By Taryn Fitek and Nathaniel Peters  
New York City

Hundreds of activists skillfully moved past police barricades to scale the stairs to Manhattan’s High Line Park and drop two banners April 1. One read, “Stop Trump and de Blasio’s War on Black People!” and the other read, “F—ck the Police.”  
Tourists and residents alike took photos and anti-racist literature as activists successfully evaded police while chanting, “Black lives, they matter here! Refugees, they matter here!” and “How do you spell racist? N-Y-P-D!”

The protest initiated by the People’s Power Assembly, and supported by NYC Shut It Down, Why Accountability, Workers World Party, Hoods 4 Justice and other activists, sought to bring the battle for Black lives to the forefront of New Yorkers’ minds through their militant action, which also took over Macy’s at Herald Square, Chelsea Market and the Whitney Museum. One person was arrested and was later released.

Many consider Mayor Bill de Blasio a political ally against Trump’s white supremacy, especially since he so often claims that New York is a “sanctuary city” for migrants and people of color. However, Broken Windows Policing, which he supports, is the height of hypocrisy, as it targets people of color primarily with unwarranted summonses and can flag undocumented migrants for deportation for minor infractions like subway fare evasion.

Despite record numbers of activists turning out to march against Trump since the November election, corporate media have been too busy diverting attention toward Russia and north Korea to focus on continued grass-roots resistance against white supremacy.

“This march showed that there is still a militant movement on the ground in NYC dedicated to the abolition of racist policing,” said Mike Bento of NYC Shut It Down. “Through the speeches and the chants, the march showed how all the recent attacks on oppressed people by the Trump administration are related to the oppression of Black people up to and including the de Blasio administration’s continued support of broken windows policing. From stop-and-frisk to project raids, Trump’s social-cleansing platform is facilitated by the continued support of racist policing by liberal politicians at the local level.”

Clare Fogerty, an organizer with People’s Power Assembly and NYC Shut It Down, had earlier attended Timothy Caughman’s funeral. Caughman had been stabbed to death March 20 by a depraved racist who had traveled from Baltimore to New York with the stated intention of murdering Black men. Local media ran stories that mentioned the murderer’s “sharp outfit” and history of fighting in the murderous U.S. military, while Caughman was a “career criminal” living in a halfway house. While the media carried on their racist ways, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio saw Caughman’s funeral as a great media opportunity.

“De Blasio stood up at Timothy Caughman’s funeral and claimed to care about the lives of Black people,” Fogerty told WW. “If that was truly the case, he would hold the NYPD accountable for it’s continued savage treatment of Black people. He held the funeral up by 10 minutes ‘cause he was late and we were waiting for him to capitalize on the death of a Black man. He turned it into a press conference, a goddamn charade.”

The April 1 action sent a powerful message across New York — that racist state violence will be challenged wherever and whenever possible. The non-permit protest action traversed midtown to make a strong statement against white supremacy, proving once again that the real path to liberation is in the streets.
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 Coalition of 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. Read the entire interview on workers.org.

Lamont Lilly: Mumia has been in prison for over three decades now, working on four, most of his time being in solitary confinement and on death row. They’ve tried to break him, but he continues to fight strength and writing and teaching, even while incarcerated. Right now, Mumia is sick with hepatitis C. There has been a national movement to get Mumia the medicine that would cure it, but the state of Pennsylvania is not allowing that. What the hell is going on?

Ramona Africa: Well, there are two attorneys fighting hard on this, Robert Boyle and Brett Grote, who have been fighting to get Mumia treated. (tinyurl.com/lmy2sg4) There is a cure for hepatitis C—and that’s what they are pushing for. It’s a drug called Harvoni. The thing is, it’s a two-prong fight. Harvoni in India and Africa costs like $4 a pill, $7 a pill. In the United States, it’s like $1,000 for one pill. The cure is a 90-day treatment. You have to take it every day for 90 days. It is a proven cure, not just a “treatment.” This is the cure for hepatitis C.

One prong of this fight is the pharmaceutical companies. How can you dare charge people $1,000 a pill ($9000 basically for the cure)? Yet, in other countries, much poorer countries, they’re charging people $4 and $7 for this pill. I’m not saying that they should raise the price of their pills. I’m saying that these pharmaceutical companies making a two-prong fight. Harvoni in India and Africa costs like $4 a pill, $7 a pill. In the United States, it’s like $1,000 for one pill. The cure is a 90-day treatment. You have to take it every day for 90 days. It is a proven cure, not just a “treatment.” This is the cure for hepatitis C.

The other prong is the problem that you just spoke on—the institution. Mumia is so well-known. The situation with him gets a lot of attention. What the institution is saying is that if they give the treatment to Mumia, then they will have to give it to the other 6,000 to 7,000 inmates in the state of Pennsylvania who also have hepatitis C. And yes, yes, you should! You took custody of these people! You took responsibility for them! So, yes, if they’re sick, of course you’ve supposed to treat them! I mean, come on.

L.L.: I heard that the prison where Mumia Abu-Jamal is being detained doesn’t have clean drinking water. Is that true? You also have family members in that prison. What have you heard about this?

R.A.: Let me tell you. I know people have heard about Flint, Mich., but contaminated water is not just in Flint. (tinyurl.com/luxad4) The prison that our brother, Eddie Africa, and Mumia are in is called Mahanoy Correctional Institution. The water there is so bad! It is so bad that they started giving the inmates three little Dixie cups of water with each meal. This is ridiculous! That’s three little Dixie cups of water per day because the regular water is not drinkable. This is what they’re giving them, nine little Dixie cups of water per day? It’s untrue! Most people have no idea this is going on.

Where my brother Mike Africa is being incarcerated—at Graterford Prison here in Pennsylvania—the water is really bad there too. He convinced the “Lifers Association” to sell bottled water. It’s one of their fundraisers. But he pays close to $20 for a case of water. That’s ridiculous. He’s spending $60 a month for water. They were telling the guards straight up: Don’t drink the water. Bring your own. My brother Mike works in the

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Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. prisons & Trump

In New York City—Black Lives Matter! 2017

By Lamont Lilly

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July indicated there was a 60 percent chance he already had cirrhosis. His hep C infection was first diagnosed during a routine blood test in 2012. He began to show signs the infection was worsening in March 2015. Suffering from a severe weight loss, Abu-Jamal suddenly collapsed in a diabetic near coma.

Abu-Jamal and his supporters are re- lieved that he will finally get the treatment he needs. But there is also a rising tide of anger over the DOC’s refusal to comply with previous court requests. Abu-Jamal’s attorney, Robert Boyle, not- ed that, while it is a victory that the DOC has been ordered to get the medications for Abu-Jamal and thou- sands of other prisoners in Pennsylvania.

When Abu-Jamal first filed for legal action against the Pennsylvania DOC in September 2015, medical tests taken in

in prison, new rules govern medicine and care. Here, money is ill. The mill is all but ignored. This may seem harsh, but I must assure you reality is even harsher.

In 2015, I wrote of jailhouse lawyer Dennis Solo McKeathen and his battle to get examined and treated for the painful nerve disorder known as shingles. As this trial transcript I found the remarkable comments and questions by the judge instructive. He asked es- sentially if a company hired by the DOC (Department of Corrections) to provide health care had a conflict as a private company, its interests were to make money by refusing to provide med- ications needed by prisoners. The wit- ness denied his suggestion, but the judge had a point.

In 2015 to today, my lawyers and I have been demanding real treatment for my hepatitis C. The DOC initially filed a false affidavit which said my illness was not a U.S. magistrate’s dis- missal of my own suit. The DOC argued that my hepatitis was fine, that it could go years without treatment. A federal judge disagreed and held a hear- ing which showed the affidavit was false and months later declared the so-called DOC pro- tocol unconstitutional. The DOC fought back, arguing that my hep C was at a low level. The judge again disagreed, declared the protocol unconstitutional a second time and ordered treatment.

The DOC essentially ignored the court order for close to two months and earlier this week subjected me to more testing. Well the results just came back.

Not only do I have advanced hepatitis C, I have cirrhosis of the liver — called F4, because the DOC didn’t want to spend money to treat my infection. The DOC said it would cost them $860 million. It may only cost me my life.
Brooklyn housing activists: ‘Kill the bill!’

Outside the home of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, an upscale Manhattan residence called Gracie Mansion, a protest for affordable housing on April 1 demanded that the mayor “Kill the bill.” It was led by Brooklyn’s Crown Heights Tenants Union and drew mostly Black women.

The developer BFC Partners is trying to get the city to rezone the Bedford-Union Armory in Crown Heights, a castle-like, block-long structure of red brick. Its plan is to turn the armory into 330 luxury apartments using eminent domain. BFC will receive $25.1 million worth of tax write-offs for the new Brooklyn housing plan.

Only 20 percent of the new housing would be affordable, and it would cost more than $45,000 a year. In 2014, the average income of a family of four in Crown Heights was $41,870.

Bay Area acts to halt home evictions

By Tristan Schmidt

Oakland, Calif.

Over 60 community members and activists gathered March 29 in front of the former Oakland family home of 76-year-old matriarch Dororthy DeBose to demand its return to her.

The home had been owned by her family for over 30 years until a predatory loan was offered and payment missed. Then Michael Marr of Community Fund LLC, one of Oakland’s largest private owners of rental properties, placed an unlawful lockout on the property.

Built to house the Army’s 23rd National Guard regiment, the armory has been dormant for decades. In this community of mostly Black and Afro-Caribbean tenants, there is no housing for the homeless and plans for a nearby shelter for 1,000 more homeless. Why not have the armory provide housing, not shelters, for the homeless?

Mayor de Blasio and Brooklyn Councilmember Laurie Cumbo have the power to vote down the rezoning. Protests and more will continue until the working class has real affordable housing instead of a system serving only the wealthy.

NYC women of color fight for equal pay

A protest called at City Hall for April 4, Equal Pay Day, is part of the fight for back pay by more than 1,500 women of color who hold administrative managerial jobs in New York City agencies. Signifying the wage gap, the date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

When Communication Workers Local 1180 discovered two years ago that these women workers were being grossly underpaid — by upwards of $65,000 a year — CWA filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which quickly found in their favor. When the city failed to respond to EEOC’s request to pay up, Local 1180 filed a notice of claim last December demanding retroactive pay amounts to $842,000. The union called the demonstration to spotlight that the city is still negligent. (cwa1180.org)

Congress sides with bosses in two cases

Yet again, Congress sides with bosses instead of working folks. In early March, Rep. Joe Courtney introduced HR 1394, the Official Time Reform Act of 2017. It would cut the clock on that part of the workday that union stewards can spend on “official time.”

That’s time spent at work representing the union, resolving members’ concerns and problems. It’s a request guaranteed under civil service law passed 40 years ago, and a method already exists to get it — management and supervisors can deny the request.

Since this control exists, rendering HR 1394 redundant, what are its true intentions? Congress wants a chilling effect on workers who need representation, but also wants those who want to see how stewards are doing. If enacted, this bill would take re- time from stewards as a penalty. It’s literally asking a steward to choose be-
A veteran activist on:
‘Labor Rights Equal Civil Rights’

By Martha Grevatt

“Labor Rights Equal Civil Rights” was the theme of a historic “March on Missis- sippi,” held March 24 on the Nisum plant in Canton. Over 4,000 people from la-
bor and the community turned out to demand action to counter “censorship and i.e., the right to vote in a union represent-
ation election, free of intimidation. Over 80 percent of the plant’s workforce is African-American, making the Nisum’s plants worldwide, this is one of only three with-
out union representation; the two others are in Smyrna and Decherd, Tenn.

Paulo Cayres, CNM-CUT of Brazil, Clarence Thomas, Ginny Coughlin, SEIU organizer at March 4 march in Mississippi.

able to put forward their agenda and con-
cerns, which should also be environmen-
tal, health care, education, etc. Unions need to be a part of a coalition of con-
cerns that are not just related to the vote but to the class and to the community.

That’s what we’ve done in Oakland. When they wanted to expand the port we started the Coalition for an Account-
able Port. What it did was to make sure that with the facility they were building, it would be done by organized labor. Also the community had to be involved in the building and apprentice training and get pov-
enents. I mean things like: What do we do to preserve the marine habi-
tat? What do we do with the dredge? We have a wonderful habitat with exotic kels and where the community can picnic.

We organized a coalition so they could not divide the community or labor or the environment by making concessions to one and not the other. When you [go it alone] you don’t connect the dots.

Trump kicks environmental destruction up a notch

By G. Dunkle

March 25 - President Donald Trump signed an executive order March 24 clearing the way for building the Key-
stone XL Pipeline. The State Department promptly issued the necessary permits. This pipeline, which was resisted by en-
vironmental activists and Native nations, will make it cheaper to transport Cana-
dian oil sands to Gulf refineries. This is a looming issue for those living in Alberta to Gulf-state refineries in the

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tween your future and your member’s. It’s muffling whistleblowers but also union calls to serve as stewards. Under capitalism, officials

questioned the economic justification for this pipeline.

But the Trump administration, in-
creasingly out of touch with the tar sands, needed to nail down its support from Big Oil and corpo-
rate profiteers. This decision goes along with its support for coal mining, even though the market for coal is being
sharply undercut by competition from other energy sources like natural gas and wind power alternatives.

It lines up with the administration’s ease of requirements that would im-
prove mileage for automobiles and trucks. That supports the oil and automo-
 bile profiteers, as does removing emis-

Continued on page 4

sion standards.

With this giveaway to the energy
corporations, Trump has moved to un-
leash the Pentagon by giving the generals

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Floods in Peru harm poorest people

While it is hard to definitively pin par-
ticular weather events on global warm-
ing, the fact that water temperatures off the northern coast of Peru has risen 6 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit has produced a local El Niño, with flooding throughout Peru. Winter there has long been spells of above-average temperatures over the Arctic Ocean, promoting the melting of shore-line glaciers in Alaska and Greenland and raising oceans worldwide.

A congressional report released in March assessing federal contractors’ compli-
ance with labor laws found “significant” abuses. Dozens of worker deaths occurred at companies that took shortcuts with health and safety standards. More than 300,000 workers employed by federal contractors in the past decade have experienced wage theft. Nearly one-quarter of the U.S. workforce is employed by a federal contractor or subcontractor. (Rewire, March 28)
People with disabilities battle Trump
By Edward Yudelowich

Ari Ne’eman, president of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, warned about Donald Trump’s election as U.S. presi-
dent: “We are in for a rough ride. . . . Assuming we can take him at his word on his stated poli-
cy positions, there is a tremendous threat for people with disabilities.” (Huffington Post)

According to the Jan. 20 Washington Post, moments after Trump took the oath of office, White House website page with information about federal policy on opportunities for people with disabilities was removed. In 2005, attorney James Schottel Jr., a person with a quadriplegia disability, sued producers of Trump’s “reality” show, “The Apprentice,” for “disability discrimination.” A person with a quadriplegia disability, was removed.

During a 2015 rally, candidate Trump mocked a man using a wheelchair. “I’m a guy that can’t buy a pair of pants.” (tinyurl.com/kafqcaz)

“Before the march from the White House to the Justice Department, has re-emerged, if only for limited skirmishes, since the March 2015 election in Israel of a far-right governing coalition that even former Secretary of State John Kerry called “the most right-wing in Is-
raeli history with an agenda driven by the most extreme elements.” (time.gov)

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raeli history with an agenda driven by the most extreme elements.” (time.gov)

JDL attacks AIPAC protesters
By Joe Catron

Hundreds of Palestinians and support-
ers rallied outside the White House be-
fore marching to the Walter E. Washing-
ton Convention Center on March 26. The pro-Palestine movement, organized by the Cleveland and Midwest chapters of Al-Awda: The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition and the Action Coalition, protest- ed a visit by Palestinian state officials to Israel, scheduled to exceed $88 billion over the next decade, and the opening of an annual policy conference by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Other rallies by the Jewish campaign IPNow and the women’s organization Cowards also began outside the convention center.

Before the march from the White House arrived, members of the far-right Jewish Defense League, taunted partici-
pants in the growing protests. Their assaults with flagpoles hospital-
ized at least two demonstrators: Ben Doer-
nerberg, an IPNow member from Boston, and Kamal Nayfeh, a Palestinian-Ameri-
can instructor at North Carolina’s Central Piedmont Community College. “I feel hits from everywhere, and I fell down and I feel the kicks everywhere on my body,” Nayfeh recounted to Char-
lotte’s WSOE television station. “The only thing I told them was I am a Jew. I am a Jew.” The 55-year-old father of four added: “They didn’t know anything about me.” (wsoctv.com)

The attack on Nayfeh resulted in crim-
al charges against two JDL members, Yosef Steynovitz, a 32-year-old from Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, for assault with significant bodily injury, and Rami Lubranicki, a 59-year-old from Howell, New Jersey, for assault with a dangerous weapon.

Many media reports also covered the assault with a “suspected hate crime” due to “anti-Arab” bias, a claim that other reports have disputed.
By Sue Davis

The U.S. Senate voted 51-50 on March 30 to overturn an Obama administrative rule not allowing states to defund Planned Parenthood payments for Title X patients. The House passed the same resolution in February, so it now goes to the Misogynist Chief to be signed into law.

Title X was passed by the Nixon administration in 1970, when politicians recognized the basic health care rights of low-income families or uninsured people, including those not eligible for Medicaid. They were aware of the connection between women’s health and poverty. They now see the need to make family planning accessible to poor families as part of their agenda to cut welfare payments for children.

Passing this resolution means that if states choose to defund Planned Parenthood as a service provider for Title X patients — 11 states already have such laws — poor women, mostly young women of color (59 percent) and immigrants, often in rural areas of the Midwest and South, will have to search for new providers or go without vital health care.

Planned Parenthood serves a third of Title X patients, using $870 million a year to prevent unintended pregnancies, 326,000 abortions for 3 percent of its millions of patients through more contraceptive use rather than state restrictions on abortion.

It is easy to see the direct U.S. role in the conflict in Somalia. Since 2001, the U.S. has carried out terrorist operations involving reconnaissance missions, bombings and capturing Al-Shabaab militants, the jihadist groupvying for power in Somalia.

Some local officials say they are digging mass graves because they fear large numbers of people will die quickly.

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In an act of desperation in early March, Trump offered Planned Parenthood a deal: Stop performing abortions and keep receiving $355 million in federal funding. The answer was a resounding “No deal!”

Indictments for anti- Planned Parenthood video

Meanwhile, two days before the Senate vote, a group of people who deliberately created a maliciously deceptive video about Planned Parenthood — David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt of the Center for Medical Progress — were indicted March 28 by the state of California on 15 felony counts. They are charged with “violating the privacy of health-care providers by recording confidential information without their consent” by using false identities in the state to conduct “in-terviews” about donating fetal tissue for medical research.

Their smear video was instrumental in initiating the national witch hunt against Planned Parenthood, which bolstered the demand for defunding by charging the organization with “selling baby parts.” Although several states initially investigated the organization on such charges, no evidence was found to substantiate the claims.

May Day (May 1) is when we:

 Honor workers and the oppressed all over the globe
 Invite all workers to come out of the shadows
 Take our rightful place as the creators of all things
 Stand in solidarity against all forms of repression and exploitation
 Say that capitalist greed, austerity, misery & war be banished forever
 Affirm the need for a revolutionary socialist future

We want what our name stands for — a workers’ world where all people are entitled to share in the abundance that this Earth is capable of in peace and plenty.

If this is your vision, your hope, your dream, then join Workers World newspaper in creating that future. Join us in continuing to build a strong, independent, thriving voice that speaks loud and clear for the workers and oppressed around the world. We need your financial support to grow the paper from a modest 12-page weekly to a daily. By donating, you help to spread the word that workers can solve the world’s problems.

Environmental destruction

Continued from page 5

cracked to inches of rain since Jan. 1; its average annual rainfall is usually 2 inches. Further inland, Morropon generally gets 4 inches of rain by early March; this year it has received 43 inches.

Some local officials say they are digging mass graves because they fear large numbers of people will die quickly.

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Kenya and Ethiopia, two U.S. allies, have also invaded Somalia.

Oil-rich South Sudan became a new country in 2011 after decades of a war for separation from Sudan supported by the U.S., which had imposed sanctions on the Sudanese government. Once separation was achieved, most of Sudan’s oil resources passed to the new country, which was then wrecked with civil war. Now its infrastructure has collapsed and a famine has been declared.

It is easy to blame the weather for the famines, deaths, injuries and loss of infrastructure and economic production that come with flooding and other catastrophes. However, in reality they are caused by imperialist wars and capitalism’s voracious appetite for profit, that overrides all human considerations.

No defunding of Planned Parenthood!
The hills of Yemen had long been a place of recruitment and training for al-Qaida long before the branch in the Arabian Peninsula was officially announced in 2002.

In the 1980s, U.S. imperialism was busy arming reactionary sectarian forces in Afghanistan to fight the communist government in Kabul and its Soviet allies. Rural tribal areas in Yemen were ideal for recruiting and training hundreds of Yemeni civilians — including an airstrike that killed dozens of Yemeni civilians, including children.

Unemployment is rampant. The illiteracy rate is climbing. Already the poorest country in the region, Yemen lives under an air blockade, with restrictions that prevent entry to the country and prevents civilians from fleeing.

The U.S. has come under fire from several human rights groups for supplying arms to Saudi Arabia.

Documents released via Wikileaks show that the Obama administration started arming and training the Yemeni military prior to the start of the war today. Washington and its imperialist allies are directly blunting a popular rebellion demanding justice and freedom.

The new Trump administration has actually increased the U.S. military presence and air strikes in Yemen, including a raid so horrendous that even the corporate media condemned its causing the death of dozens of Yemeni civilians — including children.

While the U.S. claims to be fighting al-Qaida in Yemen, the U.S.-backed Saudi-led coalition and al-Qaida share a common enemy in Yemen. Popular Resistance Coalition. The Houthis, portions of the Yemeni military and their allies have formed a broad coalition to fight back against U.S.-backed Saudi aggression and U.S. imperialism.

Washington aims at propping up a Saudi-friendly and anti-Iranian government in Yemen. This is carried out by selling billions of dollars of weapons and supplies to the Saudis and their allies, including Qatar, Morocco, Bahrain, Sudan.

Continued on page 9

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U.S. military to increase aggression in Yemen
By Avy Lipatti
For over two years, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) allies, in coordination with the United States, have waged a war on Yemen.

The attacks began in early 2015, when the Ansarullah (also known as “Houthi”) movement ousted the Saudi-backed administra-
tion of Abd al-Rabbo Mansur Hadi. Ansarullah is allied with former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who himself was ousted in the 2011 “Arab Spring” protests against his corrupt and clientelist cli-
p, the Saudi Arabian regime launched an aggressive military campaign known as “Operation Decisive Storm.”

The Saudi monarchy had the backing of the U.S. and the help of the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and other re-
gional allies.

According to the United Nations, over 10,000 Yemeni civilians have died in the conflict. More than half of the 26 million Yemenis are currently experiencing food shortages, mostly due to Saudi block-
ades of key Yemeni ports. Plagued with widespread famine, destroyed hospitals and schools and jolted by relentless Saudi bombings, Yemen is facing a major hu-
mitarian crisis. Western corporate me-
dia have remained virtually silent.

U.S. military supplies more troops to Syria and Iraq, and Pentagon involvement is set to increase in the war on Yemen as well. The Barack Obama administration has sold billions of dollars of weapons to the Saudi government, and provided intelli-
gence, logistical support and drone strike assistance to U.S.-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA).

In March 27, however, the New York Times admits that air strikes hit a building “in which scores if not hundreds of civilians were killed, according to Iraqi witnesses.”

Air strikes have killed, injured and displaced 10,000 civilians in Iraq.

The Pentagon boasts that its bomb-
ings avoid civilian casualties. On March 17, however, the New York Times admits that air strikes hit a building “in which scores if not hundreds of civilians were killed, according to Iraqi witnesses.”

According to the same article, “Airwars, a nongovernmental organiza-
tion that monitors reports of civilian ca-
sualties in international airstrikes, has as-
serted that at least 2,831 civilians are likely to have been killed as of March 28 by the coalition’s air attacks since August 2014.” The Pentagon put this figure at 229, not counting this just past March.

At the conference which I attended on Saturday, April 1, a group of ex-
iled Iraqi women held a vigil opposite Downing Street to protest the residence of the British prime minister, to protest the bombing and killing of civilians in Mos-
ul city, according to a report by Iraqi author Haifa Zangana.

The current model for higher educa-
tion excludes the majority of the popula-
tion from the benefits of higher education. We must fight for a socialist society which will benefit the people.

The conference was cosponsored by Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at Wayne State University, but I noticed that the topic of socialist education wasn’t really explored. I encourage us all to demand that local and federal policymakers treat univer-
sities as public institutions rather than corporations whose intentions are only to profit off education. Instead, we must fight for the right to free, quality educa-
tion for all.

Emory P.C. Whaley
Charlevoix, Mich.
The hashtag #MissingDCGirls, out of Washington, D.C., went viral on social media. The photo of a missing blonde girl, posted on Twitter post exclaimed: “Can someone explain to me how [so many Black girls] don’t get a chance?” (March 31)

Where are the “Amber Alerts” sent out when Black girls go missing? As one Twitter post exclaimed: “Can someone explain to me how [so many Black girls] don’t get a chance?” (March 31)

A tweet by Stephanie Trombly, Women’s Collective, May 18:

This article is excerpted from a talk given March 18 at The Workers World Party forum in Washington, D.C., “In the Face of the Crisis: The Intersection of Women and Work.” Read the entire talk at workers.org.

The New York Times tried to play down the righteous furor that surfaced because of the hashtag, saying there was no “epidemic” of missing girls. (March 31)

But according to the Black and Missing Foundation, Black children are 36.5 percent of all the missing children in the United States, while making up only 12.5 percent of the U.S. population.

That girls of color are half or more of the missing children is certain. That the missing include large numbers of trans and gender-nonconforming children and girls is surely also true.

The Standing Rock youth embraced the old traditions of runners to carry news. They ran to Omaha and then to Washington, D.C., to deliver petitions to the Army Corps of Engineers opposing this threat to Standing Rock. A young Dine mother of four, Vanessa Dundon, lost sight in an eye after being shot in the face with a tear gas canister. Sophia Wilansky, a young white environmental ally from the Bronx, New York, had her arm blown up when she threw a concussion grenade at her. She is still recuperating.

The hundreds of arrested included many elders and women, many of color. One of the last arrested was Regina Brave, who is 80 and a veteran of the Wounded Knee takeover in 1973. Many people took grievous wounds and are still struggling. We should support the hundreds of arrested.

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Student strike answers as Fiscal 'Junta' attacks Puerto Rico

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

On March 31, the Financial Control Board (FCB), the collection agency — met for the sixth time since its inception, this time in Puerto Rico. The U.S. Congress imposed the Junta on the Puerto Rican people under the Promesa Law (Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act of 2016), and its role is basically to collect the illegitimate debt produced by the sale of municipal bonds.

The purpose of this meeting, according to its website, was to passively “receive proposals and presentations on the subject of economic development by various representatives of government, private and third sector entities.” (juntaservi- sion-pr.gov)

As part of its debt repayment plan, the FCB will impose a $4.5 billion cut to the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), and it is very close to imposing a “consolidation” of the university. These colossal cuts will harm the institution, which is a state-owned not-for-profit public school that will cause the institution to lose its accreditation.

Hundreds of students and solidarity groups are preparing to answer it, trying to oppose the Junta’s criminal acts with solidarity with its demands.

Starting early in the morning, they marched from the well-known Muñoz Rivera Center where the Junta was meeting. They even walked inside the large fountain at the entrance of the Center, which was heavily guarded by the police and firemen.

The protesters were mostly students at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), who exposed what in this moment is the true mission of the FCB — to destroy Puerto Rico as a country. The UPR, the only public institution of higher education in Puerto Rico, embodies the very future of the Caribbean, and hence has drawn participation from major U.S. education institutions and from NASA, among many other public entities, which are subsidized by the government, the FCB offers students from poorer families better career possibilities.

Student strike!

That last day of March was already the founding of the strike, which was called by the students on March 21. In a general assembly, students of the Río Piedras campus had already approved, by a 1,312 votes in favor and 253 against, a stoppage of academic work from March 28 to April 5. On the fifth day, students of the 11 campuses of the UPR will meet in a National Assembly to decide the future of the University of Puerto Rico. University of Puerto Rico, leading to the closure and or “consolidations” of some of the most prestigious institutions of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Regard the situation.

Add to this the hiring of an “ethics ofﬁcer” for the Junta. “To the salary of the new executive director of the Fiscal Control Board (Jarekso), a so-called diaspora, the Junta has decided to destroy its colony, Puerto Rico, the future teachers of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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General strike rocks French Guiana

By G. Dunkel

The last two weeks of March saw the people of French Guiana stand up in a massive protest against the French government’s decision for an indefinite strike was made on March 21 and is not subject to the resolve of the National Assembly called for April 5.

The first demand of the striking students is to audit the debt. This has not yet been done and current Gov. Ricardo Jaresko, a U.S. Treasury, was sent Jaresko to Ukraine to serve as minister of ﬁnance, where she exercised a power ofﬁce in the right to control the Ukrainian government.

According to an article in Claridad on March 29 titled “Jaresko: Why did she come to the Caribbean?”, Jaresko was closely associated with the infamous López y Caamaño of $750 an hour for the work of Ethics Officer Andrea Bonime Blanc.” (NotiCel, April 1)

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The people have the last word

As the empire, with its criminal Junta, is preparing to destroy the future of Puerto Rico, the students together with other sectors, including labor, environmental and social, and including Puerto Ricans of the United States, are preparing to intensify the struggle. It is a crucial time for Puerto Ricans, and the people are feeling it in their hearts. And they are getting ready.

From the United States, we should unite our voices and actions to protest the dictatorship Junta in defense of and in solidarity with the Puerto Rican people.

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Right wing rebuffed in Ecuador

Lenín Moreno, candidate for the Alian- za Socialista Popular-Comunista (ASPOC) and the Unión para el Progreso, defeated in the first round by a clear electoral victory, crying fraud, although international observers, including the Organization of American States, said there were no irregularities in the election.

The лидеры of the unions on strike and the Popular Assembly refused to meet with a delegation sent from Paris, including a group of high-level bureaucrats. But after the massive demonstration on May 1, the “no” votes won. On May 22, the government and EU reached an agreement under which the country will get a $1 billion aid package. The government said it was an easy decision for them to make.

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Lo hicimos. La resistencia sirve. La gente en todo el país luchó contra un proyecto de ley de salud draconiana y detuvo su paso. A través de reuniones de ayuntamientos, protestas callejeras, medios de comunicación social, anuncios en vallas publicitarias, peticiones, campañas por teléfono, correo electrónico, manifestaciones en las calles, la gente rechazó el intento del ala derecha de socavar el seguro médico para millones.

Hubo una rebelión en todo el país contra el proyecto de ley “cuidado de la salud” “tomar de los pobres y dar a los ricos” de Trump / Ryan / Price. En Filadelfia, para responsabilizar al Banco Santander. Las/os manifestantes entre otros, hicieron filas para la sucursal de la calle Erie, frente a la oficina de la multimillonaria representante Darrell Issa, en la ciudad de Vista, California.

La AARP (Asociación de Personas Jubiladas) también tuvo acciones en Washington. El Sindicato Nacional de Enfermeras Unidas organizó contra el proyecto de ley de salud. Las organizaciones de defensa de la mujer y en pro de opciones reproductivas, como Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice Americana, y UltraViolet se movilizaron. Las/os consumidores, incluyendo personas de la tercera edad, organizaciones comunitarias, movimientos independentistas, movimientos de liberación, mujeres, y muchas más fuerzas tomaron medidas.

Bonanza para los ricos, desastre para millones

El ala derecha ha tratado de revocar la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Pre-cio (ACA por sus siglas en inglés) desde el día que fue firmado el 23 de marzo de 2010. Los políticos y los medios describi-ron las reformas como el “Obamacare” cada día desde entonces. El presidente Donald Trump declaró la guerra a la ley y juri-dió durante toda su campaña electoral “revo-carla y reemplazarla.”

Debido al ACA, más de 20 millones de personas ahora tienen seguro de salud, muchas/os por la expansión de Medicaid en 31 estados y Washington, D.C., y de los subsidios federales para las/os traba-jadores de bajos ingresos para comprar un seguro.

Funcionarios de 19 estados liderados por republicanos todavía rehúsan ex-pandir Medicaid. El ACA también ordenó que los aseguradores privados cubri-eran los beneficios esenciales de salud. Cada plan debe incluir ciertos servicios, incluyendo cuidado de maternidad y re-scisión, servicios de emergencia, tratamiento de abuso de sustancias y ma-nografías.

Entonces el presidente de la Cámara, Paul Ryan, en 2017 con Trump y Tom Price, secretario de Salud y Servicios Humanos, se apresuraron a obtener la terrible Ley Americana de Salud (AHCA) aprobada antes de que sus costos y efec-tos fueran analizados por la Oficina de Fiscales Chief del Congreso (CBO). Pero no fueron lo suficientemente rápidos.

La CBO dijo que la ley ofrecería miles de millones de dólares en recortes de impuestos a las aseguradoras de salud, compañías farmacéuticas, inversores y otros, alcanzando casi $1 billón en 10 años. El proyecto de ley habría eliminado los impuestos que pagaban por los subsidios para las/os trabajadores de bajos ingresos. (New York Times, 15 de marzo) La propuesta de Trump / Ryan / Price era realmente un proyecto de ley contra la salud. Con ello, dijo, la CBO, 14 mil-lones de personas perderían el seguro en el primer año, y un total de 24 millones perderían la cobertura en 2026. Med-icaid perdería $880 mil millones en 10 años.

La AHCA fue una declaración de guer-ras contra trabajadoras/es, personas de bajos ingresos y oprimidas/os, mujeres y adultos/as mayores.

Las/os adultos mayores habrían sido penalizados ya que la AHCA permitiría a las/os compañías cobrar hasta cinco veces más por las primas que a las/os jóvenes. AARP dijo que una persona de 64 años que gana $15,000 al año po-dría ver sus primas aumentar de $185 a $1,250. El proyecto de ley habría debilitado Medi-care y cambiado los costos de Medicaid a los estados, poniendo así en peligro a las/os personas de bajos ingresos. (NY Times, 10 de marzo)

Esta ley contra la mujer habría retirado el Proyecto de ley de Maternidad y Maternidad, y otros, alcanzando casi $1 billón en 10 años. El proyecto de ley habría eliminado los impuestos que pagaban por los subsidios para el cuidado de la madre-razón de más de $73 mil millones que el gobierno no puede pagar debido a una economía estancada.

La mayor parte de esta deuda ilegítima ha sido canjada por bonos municipales que ambiciosos tenedores de bonos - em-presas de fondos de cobertura de Wall Street - compraron porque las enormes ganancias resultantes a veces incluso más de 700 por ciento de su valor, esta-ban exentas de tributos impuestos. Ahora estos buitres quieren obtener sus ganan-cias prometidas oprimiendo a la clase trabajadora de PR.

Cincuenta y ocho por ciento de los niños que en el año de 18 años viven en la paz brecha y uno de cada puertorriqueño pa-dee hambre.

Un promedio de 3,000 personas - en su mayoría jóvenes - migran a Estados Unidos debido a la falta de em-pleo. La población puertorriqueña en la isla está disminuyendo mientras que millones de estadounidenses se mudan a Puerto Rico para aprovecharse de las exenciones de impuestos. Puerto Rico se está convi-tiendo en un paraíso para los ricos de EU y la población nativa se convertirá en sus sirvientes. (U.S. Census Bureau 2009-10, Dept. Agricultura)

Para “arreglar” la falta de pago por par-te del gobierno de PR, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos promulgó la ley PROME-SA para imponer una Junta de Control Fiscal que actuaría como una agencia de cobro para pagar a los tenedores de bo-nos. Esta Junta se reunió el 13 de marzo para discutir un Plan Fiscal para la PR. El Plan de Austeridad resultante será la destrucción de PR y su pueblo. Entre las medidas se encuentran: la reducción del 20 por ciento de la jornada laboral, la re-ducción del 10 por ciento en las pensiones, el recorte del presupuesto de la Universi-dad Pública de PR, recortes a la atención de la salud, cierre de las escuelas, etc.

Complijcidad de bancos como Santander

Dos de los miembros de la JCF no sólo eran ejecutivos del Banco Santander, sino también presidentes del Banco Gubernamen-tal de Fomento de PR, la entidad que administra el presupuesto del gobierno de PR, y el BGF se hizo cada vez más dependiente de técnicas de ingeniería financiera riesgosas. Santander ayudó al Estado Libre Asociado a emitir acuerdos de “alquiler” similares que se basaban en características controversiales... Estos bonos generaban más ingresos por hon-orarios para el negocio de suscripción de Santander. (Investor'scnyc.com)

La economía de PR se ha desarrollado para satisfacer los intereses de las corpo-raciones transnacionales. El único esta-tus que puede ayudar a PR a convertirse en soberano y construir su futuro en ben-eño de su pueblo es como una república independiente.

Eso por eso que Estados Unidos siempre ha perseguido y reprimido a la gente que defiende la independencia de Puerto Rico, y ha manifestado la cautela que puede no brevirlar la “protección” de EU. Pero los hechos están a la vista: después de un siglo de intervención y ocupación de Es-tados Unidos, Puerto Rico está peor que nunca y su pueblo en profunda pobreza.