan but makes no mention of a pay increase. Substituting bonuses – only paid in profitable years – for a guaranteed annual pay raise is really a pay cut after inflation.

Nevertheless, when compared to ATI’s original offer, this contract is a victory. □

Aubrey McClendon

tant, called Chesapeake’s practices a “Ponzi scheme” for overhyping the promise of shale gas to cover their lease investments, reported Rolling Stone. If wells didn’t pay off, Chesapeake found ways to cover its debt through off-book accounting methods. One review of data gathered from 2003 to 2009 of over 9,000 wells found that less than 10 percent recouped their estimated costs after operating for seven years.

Like many wealthy individuals in the energy industry McClendon used his wealth to influence politics. He funded the Swift Boat attack against John Kerry and contributed money to stop same-sex marriage. In 2004 he helped launch Tom Corbett’s career with a \$450,000 donation to his floundering bid for Pennsylvania attorney general. Corbett eventually became the governor who turned Pennsylvania “into the Texas of the natural-gas boom.” (Philadelphia Daily News, June 29)

Chesapeake’s business model began to unravel with heavy investments in Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale fields after 2007. Overproduction created a glut of natural gas that drove prices

down. Simultaneous overproduction in the housing industry created the financial meltdown on Wall Street.

Meanwhile, owners of land leased to Chesapeake and other energy companies in Pennsylvania complained that chemicals and methane gas were leaking into their water wells. Reports surfaced of river and tap water, laced with methane gas, igniting in contact with flames.

Residents experienced increasing health problems from exposure to the gas and fracking chemicals. The promised wealth from lease royalties rarely materialized, while homeowners were left with property they couldn’t sell because of poisoned wells.

After being found responsible for two major Pennsylvania gas well accidents in 2010, Chesapeake Energy was eventually forced to suspend drilling operations there.

McClendon was known to have intertwined his personal finances with the company’s by investing in wells under his name and then using the investment as collateral for loans to himself. Having made serious personal investments in

Marcellus Shale leases, McClendon had to sell off 94 percent of his company stock in 2008 to cover his personal losses. After the Reuters report and subsequent lawsuits in Michigan in 2012, Chesapeake’s board forced McClendon to leave the company in 2013.

Yet McClendon was undeterred. After oil prices returned to record highs in 2013, he started another company, American Energy Partners. Two years later, oil prices again collapsed, forcing many drilling companies into bankruptcy.

However, McClendon stayed in the game, again using personal assets, including his part ownership of the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team as collateral. His recent investments included shale fields in Mexico, Australia and Argentina.

McClendon’s death may derail the federal indictment, but it will do little to put the fracking genie he unleashed back in the bottle. Overproduction of oil and natural gas is a driving force behind the recent stock market crisis that again threatens to drive the global capitalist system into its impenetrable wall. □

On the picketline

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Paid sick leave in Vermont, minimum wage increase in Oregon

On Feb. 18, Vermont passed a law granting paid sick leave to most full-time workers in the state. The bill, signed by Gov. Peter Shumlin, mandates that employers provide a minimum of one hour paid time off for 52 hours worked, or 24 hours/3 days a year. Some 60,000 workers are currently denied any paid leave, a large proportion of them women in fast food and other low-wage industries.

Gov. Shumlin praised the bill: “With 90 percent of food workers nationwide reporting that they go to work sick — and 65 percent of food-borne illnesses resulting from the handling of food by someone who is sick — this is as much a public health issue as it is one that reflects our values as Vermonters.” The law goes into effect on Jan. 1. Vermont is the fifth state to legislate paid sick leave. (Huffington Business, Feb. 18)

In another legislative victory for workers, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed a bill March 2 raising the state minimum wage to the highest in the country. Currently set at \$9.25 an hour statewide, the minimum will increase over six years, capping off at \$14.75 for workers in Portland, \$13.50 in smaller cities and \$12.50 in rural areas. (koin.com, March 2)

Trump Hotel workers still fighting for contract

Although a majority of workers at billionaire demagogue Donald Trump’s Las Vegas hotel voted to join UNITE HERE’s Culinary Workers and Bartenders unions last December, management has still refused to recognize the unions or take a seat at the bargaining table.

As a result, the workers, many of them Latino/a immigrants, have joined the growing movement of anti-Trump protests sweeping the country. Hundreds of workers gathered outside the Trump Las Vegas Hotel on Feb. 23 for an informational picket line, chanting “No contract, no peace!” (motherjones.com, Feb. 23)

On March 3, the workers traveled to New York to protest outside of Trump Tower Manhattan, where they delivered a petition to a Trump Organization representative. The workers plan to follow Trump along the campaign trail, organizing protests to coincide with presidential primaries in Michigan and Louisiana. (ibtimes.com, March 6) Stay tuned for updates on this struggle.

CIW promotes Fair Food Program

From March 2 to 12, farmworkers and consumer allies are mobilizing to bring Wendy’s — the lone holdout among the big five fast food companies of Yum Brands, McDonald’s, Burger King, Subway and Wendy’s — into the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Fair Food Program. Workers and consumers are taking the Fair Food message directly to Wendy’s corporate leadership in Columbus, Ohio, on March 2; New York on March 3; and Palm Beach, Fla., on March 12 — with other stops along the way in Immokalee, Fla., on March 2; Louisville on March 9; and Gainesville, Fla., on March 11. During the Columbus march, CIW announced its national boycott of Wendy’s, which switched from buying tomatoes from Florida growers to Mexico farmers after CIW’s initial appeal.

In 2011, CIW launched the FFP, a model for “Worker-driven Social Responsibility” based on a partnership among farmworkers, Florida tomato growers and participating retail buyers like Subway, Whole Foods and Walmart. In 2015, the FFP expanded to cover tomato growing in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey, as well as Florida strawberries and peppers. (ciw-online.org)

NY City Council holds hearing on Freelance Isn’t Free Act

A hearing on the “Freelance Isn’t Free Act,” sponsored by the Freelancers Union and supported by a wide range of unions and workers’ groups in independent business and technology sectors, was held on Feb. 29 by the New York City Council. The union initiated the legislation, the first of its kind in the country, to counter widespread wage theft experienced by 70 percent of freelance workers, who account for 1.3 million workers in the city. A union survey showed that, on average, its members are robbed of \$6,390 every year. One of the fastest growing segments of the workforce — one out of three workers are temps, moonlighters, solopreneurs, gig and self-employed workers — freelancers have none of the protections and benefits of 9-to-5 employees. The act would require written contracts with a job description, the rate and method of payment and the date when payment is due. Follow-up hearings are planned.

Davis is a longtime member and officer of the National Writers Union, United Auto Workers Local 1981, whose members testified at the hearing.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH:

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

LGBTQ people continue to be under assault in the U.S. Ruling-class right-wingers are seeking to divide oppressed people and workers by pushing “wedge issues” aimed at people of color; women; immigrants; disabled people; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* and queer people. (Trans* is currently used with an asterisk to indicate the spectrum of all the different sexes and genders of people who do not conform to the either/or of male/female or masculine/feminine.)

A vicious Texas campaign in November defeated a Houston resolution protecting the right of trans* people to use any bathroom they feel best matches their sex and gender identity. Opponents whipped up fears by claiming this would give predatory men, including rapists, the legal right to enter women’s bathrooms. (The Atlantic, Nov. 3)

In February, the Republican National Committee called for the Department of Education to cancel its interpretation that facility use by transgender students was covered by Title IX, U.S. legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in education. The RNC also directed state legislatures to enact laws to “limit the use of

Trans* lives and ‘bathroom bullies’

restrooms, locker rooms and similar facilities to members of the sex to whom the facility is designated.” Forty-four anti-trans* bills are now pending in 16 states in the U.S. (advocate.com)

The right-wing state Legislature in North Carolina subsequently used “bathroom panic” tactics against a progressive Charlotte city law protecting trans* access to bathrooms. Other efforts to pass “bathroom bully bills” emerged in Kentucky and South Dakota. (Charlotte Observer, Feb. 24)

Pro-trans* is not anti-woman or anti-child

The right-wing drive echoes a vicious 1970s campaign against the pro-woman Equal Rights Amendment because “it would force women and men to use the same bathroom.” And the campaign evokes the centuries of U.S. slave laws and segregation when African Americans and other people of color were denied the right to bathroom access by law.

Bigots are also manipulating the old slur that LGBTQ people are “child molesters.” In the past, this lie was used to deny lesbians and gay men custody of their



own children and to fire lesbian and gay teachers. Now, bigots are falsely claiming girl children are not safe in a bathroom with transgender women.

Factually, more than 90 percent of the people who harm children sexually are not strangers, but someone the child already knows and trusts — a parent, other relative, teacher, recreation counselor, babysitter or family friend. (childsafeducation.com)

There is zero statistical evidence that transgender people harass nontransgender people in public restrooms, according to the Transgender Law Center, the Human Rights Campaign and the American Civil Liberties Union. (mic.com, April 2)

Brutal and violent attacks on women by men happen already, inside and outside of bathrooms — including in state legislatures.

But these are not attacks by transgender men or women. Rather, trans* people are the ones being attacked.

A 2013 Williams Institute study revealed that 68 percent of trans* people seeking to access a toilet were “told they were in the wrong facility, told to leave the facility, questioned about their gen-

der, ridiculed or made fun of, verbally threatened, or stared at and given strange looks.” For some, police were called in to arrest them. Others were followed and threatened after leaving the bathroom. (thinkprogress.org, June 26, 2013)

Nine percent of trans* people in the study reported being “forcibly removed from the restroom, hit or kicked, intimidated or cornered or slapped; one respondent reported being sexually assaulted.” The study found serious health consequences to trans* people from lack of bathroom access. Fifty-four percent reported “dehydration, urinary tract infections, kidney infections, and other kidney problems.”

The bigots’ attempt to reduce human complexity to a simple “M” or “F” flies in the face of scientific facts. These show that all creatures, including human beings, live on a vast spectrum of sex and gender, created from chromosomes, hormones, reproductive organs, secondary sex characteristics, self-identification, cultural patterns and social roles. (“Evolution’s Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People” by Joan Roughgarden)

Given these facts, a basic human right should be access to bathroom facilities under safe conditions for every person. □

National rallies to demand ‘Free Aafia Siddiqui’

The following edited International Action Center press statement was released March 1.

March 2016 will mark 13 years that Dr. Aafia Siddiqui has been a political prisoner. Support Rallies will be held in:

Boston ▶ MARCH 8, 4 p.m.
at MIT, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

New York City ▶ MARCH 11, 4 p.m.
at Federal Building, 320 Broadway
(Department of Justice, FBI and Homeland Security offices in lower Manhattan)

Washington, D.C. ▶ MARCH 19, 12 p.m.
at U.S. Department of Justice,
950 Penn Ave NW

Fort Worth, Texas ▶ MARCH 30, 6 p.m.

Mauri Saalakhan of the Aafia Movement: “Four demonstrations during March, Women’s History Month, are calling for an independent medical team, including Dr. Fowzia Siddiqui, a medical doctor who is Aafia’s sister, to be permitted to visit Aafia to evaluate her health. The demonstrations will also demand the repatriation of Dr. Siddiqui to her home in Pakistan.

“Aafia Siddiqui’s life is on the line. She has not had a prison visit with any family member or her lawyer in more than a year. Aafia is a victim of the U.S. torture program in Afghanistan and of continuing prison abuse in federal prison in Fort Worth.

“From 2003 to 2008 there were numerous reports that Aafia was being held at a secret prison at the U.S. Airbase at Bagram, Afghanistan. In 2008 Aafia was brought to New York City, barely clinging to life, and charged with attempting to shoot her way out of captivity.”

Sara Flounders of International Action Center explained: “I attended Aafia Siddiqui’s trial in federal court here in New York City.

“During her trial, Aafia called out many times her innocence and that she had been tortured and horribly abused. She pleaded for an end to the violent strip searches that preceded every day in

court. She was continuously ruled disruptive and out of order.

“On March 30, 2003, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, an honors graduate of Brandeis University and MIT, and her three young children (ages 6, 4 and 6 months) were kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan, in a rendition operation ordered by the U.S. government — based on faulty ‘intelligence.’

“During this time thousands of Muslims ‘disappeared’ into U.S. secret prisons and into Guantánamo Prison as part of the U.S. war on terror. Well-documented U.S. tactics included targeted assassinations, drone attacks, secret rendition, disappearances and routine torture.

“This horrendous violation of human rights must end. The secret prisons must end. Guantánamo Prison must be closed and Aafia Siddiqui must be returned to Pakistan.

Shahid Comrade of the Pakistan USA Freedom Forum explained that “an enormous movement of mass support for Aafia’s repatriation to Pakistan has swept Pakistan. Aafia has become a symbol of the thousands of disappeared prisoners. Millions of Pakistanis and all political parties from left to right, religious to secular, have demanded her return to Pakistan.

“Although Aafia was kidnapped in Pakistan, is a Pakistani citizen and was shot in Afghanistan, she was brought to New York City for a sensational show trial. Despite her serious injuries, she was held in solitary confinement. While no one was injured except her, and while the forensic and testimonial evidence pointed to her innocence, Dr. Siddiqui was found guilty in 2010 and sentenced to 86 years in prison.”

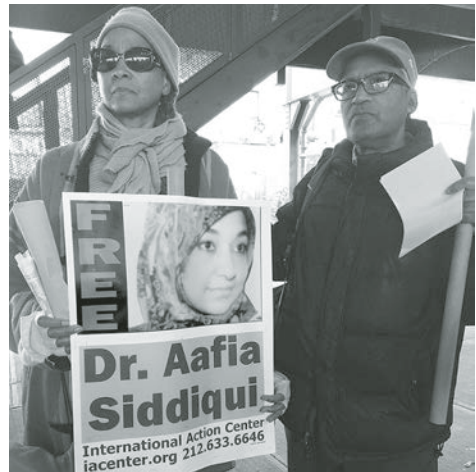
Support for the rally includes the International Action Center; the Islamic Leadership Council of New York; the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee; Jericho-National; Masjid At-Taqwa; the Mosque of

Islamic Brotherhood; the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms; the New Abolitionist Movement; NY4Palestine; the Pakistan USA Freedom Forum; Project Salam; the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network; the South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training; and the United National Antiwar Coalition.

For additional information on the mobilizations: (301) 441-2300 or (202) 246-9608, peacethrujustice@aol.com

Or in NYC: International Action Center, IACenter.org, (212) 633-6646, IACenter@IACenter.org

For info on the case: AafiaMovement.com



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS
International Working Women’s Day, Harlem, March 5.

Pro-choice women tell Supreme Court: ‘I

Continued from page 1

like Americans United for Life, the right-wing think tank that crafted the two provisions. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association supported the clinics: “Laws that regulate abortion should be evidence-based and designed to improve women’s health. The challenged provisions in HB2 are neither.” (Post)

Outside the court, more than 2,000 pro-choice protesters drowned out about 200 anti-abortion adherents. Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman’s Heath, the lead plaintiff in the case, spoke: “We’re fighting a harsh, cruel law that does nothing to promote women’s health. Today we stood up for the woman from Lubbock who will drive over 250 miles one way to end her pregnancy. We stood up for the mom from Laredo who will look through her cabinets hoping to find something that will end her own pregnancy because she can’t afford the travel, the child care or the multiple days off work that have become part of getting an abortion in Texas.”

The Texas law has been a model for legislation in seven other states — Alabama, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Wisconsin. If the court finds in favor of Texas, laws in those states could shut down dozens of women’s health clinics in the Midwest and South. And other states would be sure to follow.

Several outcomes possible

However, the outcome of the case is not an anti-abortion slam dunk, due to the sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia, who was vehemently opposed to abortion. All media reports focus on the role of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who often sides with the right-wing justices, but upheld Roe v. Wade in the 1992 Casey decision.

Four different scenarios are possible. First, the case could be sent back to the trial court to engage in additional fact finding to help the justices sort through the issues, which Kennedy suggested early in the hearing. Second, the court could vote to delay resolution of the case until a ninth justice is appointed.

Third, if the court vote is deadlocked at 4-4, the Fifth Circuit ruling affirming

Message from the IAC regarding Berta Cáceres

Berta Cáceres, one of the leading Indigenous activists in Honduras who spent her life fighting in defense of Indigenous rights, was gunned down and murdered on March 2 in her hometown of La Esperanza, Intibuca, Honduras. The following is a message from the International Action Center in the U.S. in response to this murder.

BERTA CÁCERES, *Presente!*

The International Action Center joins in solidarity with the family of compañera Berta Cáceres, and the members of her organization COPINH [Council of Indigenous and Popular Organizations of Honduras], with the Lenca nation and the rest of the Honduran people who today are grieving the tragic end to her life.

Berta's legacy strengthens the spirit of resistance she maintained despite the horrible conditions forced upon an activist fighting for a better and more just world. In the light of her continuing struggle against transnationals, banks and the Honduran state, which maintains a policy of repression against the people and impunity for the police and paramilitaries, this struggle becomes a lesson and an example to follow at an international level.

Her death has multiplied the Bertas of the world.



Today we are all Berta Cáceres.

Based in the U.S., the IAC takes up the challenge to expose and redouble our efforts so that U.S. imperialism — which promoted the 2009 coup that ousted the legitimate president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, and continues its repressive policies under agencies such as USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] and a huge military apparatus — must answer for its direct or indirect participation in this horrendous crime.

The members of the IAC will persevere in this task as we continue our struggle against racism and sexism inside the criminal monster and, in general, against capitalist oppression that continually increases the gap be-

tween rich and poor.

We condemn this murder and demand that the Honduran state punish, with all the force of law, not only the perpetrators of this horrible act but also the intellectual co-conspirators who benefited from Berta Cáceres' death.

We also demand that the U.S. government cease and desist from intervening in Honduras and other countries in the region and the world. The conditions of Indigenous, Black, Latino/a and also the white working class in the United States are deteriorating rapidly. Police terrorism, which last year claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people in this country, has become an epidemic. Solving this crisis is what the U.S. government should pay attention to instead of creating more crises internationally.

We furthermore demand that the U.S. government refrain from helping to cover up the real actors behind the assassination of Berta Cáceres and to desist from giving its customary shelter to the murderers, for example, as it does by protecting the criminal Posada Carriles.

Berta Cáceres, *Presente!*

Long live the struggle of the Honduran people!

Harlem, N.Y.

Women rally for justice, liberation

Special to Workers World New York City

The International Working Women's Day Coalition held its 11th annual march and rally in Harlem, N.Y., on March 5 with the political theme "Stop the War on Women: Stand Together and Organize an Independent Fightback." The gathering of women and their allies began at the base of the Harriet Tubman statue on St. Nicholas Avenue to symbolize the ongoing resistance that women have been in the forefront of against all forms of class oppression, including racism and sexism, for many generations.

The protest reflected the "Can We Live?" 10-point IWWDC program, which brings home the reality that every issue is a woman's issue. The program includes the basic human rights to health care, housing, education, childcare, union jobs and/or livable income with full benefits, food, reproductive justice, and a clean environment in a world free from racism, sexism, homophobia, police brutality, sexual violence, militarism and occupa-

tion. Many of the signs, banners and powerful talks reflected a clear anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist message, in opposition to relying on the upcoming elections to bring about any fundamental change.

Speakers at the opening rally included Hertencia Petersen, the aunt of Akai Gurley, a 23-year-old Black man killed by New York police in 2014; Marylin Zuniga, a heroic teacher illegally fired from her job for allowing her third-grade students to write get-well cards to political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal; Brenda Stoke-ly, IWWDC co-coordinator; and Monica Moorehead from the International Women's Alliance and 2016 Workers World Party presidential candidate. Cultural presentations were given by Ruth Simmons along with Picture the Homeless

advocates DeBorah Dickerson, Arvernetta Henry and Maria Walles. The rally was chaired by Vijou Bryant from Gabriela USA, a Filipino women's group.

All along the march route throughout the Harlem community, stops were made at different spots representing various struggles, including a low-wage McDonald's; an Armed Forces recruitment station; the Grant Houses public housing project; a welfare office; the Harlem Zone Charter School; and the Metro North train station, a site of police raids of homeless people.

Speakers included Josephine Perez of the People's Power Assembly and Trans-Justice; Charmel Hudson, Darlene Bryant and Jazmin B. from Picture The Homeless; May Madarang, Gabriela; Archer

Sackey, the Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee; Oneisha Portlet, the Transit Workers Union; Monique Mojica, Anakbayan New York Women's Committee; Everin, Bronx United in the Struggle; Florence Rice, a 97-year-old Harlem housing activist; and Karen Abraham, Students without Borders. A solidarity statement from Laundry Workers Center activist Rosanna Rodríguez was read by Teresa Gutierrez from the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights.

Following the march, a delegation of some of these same activists attended the "Celebrating Puerto Rican Women: Today, Tomorrow and Always!" program in East Harlem, which honored activists Esperanza Martell, Amanda Matos and the late Sandra Hernandez. □

Akai Gurley's aunt:

'Time to dismantle this system'

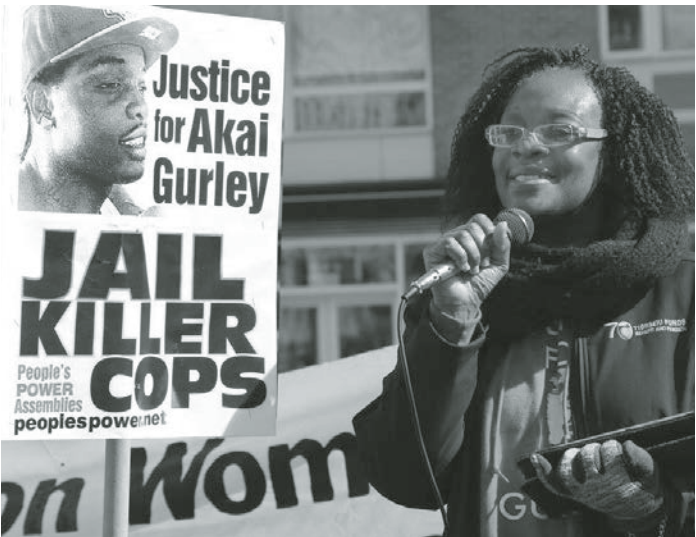
Talk given at March 5 International Working Women's Day rally in Harlem, N.Y.

Nelson Mandela once said, "Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression." It takes a very wise man to understand the role a woman plays in society.

My name is Hertencia Petersen and I am the aunt of Akai Gurley, who was murdered by NYPD [New York Police Department] rookie officer Peter Liang on November 20th, 2014.

My sister Sylvia will never get to hold or see her son again. She wants Peter Liang to be held accountable for murdering her son. "Where is the justice for Akai Gurley?" she continues to ask. Whether you're white, Black, Chinese or Latino, you must be held accountable for taking an innocent human life. We must remember genocide is not an accident. Akai Gurley being murdered is not an accident.

It's an honor to be here, surrounded with some strong sisters. As we know, women have always been labeled as the



Hertencia Petersen

weaker ones. Physically that might be true to an extent, but otherwise I disagree. We only think differently than our male counterparts.

We are here today to say we are sick and tired of our loved ones being murdered by police brutality. We are tired of the racist system that has been criminalizing our communities, dehumanizing our sisters and mothers. We have been fighting a system that is corrupted, racist against people of color and [against] women as well.

What we have been struggling to get is

equal pay; decent, affordable housing; and health insurance, not only for ourselves but for our children; and programs and safe houses for domestic violence victims; etc.

The system has put such a strain on our state of mind with oppression, trying to keep us oppressed. Look around and ask yourself, why are we hated so much? Why do we have to fight for everything we need in this world?

We must celebrate diversity and embrace unity to fight for our rights as human beings. Shirley Chisholm said that in the end, anti-Black,

anti-female and all forms of discrimination are equivalent to the same thing: anti-humanism.

As women we would do anything to protect our family. If that means fighting against a system that doesn't respect women, then I say we dismantle this system! Just imagine if we were to unite and stand in solidarity with all people of color, male and female, and fight this system as opposed to fighting each other. We would be a force to be reckoned with. □

Keep our clinics open!

the Texas law stands — so clinics that aren't ASC would have to close and admitting privileges would be needed. But the tie would not set a precedent, so the case could be reopened with nine justices on the bench. Fourth, if Kennedy votes with the progressive justices for a 5-3 decision, the Texas law is declared unconstitutional and all such laws are overturned.

What is certain is that this Supreme Court decision will exert a far-reaching effect on the lives, families and futures of 61 million women in the United States of child-bearing age (15-44).

That such enormous power rests with just one unelected justice, appointed for life, exposes the totally undemocratic character of the Supreme Court. It must be abolished, along with the entire capitalist system, so that all women can freely make one of the most private, personal decisions of their lives.

The undemocratic Supreme Court will be the subject of a future article. Davis, a longtime reproductive justice activist, authored the pro-choice novel "Love Means Second Chances." Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.

Protest honors life of Tony Robinson

Special to Workers World

Hundreds marched and joined in other events in Madison, Wis., on March 4 through 6 to demand justice and to honor the life of Tony Terrell Robinson. Robinson was killed a year ago on March 6, 2015, by police officer Matt Kenney, who is now

back on the police force after no criminal charges were brought against him.

On March 6, Madison protesters were joined by Nate Hamilton, a leader of the Coalition For Justice in Milwaukee. Hamilton's brother, Dontre Hamilton, was shot 14 times and killed by police officer Christopher Manney on April 30,

Nate Hamilton of Milwaukee's Coalition For Justice joins protesters in Madison demanding justice for Tony Robinson and all victims of police terror, March 6.

PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY



2014, in broad daylight in downtown Milwaukee. No state or federal charges were brought against Manney and he's now receiving disability pay.

For information and updates, visit facebook.com/justicefordontre,

facebook.com/fergusontomadison and [#JusticeForTony](https://facebook.com/JusticeForTony). □

Ferguson rejects Dept. of Justice decree

By Carl Lewis

After a month-long Department of Justice investigation on the way that the Ferguson Police Department, City Council and its court system act against the majority African-American residents and the working-class poor, the DOJ offered a settlement through a consent decree. A consent decree is a negotiated judicial and binding settlement. It's an agreement that avoids further litigation in order to challenge investigatory findings, usually over discriminatory and disparate treatment of individuals, groups of individuals or organizational entities.

The DOJ investigation began when then Attorney General Eric Holder was forced to visit Ferguson, a poor and disenfranchised suburb of St. Louis. This followed mass uprisings protesting the police killing of an unarmed 18-year-old African American, Michael Brown. A grand jury let officer Darren Wilson off.

The Ferguson police met the protests with a horrendous display of military hardware, including tanks, armored personnel carriers, machine guns and tear gas, overwhelming force usually reserved for imperialist wars. It turned

out the Pentagon had been selling such equipment for years to local police agencies, starting with the SWAT teams in Los Angeles, to suppress uprisings and rebellions the corporate media usually call "riots."

Last year, Ferguson city attorneys signed the consent decree. Now, according to current Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Ferguson's City Council recently rejected the same after 26 weeks of negotiations. Lynch announced that the DOJ "is filing a lawsuit in federal district court against the city of Ferguson, Mo., alleging a pattern and practice of law enforcement conduct that violates the 1st, the 4th and the 14th Amendments of the Constitution and federal civil rights laws." (CNSNews.com, Feb. 11).

One of the most egregious charges stated in the 131-page agreement against the police, besides outright police brutality, is the practice of what can only be described as a shakedown.

City officials and the city courts not only encouraged but mandated a corrupt system in order to "balance the budget" on the backs of the predominantly poor African-American residents by a system of fining them for minor infractions and then imposing harsh and unrealistic

finances and penalties for "late payment."

That part of the consent decree stated that the city of Ferguson "will ... eliminate all pending charges, fines, and fees related to Failure to Appear violations without requiring a defendant to make a bond payment, appear in court, or take any other action." (DOJ v. City of Ferguson, P. 10, Section IV., Part 37) Besides the fines, prison terms were also given to the "non-compliant offenders." This was the main way that the city would generate revenue. (The Atlantic, Feb. 1)

Mayor James Knowles and the Council introduced six amendments to the consent decree that were an insult to the people of Ferguson. They were also a political maneuver that would increase the property and sales taxes on the residents of Ferguson, as well as remove the successor clause from the consent decree: "This amendment would effectively allow the city to circumvent compliance with the decree by dissolving the existing Ferguson Police Department and either replacing it with a new entity or contracting their services to another municipality. The City of Ferguson is attempting to evade any responsibility for the years of predatory racist policing." (Kayla Reed, Organization of Black Struggle, Feb. 15).

Consent decrees no substitute for mass struggle

No investigation and/or consent decrees would ever have been initiated without street heat and mass mobilization and organizing by oppressed communities independent of ruling-class control.

In an article in Workers World, Fred Goldstein wrote: "The Ferguson investigation would never have taken place without the rebellion that began there and swept the country, resulting in the Black Lives Matter movement. Tens of thousands of youth, Black, Brown and white, mobilized for months, disrupted downtown shopping areas, invaded malls, blocked highways and roads, and generally caused havoc in major and minor cities from one end of the country to the other." (Workers World, March 9, 2015).

This same tenacious and determined mass struggle took place after the police murder of Freddie Gray in Baltimore.

As a first step in tandem with many other demands of the oppressed, there must be real community control of the police where the residents of those communities have the power to hire, fire, investigate and prosecute police injustice and racist atrocities. □

Flint lives matter! Arrest Gov. Snyder!

By Martha Grevatt

Over the past few weeks, Michigan residents have read new, damning evidence exposing Gov. Rick Snyder's criminal role in the poisoning of Flint. Each day, the media reveal more details of the tens of thousands of emails sent to and from the governor's office and among various state officials over the water crisis. Many emails became public record through Freedom of Information Act requests. Emails from the governor himself — who enjoys FOIA immunity under Michigan state law — were released after public outcry. But much of their text is redacted.

The liberal group Progress Michigan released an email sent Feb. 17, 2015, that blows the lid off Snyder's claim that he only became aware of the Flint water crisis in October 2015. He emailed his executive director, Allison Scott, to propose a meeting on a list of issues that included "Flint water." By this time, the credibility of Snyder's ignorance claim was falling apart as emails revealed a growing list of governor-appointed officials and staff who were sounding the alarm about Flint water.

These near-daily leaks show that, at least eight months earlier than he claimed, the state's top boss knew Flint's water was contaminated. Yet he and his cronies perpetuated the toxic lie that the water was safe to drink and wash with. This is blatant environmental racism.

It is now clear that Snyder, not his numerous accomplices, "pulled the trigger" with the now infamous decision for Flint to disconnect from Detroit Water and Sewerage and draw water from the highly polluted Flint River. The state thwarted numerous attempts to reconnect to Detroit. Flint received a \$7 million state loan to its general fund on the condition that the city not unhook from the Flint River.

Calls for Snyder's arrest continue to increase. Outside the March 3 GOP debate, hundreds of demonstrators chanted, "Flint lives matter! Arrest Rick Snyder!" The Detroit Light Brigade projected the message, "Arrest Snyder for Flint water," right onto the outside wall of the Fox Theater, where inside the debating bigots refused to offer a solution to the pain and suffering of Flint residents.

While several state officials have resigned or face discipline, none of the culprits are facing criminal charges. Instead, Attorney General Bill Schuette has gone after former state representatives Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser. The two embarrassed the Republican Party when, after running as "family values" candidates, they carried on an extramarital affair and used state resources to cover it up. Schuette, a Tea Party Republican, squandered millions out of the state budget defending Michigan's same-sex marriage ban all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court — funds that could now help Flint. Apparently Schuette's party's

hypocrisy is a worse crime than poisoning 100,000 people, a majority of them African-American.

The Democratic Party has not shown resolve in confronting this tragic injustice. At the March 6 Democratic presidential debate, held in Flint, neither Hillary Clinton nor Bernie Sanders would call for Snyder to be arrested.

State, feds sit on funds; GM offers paltry sum

The people of Flint want their aging water infrastructure — damaged by corrosive Flint River water that was never properly treated — to be rebuilt. The coldheartedness of some politicians, who are sitting on enough funds to replace all of Flint's lead and lead-soldered pipes, knows no bounds. Michigan House Speaker Kevin Cotter has asserted that Flint would get no more state aid until October.

This means no new pipes. A freeze on assistance means the funding for filters, lead testing in the homes, testing of children and assistance to families affected by lead will dry up. Will even the distribution of free water by the state come to an end? Right now the suffering is only mitigated by the generous solidarity of people around the country. Flint Mayor Karen Weaver blasted Cotter, stating, "For Speaker Cotter to say we should wait until October to maybe — maybe — have these most dire threats addressed shows

callous disregard for the lives of the people of Flint."

At the federal level, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah has put a procedural block on voting on \$220 million which could go to Flint — or potentially other cities facing a lead-tainted water crisis. The funds are being generated, not by additional tax revenues, but by redirecting money set aside to assist the auto industry when it was in distress.

Sen. Lee's excuse for blocking the federal package is that, when the state budget surplus and the rainy day funds are combined, Michigan is sitting on more than \$1 billion in available funds. Lee is making the people of Flint continue to suffer for a crisis they did nothing to create.

The state is not the only source of potential funding. General Motors, whose disastrous environmental and economic practices are factors in the Flint water disaster, made an all-time record profit last year of \$9.7 billion. The restructuring in auto, which has cost hundreds of thousands of jobs, including 72,000 in Flint, has been a source of astronomical profits. What GM contributed to Flint for water assistance, part of a \$3 million donation made jointly with the United Auto Workers, was a mere .0003 percent of their 2015 profits.

The money to fix Flint's water is there. It's time to join with Flint in chanting, "No pipes, no peace!" □

Atlanta protests murders of Sudanese youth

Close to 100 people, mostly youth, gathered for a vigil in Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta on March 6 to call for justice for the three murdered youth, all Sudanese refugees, shot multiple times in Fort Wayne, Ind. While local police have dismissed the killings as a “hate crime,” speakers at the vigil made clear the connection to the vicious anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim rhetoric that dominates political speech in the U.S. The crowd was



PHOTO: STEVE EBERHART

urged to realize the message of Black Lives Matter in their everyday activities.

—Dianne Mathiowetz

Justice for Akiel Denkins

Raleigh, N.C.

Police in Raleigh, N.C., shot and killed 24-year-old Akiel Denkins, a father of two, on Feb. 29 in his neighborhood in Southeast Raleigh. That night, his family, along with hundreds of people from the community, gathered for a vigil at the spot where he was murdered. Later, the crowd marched through the streets of



WW PHOTO: L.T. PHAM

the neighborhood with chants of “Black Lives Matter!” and “What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now! And if we don’t get it? Shut it down!”

Beloved Roanoke youth killed by cops

By Workers World Staff

Kionte Spencer, a well-loved 18-year-old student, was shot and killed near his home in Virginia by Roanoke County police officers on Feb. 26.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting and killing of Spencer are raising numerous demands for transparency and justice in the community. Roanoke County police spokespersons are saying that the officers thought Spencer had a gun because he was supposedly holding something in his hand that resembled a gun. Spencer’s friends say that he could have been holding a BB gun. The Roa-

noke County police released a still video after the shooting that raises more questions than it answers.

At a March 1 Roanoke NAACP press conference near the site where Spencer was killed, Spencer’s friends came out to honor him and his contributions, including his assistance to his classmates, neighbors and children on a variety of projects. They and many others demanded justice.

“Kionte was not armed with a lethal weapon. We believe the situation could have been handled totally different. ... Now we are faced with so many unanswered questions in Kionte’s premature



Roanoke NAACP press conference, March 1.

death by police officers,” said Roanoke NAACP President Brenda Hale.

Hale demanded “an unbiased and totally transparent investigation ... release of the officers’ names and the police dashcam video. We are seeking the absolute truth no matter what that reveals.” (Roanoke Tribune, March 4)

On March 4, a candlelight vigil and speakout was held near the site of the shooting to honor Spencer and to demand justice. Other events are in the planning stages.

Spencer’s family is asking supporters

to share their “Justice For Kionte” Facebook page (facebook.com/JusticeforKionte) and to call the Roanoke County police chief at 540-777-8601 and demand the release of the police video, an independent investigation and the release of the officers’ names. □

Federal trial exposes police killing of Alex Nieto

By Terri Kay
San Francisco

The federal civil trial against the four San Francisco police officers who killed Alex Nieto and the city and county of San Francisco began on March 1, almost two years since Nieto’s killing on March 21, 2014. Alex’s parents, Refugio and Elvira Nieto, had filed the civil suit for the wrongful death and civil rights violations of their son.

The trial began a little over a month after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to call on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the shooting deaths of Alex Nieto, Amilcar López Pérez and Mario Woods, all at the hands of the San Francisco Police Department.

Nieto, all of 28 years old, was a student at the City College of San Francisco, a community organizer and a part-time security guard. He wore a licensed Taser for the security guard position. Nieto was killed at Bernal Heights Park on Bernal



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Opening of federal civil trial, March 1.

Hill as he was preparing to head for work, after stopping to eat a burrito. A barrage of 59 bullets was fired at Nieto, who cops claim pointed his Taser at them from 100 feet away.

A huge rally was held outside the federal courthouse on Golden Gate Avenue on the first day of the trial. Various community members and supporters spoke at the several-hours-long rally. At one point, more than 30 chanting high school students marched into the rally, after having walked out of their classes in solidarity.

On day two, Officer Richard Schiff, a

rookie who first opened fire on Nieto, testified that he emptied an entire magazine, reloaded and shot again, fearing that Nieto was shooting at him — although he saw no muzzle flashes, heard no bullets hitting the car he was crouched behind, saw no barrel smoke and witnessed no recoil from the Taser that Nieto was carrying. (48Hills.org)

The autopsy report, however, indicates that Nieto was knocked to the floor with a shot to the leg, upper lip and torso, followed by a series of head-to-toe downward shots that show that Nieto was probably executed once he had fallen. The implication is that the officers wrongfully killed Nieto, who posed no threat, and therefore decided to cover their tracks with continuous shooting. (Justice4AlexNieto.org)

On day three, a witness named Antonio Theodore, who regularly walks and jogs on Bernal Hill, testified that he saw Alex walking casually down the hill, hands in his pockets. He said officers jumped out of their cars, weapons drawn,

yelled “Stop!” and then immediately began firing.

The investigative officers said that no officers claimed to have touched the Taser that the cops claimed Nieto was pointing at them. Also, the person who originally called 911, Justin Fritz, apologized to the Nietos for calling the police on him. Fritz claims Alex Nieto had done nothing wrong that day.

The fourth day of the trial was completed on March 4, with expectations that it will continue up to March 11. Ex-chief medical examiner, Amy Hart, testified to a wrist bone fragment found in Nieto’s jacket pocket and admitted that this could corroborate witness testimony that Alex’s hands were in his pockets. Officer Roger Morse, who arrived after the shooting began, but also fired shots, testified that he didn’t see a red laser light coming from the Taser. He was the first to approach Alex’s body after the shooting and said there were no Taser wires exposed. Morse’s testimony will continue on day five. □

Why People’s Korea needs a strong defense

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has a right to respond to U.S. imperialism’s attempts to encircle it militarily and strangle it economically. That is why it has added nuclear weapons to its strong armed forces, as deterrents to Washington’s adventurism.

The DPRK is not belligerent. The country is defending itself from the most belligerent power the world has ever seen. The U.S. has military bases all over the world — over 1,000. Since 1945, the U.S. has produced 70,000 nuclear warheads, and is the only country to have used such horrific weapons — incinerating more than 200,000 people in August 1945 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in just two days.

The DPRK has no foreign bases. Its military posture is totally defensive. But the government has warned repeatedly in recent days that it would use nuclear weapons if attacked by the U.S.

Beginning March 7, the U.S. has been threatening the DPRK with the largest joint military exercises ever, “not only in number of troops, but in terms of equipment, supplies and weapons,” says a military official of the puppet south Korean regime. (The Korea Herald, March 8)

Called “Key Resolve” and “Foal Eagle 16,” these large mobilizations on DPRK borders are carrying out the Pentagon’s OPLAN 5015, “a classified war plan signed last year that includes surgical strikes against North Korea’s nuclear, missile and command and control facilities. It also specifically calls for ‘decapitation’ raids by Special Forces to neutralize North Korea’s senior leadership.” (thediplomat.com, March 8) Some 17,000 U.S. and 300,000 south Korean puppet troops are participating in these war “games.”

Faced with such reckless hostility from the world’s biggest nuclear power, the leaders of the DPRK would be derelict in their duty if they did NOT take strong

measures to defend the people of their country and their socialist system.

It is the height of shame that Russia and China recently voted with the three other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the U.S., Britain and France — to impose greater economic sanctions on the DPRK because it had tested missiles. Are memories really that short? Both the Soviet Union (now Russia) and China had to resist enormous threats from these three nuclear-armed imperialists in order to develop their own defensive weapons.

You see, at first only the imperialist victors in World War II — the ones that exploited the labor of half the world’s people through colonialism and neocolonialism — were allowed into the nuclear club. If countries like the Soviet Union and later People’s China were to defend themselves in the virulently anti-communist Cold War that followed the world war, they needed a nuclear deterrent. It cost them dearly, but they paid the price in order to safeguard their independence.

U.S. attempts to undermine and overthrow the government of the Workers’ Party of Korea will fail. After nearly 70 years of having to defend themselves from the Pentagon, which has occupied the southern half of the Korean Peninsula since the final days of World War II, the Korean socialists in the North will not be deterred from defending their sovereign right to employ whatever weapons will keep them free from foreign domination.

Before the U.S. moved in its troops in 1945, all of Korea had suffered through 35 years of Japanese colonial rule. The revolutionaries who liberated the North from Japan, and then from 1950 to 1953 fought off a massive attempt by the U.S. to resubjugate them, have vowed never to allow such a crime to happen again to their country. □

Trump and Mussolini

By Stephen Millies

Calling Mexicans “rapists,” making crude sexist remarks, advocating torture, attacking Muslims and mocking disabled people aren’t enough for Donald Trump.

The billionaire presidential candidate is now quoting Adolf Hitler’s best buddy, Benito Mussolini. The Italian dictator’s pompous saying, “It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep,” was re-tweeted by Trump on Feb. 28.

When Chuck Todd asked the real estate tycoon about this on “Meet the Press,” Trump replied, “Look, Mussolini was Mussolini. It’s OK to — it’s a very good quote, it’s a very interesting quote, and I know it.” (Politico, Feb. 28)

Trump likes this “very good quote” because Mussolini viewed himself as a lion and working people as sheep. So does Trump.

From renegade to dictator

Unlike Trump’s rich daddy, Mussolini’s father was a socialist blacksmith. His mother was a schoolteacher. Their eldest child was named after Mexican president Benito Juárez, a freedom fighter who de-

feated French occupiers in 1867 and built schools. (history.com)

Benito Mussolini joined the socialist party and became editor of the party’s daily newspaper, “Avanti!” (Forward!). In 1911 he was arrested at a rally protesting Italy’s invasion of Libya, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. (“100 Years of Bombing Libya,” Mark Almond)

But after World War I broke out, Benito Mussolini became a renegade who demanded Italy join the imperialist bloodbath. He spat on the slogan “Workers of all countries, unite!” and was ousted from the party.

World War I was a disaster for Italy, with 650,000 soldiers killed and almost a million wounded. Italian workers and peasants didn’t want to die for their bosses and landlords. An anti-war movement arose.

Mussolini organized thugs to beat up protesters. He was paid to do so by British intelligence agency MI5. His Majesty’s Secret Service gave Mussolini 100 British pounds a week, equal to 6,000 pounds or \$9,000 a week in 2009 money. This cash jumpstarted the fascist movement and allowed Mussolini to publish his newspaper,

Mundo Obrero editorial

La mujer, la lucha y el socialismo

Continúa de página 12

Las mujeres necesitamos la liberación completa en todas las facetas de la sociedad. Para lograr esto, WW-MO llama a la abolición del capitalismo, el racismo y a luchar unidas y unidos por el socialismo”.

Este año en el DIM, WW-MO marchará en solidaridad en muchas ciudades con nuestras hermanas en todo el mundo. La crisis económica mundial y las guerras imperialistas, ocupaciones y sanciones están devastando la vida de las mujeres, obligando a millones a emigrar en una crisis de refugiados masiva que han creado los guerristas. Apoyamos a las mujeres en EUA que se enfrentan a la creciente desigualdad de ingresos, desempleo, recortes de los programas sociales, restricciones a los derechos reproductivos y cuidado de la salud, ejecuciones hipotecarias, a la violencia de la policía racista, las políticas brutales de inmigración, y a los horrores del encarcelamiento en masa.

Las elecciones capitalistas no van a ganar progreso para la mujer. Se necesita un movimiento dedicado e independiente para hacerlo — para desafiar la represión

del estado racista, las guerras en el exterior, y la desigualdad económica y social. En última instancia, se requerirá una lucha unida contra el capitalismo, que es la fuente de la opresión de las mujeres, de otras formas de discriminación, de intolerancia y e injusticia. Se necesitará una lucha mundial por el socialismo para liberar la riqueza creada por las/os trabajadores y utilizarla para sentar las bases de la liberación completa de la mujer y el fin de toda forma de opresión.

Cuba socialista es un modelo de progreso para las mujeres. Los logros de la revolución son profundos. La Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, fundada en 1960 por Vilma Espín, ha sido fundamental en este proceso. La educación y el cuidado de salud son gratis, con la mortalidad infantil mucho menor que en Estados Unidos. Cuba ocupa el cuarto lugar en el mundo en el número de mujeres parlamentarias, con el 48,9 por ciento, y en segundo lugar en las Américas, luego de Bolivia, con el 53,1 por ciento de mujeres en el parlamento.

Imagínese lo que el socialismopodría hacer aquí. □

Free Rev. Pinkney now!



PHOTO: MARCINA COLE

Supporters of Michigan political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney rallied outside the Michigan Department of Corrections in Lansing, Mich., on March 4. Protesters demanded an end to the mistreatment of Rev. Pinkney at the hands of the guards and administration of the Marquette Branch Prison, where he has been imprisoned since October. The action also demanded freedom for Rev. Pinkney, whose case is now before the Michigan Court of Appeals. Pinkney’s spouse, Dorothy Pinkney, read a statement to the crowd.

—David Sole

“Il Popolo d’Italia.” (Guardian, Oct. 13, 2009)

The CIA has bankrolled one Mussolini-type after another all over the planet. Among their murdered victims were Chilean President Salvador Allende in 1973 and Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba in 1961. A U.S. Senate committee chaired by Frank Church revealed some of the gory details of the latter in 1975-76.

Mussolini labeled his thugs “fascists,” which is derived from the Latin word “fascis.” This was a bundle of rods with an axe that were used in ancient Rome to execute poor people and slaves. Fascists were the Italian Ku Klux Klan.

Italian workers revolted after the war and seized factories in Torino. Unlike Russia’s Bolsheviks, however, Italian socialist leaders proved incapable of leading the working class to power.

Some leftists discounted the fascist danger and even believed Italy’s King Victor Emmanuel III wouldn’t tolerate such a gangster. A notable exception was Communist Party leader Antonio Gramsci, who later spent a decade in Mussolini’s prisons.

But Mussolini was just what Italy’s wealthy and powerful needed to stem the working-class upsurge. Against a backdrop of poverty and political demoralization, Mussolini made phony promises and incited hatred against other peoples, just like what Trump is doing today.

After the fascists staged a theatrical march on Rome in 1922, the king handed power over to Mussolini.

Italian fascists were called black shirts because that’s what they wore. Black shirts wrecked union halls and were notorious for administering castor oil to oppo-

nents. They assassinated a socialist member of parliament, Giacomo Matteotti.

None of this violence stopped the world’s rich and powerful from backing Mussolini. Newspapers even claimed, “Mussolini made the trains run on time!” In 1923 Time magazine praised Mussolini’s “remarkable self-control, rare judgment and efficient application of ideas.” (“Luce and His Empire,” W. A. Swanberg)

Winston Churchill said, “Fascism has rendered a service to the entire world. ... If I were Italian, I am sure I would have been with you entirely.” (The Telegraph, London, Sept. 2, 2010)

Wars and misery

Mussolini’s public works programs made the unemployed break rocks while the super rich — like the Agnelli family who owned the Fiat automobile company — enjoyed a bonanza.

The fascist regime continued Italian imperialism’s colonial war against Libya, whose people never stopped resisting. The Libyan leader, the 69-year-old Omar Mukhtar, was publicly hanged on Sept. 16, 1931.

A century after Libya was first invaded by Italy, U.S. and other NATO powers bombed the African country relentlessly. Libya’s leader Moammar Gadhafi was lynched, dying at his post on Oct. 20, 2011.

Italy first tried to invade Ethiopia in the 1890s, but was decisively defeated at the Battle of Adwa on March 1, 1896. In 1934 Mussolini invaded Ethiopia again, using poison gas. A million Africans were killed. So were thousands of Italian soldiers.

Black America defended Ethiopia. The solidarity campaign was led in Harlem by future congressman Rev. Adam Clay-

Iran’s revolution still a threat to U.S. imperialism

By Sara Flounders

Excerpted talk given at a Feb. 21 forum on the 37th Anniversary of the Iranian Revolution and Upcoming Elections at Judson Memorial Church in New York, organized by the Iran Forum. See workers.org for full talk.

Today’s forum is historic because it involves Iranian leftists with different views celebrating and analyzing the Iranian Revolution — a revolutionary upheaval that dramatically and abruptly changed history.

There are big hopes and expectations in Iran and also great apprehension of what an end to sanctions, the elections and the changing economic patterns will mean.

The people of Iran will not be left alone. They have to take into account U.S. imperialism’s plans.

The Iranian Revolution was one of those rare social explosions, an uprising of the most oppressed and disenfranchised, that succeeded in breaking totally with the past.

Every bourgeois current in the U.S. is determined to overturn the Iranian revolution. U.S. imperialism supports, defends and reinforces the forces of reaction everywhere in the world.

Every revolution is targeted

To help put intervention in perspective, consider the Haitian Revolution, in which enslaved workers freed themselves 212 years ago. The Revolution faced invasions by France, Britain, Spain and the U.S. France imposed onerous reparations on the Haitian people for freeing themselves. Haiti suffered the longest sanctions in history — 60 years of U.S. sanctions. The richest colony of the Western Hemisphere became the poorest country. Every election in 200 years of Haitian history has had to deal with U.S. impe-

Continued from page 10

ton Powell Jr. and the Communist Party USA. On Aug. 3, 1935, over 25,000 people marched in Harlem in solidarity with Ethiopia against Italy. Hundreds of Italian-American workers joined the protest. (“Communists in Harlem during the Depression,” Mark Naison)

Thousands of Italian troops also died in the Spanish Civil War supporting fascist dictator Francisco Franco.

Mussolini’s joining Hitler to invade the Soviet Union was his downfall. Italy’s Defense Ministry admits that 20,800 Italian soldiers were killed at battles around Stalingrad. Another 64,000 were captured. The battle of Stalingrad, which ended on Feb. 2, 1943, was the turning point of World War II, with 800,000 Axis forces dead, wounded, missing or captured.

Stalingrad was an electric jolt to Italians who saw in early 1943 that Mussolini could be overthrown. Communist-led partisans fought Italian fascists and German occupying troops for two years.

The U.S. and Britain invaded Italy a year before they invaded France because they feared a socialist revolution would break out there. Future CIA director Allen Dulles conducted secret negotiations with Nazi Gen. Karl Wolff, the commander of SS (Schutzstaffel) troops in Italy. (“Dulles,” Leonard Mosley)

Italian communist partisans captured Mussolini and executed him on April 28, 1945. His naked body was hanged upside down in Milan. The Italian people — and the peoples of Libya and Ethiopia — were avenged.

Donald Trump may not be a Benito Mussolini. But he peddles some of the same poison. □

rialist intervention, including assassinations of leaders, kidnapping of leaders from Toussaint Louverture to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Haiti was isolated, unlike the Cuban Revolution 160 years later. Neither country was a military threat. But revolutionary ideas are contagious. The capitalist owners of property understand that nothing is more dangerous.

So it is not surprising that the Iranian Revolution is hated by U.S. imperialism. Every accomplishment is a dagger pointed at imperialist domination.

Iran’s accomplishments

It was the overturn of the brutal U.S.-imposed Iranian monarchy in 1979 that fundamentally decreased U.S. corporate and military influence in the entire region. The U.S. has tried to regain its footing ever since.

The Iranian Revolution broke from the unequal contracts serving the giant oil corporations. Iran has a capitalist class anxious to increase its own profits and position. But the Iranian Revolution was forced to make a sharp break with imperialist domination.

Its greatest danger is that it served as a revolutionary example. A radical Muslim clerical leadership with a strong anti-imperialist focus has maintained this break for 37 years. This is quite an accomplishment.

By developing its economy independent of Wall Street and controlling its own resources, Iran has transformed itself from an underdeveloped country with massive poverty into a modern state with a highly educated population.

While capitalist relations prevail, the population was able to win free medical care; free education, including at the university level; a modern infrastructure; and housing with full electrification. Women’s education has improved to full literacy. More than 60 percent of university students are now women.

Upcoming elections

The class struggle is reflected in this round of elections taking place in Iran for parliament and for the smaller but far weightier body — the Assembly of Experts. This elected body will decide on the Supreme Leader if 76-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dies or steps down.

There is no country in the world in which U.S. imperialism does not interfere in the elections — from Moldova and Ukraine to Venezuela to the Philippines.

U.S. corporate and CIA-funded non-governmental organizations operate in every country. Media stations beam into Iran, Bolivia, Russia, the Philippines, Ukraine, Serbia, Syria, Turkey. This is a global empire.

William Blum in “Rogue State” documented that since 1946 the U.S. has attempted to overthrow more than 50 foreign governments and attempted to assassinate more than 50 foreign leaders. It has bombed 30 countries and suppressed revolutionary parties in at least 20 nations.

The U.S. seeks out the most reactionary and corrupt forces, those most willing to make a deal, and the forces that are the most naive.

U.S. imperialism especially seeks to use youth movements. Youth are interested and yet don’t have political memory. So it is possible for the U.S. to masquerade as an exciting force for change. This is a big challenge for embattled countries which must constantly be on guard.

Imperialism uses religion

The Iranian Revolution was and still is fiercely nationalist, religious and anti-imperialist.

U.S. think tanks worked to shape a

thoroughly reactionary religious response in the Muslim world to counter the influence of the Iranian Revolution. They partnered with the reactionary feudal monarchy in Saudi Arabia to use reactionary religious-based forces in Afghanistan more than 30 years ago.

The CIA orchestrated and funneled military equipment, advisors and paychecks, beginning shortly after the Iranian Revolution in 1979, to turn back the Afghan Revolution. Neighboring Afghanistan was far poorer and less developed, the rural peasantry far larger.

Imperialists are more than willing to use religion in its most reactionary form. These tactics led directly to the creation of al-Qaida and today of the Islamic State group, or DAESH.

Iraq, Syria and Libya were each modern, officially secular states attempting to develop independently of Wall Street domination. There can be no greater crime!

U.S. weapons provided to both sides played an important role in the Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1988. Henry Kissinger said, “I hope they both kill each other.”

The U.S. war on neighboring Iraq in 1991 and the years of bombing, invasion and occupation of Iraq, beginning in 2003, spread shockwaves of destruction through the region.

The NATO destruction of Libya in 2011 and the past five years demanding regime change in Syria by arming more than 100,000 fighters have dislocated millions of lives.

Massive U.S. bombing campaigns in each of these countries destroyed the infrastructure built up over decades. Years of instability and the chaos of war, while the U.S. pumped in weapons and military advisors, have enabled hundreds of reactionary armed groups to flourish.

Sanctions to destabilize

Sanctions on Iran began shortly after the Iranian Revolution, years before Iran restarted the program for nuclear energy. Iran’s original nuclear energy program dated from U.S. assistance during the Shah’s dictatorship.

The purpose of sanctions is to frustrate the development of productive forces that will improve the life of the general population.

The imperialists think that shortages will fuel opposition, dislocate the economy and help efforts at regime change. They calculate that the struggle to get sanctions lifted will lead to concessions and that the pressure will lead to divisions among governing coalitions.

Sanctions are a form of warfare, economic extortion by a group of nuclear-armed pirates.

The U.S.-imposed sanctions against Iran were followed by U.N. Security Council sanctions, imposed under U.S. pressure, in 2006, 2008 and 2011, and by European sanctions in 2010 and 2012.

Finally, U.S. sanctions legislation demanded that every country in the world participate in a blockade of Iran or face severe U.S. penalties and be cut off from the vast network of U.S. banking, loans and credits.

The agreement reached July 14 between Iran and the “5+1,” the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council (U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China) plus Germany, is a huge achievement — for Iran.

Whenever any oppressed country, besieged by imperialism, is able to gain even a temporary agreement or forestall an outright war while maintaining its sovereignty, it should be acknowledged as a victory over U.S. intransigence.

But it is not the end of the struggle. Just

as international sanctions were lifted, new U.S. sanctions were imposed in January.

Iran has every right to hold elections and have different contending views. But in 2009 U.S. imperialism intervened directly in the Green Movement in Iran and championed the movement in the West.

The Green Movement was not an imperialist movement. But imperialism will use every possible crack and difference to drive a wedge.

There are moderate forces in Iran who are so anxious to lift religious and social restrictions that they ignore the far greater threat of U.S. imperialism.

We should remember the collapse of the Soviet Union, a powerful socialist country that survived 70 years of imperialist encirclement. The hope of loosening the pressure of the Cold War, and decades of nuclear standoff, led a grouping under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to believe Secretary of State James Baker, who promised that NATO would not expand one mile east if Soviet troops were withdrawn from Eastern Europe and the Warsaw Pact dissolved.

Of course NATO expanded to every country in Eastern Europe, to several former Republics, and today encircles and threatens Russia.

Losing sight of the most dangerous threat — U.S. imperialism — can have horrendous global consequences.

War in Syria

The Syrian war is not about Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. It is an imperialist demand for the total surrender of Syria.

But war in Syria is also a proxy war against Iran. It is a war to decide total U.S. domination of the region. Saudi Arabia, the gulf monarchies, Turkey and of course Israel all consider Iran a rival for power and influence.

The U.S. policy has been a massive, horrific failure because Iran, Russia and Hezbollah in Lebanon came to Syria’s support. This has led to the incredibly dangerous standoff we are in today.

The U.S. failed spectacularly in maintaining sanctions on Iran and in its conquest of Iraq, and is failing in its war in Syria. But the threats continue. There is no end in sight to war in Afghanistan. This keeps an enormous U.S. military presence right on the Iranian border.

Yesterday the U.S. bombed Libya, which they have brought to total ruin.

Economic penetration

U.S. imperialism has attempted through decades of economic sanctions, industrial sabotage, political subversion, assassinations, isolation, military encirclement, destabilization campaigns and media vilification to bring down the Iranian government and restore a subservient regime.

Continued U.S. hostility has to be part of every calculation of the Iranian government. It is the big issue in every election.

Large militarist factions in the U.S. ruling class are still determined to push for war with Iran. Others want to use economic leverage.

The struggle against Iran seems to have shifted from a political and military struggle to an economic struggle. The challenge is for Iran to keep the economy independent of imperialist domination, yet continually developing and modernizing.

We need a strong, conscious movement here in the center of imperialism that defends Iranian sovereignty and economic development in the face of endless threats and provocations.

This does not mean agreement with everything Iran does. There are many different political currents.

It means at every step to demand: Hands off Iran! Defend the gains of Iran! □



Apple y FBI Corporación más rica del mundo contra federales

Por Gary Wilson

El FBI tiene un iPhone usado por Syed Rizwan Farook, uno de los acusados de disparar en el ataque en San Bernardino-California. Un juez ha ordenado a la compañía Apple asistir al FBI para romper la clave de acceso que bloquea el ingreso al aparato. El presidente de Apple, Tim Cook, ha desafiado esa orden diciendo que hacer eso pondría en riesgo la seguridad de todos los iPhones.

Esa es la versión oficial, pero no lo es todo.

Edward Snowden, el ex contratista de la Agencia Nacional de Seguridad, dice que los hechos se están ocultando y que hay muchas razones para desconfiar de las declaraciones oficiales.

La verdad es que Apple ya ha ayudado al FBI ampliamente en este caso. Apple puso a sus ingenieros totalmente a su disposición y ya ha proporcionado todos los datos de la última copia de seguridad del dispositivo, copia que se hizo seis semanas antes del ataque. Eso es una gran cantidad de información.

Si usted no lo sabía, el teléfono iPhone mantiene un registro de todo lo que usted hace: donde va, donde compra, lo que come y mucho más.

Ese iPhone no era el teléfono personal de Farook. Su teléfono personal fue destruido antes de que el tiroteo comenzara. El iPhone que el FBI tiene en su poder es el teléfono de su trabajo y es propiedad del Departamento de Salud del Condado de San Bernardino, el cual dio el permiso para la investigación. Así que no hay problema de Cuarta Enmienda (de privacidad) en el caso, ni Apple dice que la privacidad esté en cuestión.

Ya hay una puerta trasera

Tim Cook dice que el tema es la seguridad y en su carta pública dice que Apple no quiere construir una puerta trasera en sus dispositivos debido a preocupaciones por la seguridad. Pero ya todos los dispositivos de Apple tienen una o más puertas traseras. Apple utiliza regularmente las puertas traseras existentes para dar acceso de los datos en los dispositivos de Apple a las agencias policiales y de espionaje del gobierno.

Una puerta trasera, utilizando la definición que se encuentra en Wikipedia, es una manera de burlar la seguridad normal en un sistema. Una puerta trasera puede ser una parte oculta del sistema, un programa independiente o puede ser parte del dispositivo (hardware).

Aunque normalmente ocultas, en algunos casos las puertas traseras son intencionadas y ampliamente conocidas y pueden tener usos legítimos, tales como proporcionar al fabricante una manera de lidiar con la pérdida de las claves de las/os usuarios. Por ejemplo, las claves predeterminadas pueden funcionar como puertas traseras si no son modificadas por la/el usuario.

En los dispositivos de Apple, una puerta trasera común es la copia de seguridad de iCloud. Ésta da acceso a Apple de todos los contenidos del dispositivo sin tener que utilizar el código de acceso cifrado. Apple utiliza este para recuperar los datos personales de las/os usuarios, fotos por ejemplo, cuando un dispositivo se ha perdido o ha sido robado. Esto también significa sin embargo, que se trata de una puerta trasera que Apple puede utilizar regularmente para entregar datos de las/os usuarios a los federales.

Lo que el FBI está pidiendo en este caso es una modificación del sistema operativo que permitiría repetir entradas de contraseñas erróneas. La modificación permitiría al FBI romper fácilmente los códigos de acceso del iPhone en cuestión de minutos. Pero ellos no necesitan esto para acceder al iPhone de Farook.

John McAfee, fundador de la compañía del software antiviral McAfee, escribió en el sitio web Business Insider el 18 de febrero, que el FBI podía hacerlo por sí solo. “Voy a descifrar el teléfono San Bernardino de forma gratuita”, es el título de su comentario. (Tinyurl.com/jdm9ks6). El técnico de seguridad Bruce Schneier, dice que las agencias de inteligencia ya han descifrado el iPhone y está de acuerdo que el FBI podría hacerlo por sí mismo. (Tinyurl.com/gmrflkwh)

La revista alemana Der Spiegel informó en el 2013 que la NSA tiene acceso completo al iPhone, y que pueden activar el micrófono y la cámara sin que la/el propietario del dispositivo lo sepa. (Tinyurl.com/kradbdq)

En una entrevista realizada en el programa “Panorama” de la BBC en octubre del año pasado, Edward Snowden dijo que los espías del gobierno pueden introducirse en cualquier teléfono para escuchar lo que está sucediendo en el lugar, ver archivos, mensajes y fotos, determinar exactamente dónde una persona está, y supervisar cada movimiento y cada conversación de una persona, incluso cuando el teléfono esté apagado.

El FBI no ha dicho por qué no pidieron a la NSA que les diera acceso al teléfono del Farouk.

Registros no están en el celular

Algo que está comúnmente mal entendido es el registro de comunicación del teléfono. Puede parecer que el FBI necesita acceder al iPhone de Farook para obtener los últimos registros de comunicación, pero el FBI ya tiene todos los registros de este iPhone. Los registros de comunicación para todos los dispositivos móviles siempre son almacenados por el proveedor de servicios, no en el propio teléfono.

Apple, en su apelación de la decisión judicial, ha demostrado que el FBI ha mentido acerca de muchos de los detalles del caso. No sólo Apple ha provisto total asistencia al FBI todo el tiempo, sino que la compañía también dijo al FBI cómo forzar una copia de seguridad completa del dispositivo al

iCloud. El FBI manejó mal eso y no forzó una copia de seguridad, lo que les habría dado un acceso fácil a los datos que dicen que están buscando.

El FBI dijo ante el tribunal que lo que estaba solicitando sería únicamente para este teléfono, pero Apple mostró en su apelación que el Departamento de Justicia ya ha realizado solicitudes de este mismo procedimiento para otros 12 casos. El FBI miente. Realmente no ha cambiado su modo o métodos desde sus días más notorios como fuerza de policía secreta del ex director del FBI, J. Edgar Hoover.

‘Estrategia de mercadeo’ de Apple

El Departamento de Justicia - el FBI es el brazo ejecutor del Departamento de Justicia - hizo una inusual acusación en su respuesta judicial a Apple: “la actual negativa de Apple para cumplir con una orden de la Corte, a pesar de la viabilidad técnica de este modo, parece estar basada en su preocupación por su modelo de negocio y su estrategia pública del mercadeo de la marca”.

El Departamento de Justicia rara vez ataca a alguna empresa por su modelo de negocio o su estrategia de mercadeo. De hecho, es la tarea principal del Departamento de Justicia el proteger los intereses comerciales. Pero hay intereses comerciales en competencia y tal vez son precisamente los intereses comerciales de Apple la razón de que haya tomado una posición pública en contra de la orden judicial.

Apple es la transnacional más rica del mundo, número uno en el Financial Times Global 500 desde el año 2012. Es decir, que era la número uno hasta el mes pasado, cuando Alphabet, la empresa matriz de Google, le sobrepasó.

Apple está en una batalla codo a codo con Google, y en menor medida con Facebook, Microsoft y Amazon, para ser el principal portal al mundo digital. Es una clásica batalla por la dominación del mundo - y es intensa.

El modelo de negocio de Apple es vender dispositivos de alta tecnología a un precio alto. Google y Facebook permiten el acceso libre y recogen muchos datos sobre sus usuarias/os, que luego venden a otros, a anunciantes, por ejemplo.

Apple tiene que convencer a la gente de comprar su producto sobre otras opciones gratuitas o menos caras. Una de las promesas claves de Apple ha sido que se garantiza la privacidad y la seguridad. Lo que el Departamento de Justicia reveló es que hay una puerta trasera de entrada al iPhone. La estrategia de mercadeo de Apple ha dado a entender que eso no existe o se ha cerrado con su última actualización del software.

Desde que esta vulnerabilidad fue revelada, el New York Times, que invierte fuertemente en Apple y sus productos, informó que Apple había puesto en marcha una operación interna para cerrar este agujero que ahora es ampliamente conocido. □

Editorial:

La mujer, la lucha y el socialismo

Lucha. Solidaridad. Esa es la esencia del Día Internacional de la Mujer, esa fue la intención de sus fundadoras en el Congreso de Mujeres en 1910 de la Internacional Socialista en Copenhague-Dinamarca.

Las delegadas estaban tan inspiradas por el activismo de las mujeres obreras en los Estados Unidos y Europa que declararon por unanimidad un día especial al año para el reconocimiento de la lucha por los derechos de las mujeres trabajadoras y para la construir un movimiento coordinado para luchar por beneficios económicos y sociales.

Su objetivo era también promover la verdadera solidaridad global, para abrazar las mujeres de todos los continentes. A partir de 1911, el DIM se ha conmemorado en todo el mundo a través de marchas, mítines, huelgas y sentadas contra la guerra imperialista y la ocupación, la explotación empresarial, la destrucción del medio ambiente y mucho más. Estas acciones han exigido empleo y derechos laborales, la igualdad política y social, y el fin de la violencia contra las mujeres.

La Guerra Fría y el período de la persecución de Comunistas instigado por McCarthy en EUA tuvo su efecto sobre toda actividad progresista, incluyendo el Día Internacional de la Mujer. Pero en 1970, las miembros mujeres de Jóvenes contra la Guerra y Fascismo (YAWF por sus siglas en inglés), el brazo activista del Partido Mundo Obrero/Workers World Party, revivió el legado militante del DIM al organizar una asamblea pública en la ciudad de Nueva York. Su objetivo era ser fiel a la consciencia de clase y las tradiciones de lucha de este día tan especial, que se había diluido en muchos países capitalistas.

Sue Davis, una de las organizadoras de esa protesta de mujeres, explica que en 1970, “a raíz de los éxitos del movimiento de derechos civiles y la oleada de protestas contra la guerra, e inspirado por Fannie Lou Hamer y las mujeres de Vietnam, se produjo un nuevo estado de ánimo entre las mujeres, un estado de ánimo más revolucionario. Las mujeres estaban hartas de la desigualdad y luchaban”.

Las Mujeres de YAWF convocaron una asamblea el 7 de marzo de 1970 en Union Square — el cual había sido el escenario en 1908 de una protesta de 15.000 mujeres del sector textil, en su mayoría inmigrantes, que marcharon por el lado este de Nueva York contra los talleres de explotación y por sus derechos.

Más de 1.000 mujeres y hombres marcharon con YAWF a la Casa de Detención de Mujeres para protestar el racismo la pobreza y la represión política — y para mostrar solidaridad con sus hermanas más oprimidas, muchas afroamericanas y latinas. Fuera de la notoria prisión, las manifestantes se tomaron las calles y levantaron sus puños en apoyo a las mujeres encarceladas, quienes se asomaban por las ventanas enrejadas y respondían con aplausos.

Durante los meses que siguieron, muchas protestas tuvieron lugar fuera de esa prisión en solidaridad con las prisioneras políticas y todas las mujeres encarceladas allí. Eso es probablemente la razón que la cárcel de mujeres se cerró en junio, 1971 y las prisioneras fueron trasladadas a la prisión más aislada de Rikers Island.

Las Mujeres de YAWF resucitaron el DIM basado en los principios establecidos por Dorothy Ballan, una fundadora del PWW-MO. Ella señaló en su trabajo pionero, “Feminismo y marxismo”, que la lucha por la emancipación de la mujer es un principio básico del marxismo y una parte integral y esencial de la lucha de clases en general para poner fin a la explotación capitalista y todas las formas de opresión.

Monica Moorehead, candidata presidencial de 2016 del PWW-MO y organizadora de muchas acciones del DIM, afirma: “El Día Internacional de la Mujer de este año tiene lugar cuando las mujeres están siendo atacadas hoy en día en muchos frentes.

Continúa a página 10