

Unite on May Day

Stop war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

This article was edited from a talk given at the March 18 special forum of Workers World Party in New York City in honor of International Working Women's Month.

I have had a Google alert for immigration news for years. I have never been so heartbroken and overwhelmed from the news as I am now.

Somewhere in every neighborhood and barrio, a migrant is living in fear. Pregnant women are preparing to have their babies at home so they won't go to the hospital. Parents are not sending their children to school. Children do not want to go to school.

Services that cater to immigrants are seeing a sharp decline. Migrants are missing doctor appointments. Lawyers are receiving more requests to have appointments by phone.

You can go to court on a traffic violation or to the Department of Homeland Security for your regular check-in and get detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

You can speak at a press conference and get picked up by "la migra" (Latinx slang for ICE), which happened to a Dreamer recently.

The nation saw the video made by the 13-year-old daughter of Rómulo Avelica-González of ICE agents picking him up as he dropped her off at school in Los Angeles. All that time, she was sobbing.

As teachers console their students, they also have to ask, "Have you talked to your parents? Do you have power of attorney?"

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly had to admit that Trump's policies were creating such a fearful climate that more Muslims were seeking refuge in Canada than ever. Video shows migrants trekking to wooded areas to cross into Canada "illegally," grabbing their passports from the hands of ICE agents as they victoriously jump into Canada.

This morning there was a notice that DHS is auditing a bakery with many Brandworkers, giving them eight days to come up with proof of status or be fired. [Brandworkers are members of an organization of retail and food workers "dedicated to protecting and advancing their rights."]

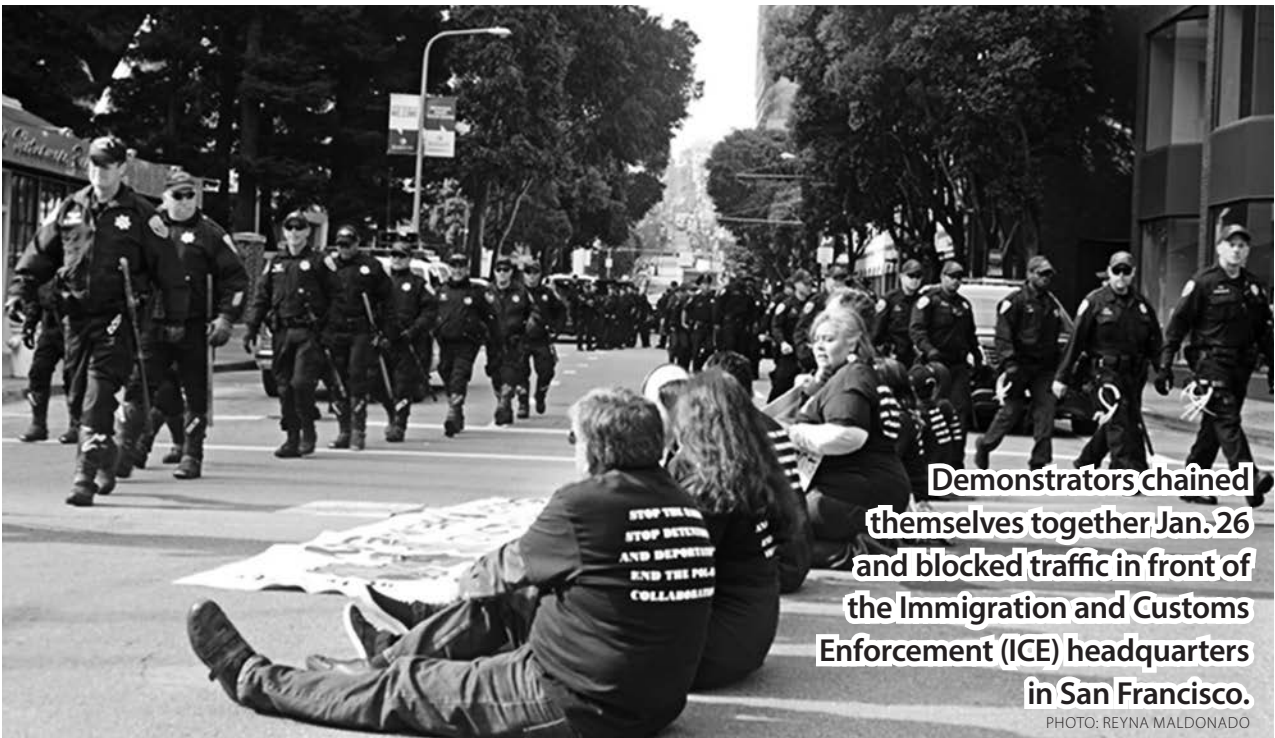
Factory or home raids are a possibility, with criminal charges of "identity theft."

No place is safe.

Millions are living right now in abject fear, with the anxiety of not knowing what will happen to them. I will not say they are cowering, because this is a brave and heroic community just by the nature of their getting to this country.

Things have horribly changed since Jan. 20. Not just

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Demonstrators chained themselves together Jan. 26 and blocked traffic in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters in San Francisco.

PHOTO: REYNA MALDONADO

Midwest socialist conference rocks

WW PHOTO

The Midwest Conference for Liberation and Socialism, hosted by Workers World Party and the Wayne State University chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, took place March 24-26 in Detroit.

The gathering drew mostly militant young revolutionaries from many states who want to not only overturn Trump, but the entire capitalist system he represents. Look for more coverage in future issues of Workers World.



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DETROIT'S LIGHTS OUT: Who's to blame

By Kris Balderas-Hamel
Roseville, Mich.

March 14 — I'm waiting and hoping that today is the day power is restored to our neighborhood and we can leave this awful motel. It's been seven days and six nights. In the meantime, I'm trying to put it all into perspective.

I'm very grateful a work check came through right before the outage. I'm grateful we were able to evacuate to a motel. I'm grateful my bird is OK, and that my spouse and I have retained some semblance of sanity during this trying time, although there have been a lot of tears, too, mostly on my part.

I'm grateful the home we love hasn't been broken into and we can eventually go home. I'm grateful that we have vehicles, not just one, but two.

I think of the Detroiters, the majority Black, many very poor and oppressed, who could not escape. I think of those people with babies and young children, and the elderly, and I wonder if there is a death toll because of this power outage. I know that in the communities people are looking out for each other, helping each other, doing what human beings naturally do when there is a catastrophe of any kind.

I think of how my mental health has been stretched to the limit and all the discomfort and misery of being confined to a small room. The smallest thing can be an occasion to burst into tears and fantasize about militant actions at DTE Energy Co. headquarters and doing what has to be done. Thankfully those episodes don't last for long — except for the militant actions part.

I think of the 245 million people around the world who are migrants, who are displaced from their homes or are refugees. Many have nothing but the clothes on their back. They are far from home, having fled U.S.-backed or U.S.-funded weapons of mass destruction and the ravaged conditions these caused.

I think about those who have died on the high seas or survived to enter a hostile country, a racist place with no welcome. They have come from places where electricity and the entire infrastructures have been destroyed thanks to U.S. imperialism and its NATO partners. Places



like Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria. They have lost everything.

I am wealthy as sh-t compared to them, and my income is pretty low.

The day of the massive windstorm, Wednesday, March 8, was International Working Women's Day and my spouse's birthday. The explosions I heard when the power went out were the transformers, DTE workers told us. The company says it was the high winds of up to 75 miles per hour that caused the outage to over 800,000 customers in southeastern Michigan, affecting millions of people.

Freezing temperatures added to the crisis people faced.

DTE and media are to blame

But the outage wasn't just caused by the wind. The outage was caused by the utility's refusal to upgrade and modernize its equipment, by its refusal to have underground wiring — even though the customers, of course, would be the ones paying for it — and by its refusal to reverse layoffs and hire more workers. If ever there was a need for work and workers, here it is!

But we don't live in a planned society that even considers such possibilities. The owners of these companies see no profits in upgrading power lines and equipment. They think: Why invest profits [money they stole from workers] in upgrades when we may have to wait years for a payoff? And what they really want is a high value on this year's bottom line.

After six full days, DTE Energy claims it has restored power to all but a few thousand people (most of them in Detroit). Workers and those who came from other states

Continued on page 4

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we're fighting for

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

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That's why for 59 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

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

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

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Philly self-defense routs fascist rally

By Alaina Pell
Philadelphia

What a few devout Trumpers hoped would be a strong Philadelphia debut of public support for their president backfired when multiple forces, notably a large “black bloc” waving Antifa (Anti-fascist) and communist flags, mobilized to confront a racist “Make America Great Again” rally on March 25.

The MAGA march, announced months ago, was organized by Trump supporters from counties outside Philadelphia and area police. Members of the neo-Nazi group American Vanguard were expected. A crowd of around 400 people was predicted, but turnout of MAGA supporters was 150 at its height.

The fascist rally was met with opposition from the moment it began, with more counterprotesters than MAGA attendees.

A strong crowd, including people from LGBTQ+ communities, pro-immigrant activists and women wearing pink “pussy” hats, surpassed the Trumpster numbers. When the MAGA rally began, the large black bloc surrounded the rally site, intent on disrupting the MAGA rally and preventing the spread of its message.

Anti-Trump forces grew to around 200 protesters with flags, road flares and smoke bombs. They took the streets around Independence Hall, circling the

MAGA rally. Organizers of the #DisruptMAGA action had called for people to bring “noisemakers, instruments, megaphones” and other tools to drown out the racist rally — a goal which protesters succeeded in meeting.

In addition to noise disruption, a primary Antifa goal was to impede and entirely block the Trumpers’ intended march, from Independence Hall to the Philadelphia Art Museum and back, where the racists intended to spread fear and normalize a fascist presence. #DisruptMAGA stated: “Let our rage send a message to all those who think the election of Trump means that we will lie down and die, and to all those unsure how to best stand against Trump and his minions.”

The anti-Trump demonstrators maintained a constant stream of anti-fascist chants and noise, as they lined the sidewalks with signs held high. As the black bloc surrounded the pro-Trump rally, other demonstrators, some of whom had harassed masked neo-fascists in the past, enthusiastically cheered the bloc, with some joining it.

When the MAGA rally tried to march, half of the group backed out due to the militant Antifa presence. Police told those remaining, including American Vanguard members in skull masks, that their march permit was revoked and the event was cancelled.

Black bloc activists, occupying areas in preparation to block the march, took to the streets to celebrate. They marched the MAGA-planned route up Market Street, chanting, “Whose march, our march! Whose city, our city!”; “F*ck Trump, F*ck Pence, organize for self-defense!”; and “When Philadelphia is under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!” They were met with cheers and raised power fists from people all along the route.

As the anti-Trump march rounded City Hall and headed up Franklin Parkway, organizers heard that some neo-Nazis had not disbursed and had started marching toward the Art Museum. Yet again Antifa prepared to block them.

When police tried to kettle the Antifa marchers, the bloc was joined by roughly 300 youth on bikes who were turning onto the parkway. The young riders cheered the marchers as they crossed through police lines with fists raised, shouting “F*ck the police!” As a result the bloc was able to safely reach Families against Fascism, a support event they had initiated on the parkway.

Near the Art Museum, anti-fascist protesters observed police buses, military police and vans marked “Marine Unit” filling the area. They were warned that police, who had halted the 50 remaining pro-Trump marchers at City Hall, were possibly about to mass-arrest the bloc

activists. In response, the bloc split and dispersed.

Back at City Hall, the heavily depleted MAGA force was escorted by police, seen chatting with the Trump racists. But the MAGA marchers continued to be harassed by an equal force of counterprotesters intent on “making fascists feel unwelcome in Philadelphia.” In the end, the MAGA march was ordered to disperse two hours earlier than scheduled.

While the ultimate goal of the #DisruptMAGA action was to prevent the MAGA march from occurring, the action reached a level of success higher than many had dared hope.

In addition to confining the march to less than half its original strength and route, public support for militant opposition to a fascist presence was unprecedented in Philadelphia.

When shown the choice between the right and the left, the masses overwhelmingly supported the left — from centrists to the people who encountered the march along the route, from the Philly kids on bikes to families gathered to protest with their children.

Should the Trumpers and their neo-Nazi allies return to Philadelphia in the coming months, they are sure to be met by an even larger force. They now know the people of Philadelphia will never welcome their presence. □

Santander Bank owes reparations to Puerto Rican people

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Santander Bank of Spain is deeply implicated in the current Puerto Rican economic crisis. On March 16, several activists from the Philadelphia-Camden Boricua Committee picketed the bank’s Erie Street branch in Philadelphia to hold Santander accountable. Protesters handed out fliers with the following key points on “Why Santander Bank owes reparations to the Puerto Rican people?” (Some points below from the activists’ information sheet were lightly edited.)

Why can’t Puerto Rico fix the problem? As a “territory” of the U.S., Puerto Rico is actually a colony with absolutely no sovereignty in any aspect — political, social, economic or trade. Therefore, it cannot restructure its debt! Everything the Puerto Rican government dictates can be dismissed by the U.S. Congress.

Current situation in Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico is immersed in the worst economic and social crisis in its history. There is a “public” debt of over \$73 billion that the government cannot pay because of a stagnant economy. Most of this illegitimate debt has been caused by municipal bonds that ambitious bondholders, like hedge fund firms from Wall Street, bought because the resulting huge profits (sometimes more than 700 percent of original value) were triple tax-exempt. Now these wealthy vultures want to get their promised profits by squeezing the working people of Puerto Rico, where poverty and hunger have increased because of the debt crisis.

On the island, 58 percent of children below the age of 18 live in poverty, and one out of every four people suffers from hunger or food insecurity. An average of 3,000 people — mostly youth — migrate every month to the U.S. because of the

lack of employment. The island Puerto Rican population is decreasing while U.S. billionaires move there to take advantage of tax-exempt laws. Puerto Rico is becoming a paradise for the U.S. rich, and the native population will become their servants. (U.S. Census Bureau 2009-10, Department of Agriculture)

To “fix” the lack of payment [of debt] by the Puerto Rican government, the U.S. Congress enacted the PROMESA law to impose a fiscal control board to act as a collection agency to pay bondholders. This board met March 13 to discuss a fiscal plan for Puerto Rico. The resulting austerity plan will be the destruction of Puerto Rico and its people. Among the measures are a 20 percent reduction in workdays, a 10 percent reduction in pensions, cuts to the public University of Puerto Rico’s budget, cuts to health care, school closings, etc.

Complicity of banks like Santander: Two of the fiscal control board members were not only executives of Santander Bank, but also presidents of the Development Bank of Puerto Rico, the entity that manages the government’s budget and bonds. These men, Carlos M. Garcia and José Ramón González, “built Santander Securities, the bank’s municipal bond business, which established itself as a leading bond underwriter coinciding with the growth in Puerto Rican public debt. This business brought in substantial fee income for the bank. ... GDB [the Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico] became increasingly reliant on questionable financial engineering techniques. ... Santander helped the Commonwealth [of Puerto Rico, i.e., the government] issue risky debt deals that relied on controversial features. These generated more fee income for Santander’s underwriting business.” (ti-

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE
Philadelphia:
March 16 protest
against Santander Bank’s
role in Puerto Rico’s
extreme fiscal crisis.



nyurl.com/lx7kq9s)

Puerto Rico’s economy has been developed to satisfy U.S. corporations’ interests. The only status that can help Puerto Rico become sovereign and build its future on behalf of its people is as an independent republic. That is why the U.S. has always persecuted and repressed the

people who defended independence for Puerto Rico and [tried to] make people believe that Puerto Rico can survive only with the “protection” of the U.S. But facts are there to see: After a century of U.S. intervention and occupation, Puerto Rico is worse off than ever and its people are in deep poverty! □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.
Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance LeiLani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights Imani Henry

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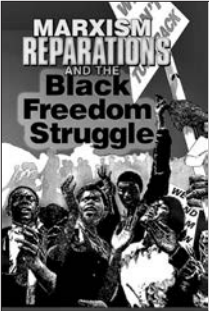
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Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation Consuela Lee

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

Available at Amazon and other bookstores.



Mass protest kills the anti-health-care bill

By Kathy Durkin

We did it. Resistance works. People across the country fought back against a draconian health care bill and stopped its passage. Through town hall meetings, creative street protests, social media, billboard ads, petitions, phone, email and letter writing campaigns, and more, people rebuffed the right wing’s attempt to undercut medical insurance for millions.

There was a countrywide rebellion against the “take from the poor and give to the rich” Trump/Ryan/Price “health care” bill.

A mood of fightback swept the country. In front of the White House, 24 people were arrested doing civil disobedience on March 23, representing the 24 million who would lose insurance under the administration’s bill. Marches and rallies took place in Washington that day as part of a national day of action by grassroots organizations and several labor unions.

Community and immigrant rights groups sent people from several states. Students, health care workers and people with disabilities demonstrated. Protests went on in 40 other cities, many outside offices of right-wing House members. Two days earlier, 300 people held a die-in outside multimillionaire Rep. Darrell Issa’s office in Vista, Calif.

The AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons) also had actions in Washington. National Nurses United organized against the proposed bill. Women’s advocacy and pro-choice organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America and UltraViolet all-out mobilized. Consumers, including seniors, community and civil liberties organizations, physicians, hospitals and many more forces took action.

Bonanza for the rich, disaster for millions

The right wing has sought to overturn the Affordable Care Act since the day it was signed on March 23, 2010. Politicians and right-wing media have slammed “Obamacare” every day since then. President Donald Trump declared war on the law and swore throughout his election campaign to “repeal and replace” it.

Due to the ACA, over 20 million people now have health insurance, many from Medicaid expansion in 31 states and

Washington, D.C., and from federal subsidies for low-income workers to purchase insurance. Officials in 19 Republican-led states still refuse to expand Medicaid. The ACA also mandated that private insurers cover essential health benefits. Every plan must include certain services, including maternity and newborn care, emergency services, substance abuse treatment and mammograms.

Enter House Speaker Paul Ryan in 2017. He, Trump and Tom Price, secretary of Health and Human Services, hurried to get the terrible American Health Care Act passed, before its costs and effects were analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office. But they weren’t fast enough.

The CBO said the law would offer billions of dollars in tax cuts to health insurers, pharmaceutical companies, investors and others, reaching nearly \$1 trillion in 10 years. The bill would have eliminated taxes that pay for subsidies for low-income workers. (aarp.org, March 10)

The Trump/Ryan/Price proposal was really an anti-health-care bill. With it, the CBO said, 14 million people would lose insurance in the first year, and a total of 24 million would lose coverage by 2026. Medicaid would lose \$880 billion over 10 years.

The AHCA was a declaration of war on workers, low-income and oppressed people, women and seniors.

Seniors would have been penalized since the AHCA would allow insurance companies to charge them up to five times as much for premiums as younger people. AARP said a 64-year-old earning \$15,000 a year might pay annual premiums of \$8,400. The bill would have weakened Medicare and shifted costs of Medicaid to the states, thus endangering every recipient. (NY Times, March 10)

This anti-woman bill would have defunded Planned Parenthood, which receives \$500 million a year in federal funds to provide essential preventive, screening and contraceptive services to millions of women.



PHOTO: BLUE TEXAS

This bill was so unpopular that a March 23 Quinnipiac University poll said it had only a 17 percent approval rating, and that one in seven U.S. residents said it would cause them to lose coverage.

‘Kill the bill’

Speaker Ryan pulled the bill on March 24, just before the House of Representatives was to vote, as there were not sufficient votes for passage. Trump had wanted the vote that day. Trying to win, the White House even promised the ultraright House “Freedom Caucus” (formerly the Tea Party) to scrap the ACA’s essential health benefits mandate, including coverage for maternity care and mammograms. A room full of male officials was ready to sacrifice women’s health care! Even then, the ultraconservatives were not appeased.

The Freedom Caucus opposed the bill because it didn’t go far enough to destroy every aspect of the ACA. Many Republican House members and all Democrats wouldn’t vote for it because they saw the mass mobilizing and felt the pressure from protesters demanding, “Kill the bill!” Some politicians anticipated long-lasting consequences if they voted for it; their constituents would never forget. Those whose states had expanded Medicaid were hard-pressed to vote for it.

The outcome is a victory for women, workers, seniors, low-income and Black, Brown and all oppressed communities. People around the country said a resounding “No!” to defunding Planned Parenthood, to tax cuts for billionaires while 24 million would lose health insurance, and to rolling back hard-won gains.

The Affordable Care Act is still a capitalist program whereby millions of people are required to purchase health insurance on the market, although many low-income workers receive federal subsidies to do so. However, 9.1 percent of the population still does not have insurance. (NY Times, Sept. 15) Some insurers charge premiums and deductibles that are too high for many consumers. Moreover, federal subsidies are jeopardized by a pending lawsuit brought by reactionaries.

‘Medicare for all’

The slogan “Medicare for all” is being raised again by the progressive movement pushing for a single-payer health insurance program. This would be much easier and actually less costly to administer and could potentially cover everyone in the U.S. The program would need some tweaks and additions, but it would be an improvement over the system of exorbitant for-profit health care and pharmaceuticals. This is worth fighting for and is possible under capitalism.

The fight for health care shows that the capitalist system needs to be replaced. Health care is a human right! It should be provided for everyone, not based on ability to pay and maximizing profits. Socialist Cuba ensures that medical care, including medications, is accessible to all of its people. No one is denied for lack of funds.

The fight is not over, but people are emboldened by this win. Neil Gorsuch, a big business ally, is Trump’s nominee for Supreme Court justice. HHS head Tom Price, who has jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid, has had a career of cutting both programs. He detests the ACA and vehemently opposes many insurance benefits, including access to free contraceptives for women through Medicaid and all private plans. Both Gorsuch and Price must be opposed.

This administration is out to roll back our rights. Tax reform and Trump’s pro-business, inhumane budget are on the horizon. Everyone must remain vigilant and ready to protest any attacks on essential government programs. The ruling class’s every blow must be opposed by a united fightback. □

DETROIT’S LIGHTS OUT: Who’s to blame

Continued from page 2

have done a great job under difficult conditions. Line workers, however, told us there are no plans to fix the outage on our street. The lines are fixed, but the transformers still don’t work.

The corporate-owned media have regurgitated DTE’s press releases, lying to the people about when their power will be restored. Not one reporter we contacted has had the guts to challenge this utility giant, although one courageous worker at a TV station gave us an inside number to humans at DTE.

Racism and rip-offs

The DTE corporate behemoth, which provides both electrical and natural gas power, had gross earnings of \$1.93 billion in 2016; its net income was \$866 million.

However, customers who lost refrigerators and freezers full of food, whose wa-

ter pipes froze and burst, who had to pay for housing and other food will receive a maximum of \$25 for their inconvenience. That’s only if their power was out a full five days. Everyone else can fend without that \$25.

DTE Energy is known to be a racist company. Many workers have sued their employer because of the hostile work environment, where they had to put up with heinous, racist acts or symbols, as well as acts of sexism and age discrimination.

The company is also anti-poor to the core, though every year the bosses claim to care about poor people who cannot pay their utility bills. But people can’t make a choice to keep one utility, because DTE has combined gas and electricity services.

Each winter DTE runs a charity fundraiser for itself called THAW — The Heat And Warmth fund. The bosses want

some poor people to contribute so that other poor people can receive those contributions from DTE and then give them back to DTE. This disgusting display of corporate welfare is broadcast annually on radio.

This is Detroit, an oppressed city in the richest country, destroyed by racism and avarice — of the banks, of the corporations, of a capitalist system that does not give a damn who lives or dies. In fact, this rapacious system would like to exterminate the entire working class, especially Black people, who are the fiercest fighters because they have faced the fiercest oppression in a society built on genocide and slavery.

DTE Energy must be forced to pay reparations to all the people who were most affected by the company’s latest outage.

Balderas-Hamel was able to return home the night of March 14.

Ida Gibbs Hunt and the Pan-African Movement

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The Pan-African Congress in Paris in 1919 saw participation by African-American women, including Addie Waites Hunton and Ida Gibbs Hunt, who delivered a paper there. (See workers.org, March 25, for article on Addie Waites Hunton.)

Ida Gibbs was born on Nov. 16, 1862, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. She later attended and completed her college education in 1884, earning a bachelor's and a master's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio. She became an instructor at the M Street High School (now called the Dunbar High School) in Washington, D.C., and then retired after marrying career diplomat William Henry Hunt in 1904.

Although she traveled with her spouse on his diplomatic assignments, Gibbs Hunt continued her activism in the areas of civil rights, women's affairs and Pan-Africanism. The Black Past website notes: "In 1905, she joined a handful of black women in founding the first Young Women's Christian Association for African Americans in Washington, D.C. She participated in the Niagara Movement, The Femmes de France, the Bethel Literary Society, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Washington Welfare Association, the

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Red Cross."

This biography continues: "[Hunt] wrote and gave speeches in support of peace, women's suffrage and civil rights for African Americans. ... [She] was the assistant secretary for the Second Pan-African Congress in Paris in 1919. She delivered a paper entitled 'The "Coloured" Races and the League of Nations' at the Third Pan-African Congress in London in 1923 and co-chaired the Conference's Executive Committee with W.E.B. Du Bois."

Hunt promoted her ideas internationally, and published many articles and reviews on cultural issues. She remained active in social justice organizations in the U.S. Ida Gibbs Hunt died in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 19, 1957.

The year 1919, when the second Pan-African Congress was held, was a tumultuous year for race relations in the U.S. Race riots occurred; the largest and most deadly took place in Chicago. African-American troops who had served in France were not about to suffer the same indignities as their ancestors. Out of the 1919 events came a plethora of political, cultural and literary outpourings, popularly known as the Harlem Renaissance.

By 1923, Addie Waites Hunton was focusing her attention on the world peace

movement, seeing a direct link between ending imperialist war and the national liberation of colonial territories and African Americans. Funding for the Pan-African movement was then largely carried out by the International Women's Circle for Peace and Foreign Relations, which Hunton was involved in.

Du Bois acknowledged in 1955 in "Pan-Africanism: A Mission in My Life," that "American Negro women revived the Congress idea and a fourth Pan-African Congress was held in New York [in 1927]." Thirteen countries were represented, including from Africa the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria. Mass participation at several venues was estimated at 5,000 people.

Women at forefront of struggles in Africa, U.S.

Women played an instrumental role in the formation of the Pan-African movement from the late 19th century through the national liberation struggles of the middle-to-late-20th century. In Ghana, South Africa, Egypt, Guinea, Algeria, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and other states. Women were at the forefront of the independence efforts in the areas of mass mobilization, political education, armed struggle and national reconstruction.



In the U.S., it was also the activities of such women as Mamie Till Mobley, Rosa Parks, Jo Ann Robinson, Ella Baker, Diane Nash, Fannie Lou Hamer, Septima Clark, Gloria Richardson and many others who provided the social impetus for the re-emergence of the Civil Rights and Black Power struggles of the 1950s and 1960s.

Since the 1960s and 1970s, consciousness about the essential role of women in popular movements and intellectual culture has grown immensely.

This review of women's philosophical and political contributions to the organizational origins of Pan-Africanism from the 1890s through the 1920s provides a glimpse of their significance. Much more work is needed by scholars, journalists and activists to uncover and expose this important history to wider audiences — including emerging generations of revolutionaries in Western industrialized countries and the broader world.

See related articles at workers.org in the "Women's Liberation" section.

African-American women pilots making history

By Dolores Cox

In the field of aviation, Bessie Coleman was a pioneer. In 1921, she was the first African-American woman to obtain a pilot's license — an international one — and fly a plane.

Coleman was born in 1892 in Atlanta, Texas, to sharecroppers whose parents had been enslaved. She was one of 13 children. The family lived in a one-room cabin. When Coleman was two years old, they moved to Waxahachie, Texas. Several years later, the father, who was also of Native ancestry, left and moved to an Oklahoma reservation to obtain the civil rights that were denied to Blacks and Native peoples in Texas.

In 1915, at age 23, Coleman moved to Chicago, where she began listening to and reading stories of World War I pilots. This sparked her interest in aviation. But because of racial and gender discrimina-

tion, no flight school in the U.S. would accept her.

Coleman moved to France where she completed her flight training and earned her pilot's license. She also gained further flying experience in Holland and Germany. She specialized in stunt flying and parachute jumps and performed aerial tricks.

Coleman bought an old plane, and while on a trial flight with the mechanic pilot, the plane dived and Coleman fell out of the cockpit before it crashed. She died April 30, 1926, at age 34, and received recognition as a hero after her death.

In 1997, Stephanie Johnson made history by becoming the first Black woman pilot for Northwest Airlines. Twenty years later, in 2016, she became the first Black woman captain for Delta Airlines.

Johnson says she was encouraged by a high school teacher to follow her dream of flying. There were no pilots in her life

growing up, she says, but for as long as she can remember she's been fascinated by airplanes. She studied flying while attending Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. Upon graduating, she became a flight instructor for Kent State's aviation program.

Johnson and Dawn Cook, an African-American First Officer pilot for Delta Airlines, made history on Feb. 26 after organizing a historic flight together. The two women piloted a Delta Airlines flight from Detroit to Las Vegas. Delta celebrated Johnson during Black History Month and honored both women during Women's History Month.

Johnson encourages young children to consider a career in aviation and has

worked with the Detroit Aviation Career Education Academy. She also served as director of the academy. She states, "I feel I have a great sense of responsibility to be a positive role model; that there were so few women in this profession, and too many women who still don't think of it as a career option." (Huffington Post, March 2)

Johnson adds, "When I was hired by Northwest Airlines, there were 12 African-American women airline pilots in the country at the major airlines, and I knew all of their names. ... One of the most rewarding parts of my career has been sharing my passion for aviation and exposing young people to the opportunities in the field." □

Cuban women meet in NYC



Below, Maritzel González-Quevedo



The International Working Women's Coalition hosted a reception and political discussion with two Cuban women revolutionaries at the Solidarity Center in New York City on March 21.

The honored guests were Alicia Campos Pérez, coordinator of the International Democratic Federation of Women (FDIM), and Maritzel González-Quevedo, an official for Foreign Affairs in the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

The FMC, which was founded by the late Vilma Espín in 1960, immediately following the victory of the Cuban revolution, is a member of the FDIM, an alliance of left-political women's organizations working for women's liberation.



WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

Left, Alicia Campos Pérez

Both speakers discussed the contributions that women have made throughout Latin America and the Caribbean — and especially under socialism in Cuba — in the struggle to further advance the liberation of women from the yoke of imperialism and capitalism.

— Report by Monica Moorehead



WW PHOTO: ED CHILDS

'Together We Rise! Global Women's Fightback vs. Trumpism' was the unifying theme of a powerful and uplifting International Working Women and Trans Women's Celebration held by the Boston Branch of Workers World Party and the Women's Fightback Network on March 24.

‘Love was in the air’

By Betsey Piette

International Working Women’s Month was celebrated Philadelphia style on March 24 with a special event honoring three Black women activist leaders — Pam Africa, Ramona Africa and Monica Moorehead. The “Tribute to Warrior Sisters of the Revolution” was held before a packed multigenerational gathering at the historic Church of the Advocate.

From start to finish, the event was a heartfelt celebration of the contributions to the struggle that the three women have made, and the respect people hold for them.

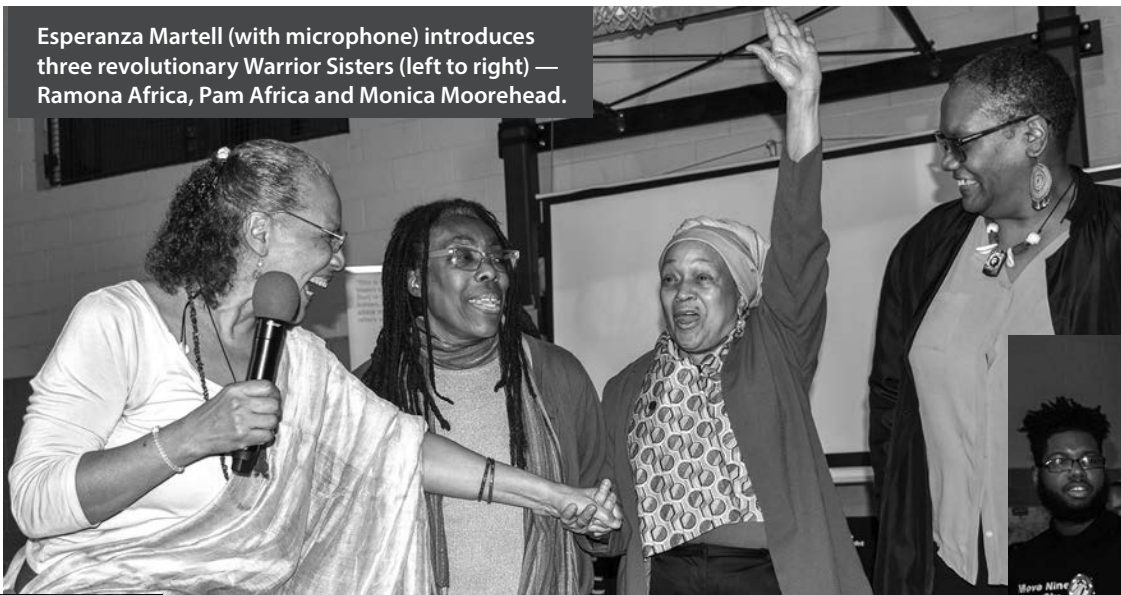
Cheryl Wright, who has worked with all three over the years doing solidarity work for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, chaired the program. As one event organizer commented, “Love was in the air!”

The formal program began with a short video of the three speaking to many rallies over the years in support of political prisoners, including Mumia and the MOVE 9. The video was prepared by Sue Harris of the Peoples Video Network.

Vocal performer Taina Asili, with La Banda Rebelde, sent a special musical tribute via a taped recording. Asili came into her own political activism through work with Pam and Ramona Africa.

A highlight of the program was a recorded audio message from Mumia Abu-Jamal comparing Ramona, Pam and Monica to the legendary Harriet Tubman, one of history’s greatest freedom fighters.

Esperanza Martell (with microphone) introduces three revolutionary Warrior Sisters (left to right) — Ramona Africa, Pam Africa and Monica Moorehead.



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

A TRIBUTE TO WARRIOR SISTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

Acknowledging there would be no month to celebrate without women who “gave birth to the world,” Mumia addressed each of the honorees on their entrance into activism and the historic events that formed and radicalized them. He outlined Ramona and Pam’s contributions to the MOVE struggle, and Monica’s leadership role in Workers World Party and the party’s contribution to organizing movements of resistance.



He concluded, “Who says revolutionary women don’t rock the world? Women build the world. They surely got a right to rock it!” (See full statement on this page.)

Several featured performers chose to give their tributes, not through talks, but songs. Lamont Lilly, Moorehead’s vice presidential running mate in WWP’s

2016 U.S. presidential campaign, surprised and awed the room with his baritone acappella song. Gwen Debrow, New York City activist for Mumia, and Basimah Mohammed Bey from the UNIA, followed suit.

Death row exoneree Ronald Kitchen, a member of the Chicago Death Row 10, also addressed the crowd.



Among the speakers were several younger Black women activists who spoke of being inspired by the three women and their leadership in the struggle for liberation. Shesheena Bray, with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, and Jasmine Peakes-Miles, from Philadelphia REAL Justice, shared the mike to give their tributes. New York community activist Esperanza Martell and Erica Mines, from Philadelphia’s REAL Justice, led the presentation of gifts to the three honorees.

The program included an inspiring musical tribute from acappella vocalist Dominique London, including a song by Nina Simone. The audience was captivated by an energetic and moving cultural performance by the world renowned Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble, whose members range from very young toddlers to seasoned adults. MOVE Organization youth closed the event with their performance groups RAW and LIFE. □

Mona, Pam & Monica: Harriet’s granddaughters

March, we are told, is Women’s History Month. We are here to celebrate the lives of several revolutionary women, but also to recognize a simple, undeniable truth: Without women, there would be no months to celebrate, for women gave birth to the world.

Harriet Tubman was one of the greatest freedom fighters in history, for she brought forth hundreds of souls from the prison house of slavery, bringing them north over the dreaded Mason-Dixon Line. And after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, bringing them to the far north of Canada.

I say that these three women — Mona, Pam and Monica — are like Harriet for they all fight for freedom almost every day, against great odds. And they keep on pushing — no matter what.

Ramona Africa was a young college student, trying to “learn the law” at Temple University. She was invited to come to City Hall, to actually see what went on in a MOVE trial. She was wholly unprepared for what she saw, for nothing she’d read in law books could explain the naked brutality of the law that she saw practiced in City Hall courtrooms.

She witnessed a railroading of MOVE men and women, and it turned her away from her chosen profession of lawyer. In short, what she saw MOVE members experience in pre-trial hearings and at trial repulsed her. Indeed, it radicalized her.

She entered court as a mild-mannered college student. What she saw and heard turned her into a committed revolution-

ary, Ramona Africa, MOVE member.

But that wasn’t all. As she came closer to MOVE, and the teachings of John Africa, and as she worked for the freedom of MOVE members, she didn’t know that the government was planning what they considered MOVE’s “final solution.”

On May 13, 1985, she found out. The world found out, when city, state and federal government agencies conspired to bomb MOVE from a helicopter.

When the fire had eaten its full, eleven men, women and children were either shot or burned to death. Their dogs were killed. An entire city block looked like Dresden, the eastern German city bombed in World War II.

Mona, burned badly on her arms, was one of two survivors of the firebombing in West Philadelphia. She was also the only person ever imprisoned for “riot.”

It’s fitting that she never believed in the law that she once studied.

She believed in revolution. She believes in it today.

Pam Africa was a light-hearted party girl until she met MOVE. They were neighbors of hers. She wasn’t really into them — until she saw them attacked by police. She followed her heart and warmed to them. The closer she got, the more she found herself targeted and threatened.

She would not ignore what she saw. She couldn’t! She didn’t run away. She moved closer to MOVE and to John Africa.

Pam Africa — guided by her powerful heart and the power of her love for MOVE people — became a MOVE person. MOVE



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Transcribed from the March 22 taped message from Mumia Abu-Jamal “from inside Prison Nation,” recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of prisonradio.org. The audio tape of Mumia’s talk can be accessed at tinyurl.com/lxvkdqw.

became her brothers and sisters, her family. They respected her fighting spirit so much that MOVE’s founder John Africa named her Minister of Confrontation.

She attended court hearings and was constantly faced with threats of violence by cops for her MOVE advocacy. In defense of others, she’s had her teeth knocked out, her leg broken. But she kept on scrapping.

She isn’t just a fighter. When she speaks, she sets crowds on fire. She is a master organizer. She gets them Ona Move!

For the young generation of activists, such as Black Lives Matter, she is known respectfully and affectionately as “Mama Pam.” She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. And like Harriet Tubman, her mind, her soul, her fist are stuck on freedom.

Monica Moorehead is a leading member of Workers World Party, a national Marxist collective. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, authors of the “Communist Manifesto,” wrote, “The Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things.”

It is a dictum that Monica, and her comrades, take to heart. They work with a wide range of people, trying to organize them into movements of resistance. From repression against labor unions to a new wave of women’s movements; from the scourge of mass incarceration, from the cancer of police repression against Black and Latino America, to the state terrorism encapsulated in the racist death penalty; from imperial wars in Iraq to the drug wars against innocents abroad, Monica

and her comrades have been there, joining with and giving voice to movements that seek to build new worlds.

Monica comes from a long line of resistance to racism and repression. She was born in Jim-Crow-era Alabama, the granddaughter of school teachers and daughter of two college professors. As a high school student and member of the school band, she caused a ruckus by refusing to play “Dixie.” As a young woman, she was a supporter of the Prisoner Solidarity Committee and sold copies of the Black Panther newspaper. Her parents were part of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Rev. Martin Luther King. Monica remembers her mother, a brilliant musician, being thrown out of a whites-only bathroom by cops.

From a youth of resistance to a life of resistance, that’s the story of Monica Moorehead. She is an editor of the revolutionary weekly, Workers World. She has co-authored and edited several books, including “Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle” and the reprint of “A Voice from Harper’s Ferry” by Black revolutionary Osborne Anderson, who accompanied John Brown on his raid on a federal armory to arm Black slaves. In 2000, she helped organize a historic Free Mumia rally at Madison Square Garden, and in 2016 she ran for U.S. president on the Workers World ticket.

Who says revolutionary women don’t rock the world?

Women build the world. They surely got a right to rock it!

Harriet’s granddaughters — Mona Africa, Pam Africa and Monica Moorehead.

PART 1

Ramona Africa former U.S. political prisoner, speaks on Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Lamont Lilly

Former U.S. political prisoner Ramona Africa is the Minister of Communication for the MOVE Organization and a Philadelphia-based organizer with the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. She is also the only living survivor of the 1985 MOVE bombing, when the FBI and Philadelphia police dropped two C-4 bombs on her organization's home, killing 11 people. Read along as we discuss the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the conditions of U.S. prisons and Donald Trump.

Lamont Lilly: Ramona, thank you for sharing your time with me today. Current U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is an international symbol of people's resistance. His writing and journalism have traveled worldwide. Not only was he a founding member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party, Mumia was also an early supporter of the MOVE organization. (See "We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party," by Mumia Abu-Jamal) What does Mumia mean to MOVE? What does he mean to the city of Philadelphia?

Ramona Africa: Mumia began his journalistic career writing for the Black Panther Party newspaper at 14 or 15 years old. When it came to issues of the people,

Mumia always covered these issues of concern. When he heard about the MOVE organization and began covering our demonstrations and court cases, Mumia would actually come to the prison and interview MOVE members right there.

Mumia's the only journalist that consistently and accurately reported on MOVE — the truth, I mean. And because he was telling the truth about MOVE and exposing what the system was doing, not only to MOVE, but to poor people, people of color, and even poor whites, he earned the scorn of the Philadelphia police department and [Mayor] Frank Rizzo. (See tinyurl.com/ly3w5b6) He earned the scorn of city officials. He lost jobs.

Mumia used to work for National Public Radio. He worked for a local radio station here in Philadelphia called WBAF. He worked for the Philadelphia Tribune, the first Black publication in this country, I believe. But he ended up becoming a freelance journalist because the people he was working for were trying to make him compromise and tell the system's story, and not the truth. Mumia would not compromise. He refused. He ended up becoming a freelance journalist and driving a cab part time to supplement his income and take care of his family. That's how he happened to be at 13th and Locust streets on Dec. 9, 1981.

LL: What happened on Dec. 9, 1981? That particular evening is what led to Mumia's incarceration. Can you give us some details on that?

RA: Mumia was working at night, and on this particular night he was letting a fare off at 13th and Locust streets. He happened to see police lights circling. Being a journalist, he wanted to see what was going on. He went over to where the police vehicle was and saw this white cop beating this Black man. He went over a little closer to see about the brother, and to see if he could stop the cop from beating this man.

Mumia then realized that the man who was being beaten by the cop was his own brother, Billy. So, Mumia tried to intervene and ended up being shot by the cop. Shortly after that, someone shot the cop. Of course, they're saying that Mumia did it — but the conflicts here are unquestionable.

They said Officer Daniel Faulkner was shot with a .44-caliber gun. That's what they said. Mumia was licensed to carry a gun because he had been robbed twice while driving his cab. He was driving the night shift, but Mumia's gun was a .38-caliber. Witnesses said that the person who shot the cop ran down the street and down this alleyway. Mumia was shot sitting on the curb. Shot! He didn't run anywhere. But when they realized who



PHOTO: DOMINIQUE DIPRIMA

they had — as in Mumia Abu-Jamal — who was right there in their grasp, they didn't look for anything else and didn't want to hear anything else. This was their opportunity to get Mumia Abu-Jamal [former Black Panther], which the Philadelphia police department wanted to do for a long time.

People should know that a man named Arnold Beverly came forward and confessed to shooting Daniel Faulkner. He gave a whole résumé about other cops who had been killed and everything. The courts said he wasn't credible. But how could they know that? They never let him come into court and testify. They said he "wasn't credible" and never even entered his confession. □



By L.T. Pham
Durham, N.C.

One year ago on March 23, the North Carolina General Assembly called a special session to fast track HB2, a bill that would be called the "most anti-trans bill" in the country. It was moved through committee hearings and both House and Senate votes in less than 12 hours.

The resistance that followed, led by Black and Brown trans and queer youth, students and communities across the state, will go down in history. Within a day, over 1,000 people from across the state rallied at then-Governor Pat McCrory's mansion in Raleigh to shame him and all the politicians who dared to come after the humanity and livelihood of trans people.

Trans and queer people of color called for our own People's Special Session to lift up the communities threatened by HB2 and address other pressing issues, including health care, jobs and safety from police brutality. The NC Queer and Trans People of Color Coalition said in a statement:

"The General Assembly and Governor McCrory chose to criminalize trans

and gender nonconforming children and youth, and to scapegoat trans women and other trans people for rape by passing NC HB 2. House Bill 2 bars city and county governments from raising their municipal minimum wage, as well as prohibits anti-discrimination policies that account for gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation. Lawmakers were given only five minutes to review the bill and it passed within a 12-hour period without a single trans person of color being allowed to speak.

"This bill reinforces the school-to-prison pipeline that trans and gender nonconforming students of color already face by making their choice of toilet grounds for suspension or arrest.

"This bill rolls back decades of hard-won progress, and will harm our whole state. It undermines municipal democratic control, advancements in anti-discrimination policy, and further prohibits wage increases. This is a direct assault on working families and particularly working women of color who are most likely to be paid poverty wages. LGBTQ folks of color are workers, and we are worth more!"

Five trans and queer people who com-

mitted civil disobedience were arrested. It was only the beginning.

What we won

McCrory came under fire from many. The National Basketball Association relocated its All-Star Game. PayPal released a statement boycotting North Carolina. The Department of Justice threatened to withdraw federal funding from the state if the General Assembly did not move to repeal the law.

The actions of these corporations and bourgeois government entities, while somewhat superficial and full of contradictions, reflected the tremendous power exerted by trans and queer people of color coming together with others to protest heinous acts of the state.

We were able to galvanize thousands of people into action. Demonstrations, student occupations, forums and community trainings sprung up across the state. People from Fayetteville to Boone rose up to protest the bigoted law. Thousands convened again at the state Capitol on April 25, demanding the full repeal of HB2.

While the scapegoating of trans people was glaringly obvious, organizers and

The struggle grows and continues

March 24, 2016: Protests erupt against 'Hate Bill 2' in Raleigh, N.C. Queer and trans organizers of color take the street and chain themselves together in resistance.

WW PHOTO

community members fought to ensure that the story being told about HB2 wasn't just about bathrooms but went deeper. HB2 was a classic divide-and-conquer strategy to isolate trans people, as if trans people were not also people of color, low-wage workers, women or sexual violence survivors. We had an obligation to each other to tell the full story.

The fight continues

McCrory's special session came after the Charlotte City Council passed an anti-discrimination ordinance that would have protected trans people accessing public facilities. McCrory and the Charlotte mayor engaged in a political circus that didn't actually address the harm caused by HB2. They got the Charlotte City Council to repeal its anti-discrimination ordinance in "exchange" for a repeal of HB2. To no surprise, that didn't happen and now there are no legal ordinances to protect trans people in Charlotte.

United Electrical Workers Local 150, the union representing public service workers in North Carolina, continues to bring attention to the attacks on workers embedded in HB2. Recently, the union organized a rally at the state Capitol demanding the state overturn HB2 and restore labor rights in the cities.

In last November's election, McCrory was ousted as governor and replaced by

Continued on page 8

David Rockefeller: The working-class truth

By Stephen Millies

The capitalist media proclaimed billionaire banker David Rockefeller, who died March 20, to be a “great philanthropist.” None of the obituaries mentioned this rich monster croaked one day before the 57th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre.

At least 69 South Africans protesting the apartheid government’s pass laws were murdered by police on March 21, 1960, in Sharpeville Township. Capitalist investors, fearing a revolution, began pulling their money out.

Already the vice chair of Chase Manhattan Bank, David Rockefeller came to apartheid’s rescue by arranging emergency loans. The “great philanthropist” gave apartheid rule another 30+ years.

Rockefeller power also helped crush African freedom in the Democratic Republic of Congo. President Eisenhower ordered the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the country’s democratically elected leader. (“King Leopold’s Ghost” by Adam Hochschild)

Lumumba was overthrown on Sept. 14, 1960, less than three months after Congo’s independence. He was tortured and then shot on Jan. 17, 1961. His body was thrown in an acid vat owned by Union Minière, the Belgian mining giant that exploited Congo’s tremendous mineral wealth. The Rockefellers owned a chunk of Union Minière. (“The Assassination of Lumumba” by Ludo De Witte)

Rockefeller diplomacy

David Rockefeller was the last surviving grandchild of the world’s first billionaire, John D. Rockefeller. The family made its colossal fortune off the Standard Oil trust whose descendants include Exxon Mobil and Chevron.

Big Oil runs the U.S. government, and the Pentagon is its protection agency. The



Sharpeville massacre, South Africa, 1960.

U.S. dollar floats upon almost \$1 trillion in world oil exports, nearly all traded in dollars. The Koch brothers can only dream of having Rockefeller power.

The State Department has been virtually owned by the Rockefellers. Former Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes fought for Rockefeller oil interests against Great Britain as Secretary of State in the early 1920s before being put on the Supreme Court as Chief Justice.

John Foster Dulles was managing partner of the Rockefellers’ favorite law firm — Sullivan & Cromwell — before becoming Eisenhower’s Secretary of State during the Cold War. John’s brother Allen Dulles was the CIA director who put the Shah back in power as Iran’s dictator via the spy agency’s “Operation Ajax.”

Dean Rusk was the Rockefeller Foundation’s president before promoting the Vietnam War as Secretary of State in the 1960s. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger transferred secret State Department files to the 6-square-mile Rockefeller estate in

Westchester County during Watergate.

So it’s no accident that Trump’s Secretary of State is the former CEO of Exxon-Mobil, Rex Tillerson.

Unmasking the myths

While David Rockefeller ran Chase Manhattan, nicknamed the “oil bank,” his older brother Nelson was governor of New York and later U.S. vice president. Nelson Rockefeller paved the way for imprisoning over 2 million poor people with his drug laws. His state police massacred the Attica prison inmates on Sept. 13, 1971.

Massacres and museums are Rockefeller specialties. David Rockefeller was born in 1915, the same year Rockefeller gunmen killed five striking workers at the Standard Oil refinery in Bayonne, N.J.

The year before, dozens of family members of coal miners striking against Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron were killed by National Guard and company thugs in the Ludlow Massacre.

David Rockefeller grew up in the

eight-story Rockefeller mansion in Manhattan. It was torn down to make way for the Museum of Modern Art sculpture garden, which was nurtured by David’s mother, Abigail Aldrich Rockefeller.

Meanwhile, Nelson Rockefeller had Diego Rivera’s classic mural commissioned for Rockefeller Center destroyed in 1934 because it showed Marx, Engels and the leaders of the Russian Revolution.

Yet John Birch Society members believe the Rockefellers are communists. The Museum of Modern Art naturally featured the great communist painter Pablo Picasso, whose painting of the fascist bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War was long displayed there.

Actually the Rockefellers aren’t even liberal. David Rockefeller supported the reactionary Manhattan Institute that defends killings by police.

Some bigots even claim the Rockefellers are Jewish, which isn’t true. John D. Rockefeller was a Baptist, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. founded New York’s Riverside Church.

The Rockefellers are today the biggest name in New York area real estate. David Rockefeller called for constructing the World Trade Center back in 1948.

The family’s Chase Manhattan merged with Morgan Guaranty to form J.P. Morgan Chase, the world’s most powerful bank with over \$2 trillion in assets.

All Rockefeller wealth is from the surplus value produced by workers all over the world. “Surplus value” is that part of the value produced by the working class that’s stolen by the boss class — commonly called profit.

Founded with this surplus value, Rockefeller University is one of the largest medical research centers. But socialist Cuba has a lower infant mortality rate than capitalist United States, whose health care system is all about making profits. □

HB2 one year later The struggle grows and continues

Continued from page 7

Democrat Roy Cooper, who promised a full repeal of HB2. While the repeal has not yet happened, McCrory’s loss in the gubernatorial race shows the power of trans and queer people to influence the political landscape. The resistance to HB2 exposed the deeply rooted bigotries of McCrory and his General Assembly whose reactionary anti-trans, anti-worker and anti-poor policies date back to before HB2.

Trump can’t change things; only we can

The struggle against HB2 began as racist, misogynist Donald Trump was vying with warmonger Hillary Clinton to become commander in chief. This makes both the passage of HB2 and the resistance that followed all the more significant.

Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg

Rainbow Solidarity documents revolutionary Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes. This ground-breaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of persecution and exploitation of homosexuality. Rainbow Solidarity answers the demonization of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington and the CIA, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

Available at major booksellers online

Now the Trump administration has revoked the section in Title IX safeguarding trans students from discrimination. The reality for many trans youth, under any administration, has been grim and full of harassment and violence.

So far in 2017, nearly 10 trans women have been murdered by vigilantes — the majority being Black trans women who experience disproportionate rates of homelessness, joblessness and violence from the state and its extrajudicial bodies.

While Trump presents new challenges for our movement, the position from which he governs and the conditions that gave rise to him are not new. We should rapidly respond to the attacks under this new administration while never forgetting that capitalist democracy could not protect trans students or Black trans women; capitalist democracy provided no protection from the HB2 bill; capitalist democracy has allowed the bourgeoisie to take advantage of contradictions within the working class to further its profits and political power.

That said, capitalism is crumbling internally. The actions of the Trump administration show that the profit-hungry ruling class will use extreme and bigoted measures to win over desperate workers whose economic insecurity makes them vulnerable to reactionary demagoguery.

Building our class struggle

Many tremendous lessons have emerged since HB2 was passed in North Carolina. First and foremost, the South will continue to live up to its legacy of

struggle and resistance, forged by the Civil Rights and Student Sit-In movements, the environmental justice movement along the coast of North Carolina and the massive Charlotte Uprising against police and state violence in 2016. “As goes the South, so goes the country” remains true, whether it’s to the reactionary right or the revolutionary left.

Second, LGBTQ people are on the frontlines of every struggle in the U.S. This did not start or end with HB2.

During the Charlotte Uprising and the Black Lives Matter movement, trans and queer people led the demonstrations that won the release of the video footage showing the police shooting of Keith L. Scott and continued the jail and legal support for hundreds of freedom fighters facing state repression.

It was trans and queer people who initiated the first North Carolina solidarity caravans to Standing Rock to protest the pipeline. Now, as immigrants across the country face raids and checkpoints, trans and queer people are taking urgent action to organize a radical response that throws no one under the bus. The leadership of trans and queer people must not be underestimated, nor should the attempts of LGBTQ organizers to build across identities within our class be taken lightly.

As repressive attacks intensify against Black people, immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, women, and other workers and oppressed people, we have a duty as organizers and revolutionaries to intervene in meaningful ways: meeting our class where it is and pushing to elevate its

consciousness; recognizing that hundreds of thousands of people are being pushed into action like never before; supporting the leadership of the most oppressed; not relegating the struggle against sexism, racism, homophobia or transphobia to secondary status, while also remembering that there are only two sides in this struggle — the multinational, revolutionary working class against the ruling class.

Our side is the working class. None of the contradictions within our class are irreconcilable; we must struggle to unite our class across identity, geography and experience. We cannot be idle while the ruling class attempts to paint different sectors of the working class as each other’s enemies. If we do not take responsibility for our class, reactionary and opportunistic forces like the Democratic and Republican parties will attempt to divert its revolutionary potential into yet another election cycle, and the workers and oppressed people will be sold out yet again for the benefit and interests of the rich.

Many more HB2s are on the horizon. We must believe that we will win and fight accordingly. Across our movement, workers and oppressed people need each other now more than ever. Our sights should be set on unity, solidarity and rejection of bourgeois politics that divert our movement from naming capitalism as the real enemy to us all.

Black trans women matter! Protect trans youth! Black Lives Matter! Indigenous sovereignty now! Stop the ICE raids! End the attacks on Muslims! Fight for revolutionary socialism! □

U.S. war crimes escalate in Syria, Iraq

By Deirdre Griswold

The Democrats in Congress and much of the capitalist media have made a big show of their opposition to President Trump’s reactionary domestic agenda. But they are noticeably quiet when it comes to his moves to shower even more money on the Pentagon while ramping up U.S. military intervention, especially in the already war-torn countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

Trump’s proposed budget, which would slash funding for almost all essential government programs, from environmental protection to the National Institutes for Health, would raise the money going to the military by another \$54 billion annually, for a total of \$639 billion. Trump also announced that he will nominate a Boeing executive, Patrick M. Shanahan, for deputy secretary of defense.

Leading “defense” stocks have already risen by 20 percent this year, anticipating the juicy contracts to be coming their way. It’s “Christmas-come-early,” wrote one investment firm. (profitconfidential.com) The chief financial analyst for mon-eymorning.com says that “war and terrorism” are “all growth industries.”

At the same time, the Trump administration is brushing aside much of the authority that the elected civilian government is supposed to exercise over the

generals. It says the White House will dispense with “micro-managing” military operations. This translates to escalating U.S. war.

Spreading carnage in Syria

The results have already proven deadly, especially in Syria, which has been battling a combination of forces intent on “regime change.” The U.S. has promoted and armed what it calls the “rebels,” in an ill-concealed effort to pull down the independent Syrian government and replace it with a weak puppet state, as it did in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

On March 17, Israel, which receives \$3.1 billion from the U.S. each year, bombed a Syrian military site near Palmyra, despite having professed neutrality in the war against Syria.

On the same day, U.S. planes unleashed “a barrage of missiles and bombs” on a mosque in the Syrian village of Al Jinah in Aleppo Province. (New York Times, March 18) The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that 49 people were killed in the attack, which came right after evening prayers. The Pentagon claimed the victims were al-Qaida operatives, but local people hotly disputed that.

On March 19, just two days after the U.S. bombed the mosque, fighters described as “a mix of Islamist rebel groups

and hard-line Qaida-linked jihadists” seized an industrial area on the outskirts of Damascus, the Syrian capital. (NY Times, March 22)

On March 21, some 400 U.S. Marines and Army Rangers, backed by artillery and attack helicopters, began a major operation to take the city of Raqqa, which has been under the control of the Islamic State group (IS). “It was the first time that the United States had carried out an air assault in Syria in its campaign against the Islamic State, and the mission, which began Tuesday, reflected the leeway the Trump administration has given its commanders to carry out operations without prolonged review in Washington,” wrote the March 23 New York Times. “As the operation unfolded, Syrian state television and local residents asserted that at least 30 Syrian civilians were killed in an airstrike that hit a school where they had taken shelter.”

The U.S. is in Syria totally illegally, under the false pretense of fighting “terrorism,” even as it collaborates through a secret CIA program with groups it has admitted are terrorist. The Syrian government has not asked Washington for help in dealing with IS. On the contrary, it wants the U.S. out so it can restore peace and sovereignty to the country.

The U.S. and its allies, like Saudi Arabia and the NATO powers that partici-

pated in the invasion of Libya, have made the entire region a living hell. Millions have become refugees, and not a day goes by without more atrocities.

For example, on March 17, a Saudi military helicopter opened fire on a boat full of Somali refugees off the coast of Yemen, killing more than 30 migrants, including children. The Saudi military, using U.S. warplanes and electronic guidance, has been carrying out a devastating war since 2015 in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world.

The government of Iraq has charged that U.S. airstrikes on the city of Mosul killed as many as 200 people in mid-March. “If confirmed, the series of airstrikes would rank among the highest civilian death tolls in an American air mission since the United States went to war in Iraq in 2003,” wrote Tim Arango and Helene Cooper. (NY Times, March 25)

These monstrous war crimes have enraged many, many people, especially those who identify with the countries under attack and their religion. It is the warmakers in Washington, London and Paris who bear the responsibility for any desperate acts of retaliation that follow.

The best way to prevent future tragedies is to wage a vigorous, unrelenting campaign to end these horrible wars and make the profiteers pay reparations for their crimes. □

Cuba Solidarity conference pushes actions

By Cheryl LaBash
New York

Supporters of revolutionary Cuba gathered at Fordham University Law School here on the weekend of March 24-26 to demand an end to all U.S. economic, financial and travel sanctions against the socialist island.

The National Conference for the Full Normalization of U.S.-Cuba Relations also demanded, through plenaries and workshops, that the U.S. get out of Guantanamo, an illegally occupied part of Cuba where the Pentagon imprisons and tortures its opponents, and stop all regime change programs against Cuba.

In opening remarks, Ike Nahem from the New York/New Jersey CubaSi! Coalition called for a moment of silence to honor people’s lawyer Lynne Stewart and Cuba’s historic leader Fidel Castro, who both died recently.

Standing ovations greeted two heroes at the conference: Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda and Andres Gomez from the Antonio Maceo Brigade. Gomez has organized support for the Cuban revolution in Miami, a stronghold of often violent counterrevolutionaries. Underscoring the international scope of the conference, Canadian Network on Cuba co-chair Isaac Saney and other Canadians participated.

Featured speakers included many well-known Cubans. Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Cuba’s ambassador to the United Nations, led the delegation from the Cuban U.N. Mission in New York. Representatives from the North American department of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) included its director, Sandra Ramirez, and Yanela González.

A special participant from Cuba was Miguel Barnet, a revered writer on the history of race in Cuba, president/founder of Cuba’s Union of Writers and Artists,

Sandra Ramirez, ICAP



WW PHOTOS: BRENDA RYAN

Andrés Gómez, right



Rafael Cancel Miranda, left

PHOTO: JON FLANDERS

Juanita Young



Gerardo Hernandez

PHOTO VIA YANELA GONZALEZ FACEBOOK



Yanela González, ICAP

PHOTO: JON FLANDERS

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Ambassador Anayansi Rodríguez



PHOTO VIA YANELA GONZALEZ FACEBOOK

Saturday plenary listens to Newark, N.J., Mayor Ras Baraka.

and author of “Biografía de un cimarrón” (“Biography of a Runaway Slave”). A delegation from the Federation of Cuban Women and the Women’s International Democratic Federation participated in plenary discussions and workshops.

Unfortunately, representatives of the Union of Young Communists and the Cuban Workers Central Union had received their U.S. visas too late to attend.

‘What more can we do?’

In the opening plenary Sandra Ramirez of ICAP summarized the tasks before the conference in two questions: “Why is this meeting so important?” and “What more can we do in solidarity with Cuba?”

Ramirez emphasized the importance of “an inclusive solidarity movement

where unity prevails. Those who respect the right of self-determination of the Cuban Revolution, respect our people and our sovereignty, should be welcome in the solidarity network. The diversity of sectors, background, ages and cities is a way to strengthen the movement and open possibilities of reaching areas that have had almost no contact with Cuba.”

She stressed that the campaign to lift the blockade must be focused inside the United States because that is who has imposed the blockade. “Cuba has not imposed any blockade or restriction policies on any country in the world,” she added. “We should multiply the demand to return to Cuba the territory illegally occupied by the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo, to denounce the illegal radio transmissions to Cuba and end the

promotion of regime change programs aimed to promote subversive actions in Cuba.”

Ramirez spoke of the Days of Action Against the Blockade to take place in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11-16, emphasizing that while the U.S. blockade is the main obstacle to Cuba’s development, it also has consequences for people in the U.S.

Radio, television, print media and social networks like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and blogs can counter the media campaign against Cuba and, she added, “should attract young people to this movement, because their fresh ideas will help us multiply the experience you all have accumulated. But we should speak their language and use their codes on

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Why is Colin Kaepernick unemployed?

Super Bowl LI occurred less than two months ago on Feb. 5 and already there is much talk in the sports world about which quarterbacks are available for the upcoming 2017-18 National Football League season. One of those quarterbacks is Colin Kaepernick, who recently opted out of his contract with the San Francisco 49ers to become a free agent.

Kaepernick, who is African-American, took a heroic stance last season when he protested during the playing of the national anthem to bring worldwide attention to police brutality and other forms of U.S. racist oppression. Kaepernick also stated that there was no fundamental difference between Trump and Clinton when it came to the elections.

His action of taking a knee drew both admiration among other athletes

and wrath, especially among NFL owners. While lesser talented quarterbacks have already been reassigned, Kaepernick hasn't received one offer as of now. Many prominent people are asking: Has Kaepernick been labeled a "distraction" because of his political stance or because he was on a poor football team?

It is no secret that some of the NFL owners, many of whom are billionaires, have expressed political hostility toward Kaepernick and view him as a social pariah. Some are outright Trump supporters like Robert Kraft, the owner of the New England Patriots.

Filmmaker Spike Lee, an avid sports fan, stated on his Instagram account after having lunch with Kaepernick, "How Is It That There Are 32 NFL Teams And Kap Is Still A Free Agent? WTF. Smells

MAD Fishy To Me, Stinks To The High Heavens... What Crime Has Colin Committed? Look At The QB's Of All 32 Teams. This Is Some Straight Up Shenanigans, Subterfuge, Skullduggery And BS." (March 13)

The Undeclared, an online sports ESPN magazine, printed an article from Bomani Jones, a Black ESPN commentator, titled "Colin Kaepernick is called a distraction, but from what?" Jones states in defense of Kaepernick, "But let's stop pretending teams are that afraid of 'distractions.' Don't forget the New York Giants, one of the 'classy' organizations, held on to a kicker [Josh Brown] embroiled in controversy after abusing his wife until the story got too big to ignore. [University of Oklahoma's] Joe Mixon's incidence of violence against a woman,

captured on video, will hang over the rest of his life, and some team will happily take him at a discounted price in the 2017 NFL draft." (March 27)

And then there is Johnny Manziel, the former Cleveland Browns quarterback, a known abuser of women as well as drugs and alcohol. Manziel is now being considered as the backup for the New Orleans Saints lead quarterback, Drew Brees, who openly criticized Kaepernick for his protest.

Kaepernick has stated that he will end his protest for the upcoming season. This, however, does not matter to those influential bosses who neither forgive nor forget athletes like Kaepernick whose actions they know will continue to resonate within growing movements for many years to come. □

Unite on May Day: Stop war on migrants

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for undocumented workers, but for all workers.

If ever there was a need for a global women's fightback it is now! Cis and trans women must work to elevate our struggle and escalate the movement a hundredfold.

Racism and big business in war on migrants

The Trump cabal is working 24/7 to shape policy in their image, push it far to the right and undo all the gains that workers and the oppressed have made. Social Security, health care and environmental legislation are all on the chopping block. We must fight to keep what we won — and demand more.

Under the Democratic administration of Barack Obama, over 2.5 million workers were deported, more than under any other U.S. president.

Trump's policies, however, are on steroids. His unholy alliance with white supremacists, extreme racists and reactionaries has unleashed terror.

One goal is to drive migrant workers further underground, to live in the shadows, more and more susceptible to super-exploitation.

The Trump cabal has waved a red flag in front of ICE, an already angry bull, and incited them to go after migrant workers with a hatred of the oppressed and a desire to "make America great again" — in other words, make America white.

As racist police occupy and terrorize Black people and other communities of color, ICE agents are boldly and viciously carrying out roundups of undocumented and even documented workers.

The Latinx, Asian, Arab, Caribbean, African and Muslim communities are under siege!

The extra oppression of anti-Blackness also hits the immigrant community. The Black Alliance for Just Immigration states: "Black immigrants are much more likely than nationals from other regions to be deported due to a criminal conviction." (stateofblackimmigrants.com)

Trump loves to paint a picture that they are going after hardened criminals, as if immigrants are the most violent of all. That is a boldface lie. ICE is treating the civil violation of being in the U.S. without papers as a felony criminal offense. It is a

civil offense.

Being forced to use false Social Security numbers to work is treated like a criminal conviction. But the image is that migrants are going around raping and murdering. This is Trump's Willie Horton.

This chilling terror over the migrant community is big business for the prison-industrial complex.

Two companies that have rightfully earned the hatred of the anti-mass-incarceration movement, CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America) and GEO Group, operate for-profit prisons and immigration detention centers in many states and for the federal government.

Between October 2015 and September 2016, over 350,000 undocumented people were detained — a number that will dramatically rise.

As the New York Times states: "The worse the news for immigrants, the better for the two companies. When a member of the Trump administration issues a memo or executive order, gives a speech or tweets about the crackdown on immigrants, shares of the two companies rise: Since the election, CoreCivic's stock price has climbed 120 percent, and Geo's has gained 80 percent." (March 10)

This war on migrants is profitable. And it is worldwide.

'Unity is most urgent'

The United Nations Refugee Agency reported in 2016 that the deaths of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea hit a record high. According to the U.N., almost 4,000 lives have been lost. But advocates believe that as many as 20,000 people have died at sea in the last two decades!

Many of the dead are from Eritrea, Libya, Tunisia and Somalia, and an increasing number are from Syria as a result of ongoing U.S. intervention there.

The only ones to blame for this mass tidal wave of migration are U.S. and British imperialism, which has created the conditions for people to leave their homelands. Until imperialist policies are overturned, workers will be forced to migrate.

In January 2016, Europol, the European Union's criminal intelligence agency, reported that at least 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees had disappeared in Europe.

How do you lose 10,000 children? You don't! This is orchestrated by human traffickers in complicity with law enforcement.

If they had been 10,000 white children — not Syrian or African or Middle Eastern kids — there would be a worldwide outcry demanding they be found. Now the only cry is from all those mothers and fathers who will never see their children again.

Trump's entire presidential campaign was predicated on law and order. Building that "pinche" (f*cking) wall and banning Muslims are the cornerstones of his administration. Both are racist, hateful and anti-worker.

Trump's number one goal is to divide the working class. Unity is most urgent to fight back against the growing assaults on all people.

The Trump administration's wildly ramped-up war drive threatens people around the world — more than either Reagan or Bush. It is a diversion away from the struggle for working-class unity.

Trump's budget proposal deeply slashes every federal agency or program that serves workers and the poor, from Meals on Wheels to winter heating aid to job training — all to pay for a whopping 10 percent increase in the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, Trump has already sent more ground troops to Syria. This week the U.S. carried out a murderous bombing of a mosque that killed dozens. And Trump's secretary of state, oil baron Rex Tillerson, threatened war on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

So what do we do in the face of this crisis? What do we do as imperialist plunders continue unabated and in stereo?

We have to do a lot. I will raise just two actions.

The Trump administration is waging war on the most vulnerable. But make no mistake: Its casualties are everyone who is not of the 1%! Everyone who is not rich, white and a member of the elite ruling class is being targeted.

Fight for the working class on May Day

In a war, you must call out the troops. And the next battle, to fight for the lives of the class we love so much, is May Day.

But I also want to bring your attention to the climate march set for Washington, D.C., on April 29.

Climate change creates forced migration. Let us not leave this demonstration in the hands of the liberals, who put a break on the struggle, who apologize for the capitalists or who settle, like they are settling for the Paris climate treaty. Let us take class politics to this event. We must settle no more!

Two days later is May Day. Let us remember that it was immigrants, primarily from Mexico and Latin America, who revived May Day in 2006. That was a great development for the workers and oppressed, because this is a day that is clearly our day and a demonstration that represents the interests of all who toil and not those who exploit.

It must be dominated politically by anti-capitalist forces and genuine revolutionaries.

Our weapons right now are leaflets and social media to get the word out about May Day 2017. We must organize to support the April 1 action in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in New York and go to hospitals, schools, workplaces and communities to get people out for May Day.

May Day is a work day for those who have jobs. And we are urging one and all not to shop, go to school or work.

We must send the message: Immigrants are not alone. We have their back. We say no to war abroad. We demand health care, housing and education. It is the workers and oppressed who created the wealth, and we want it back!

May Day 2017 must be a battle cry against the far right! The lives of all workers and oppressed depend on this!

All power to the migrants! All power to cis and trans women! All power to the workers! □



Rasmea Odeh forced to accept plea agreement

By Ava Lipatti

Palestinian-American activist Rasmea Odeh has been fighting the courts for three and a half years. Her battle against U.S. state repression is coming to a close. As a college student, Rasmea Odeh was “convicted” by an Israeli military court for alleged involvement in bombings in 1969. Odeh’s conviction was due to a false confession she was forced to make after being subjected to 25 days of physical, psychological and sexual torture at the hands of Israeli military officers. The Israeli tribunal prosecutors and judges are military officers rather than civilians, whose conviction rate for Palestinians is 99 percent.

Odeh spent 10 years in an Israeli prison. After migrating to the United States, Odeh became involved in the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities in Chicago. However, in 2013 she was arrested by Department of Homeland Security officials because she did not disclose the 1969 conviction on her immigration documents. Throughout Odeh’s legal battle, the conviction was included as evidence, yet the use of torture and Odeh’s subsequent development of post-traumatic stress disorder were not allowed. However, the movement led by Odeh and her defense team was able to force a retrial. For that, indictments of “terrorist activity” were

added to the original terms, increasing the severity of the case. Given these new indictments and that white-supremacist Jeff Sessions is now U.S. attorney general, the prospects for a fair trial are unlikely. Facing 18 months or more of imprisonment, and potentially indefinite detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Odeh has decided to accept a plea deal. She will plead guilty to “unlawful procurement of naturalization.” Although she will not have to serve any more time in ICE detention, she will lose her U.S. citizenship and be forced to leave the country. A date will soon be set for a hearing with Judge Gershwin Drain to consider

the plea bargain agreement. Although Odeh’s case is now coming to a close, she leaves a legacy as a Palestinian freedom fighter and Chicago activist. She has become a symbol of resistance, between her support of the Black Lives Matter movement and her call for a global strike on International Working Women’s Day. Odeh’s case exposes the oppression and corruption of both the U.S. and Israeli governments. As countries built on stolen land, both U.S. and Israeli settler-colonialism must continue to be fought on all fronts. Free, free Palestine! Hands Off Rasmea Odeh! □

Cops deny assassination attempt on Aristide

By G. Dunkel

The Haitian cops claim, according to Jean Alix Pierre-Louis, a vice commissioner of police, they were just responding to the chaos that erupted March 20 in Port-au-Prince when a substantial crowd of Lavalas supporters of former Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide met a small group from the Bald-Headed Haitian Party (PTKH) of current President Jovenel Moïse. Pierre-Louis charged that there was rock throwing and use of firearms from the supporters of both Aristide and the PTKH. Another police official, Prenel Duval, admitted to the web service Haiti Hollywood

that the cops fired real bullets directly at the crowd in order to disperse them. “The motorcade came under fire, and this is tantamount to an assassination attempt,” said Mario Joseph, one of Aristide’s lawyers. There are bullet holes in Aristide’s car and blood was on a headlight and the hood. Haïti-Liberté reports: “A widely diffused video of the confrontation, however, clearly shows the police shooting with leveled weapons. There are no images of Aristide’s retinue firing or even carrying weapons.” (March 20) Aristide was returning home after testifying as a witness in an investigation of a money laundering case. While president of Haiti, Aristide was

forced into exile on Feb. 29, 2004, by U.S. and French mercenaries backed by imperialist interests. Aristide was granted asylum in the Central African Republic two months later until his return to Haiti in March 2011, thanks to worldwide protests inspired by the Haitians’ mass protests in the streets. Today Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere due to the deepening super-exploitation of its people and its resources mainly by U.S., French and Canadian corporations. These rich capitalist countries are using the ongoing United Nations occupation of troops as a cover for their oppression of the Haitian masses. □

Haiti



Cuba Solidarity conference pushes actions

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social networks. They are eager to know more about Cuba.” Ramirez expressed solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the fight for the rights of immigrants and Latinx people here in the U.S., as well as “the struggle of the Puerto Rican people, because we consider that the Puerto Rican people should be independent and free. Cuba celebrates the moment when Oscar [Lopez Rivera]

will be back in Puerto Rico on May 17 and hope to have him in Cuba soon.” Ambassador Rodriguez stressed “the sovereign right of the Cuban people to self-determination. It is a right respected by the Charter of Human Rights and international law. Part of that is our right to preserve our prosperous and sustainable socialist country. We are a socialist country and we will continue to be a socialist country.

“To have one party, the Cuban Communist Party, is a historic decision,” she said, preceded by “the Cuban Revolutionary Party formed by our national hero Jose Marti, who realized that the only way for Cuba to achieve independence was to unite all the forces fighting for liberation. The Cuban people have been united and led by our Communist Party. ... The member states of the United Nations say very clearly there is no unique model of democracy; each country has the sovereign right to determine its political, economic and social model. Cuba has decided to have a socialist model with internationalism and solidarity.” Rodriguez dispelled the illusion that having diplomatic relations with the U.S. means normalized relations. She pointed out that the U.S. still restricts travel to Cuba and that the blockade is still in place. An important second plenary panel featured Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Marietta Ulacia, executive director of the Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance. The day after the conference, Baraka led a delegation from his city to Cuba.

Solidarity actions for Cuba

The final plenary supported ongoing projects, including the IFCO/Pastors for Peace caravan across the U.S. in April and its challenge to the travel ban in July; the 28th Venceremos Brigade travel challenge; and the newly established RESPECT organization that promotes ethical travel to Cuba. The plenary also adopted a call for united action against the blockade on the 17th of each month and coordinated actions in the days leading up to the United Nations vote next fall. For decades the U.S. had voted

against resolutions calling for an end to the blockade, but abstained for the first time in 2016. The closing plenary featured a video message from Gerardo Hernández, a former political prisoner in the U.S. who was freed on Dec. 17, 2014, at the time diplomatic relations were restored. Hernández, who had been serving two life terms plus 15 years, said he is now free in Cuba through “the power of solidarity.” Wayne Smith, a former chief of mission at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana from 1979 to 1982, sent a message on the importance of the conference “to help discourage any thought on the part of the new administration to move back in the opposite direction.” A Saturday night rally to fight the blockade of Cuba featured Rafael Cancel Miranda and Andres Gomez. Drumming, dance and jazz cultural contributions celebrated the day’s work and discussion. Juanita Young, whose son Malcolm Ferguson was killed by New York City police in 2000, shared her impressions of a visit to Cuba last year at the invitation of the Federation of Cuban Women. This African-American mother’s warm feelings toward Cuba mirrored those of the special panel featuring Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and Marietta Ulacia. Live streaming of the event by videographers and streamers from the Peoples Video Network and the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party are available at youtu.be/qOZjYJOadMY (first plenary); youtu.be/TEK4Zo4D84A (Cuban Ambassador to U.N. answers question on Palestine, economic situation and blockade); youtu.be/Zm-R4xneMsg (evening rally). □

Trump ataca en casa y en el exterior

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ganistán, general John W. Nicholson Jr., declaró recientemente al Congreso que podría usar “unos cuantos miles de tropas más “ para romper el “estancamiento” en el país. (New York Times, 9 de febrero) Estos desarrollos representan un gran paso adelante en la autoridad política del alto mando militar bajo la administración Trump. Por el contrario, Rex Tillerson, el jefe del Departamento de Estado, ha sido mantenido fuera de las reuniones con los jefes de Estado por Trump, Bannon y Kushner (yerno de Trump). Tillerson no ha tenido ninguna aparición conjunta con Trump. Sus solicitudes de ayudantes han sido rechazadas. Ninguna prensa será permitida en su avión en un próximo viaje a Japón, Corea del Sur y China. Y el presupuesto del Departamento de Estado se reducirá en un 37 por ciento, mientras que el Pentágono recibirá un aumento de 54 mil millones de dólares.

WORKERS WORLD

MUNDO OBRERO

Hace unos días el canciller mexicano Luis Videgaray estaba en Washington. Tracy Wilkinson, del Los Angeles Times, preguntó al portavoz del estado, Mark Toner, cuáles eran los planes para su visita. Toner, un reconocido oficial de servicio internacional, aparentemente no tenía ni idea de que un dignatario clave estaba incluso en la ciudad”. (Vox, 10 de marzo) El canciller se reunió con Kushner. Sin duda, aunque el Departamento de Estado ejerce el llamado “poder blando” del imperialismo estadounidense, es un vicioso enemigo de los pueblos del mundo. Ingenia cambios de régimen, se involucra en todo tipo de subversión contra los gobiernos progresistas y utiliza organizaciones no gubernamentales para promover las “revoluciones del color”. Sin embargo, el cambio hacia el poder militar abierto en el gobierno bajo Trump es un movimiento amenazador que ampliará la guerra y la intervención imperialistas. □



Trump ataca en casa y en el exterior

Por Fred Goldstein

La camarilla autoritaria Trump en la Casa Blanca - Steve Bannon, Jared Kushner, Steven Miller y el propio Donald Trump – están en una carrera final en torno a las instituciones del gobierno capitalista tradicional. Están tratando de dar forma a la política y de forzarla a la derecha en todos los frentes sin el aporte del establecimiento capitalista tradicional.

Trump y Bannon están usando la teoría de conspiración diciendo que el “estado profundo”, refiriéndose a las agencias reguladoras, los principales medios de comunicación, los fiscales, los tribunales, las agencias de espionaje, etc. son saboteadores que conspiran para socavar a la Casa Blanca. Esto es para despejar el camino a sus ataques a inmigrantes, a la atención médica para las masas y al medio ambiente, así como facilitar sus descarados regalos a los bancos, las empresas y al 1% más rico.

El gobierno de Trump y el caucus republicano congresional están planeando entregar cientos de miles de millones de dólares en recortes de impuestos a los ricos a medida que planean la revocación de la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Precio Asequible (ACA por sus siglas en inglés) aprobada por Obama. Al mismo tiempo, Washington está jugando con fuego en Asia, con maniobras de guerra peligrosas y con la instalación de un sistema agresivo de antimisiles desestabilizadores en Corea del Sur.

Bajo el pretexto de derogar y reemplazar al ACA, la administración Trump está apoyando un plan republicano del Congreso para recortar de \$300 a \$600 mil millones en impuestos para los ricos, bajo la deliberadamente mal llamada Ley de Cuidado de Salud Americana. Estos cientos de miles de millones de dólares dados a los ricos serán pagados por recortes en la cobertura médica para los pobres, los ancianos y las mujeres en general, incluyendo aquellos con enfermedades mentales y adicciones. Los estimados de la cantidad de personas que van a perder su cobertura oscilan entre 5 y 15 millones.

Los republicanos han lanzado su plan antes de que la Oficina de Presupuesto del Congreso pueda evaluar su impacto. Trump y el presidente de la Cámara Paul Ryan temen una evaluación negativa y por eso ya han tratado de desacreditar a la OPC, denunciándola por “inexactitudes” y “exageraciones”.

Mientras millones de personas pierden atención médica bajo el plan republicano...

El Instituto Brookings, un centro de investigación capitalista, ha tratado de advertir al público de antemano. Emitió un informe estimando que 15 millones de personas o más perderán su atención médica durante los próximos 10 años. Brookings utilizó métodos y estimados anteriores de la OPC para su análisis.

[Luego de la publicación de este artículo, la OPC emitió su informe donde supera con creces los estimados de Brookings. La bipartidista OPC estima que 14 millones perderán su atención médica para 2018, dentro de un año. Y para el año 2026, 24

millones de personas la habrán perdido. La OPC también estima que Medicaid perderá \$880 mil millones en 10 años bajo el plan Trump-Ryan-Price.]

... los ricos obtienen cientos de miles de millones en exenciones fiscales

Según el Centro de Prioridades de Presupuesto y Políticas: “El proyecto de ley de la Cámara Republicana para derogar y reemplazar el ACA, eliminaría los impuestos ACA a las personas ricas y las compañías farmacéuticas y de seguros, a través de cuentas de ahorro para la salud. Estos cambios (más otras disposiciones más pequeñas del plan) costarían \$594 mil millones de dólares entre 2017 y 2026, estima el Comité Conjunto sobre Tributación (JCT). Además, el plan trataría de compensar el costo de estas exenciones impositivas poniendo sobre fin a la expansión de Medicaid de ACA, reestructurando radicalmente todo el programa de Medicaid convirtiéndolo en un tope per cápita y reduciendo dramáticamente los subsidios que las familias con ingresos bajos o moderados usan para comprar atención médica asequible, así como otros cambios en la cobertura que socavarían la salud y la seguridad financiera de millones de hogares”.

Además, el CPPP afirma que los 400 contribuyentes de mayor ingreso obtendrían recortes de impuestos por un promedio de \$7 millones cada uno, sumando \$7.800 millones al año. Los millonarios obtendrían recortes anuales de impuestos de más de \$50,000 en promedio para 2025.

Cuidado de salud de la mujer está en el bloque de carnicero

La atención de salud para las mujeres, especialmente las pobres, está en peligro por las disposiciones de recortar los fondos de Planned Parenthood. Una de cada 5 mujeres estadounidenses ha visitado una clínica de PP para servicios de anticonceptivos, exámenes de detección de cáncer, pruebas y tratamiento para enfermedades de transmisión sexual o terminación de embarazo. Y el 78 por ciento de ellas tienen ingresos inferiores al 150 por ciento del nivel de pobreza.

Vox reportó: “Los más de \$500 millones que PP recibe anualmente del gobierno federal—los fondos que los republicanos en el Congreso ahora quieren quitar—pagan por servicios de salud como el control de la natalidad o el examen del cáncer cervical a personas que no podrían costearlo.

“La mayoría de los fondos (75 por ciento) son en realidad reembolsos de Medicaid, el programa de seguro de salud pública de EUA para los pobres.

“[El proyecto de ley] amenaza con dismantelar todo el mercado de seguros privados para la cobertura del aborto, no sólo el financiamiento público para proveedores de aborto: Si una mujer quiere un plan de seguro médico que abarque el aborto, ella (y posiblemente su empleador) no podrá usar créditos tributarios para comprarlo bajo este proyecto de ley”. (7 de marzo)

ThinkProgress señaló que el 60 por ciento de la financiación de PP proviene de fondos de Medicaid y Título IX para

la atención preventiva y primaria. “Casi 400.000 mujeres perderían el acceso a la atención preventiva y hasta 650.000 habrían reducido la atención preventiva dentro de un año” sin los servicios de PP, estima la Oficina de Responsabilidad del Gobierno. “La investigación ha demostrado que cuando las mujeres de bajos ingresos tienen acceso a la anticoncepción gratuita, hay tasas significativamente más bajas de abortos y embarazos no deseados en adolescentes”. (7 de marzo)

Pentágono jugando con fuego en Asia

Al mismo tiempo que Trump está tratando de destruir el cuidado de la salud, Washington está jugando con fuego en la península coreana mediante dos meses de maniobras militares dirigidas a la República Popular Democrática de Corea y la República Popular de China.

Los “juegos de guerra” más grandes de la historia incluyen 17.000 tropas estadounidenses y 300.000 tropas surcoreanas, así como equipos estadounidenses avanzados de combate. Washington ha dicho que los ejercicios son estrictamente defensivos. Pero los planes están claramente orientados a “practicar el cambio de régimen”.

Las fuerzas EUA-ROK (Corea del Sur) también llevarán por primera vez el OPLAN 5015, un plan de guerra clasificado firmado el año pasado que incluye ataques quirúrgicos contra las instalaciones de mando y control nucleares y de misiles de Corea del Norte. También pide específicamente que las Fuerzas Especiales realicen ataques de “decapitación” para neutralizar a los altos dirigentes de Corea del Norte, según informes de prensa. (El Diplomático, 8 de marzo) “Neutralizar” significa matar.

Washington y el Pentágono justifican sus juegos de guerra mencionando el lanzamiento de misiles por parte de la RPDC al mar de Japón. Pero los misiles fueron lanzados en respuesta a las maniobras de guerra. La RPDC está rodeada de estados hostiles, entre ellos el imperialista Japón, la marioneta estadounidense de Corea del Sur y el propio ejército estadounidense, que cuenta con 28.000 soldados en Corea del Sur y 54.000 soldados en Japón, 12 bases estadounidenses en Hawái y 5.000 tropas y numerosos aviones en Guam, entre otros lugares de la región.

Sistema antimisiles dirigidos a la RPDC...

Para sumar a las provocaciones de las maniobras de guerra de EUA y Corea del Sur, Washington anunció que había comenzado el despliegue del sistema de defensa terminal de área de alta altitud (THAAD) en la base aérea de Osari en Corea del Sur.

THAAD es una adición relativamente nueva al arsenal de defensa de misiles del ejército EUA. Producido por Lockheed Martin (y con un precio de más de mil millones de dólares por sistema), THAAD consta de una batería de misiles interceptores lanzados por camiones y un poderoso radar de banda X que puede detectar, rastrear y dirigir amenazas de misiles entrantes.

La decisión de desplegar este sistema antimisiles fue hecha en 2013 y acordada

por Corea del Sur en julio de 2016, pero fue acelerada por fines políticos. Mientras tanto, hay una enorme crisis política en Corea del Sur. Meses de masivas manifestaciones han obligado el juicio político y la expulsión de Park Geun-hye, la presidente reaccionaria condenada por cargos de corrupción.

Las masas del pueblo surcoreano se oponen claramente al despliegue de THAAD. Esta oposición incluye el probable reemplazo de Park, el popular centro-liberal Moon Jae-in. Moon favorece la reanudación de las conversaciones con la RPDC y un retorno a la “política del sol” que apunta hacia la reunificación. Así que el Pentágono aprovechó este tiempo antes de las nuevas elecciones para instalar THAAD.

... y a China

El potente radar de THAAD también es una amenaza para China porque cuando se apunta a la RPDC no se detiene allí. Puede ver profundamente a China. El gobierno de la República Popular China ha dicho que si EUA desplegaba THAAD, sería una prueba de fuego sobre las relaciones.

Ahora que se ha desplegado, el ministro chino de exteriores Wang Yi, lo ha denunciado como una provocación que trastornará el “equilibrio estratégico” en la región. Wang, al expresar su preocupación por los ensayos nucleares por parte de la RPDC, dio a los imperialistas estadounidenses un claro mensaje de que la República Popular China se mantendrá al lado de la RPDC en cualquier conflicto “insistiendo en que China y Corea del Norte se mantuvieran tan cerca como diente y labio” — una expresión famosa usada por Mao Zedong. (Guardian, 6 de marzo)

Esta frase fue utilizada por Mao durante la Guerra de Corea, cuando 3 millones de voluntarios chinos ayudaron a repeler a los invasores imperialistas estadounidenses. Así que el mensaje es inequívoco.

Se amplía papel de los generales, declina el Departamento de Estado

El despliegue repentino del sistema de misiles THAAD en medio de una situación militarmente cargada cerca de China y la RPDC debe verse junto a otros acontecimientos menos dramáticos pero significativos.

Hubo el despliegue de más de 400 Marines a Siria para fortalecer las fuerzas que trataban de capturar la capital del grupo EI, Raqqa. Estas fuerzas convencionales se añaden a los cientos de Fuerzas Especiales que ya están allí. Los Marines están equipados con helicópteros Apache y obuses M777 capaces de disparar proyectiles de 155mm, entre otras armas. Su despliegue representa una clara escalada de la guerra de EUA en Siria.

El Pentágono también ha escalado la guerra en Yemen. Anteriormente la guerra la llevaba a cabo Arabia Saudí, con apoyo logístico y material del Pentágono. Recientemente, los comandantes estadounidenses en el campo han recibido nueva autorización para realizar incursiones en aldeas y ataques con drones, sin la aprobación previa de la Casa Blanca.

El comandante estadounidense en Af-

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