At OAS & People’s Summits —

Broad support for Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

U.S. President Barack Obama tried to use the Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama on April 10-11 as a platform to rehabilitate U.S. relations in the hemisphere. Obama attempted to distance himself personally from U.S. imperialism’s history of oppression, exploitation and military dictatorships imposed on the region.

In contrast to Obama’s diplomacy, leaders of many of the countries at the summit criticized Washington’s policies and exposed U.S. isolation in the hemisphere.

Corporate media headlines focused on the formal diplomatic exchanges between Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, on the one hand, and their Cuban counterparts, President Raúl Castro and Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, on the other.

A bilateral, hour-long, sit-down meeting between Obama and Raúl Castro was a welcome symbol of change insisted on by other Latin American and Caribbean countries. In addition, Obama spoke with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and admitted that Venezuela was no threat to the U.S.

A March 9 U.S. Executive Order had named the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as an “extraordinary threat” to U.S. security. This order is still in place. Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Ecuador President Rafael Correa all criticized U.S. hostility toward Venezuela and supported Maduro. Both the Ecuadoran and Argentine presidents called the order “ridiculous,” with Fernández saying, “Not only Venezuela but no country in the continent can be considered a threat to the biggest, the United States, a military, economic, financial, scientific power with a defense budget of $640 billion.” (Telesur, April 12)

Millions of signatures and tweets from around the world called on Obama to retract the Executive Order, calling it a prelude to invasion.

Raúl Castro: ‘Heads up high and dignity unblemished’

The U.S. had banned Cuba from meetings of the Organization of American States since 1962 — and its summits since they began in 1994 — as part of imperialism’s isolation and blockade strategy to defeat the 1959 Cuban Revolution. In the decades that followed, Cuba’s commitment to human development and international solidarity resulted instead in the isolation of U.S. imperialism.

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean moved forward to build their own regional organizations to aid their development. The Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America (ALBA), PetroCaribe, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) were formed. A 2011 summit of the CELAC ended with delegates calling for the lifting of the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

Concern for Mumia’s life sparks April 10 protests


DETROIT LAWSUIT

City clamps down on protests

WADIYA JAMAL

OBAMA’S FOREIGN POLICY

Concessions to right wing

CLIMATE CHANGE

Game over for capitalism

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RAMSEY ORTA FREE

‘Help free Mumia!’
Luxury equals displacement
Brooklyn tenants take to streets

Brooklyn tenants and homeowners rallied on April 9 across the street from a high-rise luxury apartment building owned by the real estate development company Hudson Management.

In the photo, anti-gentrification activist Alicia Boyd, of the Movement to Protect the People urged the community to stop more luxury development so this affordable community can be preserved. “Do not compromise with politicians who allow tax cuts for these developers,” she said. Some months ago Boyd and others were arrested for blocking cement trucks making a delivery here.

The new building is designed to provide 254 luxury apartments in what is now a working-class community of mostly people of color. In order to obtain valuable tax breaks from the city, Hudson must set aside 51 apartments that are supposed to be “affordable” for working people. This means it is allowed to call its small studio apartments built for one person affordable, even though the minimum rent will be $5,500, 6 months. That number is based on the astronomically high “market rate” in New York City.

Some demonstrators say local elected politicians are in the pocket of the developers, while the developers claim they are helping provide affordable housing. They receive tax breaks without doing anything to address the growing housing crisis for the working class, which involves increasing homelessness, evictions and racial discrimination.

The protest was called by a number of tenant, civil rights and immigrant organizations to address the tax break given developers, called the 421a tax abatement program. This tax break is a bonus to rich developers, as it means a freeze on real estate taxes. This four-decade old program is in place for renewal in June.

The Crown Heights Tenant Union explains that this tax break costs the city $1 billion annually, without adding any real affordable housing. The $1 billion could annually fund 100,000 rent-subsidy vouchers worth $30,000, which would help Brooklyn’s large working class. The demonstrators shown here shouted “421a has got to go!” as they moved from the sidewalk to occupy Flatbush Avenue. Forced by police back to the sidewalk, they grew even more united and determined, chanting, “Housing is a right — fight, fight, fight!”

Report and photo by Anne Prudden

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Detroit lawsuit demands right to public protest

Saving homes from foreclosure is at stake

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Detroit

A lawsuit largely initiated by the Michi- gan American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs and Women in Black-Detroit demands the right to public protest in downtown Detroit. It has prompted the city of Detroit Corporation Counsel to draft an agreement purportedly aimed at protecting free speech and the right to assemble.

The suit stemmed from the role of security firms owned by billionaire Dan Gilbert, who has been given dozens of foreclosed buildings downtown. Gilbert, who heads the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force, is championed by the corporate media for his efforts to further drive out African-American and working-class residents from the financial district and throughout the city.

Fund housing renovations, not demolitions!

Federal Hardest Hit Funds given to Michigan five years ago, purportedly to rehabilitate, have been vigorously fought by the city of Detroit Corporation Counsel in downtown Detroit. It has prompted protests were prohibited.

Moratorium NOW! Coalition efforts to declare a "state of emergency" and a halt to foreclosures, evictions and utility shut-offs have been vigorously fought by the banks and their surrogates in Michigan's local, county and state governments. The banks' role has caused Detroit to lose more than 250,000 residents since 2000.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition led rallies, demonstrations and leaflet distributions throughout the financial district from 2012 to 2014 designed to expose and oppose the imposition of emergency management and bankruptcy in the U.S.'s largest majority African-American city. While targeting the banks and other financial institutions for aiding in Detroit's destruction, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition advanced the slogan "Cancel the debt: Make the banks pay!"

Privatized police try to quash protests

Gilbert's firm hired private police and security guards who monitor the political activities of Moratorium NOW and other organizations. These police agents traveled in vehicles, on bikes and on foot telling activists in 2014 that Campus Martius and other downtown areas were privately managed and that all leafleting and protests were prohibited.

Although the city of Detroit was not named as a defendant in the Michigan ACLU's suit, it has a vested interest in setting guidelines for the use of public parks and space there. If allowed to continue, the private security firm's and city police's aggressive actions will only escalate tensions — and consequently spark more demonstrations and conflicts with authorities.

A Michigan ACLU press release on city guidelines reads: "These new rules repre- sent a victory for the free speech rights of Detroiters. ... We filed the federal suit in January against the privately owned De- troit 300 Conservancy nonprofit which manages Campus Martius and the pri- vately owned Guardsmark security firm that patrols the downtown park." (April 8)

"Parks belong to the people!"

The release continues, "Public parks belong to the people, irrespective of who manages or secures them. We're very pleased that the City of Detroit has ac- knowledge[d] the fundamental right of people to gather and express themselves in public spaces and that it is working with us proactively to ensure that the right is respected throughout the city."

This release stresses, "In 2014, Mor- atorium Now members went to Campus Martius to pass fliers and gather peo- ple and protest the city's bankruptcy. But moments after they arrived and be- gan soliciting signatures and distribut- ing fliers near the southern end of Cam- pus Martius by the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, they were approached by a Guardsmark security officer who ordered them to leave the park or risk arrest. He told them that petitioning and leafletting were not allowed in the park."

The ACLU notes, "The suit has not yet been dismissed, however. ... [The] ACLU will continue to monitor the implementa-

By Gerry Scoppettuolo

Boston

People with little or no money are usu- ally mistreated by the liberal corpora- tions and the capitalist system. They are locked away in institutions, thrown on the streets, shunted to the slums, segregated in a general population shelter — in a separate room without confidentiality. At least eight out of 19 HIV-positive people have subsequently relapsed, and are on the street, according to Boston

Healthcare for the Homeless.

The Boston Homeless Solidarity Com- mittee, initiated by ACT-UP Boston, took up a vigorous organizing drive after the disaster. It reached out to people in shelters and recovery programs and recruit- ed them into the leadership of the fight- back struggle.

"It's been important for us to be out here demonstrating," Cherai Mills, who lives at the Pine Street Inn shelter, told Workers' World. "I've been homeless for six months, but I know people who have been homeless for years." At the opening press conference on April 8, Lisa Green, representing the Women's Fightback Network, issued a call to organize a People's Tribunal to put the city and the shelter system on trial.

When the BHSC group sat in Walsh's office, he refused to meet with them, even though he was in an adjacent room at that very moment conferred with staff and City Council members. Rather than even showing up to confront the homeless solidarity group, the entire assembly left their meeting through a backdoor.

Fastest-growing homeless population

Massachusetts, despite its liberal na-
tional image, has the fastest-growing homeless population of any state. (Boston Globe, Aug. 30, 2014) The official es- timate counts 26,000 homeless people, many thousands of whom are single par- ents and their children living in dozens of motels for the homeless scattered across the state.

This shabby motels and unsanitary shelters are part of a minimum-security incarceration system. Homeless people must bid every day at 2 p.m. to secure a bed for the evening, and they have only small lockers in which to keep their few belongings. That makes it effectively im- possible for them to work. Their undiag- nosed and untreated medical conditions are the product of intentional neglect and oppression by the capitalist system.

Shelter staff are in effect prison guards, according to many residents, anyone who challenges authority can be removed without due process and put on the streets.

Karl Marx, in Chapter 5 of his ground- breaking analysis, "Capital," described such workers as the "reserve army of the unemployed" — the section of the work- ing class who are kept permanently un- employed under capitalism, potentially to be used to break strikes.

These masses, in Boston and every- where, are so oppressed they are not even available for wage exploitation — not even for temporary work in health or other services where they cannot create profit or surplus value for employ- ers, they are viewed as having no value whatsoever by the capitalist system.

Massachusetts is a leader in orga- nizing to fight back and survive. Their contribution to the class struggle is in- valued.

The corporate rulers of Boston are un- der attack. The Boston Homeless Solidar- ity Committee will hold a protest march and rally on April 13. When they arrive, the Woods-Mullen Shelter and the emer- gency Barbara McGuiness House, where many of the 45 women there are forced to sleep on dirty mats in the cafeteria. For more information, contact masshbc@ gmail.com, 617-721-5347.
Why a warming planet means Game over for capitalism

By Scott Williams

Until his veto of the Keystone XL pipeline on Feb. 24, President Barack Obama had kept the entire world unsure of his position. The issue of the KXL pipeline — the 1,700-mile-long project to be owned by energy monopoly TransCanada — had been seen as his chance to take a principled stand against climate change.

Yet, what is the real reason for Obama’s veto? What does such a pipeline mean for the future of our planet? And, what is the potential for the struggle against climate change?

Why was Keystone XL important?

The pitfalls of the KXL pipeline and the capitalists’ “Drill, baby, drill” drive will go down in history as threatening all life on earth for a quick buck. Energy, the world’s most valuable commodity and the cause of endless U.S. wars, is creating a political, economic and environmental crisis much deeper than one pipeline. The primary reason environmentalists and progressives have argued against the KXL pipeline is that it would daily carry an extra 800,000 gallons of the dirtiest oil from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to Texas. The U.S. State Department admits that the production of this type of oil creates over 19 percent more greenhouse gases than regular oil.

This difference was expected to equal the amount of pollution that would be emitted if 55 million new cars were put on the road. The dirtier tar sands oil would then be refined and create toxic fumes, causing more asthma, birth defects and cancer in places like Houston, where the pipeline would end. (350.org)

The claimed selling point for the KXL was that it would supposedly create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Yet, in the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Project released in March 2013, the U.S. State Department estimated it would create just 35 permanent jobs.

The same study found that it would create 3,000 temporary jobs for the year it would take to build the pipeline. Meanwhile, thousands of agricultural workers, along with many others, would risk losing their jobs to a likely oil spill or leak. Thus, in the final calculation, this pipeline would likely destroy jobs, while furthering the climate change crisis.

But the nightmare doesn’t stop there. The pipeline could also ship millions of gallons of natural gas from North Dakota’s Bakken shale fields. Natural gas produced by hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” has boomed since 2000. Despite the lie that it is a “bridge” to more clean energy sources, the process of drilling, piping, compressing and burning natural gas as a whole is just as dirty and disastrous as coal, which is widely seen as the dirtiest energy. (“A Big Fracking Lie,” politico.com, Jan. 21, 2014)

Apocalypse 2050

Dr. James Hansen, formerly of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has become one of the pre-eminent climatologists-turned-activists leading the fight against KXL. He works with 350.org, which has organized worldwide demonstrations against it.

Hansen has called the pipeline, “Game over for the climate,” based on intensive research on the level of carbon in the atmosphere. He states, “If humanities wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that carbon dioxide will need to be reduced from current levels to at most 350 parts per million (ppm).” (“The Science,” 350.org)

Our atmosphere now contains about 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide, which is the highest level in millions of years. In the 1700s, when industrial capitalism was beginning, the level was about 275 ppm of carbon dioxide.

In 2011, the Carbon Tracker Initiative estimated the combined known deposits of oil, gas and coal in the world to be 2,795 gigatons of carbon. Yet, according to Naomi Klein’s book, “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate,” no more than 556 gigatons of these reserves can be burned between 2011 and 2049 if carbon dioxide is to be brought below 350 ppm of carbon in the atmosphere by 2050. This leaves the other 80 percent of oil, gas and coal unused.

To the capitalists, this means upwards of $27 trillion in lost revenue. President Obama, like all politicians in the two big capitalist parties, is beholden to the billionaires who own energy companies. So why did he veto the KXL pipeline? His energy policy has hardly been environmentally friendly.

Part of the answer may come from the ght in the global production of energy; this has caused prices to drop. Another aspect which the president and the big polluters are aware of is the global movement against climate change. Over the past four years, farmers, ranchers, Indigenous nations and many other activists have engaged in militant resistance to the KXL pipeline. Direct actions have had a major impact, including in 2011, when more than 1,200 people were arrested at the White House demanding President Obama exercise the veto.

Indeed, the climate movement is massive and global. In September 2014, close to half a million people marched in New York City in the People’s Climate March. The next day, thousands of activists “flooded Wall Street,” demanding the banks pay for the climate crisis they have caused. The demand, “System change, not climate change,” has been gaining traction, from New York City to La Paz, Bolivia.

Need socialist revolution for humanity’s future

The crisis of climate change presents a threat to humanity’s very existence. Climate change is impacting oppressed countries in the global South much more than in the imperial centers.

The movement cannot stop with the small victory on the KXL pipeline. The potential of human beings as stewards — and not destroyers — of the earth must be harnessed. The only way to do this is to abolish the profit motive, to put the energy sector, the world’s most critical commodity, into the hands of the people. There must be workers’ control of the banks, industries and every major aspect of society to fight against the looming climate disaster — and to provide economic and social justice to the victims of capitalist climate change.

A revolutionary response would be to transform energy use away from oil, coal, natural gas and nuclear power as quickly as possible. None of these forms of energy has much of a future on this planet if humanity is to survive. Yet, anyone who imagines waiting for the market, controlled by monopolies, to transform away from oil? Not when they have $27 trillion to gain.

This is why revolution is mandatory. The people must have control in order to explore our options as rapidly as possible, especially with renewable forms of energy. A revolutionary perspective on climate change also raises the need for global reparations for oppressed countries whose economies have been decimated by imperialist development and its by-product, global climate change.

Philadelphia
Marchers protest Ayotzinapa outrage

Some six months since 43 students disappeared in southern Mexico, their parents are traveling across the United States calling for justice.

On Sept. 26 last year, the students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos Teachers’ College of Ayotzinapa were forcibly disappeared after a police attack, sparking a series of nationwide protests. The violent repression of these protests made international headlines.

From April 8 to 11, the Atlantic Region “Caravana 43” delegation spent four days in the Philadelphia area visiting Temple University, Haverford College, the University of Pennsylvania and other community centers to raise awareness here of the direct involvement of the U.S., through its foreign and economic policies, in the violence and repression experienced in Mexico.

On April 10 in Love Park, after traditionally dressed performers had danced to drums and guitars, speakers explained that the Ayotzinapa incident has become representative of a much larger surge in violence. Over 100,000 people have died and 25,000 have disappeared over the last eight years in Mexico as a result of government corruption, organized crime and a failed war on drugs.

The caravaniastas displayed a 25-foot long white banner proclaiming “Fergu- son = Ayotzinapa.” Carmen Guerrero had spoken earlier in the week to a Town Hall meeting of activists from the Coalition for REAL Justice fighting police violence. Some of those youth joined the Ayotzinapa event.

Marching in the streets from Love Park to the Mexican Consulate, demonstrators carried bright banners and white crosses bearing the names of the 43 disappeared students. They chanted in Spanish and English, interrupted every few blocks by speakers who urged crowds on the sidewalks to get their political officials to oppose Plan Mexico. “Stopping weapons to Mexico. They are used to murder innocent people,” Guerrero and other leaders said over the sound system.

An end rally in front of the Mexican Consulate featured Añayelí Guerrero de la Cruz, sister of disappeared Osibani Guerrero de la Cruz, and Felipe de la Cruz Sandoval, teacher and father of Anayelí Nery, who survived the police attacks. — Report and photo by Joe Piette
The twists and turns of President Barack Obama’s foreign policy, from Cuba to Iran to Ukraine, show the ability of the right wing to avoid the policies of centrist forces within the ruling-class political establishment. This is an expression of the expansionist, militarist forces that have deep roots within U.S. capitalism.

The Obama initiative to open up relations with Cuba is a classic example. U.S. big business has grown increasingly frustrated with its isolation in Latin America. The Obama administration was looking to open up relations with Latin America through the Panamanian forum with the Obama administration’s attempt to open up relations with Cuba, which was going to be a key part of the Summit of the Americas meeting in Panama on April 10-11. It was a crude attempt to divide Cuba and Venezuela. But it backfired and threatened to undermine further the U.S. position in Latin America and the administration’s attempt to open up relations with Cuba, which was going to attend the meeting for the first time.

In fact, Obama had to withdraw this threatening, right-wing characterization of Venezuela in order to avoid a collapse of his entire attempt to improve U.S. relations with Latin America at the Panama meeting.

President Raul Castro of Cuba gave a scathing historical indictment of Washington in his speech to the summit. In it he stated: “Venezuela is not, and it cannot be, a superpower like the United States. We consider it a positive development that the U.S. President has admitted it.

“I should reaffirm our full, determined and loyal support to the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to the legitimate government and civilian-military alliance headed by President Nicolas Maduro, and to the Bolivarian and Chavista people of that country struggling to purse the rising power of the progressive forces.”

This is a clear case of the centrist Obama administration listening to the right wing and completely understimating the anti-imperialist, pro-Venezuela, pro-Chavez and anti-Yankee sentiment of the Latin American masses.

**Iranian leader pushes back against Kerry**

In the case of Iran, the Obama administration, while holding nuclear negotiations, is trying to execute a diplomatic maneuver that it hopes will pull Iran toward the West and get it to abandon its support for anti-imperialist forces in the Middle East.

This maneuver is probably a complete pipedream, derived from wishful thinking on the part of the Obama administration. And it severely underestimates the powerful anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. sentiments that prevail in Iran.

After months of negotiations, the two sides had agreed upon a framework for future negotiations — called the Framework Agreement. But it is endangered by the desire of the Obama administration to placate the right wing.

In the aftermath of the announcement of the Framework Agreement, Secretary of State John Kerry prepared a so-called “fact sheet” designed to show the right wing how tough the U.S. had been in the talks. This fact sheet was not agreed to by the Iranian side and more or less represented Washington’s wish list.

Among other things, the fact sheet said that sanctions would be lifted from Iran only after it had verifiably complied with all terms of the agreement — meaning U.S.-related sanctions would last for more or less the duration of the agreement.

It also said that there could be inspections of any “suspicious sites” outside the known nuclear supply chain — meaning that any claim of suspicion could be investigated, presumably including military sites.

These are just a few of Washington’s claims that the Iranians have denounced as “spin.”

The entire strategy received a heavy rebuff from Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei flatly stated that “unless all economic sanctions are totally lifted on the first day of the implementation of any deal,” there would be no agreement.

He further stated that there would be no inspections of Iran’s military sites. (New York Times, April 9)

Khamenei also called U.S. public statements about the deal “flawed, incorrect and in contradiction to the facts.” And he expressed strong contempt for the U.S., describing it as “stubborn, deceitful, in- decent and given to backstabbing.”

Khamenei represents the legacy of the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which was a vast social upheaval. The revolution ousted the murderous butcher Shah of Iran, who had been put in office in 1953 through a CIA coup d’état. In the coup, the U.S. seized Iranian oil and set up military bases to guard the oil interests of Wall Street.

The Iranian people endured a quarter century of repression and torture under the U.S.-trained SAVAK, the Shah’s secret police. They waged two years of continuous struggle and suffered huge casualties before the Shah fled the throne in 1979.

The oil was then nationalized, U.S. bases were dismantled and the religious leaders set up the Islamic Republic, independent of and in opposition to U.S. and British imperialism, the two colonizers of Iran.

Washington has once again underestimated the anti-imperialist fervor of a large section of the Iranian masses, which is still alive and persists after decades of sanctions, military threat, sabotage and dirty tricks.

Meanwhile, in the face of all showmanship, the Obama administration has just announced the testing of a new “bunker buster” bomb, presumably capable of penetrating deep sites in Iran. In addition, it has announced that it will keep Iran from “arming the Houthis” in Yemen by helping Saudi Arabia bomb and invade the country.

The U.S. imperialists have invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, they led the overthrow of the Libyan government; they are trying to overthrow the Syrian government; they have supported the Saudis in invading Bahrain and Yemen; they backed Israel, which has invaded Egypt, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza; they backed Iraq when it invaded Iran.

Meanwhile, the Iranian government has not sent troops to invade any country. U.S. hypocrisy knows no limits.

U.S. holds up discredited regime in Kiev

In Ukraine, Washington and the European Union fostered a right-wing movement on the streets of Kiev and other cities from November 2013 to February 2014. The goal was to push Ukraine in an anti-Russian direction and link it to the European Economic Community.

In Maidan Square in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, dozens of U.S. and European nongovernmental organizations fostered a movement that got Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych to negotiate a compromise with the EU. Yanukovych agreed to hold elections in December 2014.

The minute the negotiations were over, the U.S. State Department, under the influence of neoclass Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, organized fascist goon squads to invade the parliament,oust Yanukovych and set up a U.S. puppet regime. The U.S. even handpicked the new prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

This fascist coup provoked a huge re-

Continued on page 9

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**New York**

**Solidarity with People’s Summit**

The International Action Center held a press conference in New York on April 10 in solidarity with the People’s Summit, which was being held in Panama City at the same time as the official Summit of the Americas.

The People’s Summit has adopted declarations against U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and the continuing U.S. blockade of Cuba, “among other topics affecting the underdeveloped America, like poverty and the lack of democracy.”

Presenters at the press conference called on President Barack Obama to re-consider his de facto imposing sanctions on Venezuela for the purpose of avoiding a collapse of his entire attempt to improve U.S. relations with Latin America at the Panama meeting.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was wounded but survived when police shot him during a traffic stop in 1981, was raised as an example of police violence. He was convicted of murder in 1982, spent the next 30 years on death row and was finally moved off death row due to unmerited clemency. Prison reformers, including Abu-Jamal, are now demanding that the prison be closed and the administration is seeking to extend the prison, which is now ill and little death risk due to medical neglect.

The press conference successfully tied the current anti-imperialist fight in this country, exemplified by the Black Lives Matter movement, with lifting the blockade. The U.S. government imposes economic sanctions on Cuba in order to prevent it from going along with its imperial demands.

Teresa Gutierrez of the IAC chaired the well-attended press conference, held at the Solidarity Center. Among the presenters were Sara Flounders, representing the United National Antiwar Coalition; Suzanne Ross, speaking for International Concerned Families and Friends of Murnia Abu-Jamal; Ricardo Prado of Colombians in the Diaspora, who spoke in Spanish; and the Rev. Luis Barrios of IFCO-Pastors for Peace, who explained how the current capitalist system in the U.S. contributed to the problems this conference was addressing.

After the formal part of the conference, some of the presenters were interviewed by two Spanish-language media.

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Report and photo by G. Dunkel
National Day of Action supports Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Kathy Durkin

April 10 was a National Day of Action for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Protests were held around the country to support this internationally known African-American journalist and political prisoner whose life has been endangered by medical neglect, abuse and mistreatment by the Pennsylvania prison authorities. Protesters have loudly insisted: “No medical neglect for Mumia Abu-Jamal!” ever since his life-threatening health crisis came to light on March 30.

Mumia has been imprisoned for more than 33 years, 30 of them in solitary confinement on Pennsylvania’s death row. He was convicted and sentenced to death for killing a police officer in 1981, and has never wavered in proclaiming his innocence.

Over the years mass mobilizations with strong international support kept the state from executing him. Finally, the Supreme Court vacated his death sentence in 2011. By Jan. 27 the following year, Mumia was transferred to the general prison population at SCI Mahanoy prison in Frackville, Pa., where he remains imprisoned today.

After months of medical neglect, Mumia’s condition worsened significantly on March 30. His blood sugar was dangerously high, and he had lost 80 pounds. He was taken to the Mahanoy infirmary—the same medical facility where doctors had administered three blood tests prior to his hospitalization but never treated Mumia’s condition of diabetes. His condition fluctuates now.

Without international and national pressure, including protests, petitions, phone calls and emails, Mumia would not have gotten medical treatment.

Mumia’s numerous supporters have demanded that his family and allies be allowed to visit him. Despite being so ill and confined to a wheelchair, he must be allowed to face outrageous procedures — being strip-searched before each visit — by doctors and staff, and even seeing relatives and supporters outside the infirmary. Visits are prohibited inside the residual unit.

Suzanne Ross, of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, visited with Mumia on April 13 and reports that he looked very thin and in pain, in wheelchair-bound. He says he feels like he has post-traumatic stress disorder as he deals with the reality of prison officials’ deliberate neglect and mistreatment of his dire medical condition, endangering his life.

Mumia is receiving insulin and his diet seems to be improving. The prison food had been extremely unhealthy, especially for someone with diabetes. He insists that a better diet must be provided for all prisoners, particularly those with diabetes.

Mumia is documenting what happened to him in the infirmary, establishing a paper trail to get independent medical care and filing grievances within the prison system. His lawyers have filed a grievance with the state to enable him to consult and obtain a treatment plan by diabetic and other health specialists. They obtained his prison medical records but are still being denied access to the hospital, and will be meeting with the Department of Corrections on April 14.

Keep the pressure on! Mumia says he feels the love and solidarity expressed by the movement and is grateful for international support, including that of the Desmond Tutu Trust of South Africa, who wrote to the head of the Pennsylvania DOC. It is crucial that activists keep the pressure on Pennsylvania prison and government officials, as Mumia is still gravely ill.

Support must be extended to Marylin Zuniga, a teacher in Orange, N.J., whose job is at stake because her third-grade class sent well-cards to Mumia. She was put on paid leave pending an “investigation.” A campaign has been mounted to stop disciplinary action against this courageous educator.

A letter to the Orange Township Public Schools opposing Zuniga’s suspension recognizes that the New Jersey Board of Education is under pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police “and the bullying tactics it disseminates via biased news media. However, support for Ms. Zuniga is coming in [from] such distinguished people as Robin D.G. Kelley (UCLA), Angela Y. Davis, Barbara Ransby (University of Illinois/Chicago), Joe R. Feinman (Texas A&M), Vijay Prashad (Trinity College, Amherst) and Cornel West (both of Union Theological Seminary),” (tinyurl.com/qvybhcv)

Here is a roundup of news about some of the demonstrations for Mumia held in recent days.

Philadelphia

Fifty people gathered at Love Park in Center City on April 10 at a spirited protest to demand that the Pennsylvania DOC stop its efforts to execute Mumia by medical neglect.

Gov. Tom Wolf had declared a moratorium on the state’s death penalty back in February. The protestors marched to Wolf’s Philadelphia office at S. Broad and Walnut streets. After arriving outside the building, they remained in the street for more than an hour, taking over all lanes and effectively shutting down rush-hour traffic.

Speakers called on Wolf to stop prison officials from executing Mumia by denying him adequate medical treatment. Demonstrators included members of the MOVIE organization, International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the International Action Center, and several young activists from the Coalition for Racial, Economic, and Legal Justice.

New York City

Some 120 activists rallied outside the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in Harlem during the evening rush hour on April 10. Speakers included Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson, a Black youth slain by police. Betty Davis, a former community organizer, stressed the need for improved medical care for Mumia and Harlem residents. Suzanne Ross has invited protesters to an organizing meeting afterwards.

Lacy Pagoa, of Honduras Resistance USA, connected state repression against Mumia to U.S. militarism abroad, including sending troops to Honduras. Johnnie Stevens, of IAC, Orrie Lumumba, of MOVE, and Thesha Hivost, from the People’s Democratic Assembly, co-chaired.

The protest was called by a coalition of Mumia Must Live, IAC, Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, New York Jersey Movement, New York Free Mumia Coalition and MOVE. Passersby enthusiastically took copies of Workers World newspaper, headlined “No medical execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

Demonstrators marched across 12th Street to St. Mary’s Church, where they planned future activities backing Mumia.

Co-chairs were Johanna Fernandez, of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, and Suzanne Ross. Delbert Africa, a MOVE political prisoner, called in from prison.

Durham, N.C.

Supporters of Mumia took to the corners of Brightleaf Square during rush-hour traffic on April 10 to demand an end to the medical neglect and torture of Mumia. Chanting “Brick by brick, wall by wall, we’re gonna free Mumia Abu-Jamal,” they distributed literature and engaged in conversations with passersby, asking them to contact Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and prison officials. Keith Cook, Mumia’s brother, joined the action, which was sponsored by the Workers World Party Durham branch.

Detroit

Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal marched in front of City Hall at the Cole-
man A. Young Municipal Center on April 10. They held placards and distributed more than 50 Workers World newspapers with the photograph of Mumia on the cover.

Milwaukee

A diverse array of Mumia supporters held a protest in the pouring rain on April 10 at the Federal Courthouse.

Chaired by long-time community and anti-police-brutality activist Brian Verdin, the rally demanded freedom for Mumia, as well as family visits, release of his medical records and independent health care. The activists also demanded improved health care for all prisoners.

Speakers included Babette Grunow, of the Latin American Solidarity Committee; prisoner-rights attorney Gary Gray; and Minister Sean Muhammad of Milwaukee’s Mosque No. 3 of the Nation of Islam. Maria Hamilton, mother of a Black youth fatally shot by police, also participated. The protest was sponsored by the Wisconsin Black United Front, Milwaukee chapter.

The action was supported by other labor-community organizations such as Africans on the Move, #BlackLivesMatter; Ferguson Response to microphone Fight Imperialism, Stand Together; FIST, Occupy the Hood MKE; and the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition in Madison, Wis.

Houston

Supporters gathered outside the Mickey Leland Federal Building demanding Mumia’s right to be treated by his own specialists and not the death penalty. They called the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, which has always supported Mumia, called the protest on April 13.

Sister Kristin Sestak told the crowd, “America is at war with African Americans. The Lynchings, the attacks by cops from coast to coast — the racism never ever ended for us. A Black man, Otis James Byrd, was just lynched in rural Mississippi. The U.S. has a racist history of Lynchings, but we will not let them lynch Mumia.

Mumia, of Islam, Minister Robert Muhammad stated, “He has given his life for the struggle and we must now step up and get justice for Mumia.”

Recent college graduate Kamali Kahn, speaking for youth, stated, “Mumia is our hero and we must protect him from execution by medical neglect.”

Brian Verdin then phoned the heads of SCI Mahanoy prison and the Pennsylvania prison system. Kofi Taharka, National Black United Front president, said, “They won’t answer, but they know we are demanding that nothing happen to Mumia. The world is watching and we are taking care of Mumia.”

Joanne Gavin, a TDPMF founder, said, “We are going to have to kick things up a notch to make sure that Mumia is not lynched and is getting the treatment he needs from doctors he trusts.”

Los Angeles

People from various organizations gathered in the afternoon of April 10 at the Downtown Federal Building to demand immediate medical care for Mumia and his freedom.

Jefferson Avedoe, of the IAC and LA Workers Assembly, chaired and tied the state’s war against Mumia with U.S. wars abroad against working people and poor people.

He noted the importance of national demonstrations against this sys-

tem and it’s repression that targets leaders like Mumia. Griff, a prisoner from San Quentin, immediately joined the protest, thanking its or-

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workers.org
By Fred Goldstein  

Ramsey Orta, whose cellphone video of the police killing George Floyd sparked a movement against racial police murders, was finally released on bail on April 30 after sitting in a cell on Rikers Island for over two months. On July 27 last year, Orta put his safety and future on the line to expose this brutal killing by Pantaleo, backed up by a wolf pack of six other cops. Pantaleo and his accomplices went scot-free, leaving Orta the only one associated with the Garner killing to be jailed.

Never mind that a Time Magazine interviewer Orta about the Garner killing won the World Press Photography award, the top award in the industry for short videos. The cops are completely brazen and respect nothing.

During this entire ordeal for Orta, there has been not one word of sympathy, support or even a show of solidarity from New York’s mayor, the liberal Democrat Bill de Blasio. There is a lesson in this, not just for New Yorkers but for the entire movement, about the tendency of capitalist liberal politicians to retreat in the face of right-wing pressure.

**Framed on a gun charge**

Following the release of the video, Orta was framed on a gun charge by the cops. His spouse was arrested as well. His brother, his mother and he were then charged by police with nine counts of selling drugs to undercover cops.

Orta’s friends and supporters from all over the country crowdfunded and finally raised the $6,290 needed to bail him out. But the prosecutor held up his release, saying that all the donors had to be investigated to be sure that the donations were not from “illegal sources.”

At the Rikers Island jail, 19 prisoners on Orta’s cell block were blackened by rat poison that turned up in their food. Fear for his life, Orta refused to eat prison food and lived on vending machine candy.

What is important about the political implications of the illegal and blatant persecution of Orta is that it happened under the regime of a liberal mayor, Bill de Blasio.

De Blasio was swept into office on a campaign against gentrification, charter schools and above all the “stop-and-frisk” policy of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his police commission-er, Ray Kelly. The de Blasio victory was largely based on his promises to end police harassment of the Black and Latinx/a communities framed up as an anti-violence strategy.

**Evolution of de Blasio’s retreat**

It is important to understand the evolution of the relations between de Blasio and the cops. Under police pressure and pressure from the ruling class, de Blasio has done what liberals always do in the face of the right wing — retreat.

The high point of de Blasio’s liberalism was after the killing of Garner, when he took the podium at a press conference, at a time when the Black Lives Matter movement was putting tens of thousands of people in the streets. De Blasio talked of his fears for his own son, who is Black. He spoke of teaching him to be cautious when approached by police.

Shortly after this speech, two New York City police were killed in a random shoot- ing. The cops and the ruling class seized upon the killings to try to push back the Black Lives Matter movement. They organized a virtual state funeral for one of the cops, attended by Vice President Joe Biden, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, de Blasio, a host of other officials, and 20,000 cops from all over the country. At the funeral, hundreds of cops turned their backs when de Blasio spoke. All the high government officials voiced the highest praise, not just for the dead cop but for the police in general.

Democratic Party liberal de Blasio got the message from the cops, from the political establishment in his own party and from the ruling class through its media. The message was: Back off from any criti- cism of the police.

And he did. He continues to justify the “broken windows” policy of mass harass- ment and arrest for minor offenses and “suspicious behavior.” He says he will veto any legislation that would outlaw police use of the chokehold. He stepped up his criticism of Black Lives Matter and, in general, beat an obsequious retreat in the face of police attack and ruling class criticism.

Does this mean that de Blasio is not a capitalist liberal? No, he is one. But the emphasis should be put on “capitalist” first and liberal only when it is permitted by the bosses. Meanwhile, Ramsey Orta, whose video exposed the truth about the police killing of George Garner, had to spend months in jail for his courage.

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**Protesters demand videotapes of police killing**

By Fred Goldstein  

A large crowd gathered in Oakland, Cal- if., on April 12 at the site where Yuvette Henderson was killed. They were called here by Henderson’s family and the Anti Police-Terror Project.

Henderson was shot on Feb. 3 by Em- eryville police, who fired military AR-15 and other weapons at her as she tried to run from a Home Depot store in Emeryville where a security guard had accused her of shoplifting. Family and supporters held a vigil in front of the Extra Space Storage facility in Oakland where she died.

Henderson’s brother and sister both spoke at the vigil, as well as Dionne Smith, mother of 16-year-old James Rivera Jr., who was killed by police in Stockton, Calif., in 2010. A letter de- manding the release of the videotapes of Henderson’s killing was left at the storage building’s door, as the facility had locked up in anticipation of the vigil.

Protesters in cars and on bikes then car- avanned to the Home Depot, a few blocks away, to demand the release of videotapes there. When the car- avan of about 30 cars and as many bikes pulled up in front of the store, the man- aged locked down the entrances with steel doors, keeping both customers and em- ployees inside.

Protesters rallied there for a short time, pushing the letter with their demands through a space in the door. They posted a blown-up version of the letter on a Home Depot sign outside the entrance.

The caravan then headed to the Oak- land Police Department headquarters. The OPD is responsible for investigating the shooting. The activists had another letter for the OPD, demanding that the tapes be released and the police report. When the caravan was one block from the headquarters, a line of police blocked Broadway. Demonstrators got out of their cars and off their bikes and rallied in front of the police line. The demand letter was handed to one of the commanding officers.

Jeralynn Blueford, mother of 18-year- old Alan Blueford who was killed by Oak- land police in 2012, addressed the crowd. Cat Brooks and Mollie Costello also spoke from the Anti Police-Terror Project. The APTP is planning a campaign against the use of military weapons by lo- cal police departments, starting with the Emeryville police.

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**Lupe Ochoa, yet another police victim**

A crowd of family, friends and support- ers gathered at the corner of 49th and Bancroft streets in East Oakland, Calif., on the evening of April 11 to celebrate the life of Guadalupe Manzo Ochoa. The 18-year-old was killed by San Le- andro police as they chased her into Oak- land on Dec. 7, 2014.

The killing occurred in the wake of na- tionwide demonstrations and shoutdowns in anger over the grand jury non-indict- ments of the police killers of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

Lupe Ochoa, as her family calls her, was the mother of four children, ages 11 to 3. The three-year-old still asks for her moth- er, not understanding she will never return.

The family is de- manding the release of the police and cor- oner’s reports. One of her sisters, who dressed Ochoa’s body for the funeral, says the wounds from the three bullets that en- tered her head were all on the side — not at the front where one would expect them to be if, as the police claim, she had been driving toward them.

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(Credit: AP)
**UKRAINE**

**Junta bans communism, honors fascists**

By Greg Butterfield

Just days before the Pentagon was set to destroy the American-tainted National Guard, including the notorious Azov Battalion, Kiev’s parliament voted 254-0 on April 10 to ban “communist propaganda,” communist symbols and anything deemed as “glorification of Soviet history.”

The same day, the parliament, known at the Verkhovna Rada, officially approved the ultra-right Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UIA) and its successor, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). The Rada declared the two groups “freedom fighters” entitled to receive benefits under the new law.

The OUN/OUN and its leader, notorious Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, worked hand in hand with Hitler Germany during its World War II occupation of Ukraine. Later, during the Cold War, the OUN/OUN worked with the CIA to carry out terrorist actions against the USA.

Some 270 of the Rada’s 450 deputies voted in favor of the bill. No one dared vote against it.

“A number of the right-wing, ultranationalist refugees from Crimea, the east of Ukraine and western resorts are waiting to see how far they can go on the domestic laws,” said a source. “That’s why the Rada cynically equates the Soviet state with the Ukrainian far-right by deciding to ban the Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU).”

Ban on Marxism, leftist ideology? A court case brought by the junta to ban the Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU) has not yet been decided. However, the new ban on communist “propaganda” and symbols sets the stage for such a ruling.

Days before the Rada vote, on April 1, the Security Service of Ukraine — the country’s equivalent to the FBI — initiated a criminal case against KPU leader Peter Simonenko, charging him with responsibility for “terrorist activities” by party members, illegally obtaining Russian citizenship and collaborating with the Communist Party of the Ukrainian Federation.

The KPU statement, SolidNet.org, April 3)

Several well-known Marxist leaders have recently been put on trial, including A.A. Majewski, editor of “Workers and Peasants’ Truth” and secretary of the All-Ukrainian Communist Party (CGT), Workers’ Force (FO), the major Communist international and the National Front (FN), which won about 25 percent of the vote in local elections held nationwide a few weeks ago.

Marine Le Pen, the current FN leader, was upset by the openly anti-Semitic, pro-Vichy, xenophobic and racist remarks made recently by her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, founder of the FN. The pro-Nazi Vichy ran France under German occupation during World War II.

The differences between them aren’t significant.

French television, of course, couldn’t ignore 300,000 workers marching in 80 cities throughout France at the call of four major unions: the General Confederation of Workers (CGT), Workers’ Force (FO), the major education union (FSU) and Solidaires, which is concentrated in mass transit and the postal system. The Paris March alone was 120,000.

The strikes reflected by this turnout closed a few tourist spots, like the Eiffel Tower, but mainly affected schools, where 25 percent of the teachers went out, and the postal service, where more than 6 percent of the workers struck.

The French Democratic Federation of Labor (CFTC), which is closely tied to the Socialist Party, which currently runs the French government, did not participate, saying negotiations were more effective than street marches. Its leader, Laurent Berger, proclaimed, “Austerity doesn’t exist in France.” (Le Figaro, April 3) The parties now in name only and support French capitalism.

Many of the CGT contingents said that this was just the first protest.

There will be others.

As in many large French protests, there were flashes of politically sharp humor. Bakery workers, for instance, marched waving half-eaten baguettes. Their spokesmen said that prices were going up as jobs are going down, so that half a baguette is all that people are able to afford.

The reactions in the major business-owned media were significant.

French television, of course, couldn’t ignore 300,000 people in the streets against austerity, but they tried to minimize the turnout and the effects of the strike. The daily paper Le Figaro didn’t even mention the number in its coverage.

In fact, with Washington’s support, fascist elements are becoming more deeply integrated into the Kiev government and Ukrainian military, and Nazi symbolism is ever-present.

Soldiers from the US Army 172d “Sky Soldiers” Airborne Brigade are scheduled to begin training members of Azov and other National Guard units on April 20. (Associated Press, March 31)

In late March, a standoff between President Petro Poroshenko’s government and a rival oligarch, the ultra-rightist Igor Kolomoisky, ended when Washington reportedly came down in favor of the current regime. However, this is no move to the “left” as the junta is integrating fascist elements into central roles in the state at an ever-quickening pace.

Workers from local class drafters have deserted or fled Ukraine in droves since the war against the Donbass republics began. Meanwhile, the neo-Nazis have proven to be the latest wave of degraded forces in this war. Like the ultra-right Latin Americans trained at the “School of the Americas” at Ft. Benning, Ga., these elements are the backbone of US plans to dominate the Donbass region and bring NATO bases to Russia’s western border.

Case in point: Dmitry Varshov, head of the fascist Right Sector and a Kolomoisky client, was appointed as a top advisor to Col. Gen. Viktor Manukhenko, chief of general staff of the Ukrainian military. Varshov “will act as a link between the volunteer battalions and the General Staff,” military spokesperson Oleksiy Mazepa said. (AFP, April 2)

The Right Sector’s 10,000-strong Ukrainian Volunteer Corps will be integrated into the chain of command and receive funding from the Ministry of Defense.
Pakistan's parliament on April 10 voted to refrain from joining the Saudi Arabian and Gulf Cooperation Council — a coalition formed to combat terrorism and legholder Gulf-arica monarchies — now bombing Yemen. The bombing is the latest in a series of political and military struggles over who will control the nation left in the dark without communications and internet connectivity. The Kiev government is totally bank - el-Sisi has proposed that Egypt deploy a ground force in support of Saudi objectives in Yemen, but this proposal faces growing criticism in the North African state. Egyptians remember the five-year military campaign during 1962-67 under former President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who intervened — in that case with a proressive goal — against the Saudi monarchy. Thousands of Egyptian troops died. Meanwhile, Saudi warships have imposed a blockade of the southern port city of Aden, where a humanitarian crisis is escalating every day. The military action curtails trade in oil and natural gas from the country. The naval blockade is placing further pressure on the residents of Aden and other areas of the country, while bomb - Iran is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. The right wing in the U.S. — the John McCain — has sided with the ruling-class political establishment. It is not that the Obama administration is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. Centrists like Obama, who even slightly deviate from this agenda, are castigat - in order to regain the initiative for U.S. big business and the Pentagon. Centrism always winds up deferring to the ruling class as a whole, and centrist policies always result in a situation where the right wing is totally out of touch with the reality that the sentiment held by the majority of humanity is anti-imperialist.

The U.S. government has now backed a reactionary oligarchic regime in Kiev. This is a regime that is keenly dependent on fascist forces for the little social and military support it has. The Ukrainian army is totally unreliable. The Kiev forces have been driven from most of all Eastern Ukraine.

The Kiev government is totally bankrupt and has had to rely on a emergen - during the 20th century. The broad picture is that the ruling class as a whole has regarded the era since the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Eu- rome in the early 1990s as one of recon - The same Wall Street Journal article notes that for the first time U.S. sailors on a destroyer in the Red Sea halted a Pan-amisan-blagged freighter and searched the vessel, but found no Iranian or other weapons.

Despite reports from Iran’s enemies that Iranian naval vessels have been de - there have been no attacks on civilians by military forces from Tehran. However, the State Department has issued a warning to Iran saying that Washington will not sit idly by and watch Yemen be “overrun.” What gives the U.S. the right to lecture others when it is deeply involved in this war? As usual, no one in Congress has even questioned the au - thority of the White House and the Pen - tagon to facilitate yet another military intervention without even the fig leaf of the War Powers Act.

Deputy Secretary of State Anthony J. Blinken announced that the country was increasing its supply of weapons to Riyadh in efforts to bolster the war against the Houthi left in the dark without communications and internet connectivity. The Kiev government is totally bank - el-Sisi has proposed that Egypt deploy a ground force in support of Saudi objectives in Yemen, but this proposal faces growing criticism in the North African state. Egyptians remember the five-year military campaign during 1962-67 under former President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who intervened — in that case with a proressive goal — against the Saudi monarchy. Thousands of Egyptian troops died. Meanwhile, Saudi warships have imposed a blockade of the southern port city of Aden, where a humanitarian crisis is escalating every day. The military action curtails trade in oil and natural gas from the country. The naval blockade is placing further pressure on the residents of Aden and other areas of the country, while bomb - Iran is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. The right wing in the U.S. — the John McCain — has sided with the ruling-class political establishment. It is not that the Obama administration is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. Centrists like Obama, who even slightly deviate from this agenda, are castigat - in order to regain the initiative for U.S. big business and the Pentagon. Centrism always winds up deferring to the ruling right wing of the right wing? As usual, no one in Congress has even questioned the au - thority of the White House and the Pen - tagon to facilitate yet another military intervention without even the fig leaf of the War Powers Act. The Kiev government is totally bank - el-Sisi has proposed that Egypt deploy a ground force in support of Saudi objectives in Yemen, but this proposal faces growing criticism in the North African state. Egyptians remember the five-year military campaign during 1962-67 under former President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who intervened — in that case with a proressive goal — against the Saudi monarchy. Thousands of Egyptian troops died. Meanwhile, Saudi warships have imposed a blockade of the southern port city of Aden, where a humanitarian crisis is escalating every day. The military action curtails trade in oil and natural gas from the country. The naval blockade is placing further pressure on the residents of Aden and other areas of the country, while bomb - Iran is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. The right wing in the U.S. — the John McCain — has sided with the ruling-class political establishment. It is not that the Obama administration is trying to inaugurate a new era of peace. Centrists like Obama, who even slightly deviate from this agenda, are castigat - in order to regain the initiative for U.S. big business and the Pentagon. Centrism always winds up deferring to the ruling class as a whole, and centrist policies always result in a situation where the right wing is totally out of touch with the reality that the sentiment held by the majority of humanity is anti-imperialist.

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As the whole world knows, Walter Scott, a 50-year-old African American, was fatally shot in the back multiple times by a white police officer, Michael T. Slager, on April 4. The murder occurred in North Charleston, S.C., a city that is 47 percent Black but where four out of every five police officers are white. As Scott's family so eloquently stated, the police used him as target practice.

The entire incident, from the time Slager stopped Scott for a “routine traffic stop” to when the cop shot Scott as he was fleeing in fear of his life, was caught on cell phone video. Slager claimed that Scott took his Taser away from him, but the video clearly showed that Scott was unarmed and that Slager planted an object similar to a Taser next to Scott’s body. Slager was shown handcuffing Scott as he lay on the ground dying. Other police officers eventually arrived on the scene, but it is still a question whether any of them attempted to revive Scott.

After the police viewed the horrifying video, Slager was fired, arrested and charged with first-degree murder. If convicted, he could face the death penalty or life in prison.

This is a very rare situation in the U.S.

Why? Because a police officer’s word is taken as “gospel” 99.9 percent of the time when any kind of police brutality is car- ried out — especially when that officer is white and the victim is a person of color, young or just a worker.

However, the Black Lives Matter move- ment, which was ignited by the police murder of 18-year-old Michael Brown last August in Ferguson, Mo., has raised an unprecedented level of consciousness about the naked, racist war of police ter- ror on Black and Brown people, especially youth. But this war is not relegated only to Black but where four out of every five police officers are white. Scott’s murder, police try to divide the movement

As the April 15 national demonstra- tions demanding “$15 an hour and a union” approach, low-wage workers’ lives, particularly if they are women, young and oppressed, are expendable under capitalism in the midst of the on- going economic crisis caused by profits before human needs. This social reality — the absence of good-paying jobs with benefits — has intensified, creating an open season of police terror and mass incarceration.

The heroic rebellion in Ferguson last August, followed by BLM-led, shut-it-down coordinated actions, has clearly put the police on the defensive, and in general tarnished their phony image of being the “protectors” of the people. This is why all activists should expose the at- tempt by the police themselves and the capitalist media to divide this movement.

The police understand, along with the 1% — the ruling class whose interests the police protect — that there is a righteous, deepening mistrust of their role in soci- ety as a brutal, occupying force.

In an April 10 Washington Post opin- ion piece, “Think Walter Scott’s death is ‘another Ferguson? Cops don’t,” written by a former Baltimore cop, the author says that police from around the country may view lethal force as murder when a person is fleeing, but police having “alter- cations” with civilians resulting in deaths or injuries are “tragedies,” not “criminal.” This is a ridiculous argument — that the police have the right to use deadly force when all they have to say is they believed they were in a vulnerable sit- uation. Explain this disgusting notion to the family of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was ruthlessly shot down by po- lice in Cleveland last fall while holding a toy BB gun and then allowed to bleed to death. Or to the family of 22-year-old John Crawford III, who was fatally shot by police in an Ohio Walmart for holding a toy BB gun, just a few days before Mi- chael Brown’s murder.

Not only are the police, Scott’s kill- ing was unjustified, while the majority of other killings by police are justified. This is a bold-faced lie — to cover the fact that 90% of police killings are justifiable. Along with that must come solutions of how communi- ties can be empowered to protect them- selves from racist occupation and state repression. The eye of police, Scott’s kill- ing was unjustified, while the majority of other killings by police are justified. This is a bold-faced lie — to cover the fact that 90% of police killings are justifiable. Along with that must come solutions of how communi- ties can be empowered to protect them- selves from racist occupation and state repression. The eye of police, Scott’s kill- ing was unjustified, while the majority of other killings by police are justified. This is a bold-faced lie — to cover the fact that 90% of police killings are justifiable. Along with that must come solutions of how communi- ties can be empowered to protect them- selves from racist occupation and state repression. The eye of police, Scott’s kill- ing was unjustified, while the majority of other killings by police are justified. This is a bold-faced lie — to cover the fact that 90% of police killings are justifiable. Along with that must come solutions of how communi- ties can be empowered to protect them- selves from racist occupation and state repression.

The police want to project Slager’s ac- tions as an isolated incident: that Slager muddled the reputation of all police, unlike those cops who just make “bad mistakes” when confronted by victims like Brown and Garner who are carrying out “petty crimes.” Those so-called “mis- takes” just so happen to snuff out people’s lives.

This raises the obvious question that if the murder of Scott had not been video- taped, would Slager ever have been fired and charged with murder? Certainly, such a thing has never happened before.

Organizing to disarm police

The statistics speak for themselves. Another Washington Post article, “Thou- sands dead, few prosecuted” published April 12, reports that Bowling Green State University researchers have found that, since 2005, out of the thousands of cases of mostly unarmed people killed by the police, only 54 have been prosecuted.

The police, just a worker. They may admit that the killing of Scott was murder, but where four out of every five police officers are white. Scott’s murder, police try to divide the movement

The police have the right to use deadly force when a victim shot in the back, a video recording was just trying to keep him warm. His breathing was labored. I was shocked at how he looked. We embraced and Kissed. When I saw him reading legal papers his hands were shaking hard. I put my arms around him and to his head to hear his heart and to bring some warmth to his body be- cause he said he was freezing. And then the guard comes and tells us, “No hugging,” I was just trying to keep him warm.

My husband is innocent. He killed no one. I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, his only crime is he survived a severe gunshot to the chest and a serious ass-whipping by “Philly’s” finest and then they attempted to kill him in his hospital bed by stepping on his urine bag and flushing the poison back on him. And now they are trying to do it again. The way my husband looks today, it looks like they are going to succeed, unless we get some real doctors up there to take care of him. Mumia’s life is at risk. It is execution by medical neglect and mistreatment. The only way I see that Mumia is going to survive this is if he is free, because I can’t trust any of these doctors.

Mumia didn’t have a history of diabetes. Did you see the picture of Mumia, before his illness, how strong he is, how big he is? You see the difference in him now?? I’ve never seen him so weak like this in my life. You have to understand that I am angry. I’m humidity, I could feel his shoulder blades — that’s how thin he is. I was rubbing his thighs and I could feel the scabs underneath the skin. Whatever this stuff is, it is killing Mumia — and it is on purpose.

Please, please, please, I beg of everybody to help my husband get free, because he is dying in there. He just needs to be home. He should never have been in prison to start off. Not a day.

To demand adequate health care for Mumia, go to iacenter.org/prisoners/ mumia/naga-040615/. Also check Mumia Abu-Jamal on Facebook for more information.
At OAS & People’s Summits
Broad support for Cuba

The following is a statement by Marco León Calarcá, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), made on April 3 and translated from the Spanish by the Mundo Obrero staff.

Feelings and political positions aside, it is time to build peace. That is in essence, the responsibility of the Conversation Table and therefore merits full solidarity.

To recognize this reality, 51 years of armed confrontation, in this latest stage, the guerrilla’s belief is that war cannot be the responsibility of the Conversation Table. That is, no more or no less, among others, the Legal Framework and especially the establishment and especially the promoted leadership of transition and the promoted legitimacy, since in this area there will also exist the majority that works for peace, signed on Aug. 26, 2012, allowed peace, signed on Aug. 26, 2012, allowed conflict and building a stable and lasting peace, signed on Aug. 26, 2012, allowed the early start of the peace talks in Havana, Cuba and is based on bilateral agreements, obligations and duties of the signatories: the national government and the FARC-EP.

In the absence of winners or losers, we are in a dialogue between equal partners, marked by the pursuit of agreements in different points and aspects. Therefore, the concept of unilateral impunity should be considered an attack on the Conversation Table. That is, no more or no less, among others, the Peace Agreement, the Peace Agreement, the Peace Agreement, the Peace Agreement, the Peace Agreement.

The discussion is not about legality or legitimacy, since in this area there will never be an agreement because U.S. political ideology that separates us. We hear, read and see the ranting of the surveys that reject any agreement that would be on an equal footing because “the Colombian people do not accept that the guerrillas developed a political struggle, they are bandits.” What is never said outright and is known by the poor of the earth, that immense national majority, is that these statements come from the desire of the minority enriched at the expense of the people. And they never mention or reflect on the reality of millions and millions of inhabitants of Colombia, men and women dissatisfied with the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental development of the country, people who valiantly resist and struggle for their ideals and diverse demands that bring change in order to enjoy a worthy life of work, education and health, decent housing and national pride in sovereignty and independence, without giving up or forgetting the revolutionary objectives.

It is imperative to channel the social forces and unite them into a single stream towards the necessary structural changes that will make peace and social justice possible, weaving them, linking them, connecting them with all the popular efforts that lead us to democratic, peaceful, and non-violent solutions. The various modes of expression, creativity and transformative power make it possible. The “voices from the people’s summit,” (TeleSUR)
A nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la Cum- bre de los Pueblos:
El movimiento progresista y revolucionario en los EE.UU. se solidariza con la Cumbre de los Pueblos cele- brándose en Panamá del 9 al 11 de abril. Nos solidariza- mos con la Revolución Cubana, la Revolución Boliviar- iana de Venezuela y con todos los que luchan en contra del imperialismo en las Américas y a través del mundo.

Rechazamos la campaña persistente de hostilidad por parte de Washington en contra de la soberanía de Venezuela y exigimos la revocación inmediata del de- creto del Presidente Obama el 9 de marzo que declara a esa nación un “peligro” para la seguridad nacional de los EE.UU. En un país en que las vidas de negros son ar- rebatadas violentamente cada 28 horas por fuerzas del estado o represivas de manera completamente impune, los EE.UU. tiene absolutamente ninguna autoridad moral para emitir dicha declaración. Es en los EE.UU. en que existe una crisis permanente de los derechos hu- manos debido al asesinato de tantas personas jóvenes y de color.

Por lo tanto, desenmascaramos la completa hipó- cresía de los EE.UU. que dice que los derechos humanos son violados en Venezuela.

En Venezuela, Leopoldo López, quien es responsa- ble de la violencia suscitada en el atentado de golpe en contra del Presidente Maduro que dejó un saldo de 43 personas muertas, está recibiendo un trato muy bueno mientras es encarcelado por los crímenes que cometió y tiene acceso a un gimnasio, computadora, visitas, etc. En contraste, en los EE.UU. al preso político Mumia Abu-Jamal, a quien se le ha fabricado un caso desde el 1982 por luchar en contra del estado para asesinarlo. Su familia y amigos descubren que su salud está deteri- orándose seriamente debido a la negligencia médica, in- mediatamente viajaron al hospital para conocer mejor su condición. Al principio, los miembros de su fa- milia fueron negados el derecho de visitarlo y solo por medio de una campaña nacional exigiendo visitarlo fue que se logró este derecho.

¡Que viva la solidaridad internacional! ¡Que vivan los pueblos de las Américas!

¡Fin al bloqueo en contra de Cuba!

Obama: ¡Revoque la Orden Ejecutiva en contra de Venezuela y saquen las manos de Venezuela!

¡Viva la solidaridad con la Revolución Cubana, la Revolución Bolivariana de Venezuela y con todos los que luchan en contra de la guerra de los EE.UU! Declaración emitida por el Centro Internacional de Acción: tac.org.

Marcial León Calarcá

Mensajes a la Cumbre de los Pueblos

FARC-EP de Colombia

Entre partes iguales

Por Marco León Calarcá

Abril 3 de 2015

Sentimientos y posiciones políticas aparte, es hora de construir la Paz. Esa es ni más ni menos, la responsabili- dad de la Mesa de Conversaciones y por eso es merece- dora de toda la solidaridad.

Reconocer esa realidad, los 51 años de confrontación armada, en esta última etapa, el convencimiento guer- rillero que la guerra no puede ser el destino de Colombia como lo proclamaba el inviolable comandante Jacobo Arenas y la decisión plasmada en el primer documento oficial de las FARC-EP, el Programa Agrario de los Guer- rilleros, que muestra con claridad el objetivo revolucio- nario siguiendo el camino posible, el armado que impug- naron con el ataque a Marquetalia o la pacificación si existen las condiciones.

El reclamo por el armado y sobre todas las transnacio- les imperiales necesitan la paz, no con fines nobles ni pensando en el bienestar social, requieren garantizar la explotación de los recursos mineros y energéticos ubicados en áreas de fuerte presencia guerrillera y agu- lal que las tierras necesarias para el desarrollo de los megaproyectos agroindustriales dirigidos a producir agro-combustibles.

El Acuerdo General para la terminación del conflicto y la construcción de una paz estable y duradera, firmado el 26 de agosto de 2012 permitió el inicio público de los diálogos de paz en La Habana y se basa en la bilateralidad, es decir obligaciones y deberes de las partes firman- tes, el Gobierno nacional y las FARC-EP.

Al no haber, vencedores ni vencidos, nos encontra- mos en un diálogo entre partes iguales, sigue por la búsqueda de acuerdos en los diferentes puntos y aspe- tos. Por tanto todos los intentos de imposición, de uni- lateralidad, deben considerarse ataques a La Mesa de Conversaciones. Estos son, ni más ni menos, entre otros, el Marco Jurídico para la Paz, el referendo al cual no le acaban de encontrar acomodo, el comando de transición y la promovida justicia transicional.

Desde sectores de la derecha y su extrema se vocifera y para todos los presos políticos en los EE.UU.

Declaración emitida por el Centro Internacional de Acción: tac.org.

Washington.

¡Que viva la solidaridad internacional! ¡Que vivan los pueblos de la América! ¡Fin al bloqueo en contra de Cuba! Obama: ¡Revoque la Orden Ejecutiva en contra de Venezuela y saquen las manos de Venezuela! ¡Libertad para Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oscar López Ri- vera y para todos los presos políticos en los EEUU! Declaración emitida por el Centro Internacional de Acción: tac.org.

Marcial León Calarcá