The police occupation of the Black community of Ferguson, Mo., is just as intense now as it was in the aftermath of the murder of Michael Brown last August. The Ferguson police arrested 20-year-old Jeffrey Williams for shooting two police officers on March 12. The officers were at the front of police headquarters during a demonstration celebrating Chief Thomas Jackson’s resignation.

As the crowd thinned out, shots rang out, fired from afar and hitting two officers. Although police representatives claimed the officers were lucky to be alive, both were treated and released from the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries hours after the shooting.

Police immediately sought to connect the shooting to the anti-racist demonstrations. Ferguson organizers reject the association between their work and the incident.

Mass protests, civil disobedience and rebellions have taken place in Ferguson and other U.S. cities since Aug. 9 when a white police officer, Darren Wilson, shot 18-year-old African-American Michael Brown. Despite a St. Louis County grand jury investigation and federal government probe, Wilson has not been charged with a crime. He resigned from the police department.

Chief Jackson stepped down in the wake of a scathing Department of Justice report that documented systematic racial profiling and collusion targeting the majority-African-American population in Ferguson and other St. Louis County suburbs. Activists have demanded the removal of Jackson and Ferguson’s mayor.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch claimed that Williams told the police they were at the demonstration, but did not know who shot the officers. He felt disrespected by the Ferguson police who stormed his home and took its three residents into custody.

McCulloch’s office says the investigation is incomplete.

Police raids after shootings

Ferguson residents say the police conducted heavy-handed raids searching for the suspect. Photographs of SWAT teams breaking into homes were publicized throughout the media.

As the crowd thinned out, shots rang out, fired from afar and hitting two of the officers. He felt disrespected by the Ferguson police who stormed his home and took its three residents into custody.

Iresha Turner told the Guardian that he told the police they were at the demonstration, but did not know who shot the officers. He felt disrespected by the Ferguson police who stormed his home and took its three residents into custody.

Iresha Turner told the Guardian she was living in bed at 3 a.m., and there was a sudden banging at the door. The police said, “We know you’re in there, come out.” She saw six or seven police. “They had a tank-style vehicle, a truck and a helicopter. ... We were forced outside.” I saw “a red dot on my chest. I said I surrender ... please don’t shoot me. I said I’m not the shooter. I’m not involved. They said we were acting shady, but I said what would you do if 15 police were outside your door with guns.”

Despite the DOJ’s failure to indict any- one for killing Michael Brown or for other
By Workers World Staff
Madison, Wis.

Despite overwhelming public opposition, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker signed a racist, anti-worker, right-to-work-for-less bill on March 9. It went into effect immediately. The RTW bill stipulates that workers aren’t required to pay union dues but still have to be represented by unions at private sector employers if there is a collective bargaining contract in place.

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO and two unions have filed a lawsuit seeking to temporarily stop implementation of the RTW law. This attack on organized labor and their communities is a continuation of austerity policies in Wisconsin that include Act 10 in 2011, which gutted collective bargaining for most public sector employees.

In late February and early March, thousands came out to protest against RTW in Madison in freezing weather at numerous rallies and other actions sponsored by the Wisconsin AFL-CIO and the “Defeat ‘Right To Work’ in Wisconsin” coalition.

In open displays of how capitalist democracy really works, in response to the mass opposition to RTW, the Senate and Assembly in the Wisconsin Legislature “fast-tracked” the RTW bill, shut down public hearings or simply didn’t have them and had public galleries in legislative chambers cleared by police.

Despite these setbacks, the people of Wisconsin continue to fight back against Wall Street austerity and the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly degrade people because of their nationality, gender or disability — 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 their imperialism into global fascism. The privatized, profit-driven stranglehold over the future is a global emergency. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the lives and jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist world.

Ongoing fightback vs anti-worker law

By Workers World Staff
Madison, Wis.

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Despite these setbacks, the people of Wisconsin continue to fight back against Wall Street austerity and the political servants of the rich.

For more information: facebook.com/defeatrighttowork, whoisoutpeople.org; wisaffics.typepad.com.
By Dianne Mathiowetz

Yet another Black man has been shot and killed by police, this time in the city of Atlanta. A 23-year-old man, identified only as Tony, was shot and killed by a DeKalb County police officer in a no-confidence clearing the parking lot. 

Residents were shocked that a clearly innocent man had been shot by police and that the police administration never used such words of condemnation about Michael Brown's killing or the brutal police or national guard tactics in attempts to quell the demonstrations and rebellions.

The protests continued throughout the night and into the next day, with hundreds of protesters taking to the streets to demand justice for Tony Robinson.

The march on March 11 protest that took over the streets surrounding the downtown Decatur Square area.

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Antiviolenccampaigndoesweb, direct action

Special to Workers World
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Residents of the Fort Greene, Bed-
ford-Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill neigh-
borhoods of Brooklyn are facing a crisis of gentrification. On Friday, organizers with “Before It’s Gone, Take It Back: Doc-
umenting Brooklyn, Fighting Gentrifica-
tion” (B4G) met with 60 residents of the area to launch a web-based and direct action “This is a No-Eviction Zone” campaign.

The resident-led group “Equality for Flint” initiated this “This is a No-Eviction Zone” campaign. Its six-platform calls for Brooklyn residents to stand with their neighbors “against foreclosures, forced evictions, buyouts and price-outs” by supporting and/or participating in “law-
suits, letter-writing campaigns, picket
lines, rent strikes, eviction blockades, 
lobby days and other tactics to hold cor-
porate developers and greedy landlords accountable.”

The platform also calls on residents to support and patronize “businesses that are essential to low-to-middle-in-
come people in my neighborhood” and “to pledge not to allow the NYPD [the New York Police Department] to unlaw-
fully harass or violate the civil rights of my neighbors or myself. ... Studies have shown that gentrification and police ha-
raggomanhand in hand.”

Flyers, signs and window signs in Spanish, Urdu, Russian and English were distributed to the community.

B4G also organized a march to protest gentrification and violence against queer and transgender residents. The meeting will kick off a 10-week series entitled “Documenting Queer Brooklyn: Before It’s Gone, Take It Back.”

A main goal of the B4G project is to launch a website hub — beforeitsgone.com — that would serve as a self-docu-
mentary art archive for Brooklyn resi-
dents to share stories celebrating their lives and resilience in the wake of gen-
trification. The website would also provide a source for vital information 
sources to help keep Brooklyn residents in their homes. Currently, organizers are engaged in a series of fundraisers and a crowdfunding campaign to raise $88,000 by May 1 in order to finish construction, gather resources and launch the site.

According to the “Equality for Flat-
bush” Tumblr page, gentrification is de-
lined as a “concerted and deliberate ef-
fort to price out low-to-middle-income residents from neighborhoods by city government, corporations, real estate developers, and landlords in favor of renting, selling, and catering to people of higher and/or more flexible incomes.”

We know from first-hand experience that the same unscrupulous property owners who use tactics to force low-income communities to vacate their homes are renting to out-of-town tenants with “no money down” for 203 percent of the original value of their homes. Currently, organizers are seeking to get the state to revoke the rent increase orders of those landlords.

For this very reason, we believe that all of us — longtime and new residents, com-
munity college students, retirees, low-income and middle-class people — have a stake in the urgent struggle to save affordable housing in Brooklyn.”

Equality for Flatbush, which is part of the B4G project, is organizing a community meeting to fight gentrification and displacement. The meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Public Library on April 15 at 5 p.m.

Plans made to stop tax foreclosure tsunami

By Jerry Goldberg

A dynamic “Emergency People’s As-
sembly to Stop Tax Foreclosures” on March 14 planned a series of actions to demonstrate the tsunami of unexp-
ated tax foreclosures in Detroit and all of Michigan’s Wayne County. The assembly also voted to demand the release of the $251 million in unspent federal “Helping Hardest Hit Homeowner” funds by the state of Michi-
gan to help meet the crisis.

With its neighborhoods already devas-
tated by a wave of mortgage foreclosures due to racist, predatory lending by the major banks, Detroit is now being threat-
ed by another wave of unexpeted tax fore-
closures. These foreclosures are a direct result of Detroit’s primarily African-American homeowners being forced to pay property taxes based on assessments that dramatically oversate the actual value of their homes.

Sixty-two thousand Detroit homes are scheduled to go into tax foreclosure on March 31; 57,000 of them are occupied and 18,000 are owner-occupied. The Wayne County Treasurer has scheduled a meeting earlier that day, March 30, to look at the potential of using mortgage foreclosure archives to learn the fate of all homes, along with 19,000 other families facing evictions who are renters or on land contracts.

What makes this situation even more distressing is that $40 million in funds are avail-
able to pay off delinquent property tax-
es on occupied homes! When the banks and mortgage companies stop collecting for their mortgage and tax foreclosures, the state of Michigan, via the Treasurer, has put aside $40 million in tax delinquency funds available for occupied homes to save them from losing their homes. Currently, organizers are seeking to get these funds to residents.

The assembly adopted a small resolution opposing the wave of foreclosures.

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In Charleston, W.Va., thousands protest “right-to-work” bill

An estimated 7,000 people showed up a the Capitol building in Charles-
ton, W.Va., on March 7 to picket the state Legislature’s consideration of a “right-to-
work” (for less) bill, as well as a number of reactionary laws that have been proposed in this session.

Called the “Mountaineer Workers Ris-
ing Rally,” every union in the state was well represented, including the United Electrical Workers Local 170, the Unit-
Slowing world capitalist economy puts workers in danger

By Fred Goldstein

The big business media have been creating momentum around the idea that the prices of crude oil and gasoline have dropped. They promote the idea that this will help workers and avert a recession.

Big business economists, on the other hand, are buzzing with concern that the fall in crude oil prices represents a world capitalist depression that will threaten the anemic recovery taking place in the U.S.

What the economists know is that the drop in oil prices is a symptom of capitalist overproduction. The oil and gas industry was chasing after superprofits when, before last June, crude oil was still priced at $115 a barrel and gasoline was $4.4 a gallon.

They have been deep drilling and hy- drofracking for oil and natural gas every- where, from the Marcellus shale in the Arctic Ocean, in order to cash in on high commodity prices. For example, China had its slowest economic growth in 24 years in 2014. Its oil imports for January declined by 8 percent from the previous month. The

The Market Realist of Feb. 24 revealed: “An unexpected fall in most of China’s com- modity imports indicates that the largest export market in the world is still losing momen- tum.”

World capitalist slowdown

Seven years after the global financial and economic crisis struck the capitalist world, and five years after the so-called “recovery” capitalism is still at a dead end — stuck in a condition of mass un- employment, wage suppression and slow- to-no growth. The decline in commodity prices is a symptom of the capitalist slowdown.

The 19 eurozone countries and Japan are struggling to get out of recession. U.S. capitalism is struggling, unsuccess- fully, to get into strong growth mode. Russia is in a recession. Brazil, the sev- enth-largest economy in the world and the largest in Latin America, has slowed down to an almost no-growth quarter. South Africa grew only 1.5 percent in 2014. Most Indian states are struggling to hold onto its 7.5 percent growth rate, while poverty stalks hundreds of mil- lions.

It is hardly any wonder that commod- ity prices are sliding, as global capacity for production expands and global de- mand is too weak for the workers and the middle class.

The IMF has revised its estimate of world economic growth down for the year 2015. The March 12 report shows a decline in prices in the last three to four quarters in every economic category: ag- riculture (what the world eats), goods and services, the world’s interesting raw cultural materials, metals, et al. Price- es declined in everything from copper to iron ore, coal, lumber, cereals, lamb, sug- ar and oil.

This is a sure sign of growing capitalist overproduction — decline in the ability of the masses to buy the products they con-sume. The capitalists have no choice but to hold back price increases in order to protect market share, and growth in the ratio of unused of means of production and services.

Why price declines are a threat: the Marxist view

What Wall Street and the bosses are worried about is that the slowing in- crease in commodity prices, which means slowing in- flation, will turn into an absolute decline and trigger a global crisis.

Why is this decline a danger sign to workers? Because under the global cap- italist system, a decline in prices under conditions of overproduction and low wages signals a decline in profits. And a decline in profits is a harbinger of wage reductions, layoffs and attacks on the workers in general.

If workers begin to decline, the bosses are deprived of the ability to raise prices in order to sustain their profit margins. If they can’t do it by raising prices, the only place left to them, as capitalist exploiters, are to lower wages, speed up production, cut benefits or get rid of workers. Instead of raising prices, they lower costs. And theseud cost they control and cannot kee-p is the cost of labor. If they take losses, they will shut down altogether.

But workers face a new danger from the danger of the point of view of work- class economics: the Marxist labor theory of value.

What are prices and how are they set? The capitalist sets the price. There is no guarantee that the commodity or service will be sold at that price. But here is how the price is determined.

Under normal conditions the boss, or multinational corporation, sets the price in order to get back all the costs of pro- duction or service plus a profit. The profit consists of the unpaid labor time of the workers.

Unpaid labor time results from the fact that the boss pays the workers just enough to live on (and maybe less) and keeps the revenue from all the new value that the workers create in the economic process.

The workers apply labor power to the material elements of production. (Marx called these constant capital.) These ele- ments of production represent old value already created by other workers.

In creating new products, the workers add new value. The surplus value that the workers need to live on is created in just one part of the work day. But the workers must work the whole day — or the whole week or whole month, depending on the work- ing arrangement.

The boss then sells everything created, pays the workers their wages and keeps the rest of the money, which includes the value of unpaid labor. That surplus value goes to the boss when the product is sold for profit.

The boss must also pay the other costs of production, besides wages. Those costs include rent, transportation, energy, techno- logy, shipping, etc. The prices of these products have been set by other capital- ists and cannot be changed. So after sell- ing all the commodities, the value which has been created by the labor of the workers, the boss must pay off all the vendors who sold him things. What is left over is the profit — or the value, in money, of the un- paid labor of the workers.

But suppose the price set by the boss to the workers is higher than the price to find buyers. Suppose the workers and the middle class cannot afford the price set by the boss. Then the boss has to drop the price. But the boss still has to pay off the landlord, the bankers, the vendors, etc. If the price is so low that it eats deeply into profits and the boss has to use up what use what was left of his or her surplus val- ue, then costs must be lowered. Wages have to be lowered, workers have to be laid off and new products have to be laid en- terprise to have to be shut down.

This is why the capitalists fear “lowfla- tion” as they call it, or falling prices that are below their profits. And workers should be concerned about this threat to their own class interests even more.

Little need to hire workers

The Toronto Globe and Mail of Jan. 23 summed it up: “The bottom line, eco- nомists say, is that the global economy still has excess capacity. While many econom- ies, especially in the developed world, have substantial capacity during the re- cession, the deep downturn, there is more capacity to produce than there is demand for that output. The IMF estimates that the world’s advanced economies are still operating at about 2.5 percent below their capacity — and chronically below-normal global growth means demand hasn’t been sufficient to close that gap.

“The continued overcapacity has meant little need to hire more workers. The In- ternational Labor Organization reported this week that the global labor market still hasn’t fully recovered what it lost in the 2008-09 crisis. It said global em- ployment is 16 million jobs below its long- term trend line, reflecting the fact that opened up during the crisis and has never closed. The global unemployment rate of 5.9 per cent is still above pre-crisis levels (5.5 percent in 2007), and the global labor force participation rate remains below pre-crisis levels, indicating that an addi- tional 90 million people who would have abandoned looking for jobs entirely.

The international workers’ movement must prepare to resist a new round of attacks signaled by creeping capitalist overproduction. The fall in commodity prices may be a harbinger of just such an attack.
Dinah, Bett and Albany, N.Y., slave rebellion

By Chris Fry

On March 14, 1794, two young slave girls were hanged in Albany, N.Y. One was named Dinah, aged 14. The other was named Betty, just 12. A month later, a 16-year-old slave named Pompey was hanged as well.

Yes, ten years after the so-called "Amsterdam slave revolt," which was actually a slave state. According to the first U.S. census in 1790, Albany had a population of about 3,500, of which 572 were slaves and 26 were "free persons of color." ("History of the 1793 Fire in Albany," hvmag.com, Feb. 14.) All the wealthy families in Albany had slaves.

The slave owners were afraid, and for good reason. In 1794, there was a slave rebellion and fire in New York City. And in 1790, there was the start of the great slave revolution in the French plantation colony of Haiti. There the slaves fought off three European armies and won independence, one of the greatest events in human history.

So when a fire broke out on Nov. 17, 1793, in downtown Albany, including offices, stores and 26 homes, causing the huge sum of $250,000 worth of damage, the slave owners feared the worst. It ended up being just a dud.

The stated goal of the JVTA, which was named after the state’s first African American governor, was to punish rebellious slaves. For instance, on March 10, protests from human rights, political activism of early 20th century Americans and use the money to free themselves.

The White Slaves Matter

By Sue Davis

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (S. 178) was considered a bipartisan bill when it was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Jan. 13. When an anti-abortion provision was discovered on March 10, protests from human rights, civil rights, legal, reproductive health and women’s groups erupted.

If this bill passed, it would discriminate against victims by denying essential medical coverage for abortions, and it could expand the Hyde Amendment far beyond its current limits. The Hyde Amendment currently restricts federal Medicaid funding for abortions for poor women.

In a survey of 67 sex trafficking victims conducted by Laundra J. Ledderer for the Department of State, more than half reported having had abortions. About three out of four women said they had at least one pregnancy while being trafficked, and 20 percent reported five or more. Amnesty International estimates 60 percent of women and girls who come across the border report being raped. (fusio.net, March 12.)

The stated goal of the JVTA, which passed the House earlier this year, is to go beyond earlier bills in addressing child abuse and protections for victims of trafficking. One provision is funding programs for victims by using fines charged to traffickers. That sounds innocent enough. But by including fees and fines, not just taxpayer funds restricted by Hyde, pro-choice groups fear that could entice states to violate Hyde’s amendment and lead to many more abortion restrictions in the future. (thinkprogress.org, March 14)

Reproductive health care activists have fought to repeal Hyde since it was passed in 1976. It was the first major national attack on access to abortion, which unfairly discriminates against those who have the least financial resources — women of color, or, young, immigrant, disabled, rural and transgender women.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) denies tacking on the provision in a sneak attack on abortion rights. Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, executive director of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, told fusion.net the provision is “unenforceable.” “Even more so given the high rates of sexual abuse experienced by Latina survivors. Women, especially Latina politicians, should make our own decisions when it comes to pregnancy.”

Kate Stewart of Advocates for Youth said, “Human trafficking survivors, overwhelmingly young women, deserve to have all reproductive health options available to them. This move by politicians is an un-derhanded attempt to harm women most in need.” (thinkprogress.org)

To sign a reproductive justice petition condemning the provision, visit allabovewall.org.
By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit –
Federal Judge Gershwin Drain sentenced Palestinian American activist and community leader Rasmea Odeh to 18 months in prison, revoking her citizenship and imposing $8,000 in fines at a March 12 hearing in Detroit. Odeh remains out on bond pending the outcome of an appeal of her conviction on immigration fraud charges. The Chicago resident was accused of not revealing on her Immigration and Naturalization Services application that she was tried by a military tribunal and sent to prison by the Israeli regime some 45 years ago.

The courtroom was packed with another 800 who overflowed into the corridors as well as her supporters anxiously awaited outside the outcome of the sentencing hearing. As part of its argument for a harsh sentence, government prosecutors alleged they presented clips of a documentary on the Palestine liberation struggle during the late 1960s and early 1970s where veteran activists talked about their efforts to free Palestine.

Consequently, the hearing was highly politicized along with the trial. Government prosecutors claimed that Odeh was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the key organizations in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Drain said the sentencing guidelines mandated a 15 to 21 month sentence in such a conviction, rejecting the government’s request for a five to seven year prison term. He also said that Odeh violated his direction not to talk about the plight of Palestinians on the stand or that she was tortured by the Israeli military while held in detention.

Odeh testified during the trial in late 2013 that she was misinformed about the questions on the immigration forms. Experts also testified that she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from her brutal treatment by the Israeli authorities.

The judge acknowledged the flood of letters he received in support of Odeh from all over the world, representing people from all walks of life. Drain noted, nonetheless, he said on the bench that Rasmea had been a “terrorist” but had changed her life.

“She was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. I think she was involved in some terrorist activity,” Drain declared before sentencing.

The judge said that the case was about lying and not politics. Despite this, he allowed the prosecution to introduce a smear campaign against the PFLP into testimony.

Life under racist occupation

Odeh was allowed to make a statement to the court before sentencing. She chronicled her life in conjunction with the history of Palestine under Israeli occupation.

She stressed that her family was expelled from their home in 1948, when the state of Israel was established. They lived in a refugee camp, forcing her father to leave to come to the United States during the early 1950s, breaking up the family.

They were again displaced in 1967 with the expansion of the occupation into the West Bank and Gaza. Forced into exile by these circumstances, she eventually came to the U.S. to take care of her father, who was suffering from cancer during the 1990s.

She was arrested and charged in the bombing of a supermarket in 1969. She was forced to confess as a result of torture, spending a decade in the Israeli prison system. Odeh was released in 1979 in a prisoner exchange between the PFLP and the Israeli regime.

After coming to the U.S. in 1995, she became a leading figure in the Palestinian and Middle Eastern immigrant community in Chicago, assisting thousands of Arab women to adjust to life in the U.S. Many of these women attended the trial and the March 12 sentencing hearing.

At the time of her 2013 arrest by federal agents, Odeh administered the daily operations at the Arab American Action Network in Chicago. Supporters with the Rasmea Defense Committee, which hosted an Arab American Museum fundraiser on March 11 in suburban Dearborn outside Detroit, described her as a well-loved leader and mentor.

Appealing the conviction

Judge Drain agreed to extend the bond which obtained Odeh’s release after her conviction last year. She spent five weeks in U.S. government detention and testified at the sentencing hearing that the experience was horrible, and “I thought I was going to die.”

Defense attorney Michael Deutsch said the conviction will be appealed. It will take at least five months for a determination to be made as to whether the appeals court accepts the filing.

Prior to sentencing, Deutsch argued that oppressed peoples throughout history have resisted injustice and occupation.

He evoked the struggles of African people under Portuguese colonialism and South- ern African apartheid.

Deutsch maintained that the late Nelson Mandela, the former African National Congress leader and the first Black president of a nonracial South Africa, was once considered a “terrorist,” but was actually a freedom fighter.

Rasmea Odeh thanks supporters at court house, March 12.

International Working Women’s Day message

When I was incarcerated, I learned from my attorneys that people and families in Illinois and other states pledged their businesses and properties to get me released on bail. When the government refused this and a pre-trial detention center, described my release from prison as a victory for the Palestinian cause. I know I am a fighter, and I will not be deterred.

On March 8, four days before Odeh’s conviction in Detroit.

We all stand for social justice and liberation in this country the same way our communities are treated! They make us out to criminals and support their political agendas, so we should recognize this, and unite to resist it.

We need all to continue to work hard to eliminate the disease of racism and national oppression against Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, Black people, Latinos/as, and other people of color in this country.

On a daily basis, we watch the hate crimes that kill innocent people, just like those three beautiful Arab-American, Muslim young people in North Carolina. Or the institutional police violence that killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Eric Garner in New York, and so many other mostly Black men in the U.S. These tragedies and others reflect the extreme hate that some in this country have for Arabs, Muslims, African Americans, and others. The hate is not just from individuals, though. It is encouraged and supported in many political and media circles that we know are sometimes responsible for the way our communities are treated! They make us out to criminals and support their political agendas, so we should recognize this, and unite to resist it.

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By Kathy Durkin

Struggle. Solidarity. Capitalist government-sponsored violence and abuse of power, superficial receptions on International Women’s Day, March 8. However, those words convey the very essence of this important day, work being oppressed and oppressed women worldwide.

International Women’s Day was founded by European socialists in 1910; they sought to memorialize their sisters who were working women and promote their struggles for equal rights. It has also been marked by marches, rallies and sit-ins against war, occupation, imperialism, fascism, corporate globalization and more.

For more than a century, women have marched for jobs, livable wages, human rights conditions and legal protections from sex-abuse, exploitative wages, safer working conditions and legal protections from sex-abuse, exploitative wages, safer working conditions and legal protections from sex-abuse. Some 500 Palestinians and Jewish supporters marched to meet from the Israeli side. But Israeli soldiers blocked the two groups from uniting. As women neared the gates, some trying to hang Palestinian flags, soldiers violently attacked them with beating, tear gas and stun grenades. Thirty women were injured, hospitalized. As Israel confiscates more land in East Jerusalem, the swaggering Israelis continue to keep on resisting. They deserve world support.

From Turkey to Indonesia

In Istanbul and other cities in Turkey, women protested gender inequality, economic exploitation and the rising rate of femicide. Activists denounced President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has publicly stated that women are not equals of men. Women say the government’s anti-woman policies are causing erosion of their rights, growing grievances and disenfranchisement. Bangladesh garment workers, labor activists and other women rallied in Dhaka on Women’s Day for comprehensive equal rights legislation, a safer working environment and conditions and legal protections from sex-abuse.

Near two years ago, the world watched in horror when 1,135 garment workers were killed and 2,500 injured in the Rana Plaza collapse. It was the deadliest such tragedy in the country’s history of compensation due them by super-rich exploiters, the figures would be much, much higher. Below are some of this year’s highlights.

Palestinians resist

For years, their determination and strength are lauded worldwide. On March 7, 1000 of these courageous women marched to Qalandiya checkpoint, which separates Jerusalem and Ramallah. They protested Israel’s brutal occupation of their lands on the West Bank and the siege of Gaza. Freeing their imprisoned sisters was both a moral and demand.

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Caribbean, Latin America

“We women, strengthening our leadership to change our lives” was the theme of an International Women’s Day meeting organized by neoliberalist groups that are largely inhabited by people displaced by the 2010 earthquake. “We must organize ourselves to tell Haitian authorities that we are entitled to basic services. We cannot accept the marginalization which is inflicted upon us in Canaan,” stressed Erlande Brutus, representative of the city’s women’s groups.

Sanice Little Phat, coordinator of Solidite Pinn Makay, explained Haiti’s unique women’s movement. Geraldine Sainville, a leader of Group for Repatriation and Refugees (GARR), encouraged women’s participation to strengthen their leadership, which “is the first step in being heard.” They emphasized building solidarity, too. For the women’s movement, a Socialist Cuba is a beacon of progress for women. The Federation of Cuban women, founded in 1960 by Vilma Espin, has been instrumental in this process. International Women’s Day is observed everywhere. The Revolution’s achievements are profound. Notably, Cuba ranks fourth in the world in life expectancy, with 79.4 years, and sixth in the world with 48.9 percent and second in the Americas with 53.1 percent.

In Mexico City, mothers of Ayotzinapa’s 43 young people marched on March 8. At an event the previous day, they pledged to keep searching for their sons and also to ensure unity and keep organizing, as “the Ayotzinapa movement will not stop.” In Tegucigalpa, women rallied for Gladys Lanza, coordinator of the Honduran Women’s Committee for Peace “Visitación Padilla,” and an anti-imperialist and former union leader. Juan Orlando Hernandez’s U.S.-backed coup government wrongly prosecuted her for slandering a woman whom a government allegedly sexually harassed. Women’s human rights organizations and the popular resistance say, “Drop the charges!”

The National Women’s Union was founded, which President Nicolas Maduro told participants would have its own “structures” throughout society. He agreed to initiatives for women’s prog- ress, including that they comprise half of the National Assembly. Already, women receive six months’ paid maternity leave, free health care and food subsidies. Mothers are eligible for full rent coverage and are protected from discrimination.

Women resist all forms of oppression

European demonstrators deplored austerity layoffs and service cuts imposed by capitalist bankers and their own government. Women marched for equal rights, political representation, jobs, pay equity, reproductive justice and an end to anti-woman assaults. Australia’s actions op- posed domestic violence, too. Women’s oppression is rooted in unequal class society. Corporate globalization, imperialist exploitation and oppres- sion of nationalities further affect women. It is time to intensify the struggle against horrific capitalism — in the spirit of International Women’s Day, as its socialist founders intended.

Fight austerity

Women worldwide call for a halt to all forms of oppression, including that they comprise half of the National Assembly. Already, women receive six months’ paid maternity leave, free health care and food subsidies. Mothers are eligible for full rent coverage and are protected from discrimination.
Women resist all forms of oppression. The world is awash in oil and gas. Prices are plummeting. The Keystone XL pipeline is dead. Dreams of trillion-dollar coalitions on intermittent fracturing and tar sands are fading away. Oil tycoon Harry Hamm of Continental Resources lost $9.6 billion in six months. Schum-berger, the biggest oilfield services company, cut 9,000 jobs in January. These facts, not fear of a nonexistent bomb program, are why Republican law- makers are desperate to sabotage nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Net- anyahu, who murdered 514 Palestinian children in Gaza last summer, is eager to help. The racist state of Israel wants to exploit offshore gas fields that belong by rights to the Palestinian people.

The headline of an opinion piece in the March 13 Washington Post declared the real agenda of the Republicans and Net- anyahu’s Likud party: “War with Iran Is Our Best Option.” It was written by Josh-ua Muravchik of the Journal of Interna- tional Affairs. “The United States has lost its way in Ukraine,” the Post is basically the house organ of the Pentagon.

On March 9, 47 Republican senators signed a letter to the administration: “The Islamic Republic of Iran.” They ap- parently didn’t know or couldn’t spell the names of Iran’s top jurist Ali Khamenei or elected Prime Minister Hassan Rou- hashi. The arrogant and condescending letter lectured Iran’s leaders about the U.S. Constitution. But it violated that Constitution when it told the GOP would undercut any agreement between the U.S. and Iranian governments.

The letter’s signers, such as John Mc- Cain, Lindsay Graham and Rand Paul, are the worst racists, sexists and bar- rat-haters in the Senate multimillionaires’ club. They also get the biggest handouts from the oil and gas industry. Energy firms gave Tom Cotton, who wrote the letter, $340,000 to run for the Senate. McCain has gotten more mon- ey in his career than any other legislator.

Six days earlier, all 290 Republican lawmakers packed the Capitol to hear Netanyahu denounce the U.S.-Iran nego- tiations. House Speaker John Boeh- ner invited the Israeli prime minister to address Congress without first telling President Barack Obama. Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and the Congressio- nal Black Caucus boycotted the session. But discussions are underway, as in January, for certification of our “partnership” with Iran. The U.S. has made a lie of its professed commitment to keeping Iran from “developing a nuclear weapon.”

The same day, the U.S.-dominat- ed International Monetary Fund ap- proved a new $17.5 billion financial aid package for Ukraine in exchange for additional painful austerity measures. (RT.com, March 11) This is meant to ensure that Kiev will remain solvent enough to continue its proxy war in the coming months, despite its collapsing economy.

Whether or not the U.S. openly arms Ukraine with offensive weap- ons, or continues to do so covertly and through third countries, is far less sig- nificant than the blatant war moves of U.S. and NATO forces in the region. Every day, it grows more urgent for the anti-war forces in the U.S. to step up and call on their own government to stop the weapons, stop sanctions, stop provocations against Russia! Stand with the people of Donetsk and Lugansk resisting as- surity and the genocidal bombing campaign.

Ukraine: Is the U.S. preparing a new war?

By Greg Butterfield

As activists, students and workers gather in Washington, D.C., for the “Spring Rising” anti-war mobilization March 18 to 21, many are probably un- aware that U.S. troops arrived in Ukraine this month, with another 300 expected to join them shortly.

The U.S. soldiers are stationed at the Yavoriv Training Area in Lviv, near the Polish border in western Ukraine. Their mission, according to the Pen- tagon, is to train divisions of the Ukrainian National Guard.

But their presence also establishes the “Polish border in western Ukraine.” Meanwhile, in London, Prime Min- ister David Cameron told a House of Commons committee on Feb. 24 that up to 75 British soldiers would be sent to Ukraine to develop an “infan- try training program with Ukraine” to improve the durability of their forces,” the BBC reported.

“Today’s announcement builds upon the work that we have already under- taken through NATO and bilaterally,” added British Defense Secretary Mi- chael Fallon. (Sputnik, Feb. 24)

Poland, too, plans to send military instructors to train Ukrainian soldiers. Boguslaw Pacewicz, a Polish defense official, told Reuters on Feb. 26.

NATO provocations

Throughout Europe, the Baltic and Central Asian states bordering Russia, and even on soil in the U.S., an unprecedented level of agitation and provocations are underway, all clearly threatening Moscow.

Why? Because the real aim of the U.S. power play in Ukraine is to estab- lish NATO military power on Russia’s border, with the aim of fomenting re- gime change aimed at breaking up the Russian Federation into pliable, prof- itable pieces that can be easily domi- nated by Wall Street and its European junior partners.

That’s why since day one of the Ukrainian crisis, Democrats, Repub- licans and the corporate media have united to turn reality on its head by portraying Russia as the aggressor — a Big Lie to cover up their own role.

In February, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko inked an arms agree- ment with the United Arab Emirates, a U.S. client state that frequently serves as a hub to funnel advanced weapons to right-wing movements and counterrev- olutionary movements supported by Washington.

On March 11, Obama approved $75 million in additional “nonlethal” mil- itary aid to Ukraine, including securing an additional $1 billion in additional painful austerity measures. (RT.com, March 11) This is meant to ensure that Kiev will remain solvent enough to continue its proxy war in the coming months, despite its collapsing economy.

War with Iran is a different matter, though. Gaza’s children don’t have mis- siles that can hit U.S. aircraft carriers. Democrats also know that when they start a war, Republicans win the next election.

U.S. waged war to restrict oil supply

Both sides of the congressional aisle supported the Bush regime’s 2003 inva- sion of Iraq. That war destroyed Iraq’s state-owned oil industry. Oil went from $30 to $147 a barrel in four years. Oil tycoon and profits were soaring. “Iraq is the world’s larg- est oil and gas producer. But capitalists will do what capitalist- es do. When profits and prices are booming, they protect the status quo. When the market can bear.” The third quarter of 2008 saw a global capitalist economic crisis and oil prices began to fall.

Like the Bush regime before it, the Obama administration lashed out at in- dependent producers. The 2011 bombing of Libya, U.S.-funded wars in Syria and Ukraine, destabilization in Venezuela and sanctions on Iran and Russia slowed the decline, but couldn’t reverse it.

Last September, Russia and China broke ground on what is planned to be the world’s biggest pipeline. It will sup- ply China with Siberian natural gas. The U.S. is using falling oil prices as an economic wrecking ball against the economies of Iran, Russia, Venezuela, Ecuador and many other countries. The GOP is more belligerent, but both capi- talist parties seek to maintain U.S. mno- nopoly capital’s rapidly eroding position at the center of the world economy. This can only be done by more and more de- structive wars.

At the same time, the racist war against the most oppressed sectors of society and the largest Jewish organizations and communities is growing more urgent every day, it grows more urgent for the anti-war forces in the U.S. to step up and call on their own government to stop the weapons, stop sanctions, stop provocations against Russia! Stand with the people of Donetsk and Lugansk resisting as- surity and the genocidal bombing campaign.
The video was exposed to the public by the student activist group, “Unheard OU.” This group organized the first demonstrations against the fraternity.

In the face of this Sorted out disapprobation over this video, the university administration shut down the fraternity and expelled two students. The fraternity has since cleared its name by “singing a song” filled with “the N word’’ and promoting the Lynchings of African Americans.

The video has been exposed to the public by the student activist group, “Unheard OU.” This group organized the first demonstrations against the fraternity.

But these racists found defenders. Several pundits have declared this to be a “free speech” issue. And members and alumni of the fraternity have hired Stephen Jones, a well-known, self-styled “legal expert” to defend Timothy McVeigh, who in 1995 set off the bomb in Oklahoma City that killed 188 people and wounded 680 others. Jones has also worked for Richard Nixon and Donald Rumsfeld, as well as three Oklahoma Republican governors.

Racism remains the main tool by the political and economic elite of this country, backed up by hundreds of years of “legal” KKK lynchings. Racists should have no right to free speech; therefore, the Oklahoma video footage should be destroyed. The police should decide what to do with that footage so that the video is as inaccessible as possible. For this reason, we call for national protests against this video.

Record of racist, anti-woman assaults

The SAE fraternity has a sordid history in hazing. It was the only fraternity in the United States that was expelled by the National Fraternity Association in 1969 for “offense of the South.” When the war broke out, SAE had 460 members, 670 of whom joined and fought in the Confederate army. After the war, the fraternity moved north, but retained its segregationist roots. Several members of the Dartmouth College SAE chapter, for example, still refer to the Civil War as the “War of Independence.”

In 1982, the University of Cincinnati suspended SAE for organizing a racist party on Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday, with a flyer asking people “to bring such things as canceled welfare checks.”

In 1992, the Texas A&M chapter hosted a “Jungle Fever” party, which included “black face, grass skirts and ‘slave hunts.’”

In 2000, SAE members at Ole Miss University wore black face makeup and sang “ Strange Fruit” and yell racist slurs at them during a cross country meet. In 2002, SAE members at Syracuse University wore black face makeup and sang “ Strange Fruit.”

In 2003, a SAE chapter at the University of Arizona shouted from their frat house windows racial slurs and made obscene gestures at a Black Lives Matter march that was trying to protest.

Right after the Oklahoma University video was released, a Confederate flag meme was in a window of the OU SAE chapter house.

And there are reports that the racist song used at OU is identical to one used by the SAE chapters at Texas universities.

Sexism is also the operating mode for SAE. On some campuses, the fraternity’s initiates have been translated as “Sexual Assault and Exploitation.” There are reports that the Oklahoma SAE racist song was used at the SAE fraternity house at Dartmouth with the words changed to promote violence against women.

An analysis by Bloomberg News service in 2013 found that SAE is the leading fraternity for heavy drinking, drug use, sexual assault and hazing. (Bloomberg.com, Dec. 30, 2013).

Yet the fraternity remains “in good standing” at some 200 college campuses.

Smash white supremacy

Racism is not just a group of white thugs — be they in fraternities like SAE or in police departments — chanting bigoted slurs and threats. It is an ideology embedded in the fabric, the heart, the very bowels of the capitalist social and economic system. It is the grotesque and obscene conception that Black people’s lives don’t matter compared to whites.

This ideology was spawned to spur slave owners, the overseers and the slave workers to amass vast wealth among plantation owners, the overseers, and children, chain them like animals, and then force them into even more dehumanizing tasks in the “New World.” Why? It was all done to amass vast wealth among plantation owners, the overseers, banks, insurance companies and other sectors of the ruling class, wealth that they horde to the present day.

Racism was used to “motivate” the beatings, the rapes and the murders by slave owners, the overseers and the slave catchers. And it was used and fashioned by the political and economic elite of this country into laws and customs, into Jim Crow and segregation, into courts, prisons and the police occupying force, right down to the present day, from Los Angeles to Staten Island, N.Y., to Ferguson, Mo.

Racists are stuck in the so-called “master class” to maintain and protect its tottering system of exploitation and oppression.

The United States is home to more than 10,000 fraternities and sororities, including Sigma Alpha Epsilon, incubators for the future financial and corporate elite, ground their members in racist bigotry and capitalist exploitation.

But they face strong and determined opposition from the African-American community. The 2013 national fraternity survey found that 19% of the fraternity population is African American.

Just this past Dec. 18, the lone opposition party with seats in the South Korean parliament was banned by the right-wing government there and its leaders arrested.

Solidarity with Black Lives Matter movement

The video was exposed to the public by the student activist group, “Unheard OU.” This group organized the first demonstrations against the fraternity.

At the seminar, the WWP representatives raised a resolution to send “a message of condemnation to the fraternities and from many progressive organizations, and which gathers Latin American political parties, joined the condemnation and called for the following actions:

1. An anti-imperialist summit of Latin American popular organizations and movements in Managua, Nicaragua, on March 20 and 21.
2. A “World Great Day of Solidarity with Venezuela and Condemnation of U.S. Intervention” on April 19 with the slogan “Peoples of the World United on April 19.”
3. An extraordinary and extended meeting on April 5-14 in Caracas to express their support for President Nicolás Maduro.

A Worker’s World Party representative at the seminar, Berta Joubert-Ceci, spoke at the news conference, saying, “It is a great travesty when Obama calls Venezuela a threat, when within the USA every 28 hours a Black person is being killed by government or private repres- sive forces. People in the USA whose lives were saved when they received heating oil from Venezuela, know very well who their enemy is. It is not Venezuela. It is their own government who denies full access to basic human needs. They and thousands of people in the USA stand in solidarity with the Bolivarian govern- ment and will do whatever necessary to expose the USA’s lies and defend Ven- ezuela!”

Call for solidarity actions April 19

Prensa Latina reports that on March 16, the São Paulo Forum working group, which often meets following the seminar, and which gathers Latin American political parties, joined the condemnation and called for the following actions:

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U.S. delegates report: Four years of Syrian resistance to imperialist takeover

By Sara Flounders and Lamont Lilly

U.S. efforts to overthrow the government of Syria have now extended into a fifth year. It is increasingly clear that the United States and its allies are seeking to replace the Syrian government with a client state similar to those run by the U.S. and its allies in the Middle East. This is a continuation of the assistance that the imperialist superpower gives to client states all over the world, from Central America to the Middle East.

The U.S. government has been using a variety of tactics to try to topple the Syrian government, including military aid, economic sanctions, political pressure, and propaganda. The U.S. and its allies have also been supporting rebel groups in Syria, including the Free Syrian Army, which has been fighting against the government since 2011.

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¡A Defender a Venezuela y poner fin a las sanciones!

El Presidente Nicolás Maduro de Venezuela muestra los mayores elogios y el apoyo por rechazar firmemente la última ronda de sanciones de Estados Unidos diseñada para socavar y derrocar a la Revolución Bolivariana. El Ministerio de Administración Obama anunció más sanciones contra Venezuela, calificando al país y a sus dirigentes como “una extraordina- 

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ista”, felicitando a los funcionarios 

venezolanos que enfrentan las sanciones de Estados Unidos como “héroes”. “Los felicitó”, dijo el ex conductor y líder sindical, agregando que “es un honor” ser incluidos en la lista de sanciones de Estados Unidos. El secretario de la Policía Bolivariana de todos modos? Es un valiente esfuer- 

za la dio la coronel Marta Carcana, quien 

coptero que le sacaría del Palacio de San- 

ta Catalina, donde un portavoz había dicho primero que se buscaban alternativas para que la participación del Goberna- 

dor García Padilla fuese lo más discreta 

a la planteada renuncia a poderes 

la respuesta de la jefa castrense causó 

esta sorpresa en el Palacio de Santa 

ciencia y explotados para establecer nuevas rel-

aciones basadas en la solidaridad y el re- 

sputo mutuo. 

La confirmación de la presencia de los 

los mandos militares y el Departa-

mento de Seguridad de la Patria (Home-

land Security) insisten que será una maniobra para medir la preparación ante un desastre natural, aunque en la rueda de prensa se explicó que la práctica sería de utilidad también con respecto a even-


tos en Caracas. La Casa Blanca ha endurecido su asedio al gober- 

namento de Venezuela para rechazar firmemente la última ronda de sanciones de Estados Unidos. 

El Presidente de Estados Unidos anunció más sanciones contra Venezuela, calificando al país y a sus dirigentes como “una extraordina- 

ría amenaza a la seguridad nacional de Estados Unidos”. Esta declaración no es sólo una in- 

creible y cruda mentira. Tampoco es la clase de lenguaje que permite que las ramas del gobierno estadounidense au-

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La confirmación de la presencia de los 

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