Syrian people defy U.S. missiles

By John Catalinotto

The U.S. president has led a Gang of Three into an aggressive assault on Syria. The attack by the Pentagon, Britain and France violated international law. In Donald Trump’s case, it also violated the U.S. Constitution and flouted the War Powers Act.

For a few days starting April 11, anyone who was paying attention was worried not only that many Syrians would die, but that the assault might unleash a military confrontation between the world’s two major nuclear powers, the U.S. and Russia.

The crisis began after charges were made that the Syrian army used chemical weapons in Douma, a suburb of the capital. Syrian troops at the time were on the eve of liberating Douma from occupation by reactionary forces. Aside from claims made by enemies of the Damascus government, no evidence was presented of the alleged attack.

Both the Syrian and Russian governments denied any use of chemical weapons. Others pointed out that it was not in the interest of Damascus to risk using such weapons when the government was on the verge of another big victory. The missile attack also occurred right before a delegation from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was due to arrive to inspect the area.

On the morning of April 11, Trump began to tweet threats of a strike against Syria. After a back and forth, one read: “Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria. Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and ‘smart!’” (ABC News, April 11)

The next day, however, Defense Secretary James Mattis reinterpreted the tweets. “On a strategic level, it’s how do we keep this from escalating out of control, if you get my drift on that,” said the retired Marine general. (Wall Street Journal, April 12)

It’s not that the Pentagon generals had suddenly turned into peacemakers. No, they would carry out the illegal strike. But at least in this case, they would try to avoid provoking battles that the U.S. Armed Forces might not be ready for.

While details of discussions in the Pentagon have not yet been made public, the “drift” of Mattis’ comments was that the generals considered the president’s tweets to be those of a dangerous fool.

‘Mission accomplished’

U.S. ships and planes, with Britain and France joining the crime, launched 107 missiles early on April 14 to ward three targets in Syria. The Pentagon charged that

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Antiwar protests

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MAY DAY: Stop war on immigrants!
Poor People’s Campaign: building for action

Racism, a mass organization whose goal is to increase and mobilize anti-war and anti-imperialist sentiment among youth and students in the Baltimore area. Although an $934 million, five-year contract that Hopkins' Applied Physics Laboratory recently received from the Department of Defense to build bases for nuclear weapons. The ongoing Syrian war is a classic example of U.S. intervention in a foreign nation — beginning with a covert CIA operation to back rebels attempting to overthrow the government and then casting that government in an unfavorable light to gain public support for that war. YAWR saw the need to respond forcefully to the recruitment efforts and public relations. The fact that the CIA has no qualms about meddling in the affairs of other countries.

The ongoing attempts to secure U.S. world dominance affect the people here as well as those abroad. Hundreds of millions of dollars are siphoned away every year to fund the military, money that could pay teachers higher salaries, improve crumbling infrastructure and provide education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Capitalism has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

JHU also has a huge nuclear weapons contract with the Pentagon.

After spreading its control across continental North America, if you're interested in its sights overseas. From the annexation of Hawaii in 1898 to today's U.S.-backed wars and not the principles of "freedom" and "democracy." U.S. war machine has the sole purpose of protecting the assets and interests of the ruling class — not the people and not the principles of "freedom" and "democracy." U.S. intervention only serves to destabilize entire areas of the globe and destroy the lives of the most vulnerable people in these regions.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are an international, multinational and multilingual organization that not only aims to abolish capital-

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and young people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

Join us in the fight for socialism!
May Day call to action
End the U.S. war on immigrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

As May Day approaches, migrants and refugees in the U.S. and around the world remain in a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. President Donald Trump’s continued move to the right is exacerbating this situation. In the U.S., raids at courthouses and workplaces have increased. The National Guard has been sent to the southern border to further militarize the area. The U.S. attorney general Jeff Sessions has strengthened repressive legal measures to terrorize immigrant workers and divide the working class.

Not only for migrants, but for refugee rights must be linked to the struggle against state police terror and to win workers’ rights. It is easy to turn away from the spectacle that is the Trump administration or to laugh Trump off as no more a viable option in this election cycle. But Trump is extremely dangerous. In league with an ultraright faction, he has made his administration into a militaristic, white supremacist regime.

This has disastrous consequences for the workers and oppressed everywhere. This must be fought tooth and nail.

Hardline racist agenda

This month, Trump once again decreed his anti-immigrant agenda through a series of “Easter tweets,” in a nod to his hardline racist agenda.

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Continued from page 2

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For Trump and his ilk to deny the racist lie that regular, well-documented immigrants and their families are living in sheer terror. The risk of post-traumatic stress is real, especially among children of migrant families, with long-standing consequences.

Migrants are forced to leave their homelands and migrate into the U.S. because of intolerable conditions, resulting directly from U.S. imperialist militarism.

Not the northern border with Canada, of course, but the U.S. border with Mexico.

In the wake of Trump’s call for troops at the border, conservative governors from Arizona and Texas deployed their National Guard units (Newsweek, April 7), although still at numbers lower than called out under both Republican Presidents George W. Bush and Democrat President Barack Obama. Arizona deployed 150 members and Texas promised 250. The total from all border states is predicted to reach 4,000 eventually.

California Gov. Jerry Brown announced April 11 that he would send troops to the border. This is alarming, as the migrant rights movement has been very strong in California. That a so-called liberal governor felt the pressure to go along with reactionary governors shows the Trump anti-immigrant hype is gaining momentum.

Brown’s announcement is also an example of how the Democrats continue to sell out immigrants and their advocates.

Workplace raids increasing

Trump’s summonsing of the soldiers is meant to send a chill through migrants and activists alike. This follows other policies to terrorize the migrant and refugee community. On April 5, Trump issued a directive that U.S. immigration enforcement agencies cease any “catch and release” practices. In this degradingly named procedure, undocumented immigrants who had been arrested at the border were released while their cases were processed.

In addition, the Department of Justice, run by archrasic Attorney General Jeff Sessions, will now set quotas for immigration judges in an effort to speed up deportations. According to National Public Radio, “to get a satisfactory rating on their performance evaluations, judges will be required to clear at least 700 cases a year and to have fewer than 15 percent of their decisions overturned on appeal.”

Immigration lawyers criticized the plan. “Decisions in immigration court have life-or-death consequences and cannot be managed like an assembly line,” said Jeremy McKinney, secretary of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (NPR, April 5).

Meanwhile, in what may be the biggest workplace raid under Trump’s assault, 97 people were taken into custody and processed for deportation or detention on April 7, following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at a Tennessee meat-processing plant.

This follows synchronized ICE raids at over 100-7-Eleven stores in early January. On one day alone, ICE agents stormed into 100 stores searching for undocumented workers. (Newsweek, Jan. 10)

The ICE acting executive director boasted at the time that they were just getting started: “It’s not going to be limited to large companies or any particular industry, big, medium and small... This is what we’re gearing up for this year, and what you’re going to see more and more.”

Nowhere to go

Immigrants and refugees in the U.S. are living under a state of siege right now. Whether out shopping or going to religious services, whether in school, at court or at work, while driving or walking anywhere, migrants and their families are living in sheer terror. The risk of post-traumatic stress is real, especially among children of migrant families, with long-standing consequences.

Migrants are forced to leave their homelands and migrate into the U.S. because of intolerable conditions, resulting directly from U.S. imperialist militarism. Only by shutting down this country’s predatory, racist system once and for all will this war on migrants end.

May Day 2018 must once again be dedicated to the struggle of migrants and refugees — whether they come from Honduras or Haiti, Syria or Somalia.

There are no borders in the workers’ struggle! Teresa Gutierrez is a longtime immigration rights activist.
By Dianne Mathiowetz

A bold Black Lives Matter march took Atlanta’s main downtown artery, Peachtree Street, on April 23, as some 84 percent of the state’s teachers and school workers, who received broad union encouragement, marched in support of higher wages and in opposition to arbitrary ending. We want to keep the teachers’ organizing “political theater” — announced he would raise their salaries by 20 percent within two years. Education workers were skeptical of politicians in responding to the will of the membership and devoting resources to the fight against class enemies. The Democratic Party is also attempting to divert the struggle away from rank- and-file militancy and into the ballot box. The effort to funnel actions by education workers and other social movements into a mobilization around the 2018 elections may be even greater than in years past. Going forward, Oklahoma educates deserve solidarity to consolidate their gains, to make their unions more militant and to confront new efforts by right-wing politicians. Punitive legislative moves include a ballot proposal to reverse the tax increases that the struggle won, as well as anti-strike measures. But given the historic and continuing struggle of big business, purely electoral struggle is not the answer. For education workers, keeping a focus on building of solidarity and worker power will be decisive.

Education workers’ movement still growing

The Oklahoma actions, like those in West Virginia and Puerto Rico, are inspiring education workers in other localities, including Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and Wisconsin.

Kentucky’s governor, Matt Bevin, is a hedge fund owner who appointed hedge fund directors to the teachers’ already insecure pension system. (tinyurl.com/y8b2rvc8)

Billionaires such as the Koch brothers own the State Policy Network had just released a report (tinyurl.com/3a1w9n4) that the right-wing think tank was an alliance of organizations that promote policies to weaken workers’ power. (tinyurl.com/9s2crv9)

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Albright not welcome in Brooklyn, N.Y.

By Milos Raickovich
Brooklyn, N.Y.

“War criminal! You belong in jail! Mass murderer! Fascist!” and “Fascist Albright, you can’t hide! We charge you with genocide!”

Protesters addressed these words loud and clear to Madeleine Albright, former secretary of state in the Clinton administration, during a speech she gave in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 10. Albright was interrupted six times by six different protesters speaking in English, Arabic and Hebrew, shouting and holding banners reading “Albright is a war criminal!”

Albright is promoting her new book, “Fascism: A Warning.” The promotion tour started on April 9 in Manhattan at a Barnes & Noble bookstore, where she was also confronted with the same accusing words. After Brooklyn, her tour continues to other major cities in the U.S. Albright is using her well-advertised national speaking tour to oppose Trump — but how? By promoting new U.S.-Israel wars and threatening the international community with sanctions and military action.

Palestinians murdered by Israeli snipers carrying a 40-foot-long scroll showing pictures of, with the names and ages of, 31 Palestinians murdered by Israelis snipers just since March 30.

The Philadelphia Don’t Orchestrate Apartheid (PDQA) campaign is calling on the musicians to stop legitimizing Israeli oppression and apartheid against Palestinians. They see the planned tour as part of the international pro-Israel “BDS” propaganda strategy to use international artists and athletes to draw attention away from their oppression of Indigenous Palestinians.

The planned tour is especially abhorrent in light of Israeli snipers intentionally murdering and wounding thousands of unarmed Palestinian demonstrators taking part in the Great Return marches in Gaza. “For the Philadelphia orchestra to participate in a foreign government’s propaganda campaign is not okay, particularly when Israeli is committing war crimes as we speak,” said PDQA spokesperson Susan Abulhawa.

Other speakers at the demonstration included Abdul-Aliy Muhammad with the Solidarity Movement for Palestinian and American socialists, and Mike Wilson from Philly REAL Action Center on short notice, was at the protest with a loudspeaker.

However, a plan for orchestra members to tour an Israeli military base has been added to the orchestra’s schedule. This move is equally disgusting, considering the Israeli Defense Forces mass scale, intentional shootings of unarmed Palestinians in Gaza.

Week two of ‘Don’t Orchestrate Apartheid’

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

For the second time, demonstrators gathered outside the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia on April 12 to denounce plans by the city’s philharmonic orchestra to tour and perform in Israel this June. This time, people attending an evening concert were greeted with musicans outside playing protest songs while carrying a 40-foot-long scroll showing pictures, with the names and ages of, 31 Palestinians murdered by Israelis snipers just since March 30.

The Philadelphia Don’t Orchestrate Apartheid (PDQA) campaign is calling on the musicians to stop legitimizing Israeli oppression and apartheid against Palestinians. They see the planned tour as part of Brand Israel, the Israeli government’s propaganda strategy to use international artists and athletes to draw attention away from their oppression of Indigenous Palestinians.

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Sara Flounders of IAC calls out Madeleine Albright.

Albright supported Franjo Tudjman in Croatia, a well-known racist, and Alija Izetbegovic in Bosnia, a man who had been in the political wing of the Bosnian Muslim SS (Handzar) Division during World War II.”

Lituchy’s 2006 book, “Jasenovac and the Holocaust in Yugoslavia,” deals with the genocides committed by Germany and Croatia in World War II. Lituchy added: “It is also outrageous that Albright should be posing as an anti-fascist and defender of free speech when she not only brought fascists to power, but was responsible for the murder of 16 journalists and staff at Radio-Television Serbia in 1999 when they had the temerity to report on the bombing of their country by Albright. When she doesn’t like what you have to say, she has you murdered. That’s her idea of free speech — free only for fascists like her.”

In 1999, three Chinese journalists who reported on the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia were killed when their room in the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade was targetted by a U.S. missile.

The protests against war criminal Albright will continue, wherever she pops up, from Prague and Bratislava to cities across the U.S. Never forgive! Stop the war!

For videos of the disruption, see tynurd.com/verdey99.

Picket of concert to protest Israel’s murder of Palestinians.

On April 14, a large crowd answered the call of the Partnership for the Advance ment of New Americans and gathered in San Diego’s famous Balboa Park to rally and march in solidarity with the Transnational Great Return March in Occupied Palestine. Participating organizations included Southwest Asian/North African Alliance, Islamic Center, Khalid al-Bakra wi Center, Palestinian Youth Movement, Students for Justice in Palestine-UC San Diego, Union del Barrio, Workers World Party and Answer-San Diego.

“We have a right to resist the repression of our people and our government,” said Maria, one of the participants.

Caption and photo by Bob McCubbin

San Diego solidarity with Palestine

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—Caption and photo by Bob McCubbin

Continued from page 4

created education funding by the state.

In Milwaukee — where workers and oppressed people have been suffering massive austerity attacks since 2011 by Gov. Scott Walker and the banks — the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association packed an April 10 school board meeting with hundreds of angry members, supporters, parents and students to fight back against severe cuts to city schools. Wide support is mounting for an April 24 picket to defend public schools.

The MTEA will also be joining Voces de la Frontera’s May 1 mobilization, Day Without Latinx and Immigrants, in Waukesha. (mtea.waec.org)

In Los Angeles, non-theatcing staff, represented by Service Employees Interna tional Union Local 99, voted 94 percent for their bargaining team to call a strike if necessary. All signs point to the wave of strikes and actions by education workers continuing and spreading.

The writers were part of a WWP Strike Support contingent on the ground in Oklahoma from April 3 to April 4.

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— Caption and photo by Bob McCubbin

Workers.org April 19, 2018
When the United States, Britain and France launched 107 missiles against Syria on April 14, an angry outcry followed in many countries, including anti-war protesters in the U.S. The Trump administration claimed to be “punishing” President Bashar Assad’s government for allegedly using chemical weapons in Syria, but the truth is that the U.S. and its allies are smearing the Syrian leader as part of their long-range plan to oust him and assert imperial control of the Middle East.

In protest, hundreds of Syrians gathered at sites in Damascus, the capital, denouncing the Pentagon’s airstrikes and cheering their army’s defense system, which they said successfully shot down or derailed two-thirds of the missiles fired. Solidarity with the Syrian people and outrage at the imperialists’ assault were expressed in many countries. Demonstrations took place in Jordan and Occupied Palestine. Hundreds from the Arab community marched with banners reading, “Hands off Syria!” to the U.S. Consulate in Haifa, Israel. Protest took place in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, and at the gates of the RAF Akrotiri, a British military base in Cyprus, and in Kolkata, India.

In Latin America, protests were held in Berlin and Rome, while thousands, led by the Greek Communist Party, marched in Athens and picketed the U.S. Embassy, denouncing the U.S. Among other actions, the Stop the War Coalition organized a rally in London on April 13 and in that city and Bristol on April 16, deeming their government’s complicity in the air strikes.

In Latin America, protests were held at U.S. embassies in Santiago, Chile, where some demonstrators were arrested, and in Mexico City, where people draped banners demanding rights for everyone, regardless of country of origin.

U.S. protesters: End all U.S. wars!


The IAC’s press release explained the mobilization’s aims: to oppose intensified U.S. militarism in Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria; drone attacks; threats against North Korea, Iran and Venezuela; and the appointment to Trump’s administration of super-hawks Mike Pompeo and John Bolton. Other demands were to end racist police killings and fund social programs, not war.

The coalition condemned U.S. aid to Israel, oppressor of the Palestinian people. The government has not uttered one word of criticism about Israeli soldiers’ horrific shooting of unarmed Gazans protesting the blockade—showing once again that Washington supports Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

Workers World activists sent in reports from the following cities.

BOSTON
Groups, including the Syrian American Forum, WWP-Boston, Answer Coalition-Boston, and the Boston Hands Off Syria Coalition, gathered at Park Street on April 12 to oppose threatened U.S. intervention. Following the missile attack on April 14, these same groups again mobilized, joined by the immigrants’ rights group Cosecha and anti-war veterans. The weekly Peace Vigil held by anti-war veteran organizations denounced the airstrike. A rally at Roxbury’s Dudley Square transit station was followed by a march to Ruggles station in downtown Boston.

Event speakers denounced the continued imperialist destruction of the Middle East, pointing to the U.S. devastation of Libya and the continued occupation of Iraq. They highlighted the wars’ effects inside the U.S., including the dismantling of social programs to fund the Pentagon’s budget and boost arms manufacturers’ profits. Syrian-Americans expressed their opposition to any U.S. intervention in their homeland. Many feared for their families there. A young Syrian woman recited her poem about the war.

— Sam Ordóñez

BUFFALO, N.Y.

An ad-hoc anti-war coalition with representation from various local groups and organizations demonstrated April 15 against U.S. wars at home and abroad, focusing on the bombing strikes in Syria. Protesters gathered at Niagara Square and marched to a rally at Naval Park. Speakers were from Black Lives Matter, Democratic Socialists of America, Green Party, IAC, WW, Buffalo Forum, Veterans for Peace, Friends of the Syrian People and local student groups.

— Garrett Dicembre

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Sixty people held a press conference at a homeless shelter, then marched through downtown Rochester to the federal build-

— Deidre Griswold

The U.S. is a prime user of chemical weapons in warfare. One need only point out that over a decade, the U.S. dumped 13 million gallons of Agent Orange on Vietnam, denuding the forests and poisoning the population. Even now, 43 years after the end of that U.S. war of aggression, the Vietnamese are still dying and carrying defective genes from this poisoning, along with U.S. war veterans. The hypocrisy on this issue by Washington and other imperialist capitals joins the other big lies used to justify aggression.

— Trump, May, Macron under fire

The three imperialist leaders who signed on to the latest war crime are themselves fighting for their political lives at home. Trump faces possible criminal charges and persistent scandals. Teresa May’s Conservative Party in Britain shows a minority in the polls. Emmanuel Macron faces a determined public-sector working class fighting

Continued from page 1

the targeted buildings were complicit in chemical warfare and that they had been destroyed.

Syria reported that its Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries Research Institute, which prepared the chemical components for cancer drugs, was destroyed in the attack and provided photos of the damage. Syrian people defy U.S. missiles

BOSTON

East, pointing to the U.S. devastation of Libya and the continued occupation of Iraq. They highlighted the wars’ effects inside the U.S., including the dismantling of social programs to fund the Pentagon’s budget and boost arms manufacturers’ profits. Syrian-Americans expressed their opposition to any U.S. intervention in their homeland. Many feared for their families there. A young Syrian woman recited her poem about the war.

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Syrian people defy U.S. missiles

PHILADELPHIA
Some 100 people rallied outside City Hall on April 14 to demonstrate against the U.S. attack on Syria. Then they marched past the French and British consulates to protest those governments’ participation in the airstrikes. Speakers and chants identified the attacks as an extension of racist violence against people of color at home and internationally. By uniting activists from many communities, the event demonstrated that solidarity between political movements is essential to building a strong anti-imperialist coalition. Outlookers responded positively to the activists’ message, showing the unpopularity of imperialist war.


— Steven Ceci

DURHAM, N.C.
An emergency downtown rally of 100 demonstrators April 15 protested the airstrikes on Syria and the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza. They and passers-by cried out, “Free Palestine” and “From Syria to Palestine, occupation is a crime!” Speakers from anti-imperialist groups included WWP member Qasena, who read a poem by June Jordan, “Apologies to All the People in Lebanon.” Stressing that these wars mean less funding for needed programs at home, community organizer Raul said, “All the money that can be used for us is gone; we are all affected by this.” Participating organizations included WWP’s Durham branch, Muslims for Social Justice, Durham Students for Justice in Palestine, Triangle Area Green Party, Triangle Angels for Peace, Triangle NPC PSI, Answer Coalition and NCSU Young DSA.

— Enzo Niebuhr

Baltimore
Demonstrators, mostly young, came out in response to an emergency call put out by the newly formed group Youth Against War and Racism, WWP and the Peoples Power Assembly to protest imperialist military action against Syria on April 14. The protest was spirited, with folks chanting, “1, 2, 3, 4. We don’t want your racist wars!” 5, 6, 7, 8. Stop the killing, stop the hate!” “No justice, no peace!” and “U.S. out of the Middle East.”

Mekles, a young woman of Ethiopian descent, emphasized that money being spent by the U.S. to bomb countries in which people of color live, killing and maiming innocent civilians should instead be spent at home to provide education and health care. While folks were chanting against the bombing and calling for the end of U.S. imperialism, many passersby beeped their horns or gave thumbs-up to show their support.

— Stephen Davies

ATLANTA
The plaza of Little 5 Points was decorated with dozens of banners and signs bearing a message of “No U.S. war at home and abroad” to the popular shopping district on April 14. On all four corners of the busy intersection, demonstrators held placards denouncing the attack on Syria and hostile threats against People’s Korea and Venezuela. Support for Palestine; demands for housing, health care, jobs and education; and declarations of solidarity with immigrants and the Black Lives Matter movement were plentiful.

Passing pedestrians and drivers honked and waved at the sight of the anti-war message. Rally speakers included representatives of Black Alliance for Peace, Black Lives Matter, Jewish Voice for Peace, SOWatch, Vets for Peace — as well as an undocumented youth, an anti-fascist organizer and a housing activist. The Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition and the IAC’s Atlanta chapter organized the rally.

— Dianne Mathiowitz

HOUStON
Outraged demonstrators protested at the busiest intersection in Houston April 14. They held signs and banners demanding, “U.S. Out of Syria and the Middle East.” For more than two hours, they chanted over the sound system, attracting the attention of thousands of drivers and their passengers. Many honked their horns in support and shouted thanks to protesters. Participants included the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Fe y Justicia Workers Center, the Brown Berets de TejAztlan, WWP, Houston Socialist Movement and Socialist Alternative.

— Gloria Rubac

SALT LAKE CITY
The Students for a Democratic Society chapter at the University of Utah held a rally in front of the federal building in Salt Lake City on April 15 to demand “No war on Syria.” Speakers included representatives from SDS, WWP, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Utah Against Police Brutality and Teamsters Local 222.

— Joanna Straughn

LOS ANGELES
Hundreds of demonstrators carried Syrian flags and placards demanding an end to the war on Syria and calling President Trump a war criminal at a march and rally April 14, which began at Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles. The event was led by Arab Americans for Syria, and various anti-war and social justice organizations participated, including the IAC, Hands off Syria Coalition, Union del Barrio, Answer Coalition, and Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

— John Parker

BAY AREA, CALIF.
Over 600 people demonstrated on April 13. The spirited crowd, representing the diversity in the Bay Area, rallied first at the Lake Merritt Amphitheater. Meagan Whelan, chairperson of GABRIELA Oakland, emceed that rally. Speakers included Chairman Fred Hampton Jr., the Prisoners of Conscience Committee; Pierre Labosierre, Haiti Action Committee; Lara Kiswani, Arab Resource and Organizing Center; Io Sunwoo, Houston Organized Bay Area Koreans; and Gerry Condon, president, board of directors, Veterans for Peace.

— Lyn Neeley

for its life in France.

Many in the U.S. believe Trump was only too ready to look tough by making a military move in order to distract from his own scandals. That May and Macron are both as war-prone as the Republicans and Democratic Party, whose leaders are just as war-prone as the Republicans and Trump.

— Joanna Straughn

OVERALL POINT
— Steven Ceci

ROCHESTER, N.Y.
On April 14, more than 50 people rallied in front of the federal building in Rochester to protest the bombing of Syria and say, “Stop U.S. wars of aggression.” Speakers addressed the U.S. media’s lies and propaganda about Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, North Korea, Venezuela, and Honduras. Those who traveled from WWP’s Federal Way, Wash., branch waved large flags as each of the speakers addressed the crowd.

The International League of Peoples’ Struggle, Portland Central American Solidarity Committee and the May 1 Coalition were among the many groups that spoke and denounced U.S. imperialism. WWP-Portland called and sponsored the event.

— Terri Kay

PORTLAND, ORE.
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— Lynn Neeley

— Stephen Davies

— Joanna Straughn

— John Parker

— Dianne Mathiowitz

— Steven Ceci
Syrian trade unions appeal for solidarity

The following appeal was issued by the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Trade Unions of the Syrian Arab Republic right before the U.S. bombing of Damascus.

Dear comrades, brothers and sisters,

The United States and its followers from other imperialist countries, such as France, Britain and their proxies in the region such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and others, have been staging provocations against Syria to carry out their agendas on Syrian territory since their terrorist war against Syria began eight years ago.

These days we are witnessing the fabrication of alleged evidence, the latest example of which is the fabricated fiction of the Eastern Ghouta hit by chemical weapons used by the Syrian Arab Army. These colonial powers have always used the U.N. Security Council and its instruments to strike sovereign states by using lies and fabricated pretexts to achieve their goals, such as the famous fiction of Colin Powell in the U.N. Security Council used to strike Iraq.

The chemical fiction was staged in Douma when the terrorists experienced the victories of the Syrian Arab Army that liberated eastern Ghouta, which contributed to the safety and tranquility of the people of Damascus, who had suffered a lot from the terrorists ravaging the capital, Damascus, with dozens of missiles and rockets.

The more the Syrian Arab Army achieves victories on the ground, the more the terrorists urge their paymasters to save them, as happened when they fabricated the chemical incident in Khan Sheikhoun.

This time, U.S. President Trump, French President Macron, and British Prime Minister May accuse the Syrian government of using chemical weapons in Douma on the basis of evidence and fabricated false videos of the so-called White Helmets, who are the medical wing of the fascist terrorists Al-Nusra in Syria.

They have held meetings of the U.N. Security Council in order to issue resolutions to strike the only legitimate Syrian government, one that fights terrorism in the world and the assertion of a member state in the Security Council, Russia, that the Douma area was free of any chemical traces after the Russian experts entered Damascus, refuting their claims.

The Syrian government has asked the experts of the International Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to enter and verify the incident, but Trump and his assistants from European and Gulf Arab countries blocked their ears and decided to proceed with their lies and threats.

We at the General Union of Trade Unions in Syria declare our stand with our Syrian government and Syrian Arab Army under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad, alongside whom we have faced terrorism and its sponsors for eight years. We affirm that we are confident of victory. These American and European threats constitute a flagrant violation of the U.N. Charter.

We call upon all honorable people from the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and all Arab and international organizations to speed up the campaign of defending Syria by sending messages of solidarity and support to Syria and organizing marches and sit-ins in front of the American Embassies in the world, condemning this blatant American aggression, to save the world from Trump’s ruthlessness.

We ask you to send letters to officials of the United Nations and the United States of America, stressing that the American president will lead to a new world war that will drag the whole world to further chaos, destruction and poverty and increase the number of refugees from the wars waged by the United States against sovereign states in the world.

Long live the great people in their war against terrorism! Long live international solidarity with Syria!

From Damascus

Syrians react to threats to bomb their country

The following article, published in the German daily newspaper Junge Welt on April 12, was translated by Workers World managing editor John Catalinotto.

Karim Leuekfeld
Damascus, Syria

The night before April 12 was calm. An expected attack by the U.S. Armed Forces and their allies on Syria had not yet taken place. But many people in Damascus and across the country expect that the hostile threats to bomb the country...
By Rémy Herrera

Paris

April 13 — President Emmanuel Macron is right: “France is back!” But not postcard France — angry France! Its anger boiled over the heads of French society and has its reasons, plenty of them. There is no need to review them all; one article would not be enough.

But one factor dominates all others: for decades, the continued, stubborn pursuit of neoliberal policies has torn apart the social fabric, labor rights, and the working class, made jobs more precarious, compressed wages, threw masses of people out of work, shredded ties of solidarity, sharpened selfishness, glorified the de- spicable values of capitalism, promoted the crude reflexes of consumerism and promoted an attitude of submission. And we would expect the people not to react?

Appointed by Macron, the current government, led by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, supposedly “neither right nor left” (but then what? “extreme-center”?) has eliminated the tax on extreme wealth and, ironic, imposed on the working class, made jobs more precarious, compressed wages, threw masses of people out of work, shredded ties of solidarity, sharpened selfishness, glorified the de- spicable values of capitalism, promoted the crude reflexes of consumerism and promoted an attitude of submission. And we would expect the people not to react?

On the March toward a new May ’68?

The May ’68 movement in France, although short-lived, was a radical reimagining of the potently revolutionary role of students, and their relation to the working class and capitalist society as a whole.

By effectively bringing France to a halt, students and workers showed a new, more humanistic world is possible. Fundamentally capitalist and anti-humanist, the actions of the masses temporarily neutralized the paternalistic state power of the regime led by President Charles de Gaulle and suggested what a truly democratic and anti-imperialist France might look like.

The movement began at Nanterre — a U.S.-style university that was characterized by increased competition and decreased leisure and intellectual exploration, features that had long characterized the country’s intellectual culture. Being in an industrial, working-class neighbor- hood, students attended classes amid factories and rubbed shoulders with workers on the streets. The combination of business or factory-oriented education and the bleak surroundings of capitalist exploitation sparked widespread discontent among the students. It was not just the university’s atmosphere and practices, but also capitalist society and culture — which they saw as the root problem — that the students sought to overthrow.

On May 2, after months of unrest and organizing, students seized control of the university’s lock-up cells and occupied a lecture hall as they played the “Internationale” overhead. In response to the disruption, the dean closed the university.

This battle to defend the university, and integrity of workers was led by the CGT (Confederation of Labor) until late 2017. Because it fought alone, or almost alone, the CGT credit for the progres- sively since some of its leaders are less than combative. The unions had to resist the repression directed at these struggles.

A mass movement extended to the “crimi- nalization” of such trade union actions as the “sequestration of executives” at Good- year, the “hearing of executives’ shirts” at Air France, and resistance at Peugeot and in other companies where activists have been discriminated against and even con- demned to suspended prison sentences.

This is why struggle is intensifying.

For the moment, these struggles are scattered: railway workers’ strikes (cur- rently two days out of five, until June), Carrefour retail store staff (April 13), Air France (March 30), education and research (March 10), territorial medical and social services (Feb. 14), hospitals (Jan. 31), institutions serving the elderly (Jan. 30) and postal workers (Jan. 9).

In addition, workers in social service organi- zations, the gas and electricity companies, the chemical and oil sectors, the civil service, etc. have been temporarily working to lead strikes — which is unprecedented, including those in fast food outlets and Afro hairdressing salons. In no particu- lar order, the unemployed, homeless, un- insured, the elderly, retirees, pacifists, anti-fascists, ecologists and other activists have also protested.

All over France on March 22, near- ly half a million people marched in the streets for a big day of action against the “Macron reforms.”

For weeks, students have been mobili- zing. Many of them oppose the govern- ment’s education “plan” to make univer- sity entrance more selective. They have to deal with the police, and companies, including those at Paris 1 (Tolbiac), Paris 8 (Saint-Denis), Montpellier and Toulouse.

The authorities responded to the student uprisings by sending CRS national police brigades on April 9 to club young rebels on the Nanterre campus!

The university at Nanterre is where the May ’68 Students began, with the ento- nance to one of the occupied universi- ties, one can read this banner: “May ’68, were they afraid? 2018, we will make them more so!”

Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre National d’Études des Travailleurs, the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne. PW’st staff translated.

The struggle continues

May 1968 in France

By Christian Noakes

The year 1968 was one of great turmoil and unrest. It was a time when revolution seemed to be bubbling up in countries all around the world. Giving thorough attention to the events of that explosive year and what lessons they might offer us today is a time when revolution — which they saw as the root problem — would take control of the Sorbonne and the Latin Quarter of the city.

Police occupied the campus, which galvanized large numbers of students to take direct action. Barricades were erect- ed using overturned cars, newspaper stands, cobblestones and anything else with which they could improvise. In the struggles of the following days, students would take control of the Sorbonne and the Latin Quarter of the city.

Residents provided support for the insur- rection in the form of food, blankets and enthusiasm. When the Sorbonne was reopened, students claimed it for the people, and worker-student action commit- tees were set up to coordinate the daily operations of the revolution.

General Confederation of Workers (CGT) called for a one-day general strike and demonstration with the students on May 13. To many, this did not go far enough.

Mowed by the militancy of the students, over 100,000 workers went on strike and occupied 33 different factories throughout the country within a matter of days. First to be occupied was Sud Aviation — the manufacturer of the Caravelle jetliner.

De Gaulle called for elections, which, as one reporter wrote, “served as a lever to restore the legitimacy of the government and the president.”

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The necessity of taking out loans for working-class and middle-class students has created a generation with little to hope for. In the spirit of ’68, the struggle may gain in status through their degrees, the predominant pattern is that cultural cap- ital is not easily converted into economic mobility — or stability, for that matter. The condition of students in the U.S. to- day mirrors the condition of students in Paris in 1968 and the precarious condi- tions of today’s student workers.

As one student committee proclaimed shortly after the occupation of the Sor- bonne, “We are no longer assured of our future. We are on the verge of the origin of our revolutionary force. We must not let it slip away. ... The student has become the vanguard of the bourgeoisie, and the worker, the ‘bourgeois’ of the under- developed world.” (Quoted in “When Po- licy Ruined the Streets” by Andrew Fen- beck) (Red Flag, March, 2018)

We must utilize the instability and ex- ploitation foisted on us by the system as a basis for solidarity and revolutionary action. The conditions of existence under capitalism must be made a unifying force to undermine bourgeois culture and soci- ety — one edition, the struggle con- tinues. Long live the revolution!”
Solidarity between French and U.S. workers!

French rail workers on strike.

Message to striking French workers from Workers World Party (U.S.), translated and distributed to the unions through the PRCF (French communists).

Workers World Party in the United States wants to express its great admiration and total solidarity for the current struggle of French workers against their government’s intention to destroy gains French workers have won over decades of protests and mass movements, through the imposition of austerity and the laying off of two thousand public service employees.

While workers in France do have a constitutional right to strike, the administration of the former Rothschild banker Emmanuel Macron and his prime minister Édouard Philippe have made it clear that they do not intend to bargain. They intend to break the railroad unions: the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), National Union of Autonomous Trade Unions (UNSA), French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT) and Sud-Rail. In that process, they also want to sweep away unions representing sanitation and sewerage workers (éboueurs et égoutiers), the employees of Air France and Electricity of France, and students whose status is being challenged.

Workers in the U.S., especially teachers and other workers in education, have been confronting austerity for decades. Teaching in the U.S. is a high-skill, low-pay job. In most states, teachers do not have the legal right to strike and to bargain collectively. U.S. public sector workers and their unions are increasingly under attack.

But a successful, albeit illegal, state-wide education strike in West Virginia and ongoing teacher walkouts in Oklahoma and Kentucky, indicate a rising sentiment against government-imposed austerity in the U.S.

There is an objective basis for solidarity between French and U.S. workers in the current struggles against austerity and for higher wages, better pensions and better working conditions.

Long live the solidarity between French and U.S. workers! On to final victory!

Workers World Party, USA
April 2018

This commentary was posted April 2 and downloaded from Prison Radio.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

She was born in 1936 and named Nomzamo Winifred Madikizela, but the world would come to know this South African beauty as Winnie Mandela, the wife of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

Their lives, their struggles for freedom, dignity and liberation from the racial ignorance known as apartheid, filled most of the 20th century. He, Nelson, labored under the harsh apartheid sun, breaking rocks in the prison yard while she, Winnie, labored under the white state’s total surveillance, while she raised their children.

While not widely known, her struggle included not only separation from her husband, but the cruel legality called “banning,” or South African censorship.

One key difference between the Trump attack and the Iraq invasion is that this time, it is the working people who are being branded with the label of “terrorists” — as was the case in March 1970, where the local police of Kent State used tear gas and guns against the students, as a headdress.

And when, after Nelson's freedom, the marriage ended, she remained a powerful presence in South African life, loved by the nation's poor and dispossessed.

For they knew, in their heart of hearts, that their struggle was her struggle.

And when, after Nelson’s freedom, the marriage ended, she remained a powerful presence in South African life, loved by the nation’s poor and dispossessed. For they knew, in their heart of hearts, that their struggle was her struggle.

In her 1994 book, "Part of My Soul Went with Him," Winnie Mandela wrote: "I have ceased a long time ago to exist as an individual. The ideals, the political goals that I stand for, these are the ideals and goals of the people in this country.

They cannot just forget their own ideals. My private self doesn’t exist. Whatever they do to me, they do to the people of this country."

Several years ago, when Nelson was being laid to rest, his third wife, Graca Machel Mandela, slumped in grief, was given a hug and a kiss to console her by his second wife, Winnie.

Nomzamo Winnie Mandela Madikizela, a class act to the very end and a lifelong revolutionary, Amandla!
Puerto Rico Teachers Federation: ‘a fighting instrument’

The Puerto Rico Teachers Federation (FMPR) held a successful one-day strike March 29 against legislative attacks on teachers and students.

FMPR has been in the vanguard of the class struggle for decades. The FMPR is working tirelessly to provide hurricane relief in the absence of government assistance.

On April 9, President Mercedes Martínez addressed the 3,000-plus unionists and activists attending the Labor Notes conference in Chicago. Workers World contributing editor Martha Grevatt interviewed President Martínez and Vice President Edwin Morales.

Martha Grevatt: Tell us about the history of the FMPR.

Mercedes Martínez: We were founded in 1966. Teachers were upset with the Association of Puerto Rican Teachers (AMPR). The AFL-CIO affiliate. It was a bosses’ union, not a class-struggle union. Puerto Rican teachers needed a union that fought for them. Teachers tried to change the union, believing that teachers are workers and deserve the right to bargain, negotiate, protest and strike to better their conditions. At that time, the school bosses were in the same association as teachers. We needed an association of only teachers. The AMPR was like a ministry, saying you have to sacrifice and not protest.

We had a 30-day strike in 1974. At that time, the class struggle was in a process of mobilization, with 1,400 strikes in one year. The first strike was by the FMPR, as a rank-and-file union linked to an anti-imperialist political organizations. The union was trying to transform the teacher sector.

MG: How has the FMPR been fighting austerity?

MM: We have been resisting in a lot of ways, with organizational work and giving communities a political context of why it is happening. To build a country we want to live in, it is not just being against charter schools, privatization and layoffs, but for a mass mobilization of the community.

Our union has been in the front lines for many years. When the capitalist crisis gets tough, in 2006, bosses started eliminating rights and destroying contracts. In 2008, we went on strike when there was a deficit and the government shut down. Teachers were fired and a sales tax was imposed. This was to accelerate the neoliberal agenda. But the strike stopped charter schools.

Law 35 prohibits strikes. FMPR was decertified in 2008 [even before the strike], but members had decided to go forward with the strike because the rights of workers were more important. FMPR was an instrument of fighting.

We were recertified in 2009. We had a strike in 2011 and were decertified again. We could not collect dues and the executive board was fired. We worked for a year without a salary. We were recertified again in 2013. FMPR has continued fighting. We have faced the repression of the state, but we have the respect of the Puerto Rican people.

MG: What has been the union’s response to the hurricanes?

Edwin Morales: Irma was just devasting to us: our own individual families — family, community, schools — a huge panorama. Solidarity was the saving part. People from all over came, many union activists. We handed out $525,000 to school workers. We rebuilt schools and homes, reopened roads, provided food and shelter, and organized against school closures.

MG: Tell us about the recent strike and upcoming struggles.

MM: The [one-day] strike was held March 29 by 60,000 teachers. Of the students, 90 percent were absent. We announced the strike on a Wednesday and struck Monday. We pre-organized. We gave talks in communities to explain new legislation and organize against charters, school closings, layoffs and the neoliberal agenda. Law 85, passed March 29, allows 10 percent of schools to be charters, 3 percent of students to get vouchers [for private or parochial schools] and allows schools to be closed.

On April 15, we are going to hold a general assembly of teachers and community members in San Juan. We are going to be discussing the government’s plans, the necessity of a strike and how many days to stay out. It is going to be a democratic process and we will include members of other organizations. Other school union members will also be invited so they will know what is happening. All workers can come.

Donate to help FMPR’s hurricane relief efforts at tinyurl.com/gphysxkal.

By Katherine Cavanaugh

Near a busy corner on Chicago’s South Side, on April 7, cars slowed and passers-by honked or raised their fists in support at the sight of a small group holding a banner. The sign hadn’t been aware of the nature of the monument, but expressed outrage that such a racist presence would stand in the face to the descendants of Black soldiers known as the Confederate Mound.

Since last September, members of Smash White Supremacy-Chicago, led by Yuki Yoshida, have gone door-to-door in Grand Crossing to investigate the impact of the Confederate monument on the people who live in its shadow. They were also promoting BVP 100’s HonorHerLabor campaign to replace the monument with a statue of anti-apartheid activist Ida B. Wells. The grave of that legendary African-American journalist, newspaper editor and anti-lynching activist rests just yards from the Confederate Mound.

Cansvassing extensively throughout the area, the volunteers also made sure community members were aware that the federal government spends $250,000 annually on restoration and upkeep for the monument, and that a racist organization known as “Sons of Confederate Veterans” rallies there regularly. Many of those canvassed hadn’t been aware of the monument, but expressed outrage that such a racist presence would stand in the face to the descendants of Black soldiers.

Those who were aware of the statue’s meaning pointed out the insult of its proximity to the graves of Black freedom fighters such as Ida B. Wells and Harriet Washington, the first Black mayor of Chicago. This author spoke to a few residents who stressed that the monument is a slap in the face to the descendants of Black Southsiders who escaped slavery-like conditions in the South by coming to Chicago in the period known as the “Great Migration.”

Another resident referred to the “little parties” that Sons of Confederate Veterans hold every spring. These rallies feature the flying of the pseudo-historical Confederate flag, now used as an international white supremacist symbol. Most alarming is that the group has launched gun violence, guns are fired in a “military salute.”

SCV members and other supporters of the monument say the rallies are nothing more than memorial rituals for over 4,000 soldiers buried around the Confederate Mound. These were casualties of Chicago’s Civil War era Camp Douglas, where prisoners of war were kept. Conditions there became overcrowded after the Confederate refused to treat captured Black Union soldiers as prisoners of war, instead selling them back into enslavement. As a result, the Union stopped participating in prisoner exchanges.

But after Reconstruction, the white rulers plus of their friends and associates by putting up $525,000 to fund the construction of the monument as a symbol of national unification under the banner of racism.

The April 7 rally across from the cemetery was small but impactful, prompting extensive media coverage — including a full-page article in the Chicago Sun Times — and angry reaction from supporters of the failed Confederacy.

Remarks from organizers reframed the growing national debate over monuments that glorify the racist and genocidal roots of the U.S. Speakers focused on the social, psychological and economic impact of racism on people who fight to survive in a society that does not honor the sacrifices of those who fought for them. Teachers tried to organize against bosses’ union, not a class-struggle union.

“Activists and community members speak out against white supremacy across the street from the Confederate Mound in Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago, April 6.”

Mercedes Martínez Padilla, president of the Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico.

‘No monuments to racism’

By Katherine Cavanaugh

When Confederate soldiers approached Chicago’s Civil War era Camp Douglass, they thought they had entered a scene from a movie. It was indeed, their lives.

The area, the volunteers also made sure community members were aware that the Confederate Mound.

The Confederate Mound, scheduled for April 22 at 11 a.m.

Veterans” rallies there regularly. Many of those canvassed hadn’t been aware of the monument, and that a racist organization known as “Sons of Confederate Veterans” rallies there regularly. Many of the teachers who knew what is happening. All workers can come.

Donate to help FMPR’s hurricane relief efforts at tinyurl.com/gphysxkal.

Sírios/so recepcionan a amenazas de bombardeo

Continua página de 12

Una entrevista con Jung Welle. Dijo que Alemania es un faro cultural y económico, y que presta ayuda humanitaria. Pero en el Medio Oriente, enfatizó, Berlin sigue a Estados Unidos e Israel.

Las sanciones económicas contra Siria, dijo el funcionario, perjudicaron no solo a los sirios, sino también a la economía alemana. Sin embargo, los líderes alemanes están sembrando hostilidad hacia Siria. El funcionario preguntó: “¿Qué quieren de nosotros? ¿Quieres mi mesa, mi chauceta? Puedo darles ambas si las necesitan. Por lo que he oído, la población alemana no quiere guerra, ni siquiera en Siria. ¿Por qué el gobierno aleman hace lo contrario de lo que quiere el pueblo?”
Sirias/os reaccionan a amenazas de bombardeo

Por Sara Florunders

Las guerras estadounidenses se basan en mentiras y falsas provocaciones. Esto no es noticia. El gobierno sirio también ha establecido corredores humanitarios que permiten que sus fuerzas asistan en el desalojo de más de 130,000 civiles. La ciudad de Duma, donde tuvo lugar el supuesto ataque con gas, fue la última en ser liberada. El Ejército del Islam o Jaysh al-Islam acordaron una evacuación. La Fuerza Aérea Arabe Siria había destruido más de 500 posiciones del Jaysh al-Islam en el distrito de Duma, incluyendo sus sedes principales, redes de comunicación y depósitos de municiones, durante las últimas 24 horas antes del supuesto ataque con gas.

Siria no tiene motivo

¿Siria es agredida de nuevo en el momento de victoria para desatar repentinamente un ataque con gases inofensivos y ridículos? Pero ésta es una acusación que sirve como excusa para que EUA y la OTAN renueven sus bombardeos, especialmente dado que solo una semana antes Trump había hablado de sacar a EUA de Siria. El ataque con gas, que se dice que mató a menos de 42 personas, tuvo una cobertura primordial en primera plana en los medios de Estados Unidos junto con los tuits de Trump. Mientras la acusación de que Siria lo hizo fue recibida en Rusia, Francia y China, en la mayor parte del mundo, los miembros de la OTAN, Francia y Bretaña, intervieron diligentemente con amenazas inmediatas de bombardeos masivos. Esto fue confirmado por los funcionarios estadounidenses sabiendo que era una mentira - o el falso "ataque" de barcos PT vietnamitas a un buque de guerra estadounidense en el Golfo de Tonkin en 1964, los medios estadounidenses han repetido las mentiras del gobierno para justificar sus bombardeos masivos, sus campañas desestabilizadoras y sus sanciones provocadoras de hambruna, que resultan en la muerte de cientos de miles de civiles.

Amenaza de guerra extensa

Una guerra más amplia acallada de un enfrentamiento en Siria es un peligro creciente. Lo más peligroso en este momento es que coincide con la instalación del hálcón de guerra de extrema derecha John Bolton como el nuevo asesor de seguridad nacional de Trump. Cuando la clase dominante estadounidense quiera guerra, los medios corporativos se apuntan. Ya sea como el falso alegato de que Irak tenía armas de destrucción masiva en 2002 - lo que los funcionarios estadounidenses sabían que era una mentira - o el falso "ataque" de barcos PT vietnamitas a un buque de guerra estadounidense en el Golfo de Tonkin en 1964, los medios estadounidenses no han permitido que esta guerra tenga una escala de descontrol. El régimen israelí se adelantó e inmediatamente aprovechó la oportunidad para atacar a Siria. Funcionarios estadounidenses señalan que EEUU y la OTAN dispararon misiles contra la base aérea militar Tiyaas de Siria en la provincia de Homs antes del amanecer del 17 de abril.

Es increíble aceptar que Israel - cuyas tropas han matado a 28 civiles palestinos desarmados y ha herido a más de 5,000 en las últimas dos semanas, implementó el programa de los años 80: un conjunto de misiles que ha matado en los bombardeos de Gaza en el pasado - estaba atacando a Siria por la muerte de civiles.

Cargos sin prueba

La descarada afirmación de la culpa iraní y la sospecha de que Siria fue el blanco por parte de los líderes de EEUU y la OTAN no sólo es totalmente infundada, es inaceptable y totalmente inverosímil. El gobierno de Estados Unidos no respeta el derecho internacional. Siria ha negado reiteradamente las alegaciones de uso de armas químicas, subrayando que no tiene armas de destrucción masiva. Esto fue confirmado por la Organización para la Prohibición de Armas Químicas. El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Siria señaló que denuncias similares surgieron cada vez que el ejército sirio lograba un éxito en la lucha contra los grupos terroristas.

El ataque del 17 de abril, el Pentágono, no esperar alguna evidencia, atacó la base siria de la Fuerza Aérea Shuaryat con 59 misiles de crucero Tomahawk, supuestamente en respuesta a unas armas químicas utilizadas en Khan Shikhoun, una ciudad en el sureste de Siria. El pentágono, atacado por fotos instantáneas y una campaña de propaganda beligerante, fue elogiado por medios de comunicación y defensores del mismo gobierno que han usado una y otra vez para mantener a las tropas estadounidenses en Afganistán, Siria y en las más de 1.000 bases militares estadounidenses en todo el mundo.

Así que una vez más las fuerzas militares, los medios de comunicación, los terroristas, los imperiales y sus amigos en los gobiernos occidentales, se unieron para justificar su guerra en Siria. La guerra no tiene un final, sino que se acelera con cada nueva embestida. Las fuerzas progresistas opuestas a EEUU han sido atacadas por los medios de comunicación y la mayor parte del mundo. Así que una vez más las fuerzas militares, los medios corporativos y los medios de comunicación continúan el proceso de demonización ininterrumpido de Siria y en las más de 1.000 bases militares en todo el mundo. Así que una vez más las fuerzas militares, los medios corporativos y los medios de comunicación continúan el proceso de demonización ininterrumpido de Siria y en las más de 1.000 bases militares estadounidenses en todo el mundo.

Por Karin Leukefeld

Damasco, Siria

La noche antes del 12 de abril estaba en calma. Un esperado ataque de las Fuerzas Armadas de EUA y sus aliados en Siria aún no había ocurrido. Pero muchas personas en Siria y en todo el país esperaban el ataque del gobierno de EUA. "Parece que el conflicto nunca se detiene. Incluso es más intenso que en el pasado", dijo un empleado de un hotel en Duma.

Ernesto R., un trabajador que vive en Duma, dijo: "No entiendo por qué nos atacan constantemente, pero sé que no puede "cortarle la cabeza" al régimen de Assad que odian. Otros, sin embargo, temían que el ataque aumente el miedo entre las/os miles que han matado en los bombardeos de Gaza en el pasado - estaba atacando a Siria por la muerte de civiles.

Sirias/os reaccionan a amenazas de bombardeo

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