New Cuban president continues ‘Work of the Revolution’

By Teresa Gutierrez

Perhaps the most thrilling angle about the U.S. capital-ist news coverage of the April presidential elections in Cuba was how the media repeatedly described the country as “communist Cuba.”

For the workers and oppressed here, whose lives are marked every day by trauma, Cuba’s ability to defend and build socialism just 90 miles from U.S. imperialism provides immense hope for the future.

Cuba is far from achieving communism. It has been heroically able to build and defend socialism — a step toward communism and an incredible achievement given the non-stop aggression from the U.S., including the longest blockade in history.

There is still inequality and poverty, but it is extraordinary what the Revolution has been able to achieve in a short 59 years.

That the capitalist media describe Cuba as communist shows how much the ruling class trembles from fear of this beloved island.

The end of the ‘Castro Era’?

On April 18, the anniversary of the Bay of Pigs, Miguel Díaz-Canel was elected the new president of Cuba. He followed the presidencies of comrades Fidel Castro from 1976 to 2008 and Raúl Castro from 2008 to 2018.

That the new president was not “another Castro” was met in the U.S. with great fanfare. Did the end of the “Castro era” mean a lessening of revolutionary fervor? Was this new administration a sign of a less-militant younger leadership? Nothing could be further from the truth.

For more than 50 years, U.S. imperialism has cast disparagement about Cuba’s leadership. Every leader has been ridiculed, mocked and lied about, not to mention has survived countless assassination attempts.

The U.S. repeated the lie that Raúl was “softer on socialism” and more open to capitalism than Fidel. This was an attempt to isolate Raúl. This lie was countered over and over by Raúl’s practices, which were a continuation of Fidel’s, just under a different context.

The “Castro regime” was not a familial regime, but rather a recognition by the Cuban people of two extraordinary revolutionary leaders who happened to be brothers — two exemplary Marxist thinkers and tacticians who astoundingly carried out a revolution to oust a brutal capitalist regime in 1959 and dedicated their entire lives to Cuba and socialism.

That there is no Castro as president means only that these two comrades have gotten older and one has sadly passed on — not a change of political orientation.

Who is Díaz-Canel?

Miguel Díaz-Canel, 57, was born after the 1959 revolution. He is described as a loyal “Fidelista and Raúlista,” which can also be said of millions of revolutionaries.

Hope and resistance are rising on International Workers’ Day 2018 as waves of striking education workers spread through U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

Thousands of teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, school counselors, janitors, classroom aides and more are on a defiant march.

They are streaming out of their schools into the streets, into the halls of state government, to confront the vicious attacks of “right-to-work-for-less” right-wing billionaires intent on gutting public education and on attacking the public good. They are marching from West Virginia to Kentucky, from Oklahoma to Arizona, Wisconsin to Georgia and beyond.

Will this surge of action continue and spread to other workers in other jobs and locations? The answer is in our collective hands.

First and foremost, we can and must build unbreakable strength in workers’ struggles by forging solidarity with other workers. We must be at each others’ sides in the battles against white supremacy; assaults on refugees and im/migrants; woman-hating, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ attacks; disrespect and barriers for people with disabilities.

We must pledge to each other: “I will fight for you as if your struggle is my very own. Because it is!” That means providing material and real solidarity to refugees and im/migrant workers being kidnapped and jailed every day by Immigration and Customs Enforcement from California to upstate New York. That means joining with Black Lives Matter to demand justice for victims of police terror; to defend Black workers, being
WWP leader on Senate bid: ‘Running to win our future’

The following edited statement was issued by John Parker, a leader of Workers World Party and the current Peace and Freedom Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California.

I’m not running to legitimize this system or the election process or to give false hopes that being in office allows you to change anything. Change takes the power of the people’s movement, independent of the influences of the ruling class.

If I do stay in office, you have to play to the tune of the ruling class, because it’s their structure and their laws. They prohibit any revolutionary changes that make a real difference in the progress of society. However, just in case I get elected, I can, as any politician who says they are progressive can, use the amplified voice I would have to expose, expose — not only the influence of the financial and industrial monopolies who run the politicians, but the war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against our class both here and abroad.

For example, I’d expose the fact that 8 million people from Yemen are expected to starve to death directly because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, from Yemen are expected to starve to death directly because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, from Yemen are expected to starve to death because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, from Yemen are expected to starve to death because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, from Yemen are expected to starve to death because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, from Yemen are expected to starve to death because of the U.S. war in cooperation with Saudi Arabia — scared to expose war crimes.

In other words, I’d use that position to motivate the people’s movement to take over the reins of power. I’d probably be able to do that only after allowed a few terms, a few elections.

Perhaps my first day in office would be to start the grassroots organizing that not only allowed a few term, a few elections. Perhaps my first day in office would be to start the grassroots organizing that not only allowed a few term, a few elections. Perhaps my first day in office would be to start the grassroots organizing that not only allowed a few term, a few elections. Perhaps my first day in office would be to start the grassroots organizing that not only allowed a few term, a few elections. Perhaps my first day in office would be to start the grassroots organizing that not only allowed a few term, a few elections.

I’d probably be able to do that for a very limited amount of time — but it is the only thing I should be doing. Stop-press conference and make a public call for the occupation. That would probably be my last day in office, but that short time in office and the grassroots organizing I would have done would make a greater contribution to our struggle than any of these enabling politicians in office today. And, who knows, I may try to stay a little while longer. That’s just one for “instance,” there are many more.

In thinking about any electoral struggle, it’s important to understand that the executive and legislative branches of government have been rigged to ensure the status quo since the late 1800s. That’s when the money of the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Mellons and Morgans, to name a few, locked up the system with the enormous profits they gained from cotton production — in other words, slavery. Over 90 percent of the people, whom the greatest financial and industrial monopolists favored with large donations won. Even in this election of Trump, in which he was supposed to lose, but not if you count the free media he

The U.S. is richest in the country, the world, the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigender organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even manage to stay in college. Black and Brown youth and trans persons are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital-ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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In the U.S.

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Sims statue removed; struggle continues.

Fill the streets for Mumia on April 30!

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The Potter’s House.”

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Portland, Ore., activists say “Stop U.S. warship!”

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Cops and Nazis work hand-in-hand

By Christian Noakes Newnan, Ga.

Hundreds of anti-fascists gathered in Newnan, Ga., on April 21 in opposition to a rally by a group calling itself the Sons of the Confederacy as the National Socialist Movement. The large anti-racist crowd wasmultinational and comprised of both local residents and people who came from around the region to frustrate the Nazis’ attempt to organize and propagate white supremacy.

In contrast to the large, diverse crowd, it is estimated that roughly 25 to 30 Nazis were in attendance. With the heels of acts of violence in Charlestowne, Va., last August fresh in the country’s consciousness, white supremacy has been a target of anti-fascists across the region.

Anti-racist groups in Chicago came together April 22 to stand against the racists who gather annually at a large Confederate monument on Chicago’s South Side. About 700 people marched to the 10-foot-tall statue that opens up to the private Oak Woods Cemetery, which houses the National Park Service’s “Confederate Mound.”

This cemetery housing the Mound — a 46-foot tall monument that the Great Grand Crossing neighborhood’s most low Black residents can see as they walk along Emmett Till Road — is also the final resting place of investigative journalist Ida B. Wells, who uncovered brutal lynchings in the South, with some dying as a result. Wells’ gravesite is marked by a humble stone piece, and is within eyesight of the tall Confederate monument.

Two community members spoke about the importance of organizing against white supremacy while honoring the organizers who came before us. One speaker read a poem by Langston Hughes and another read a poem that ended with the lyric, “Of the South.” Many in the crowd shed tears as they listened to some 700 heavily armed police from 42 states shut them down.

In 2007, activist Viola Plummer, along with then City Councilmember Charles Barron, petitioned the Parks Department with then City Councilmember Charles Barron, petitioned the Parks Department to remove the statue of J. Marion Sims, known as “the father of gynecology” for his medical advances. Sims was a slave owner with no training in gynecology who viewed Black women as inferior and ignorant. Sims was removed in 2010. And in 2011, then City Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito called for the Sims statue to be brought down.

At different points, Mark-Viverito called Sims’ statue “despicable acts … repugnant and reprehensible.” (New York Daily News, Aug. 21) Recently she commented, “This individual is considered the father of gynecology, but he performed hundreds of surgical experiments on enslaved Black women without anesthetics or any kind of anesthesia. Sims was a slave owner with no training in gynecology who viewed Black people as inferior and ignorant. He performed hundreds of surgeries on Black women between 1845 to 1849 in the South, with some dying as a result. Over 800 public symbols were under consideration. The final report recommended that “all statues will remain except that of Dr. J. Marion Sims, known as the ‘father of gynecology’ for his brutal experimentation and racist practice of performing unethical surgical techniques on enslaved Black women, without anesthesia, antiseptic or their consent.” (tinyurl.com/ydhf3uc9)

On April 16, in a triumph for community organizing against white supremacist racism, the Public Design Commission voted unanimous to take down the Sims statue. The following day, the Parks Department removed the statue. The site is being devoted to a civilian burial site in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, but is now in storage.

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April 11 marked the 25th anniversary of the heroic uprising at the Southern Ohio Correction Facility in Lucasville, Ohio. It began with a protest by Muslim inmates against being forced to take a tuberculin test that violated their religious beliefs. It quickly turned into a full-scale rebellion that left a guard and several inmate hostages dead. It ended with prison authorities agreeing to a list of 23 demands.

Later the authorities scGaped a group of 50 inmates, including most harm sentences of 5 to 25 years and sending five to death row, including prison officials who had actually negotiated the peaceful surrender. The five — Siddique Abdullah Hassan, Keenon Lamar (known as Romani Shukur), Greg Carlisle, Luanne Butler, and George Skatzes — remain on death row. Imam Hassan spoke to Workers World Contributing Editor Martha Greavett on April 2-3.


The basis of Abu-Jamal's current legal challenge is a June 2016 precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court decision, Wilkins v. Pennsylvania. The Court held that “it is a violation of the due process right to an impartial tribunal of a judge in a death penalty proceeding in a criminal appeal had a significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision in a defendant’s case.”

Judge Tucker has said he would review all cases involving Castille.

A year of international struggles

During this year of intense struggles around the case, numerous protests have been held in Philadelphia, other U.S. cities and globally. An international campaign was launched by the Farnon Foundation in Paris, which gathered hundreds of signers to an open letter to DA Krasner and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf entitled “International Call to Release the District Attorney and Police Files Relevant to Mumia Abu-Jamal’s Case and to Free Him Now.” Among the signers are Angela Davis, Danny Glover, Dr. Cornel West, Puerto Rican Nationalist hero Oscar López Rivera and Len McCluskey, general secretary of UNITE, the largest union in Britain.

Philadelphia activists launched a Free Mumia Film Festival running from April 17 to April 30 to foster a deeper understanding of the decades long case. The festival will include a celebration of Mumia’s birthday on April 24. See tinyurl.com/yyclunn for a full schedule.

While Philadelphia now has a more progressive DA, this is no guarantee of justice for Mumia. It remains to be seen if Krasner’s office will act to reverse the cynical “deal” with Castille in order to keep Abu-Jamal on death row.

Phenol is an alcoholic substance. It’s forbidden for Muslims to consume alcohol [or] to be involved in any shape, form or fashion. We had an objection to that particular test, but we had no objection to other forms of testing that would arrive at the same conclusion. So we put to Wardene Tate and his subordinates various different options, but that was not good enough for them. They didn’t want prisoners to try to dictate to them how to run their institution. We were not dictating to them because there was a U.S. Supreme Court Case, Turner vs. Safley. And it basically says that just because a person becomes a prisoner they don’t forfeit their Constitutional rights. But when you find people in authority, whether it be Wardene Tate, Donald Trump or other people, you just believe that they’re above the law and there’s no accountability.

The courts were never the sole vehicle for winning Mumia’s release from death row. Several decades of mass protests in Philadelphia and around the world won Mumia’s release from death row and then won treatment for his hepatitis C. Along with successful legal actions, a broad international movement made the difference, not just for Abu-Jamal but for other political prisoners too.

This broad, international movement remains as potent as ever. Be out on the streets tonight for Philadelphia for Mumia on April 30!
Target to pay millions for racist background checks

In a victory for a select group of jobseekers, Target Corp, is being forced to rid its racial criminal background checks. As part of a class action lawsuit filed in California’s Legal Action Fund, Target will pay a total of $3.4 million to individuals and donate $600,000 to five organizations that help people with criminal records find work.

According to court documents, 41,000 African-American and Latinx applicants with records were denied jobs between May 2008 and December 2016. Applicants expressed frustration with the broken criminal justice system — disqualification because of misdemeanor convictions going back 10 years, conditional offers turned down based on decades-old drug convictions, and more.

The settlement, filed April 3, will allow those applicants to be eligible for private hiring or instant $1,000 bonuses, with a restitution for each one up to $1,000. Consultants will recommend changes to Target’s background check guidelines, reducing the list of convictions that bar workers from jobs and allowing jobseekers to appeal. (Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 3)

This settlement has massive ramifications. With 1,800 stores, Target’s new hiring practices will allow access to thousands of steady, stable jobs. In order for jobs to be a human right — as they are in Revolutionary Cuba — all barriers need to be removed. La lucha continua!

Disney renews on bonus, promotes austerity

The Walt Disney Co., with revenues of $55 billion in 2017, employs about 125,000 people at its entertainment centers in California and Florida. Earlier this year Disney said it would share its reward from tax cuts — a $1.6 billion windfall last quarter — so that each nonunion-eligible employee would receive a $1,000 bonus. (NPR, Feb. 22)

The caveat? Disney desired that its unionized workers who were negotiating contracts — represented by 11 unions at Disneyland in California and by the Service Trades Council Coalition at Disney World in Orlando — agree to an austerity contract that both groups had already rejected. Calling this illegal, the unions promptly filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board.

The California unions are calling on Disneyland to raise the base wage to $20 an hour after a survey of 5,000 workers found that many were hard-pressed to pay for food and medical expenses and that 11 percent had experienced homelessness in the past two years. The 125-page report, “Working for the Mouse,” showed that more than half of the workers or motels. (ocregister.com, March 7)

In Washington D.C. The meeting, sponsored by the many local labor and community — Voces de la Frontera and Youth Empowered in the Struggle — among numerous other labor, community and student groups — are combating these models. They are employing a variety of collectivistic organizations and strategies to resist austerity and to build people’s power in workplaces and the community.

Along with the K-12 public education struggles in Milwaukee and elsewhere in the state, student-workers in the University of Wisconsin system are also resisting Puerto Rican-style austerity through various protest actions.

Students, faculty and staff at UW Stevens Point are now fighting against a gutting of liberal and humanities programs at that campus. Last year, these already voucher-coded programs were gutted at UW Superior. The Teaching Assistants Association-AFT at UW Madison is also engaged in numerous battles against the UW administration and said, “We’re vigilantly guarding the system and are trying to impose cuts.

Milwaukee is a majority Black and Brown city. Since the beginning of the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) system have been facing the largest public education cuts in state history. Students there also face a structural disparity in public education that has been compared to their suburban counterparts.

The evicercion of residency rules for city workers and increasing debt service to the banks creating even more funding challenges. Budget cuts have been passed on to educators in the classroom. Educators and students face crumbling buildings and a lack of necessary supplies. School administrators have become part of the problem.

The night prayer, we were going to make them in the gym. One of the brothers got on the bullhorn and said, “Look, Muslims are obligated to say the night prayer, we was going to make them in the gym. One of the brothers got on the bullhorn and said, “Look, Muslims are obligated to say the night prayer, we was going to make them in the gym. One of the brothers got on the bullhorn and said, “Look, Muslims are obligated to say the night prayer, we was going to make them in the gym. One of the brothers got on the bullhorn and said, “Look, Muslims are obligated to say the night prayer, we was going to make them in the gym. One of the brothers got on the bullhorn and said, “Look, Muslims are obligated to say

D.C. workers vow to fight wage theft

More than 200 workers and their supporters joined the fightback against wage theft at an April 10 town hall in southwest Washington, D.C. The meeting, sponsored by the many local labor and community — Voces de la Frontera and Youth Empowered in the Struggle, this year is being held in Waukesha, an area populated by right-wing, racist politicians. (facebook.com/VocesDelFronteraWI)

The MTEA is also again supporting the May Day march sponsored by Voces de la Frontera and Youth Empowered in the Struggle, this year to be held in Waukesha, an area populated by many right-wing, racist politicians. (facebook.com/VocesDelFronteraWI)

The MTEA forces demanded an end to any cuts and put forth some of their program: Keep budget cuts away from schools! Time for teachers and educational assistants to meet the needs of their students! Quality affordable healthcare for all full-time education workers — including substitutes! Raises to attract and retain the education workers that students deserve.

Walk-ins and other protest actions at public schools across this city of 600,000 preceded the April 10 protest and these actions continue. The MTEA is following up the school board meeting action with a massive informational picket on April 24 at MPS headquarters. Numerous labor-community organizations support this action, including the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, which sent out a “Stand in Solidarity with Milwaukee Education Workers” email to its entire statewide list: “MPS is at war against Milwaukee Public School workers and students. MPS has accepted and passed along years of budget cuts and austerity to Milwaukee Public School students and their families. Tattered textbooks, crowded classrooms, gutting buildings and a lack of necessary supplies. The MTEA forces demanded an end to any cuts and put forth some of their program: Keep budget cuts away from schools! Time for teachers and educational assistants to meet the needs of their students! Quality affordable healthcare for all full-time education workers — including substitutes! Raises to attract and retain the education workers that students deserve.”

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Haitians protest Trump, racism

More than 200 Haitians and their supporters marched across the Brooklyn Bridge on April 20 to say NO! to Trump. It was the 28th anniversary of the 60,000-strong march in 1990 that overturned President George H.W. Bush’s racist ban on Haitian blood donations. Many people marched to Times Square and others rallied at City Hall, including a contingent from Boston.

By Jose Monzon

In recent years, we’ve witnessed a sharp increase in racist attacks against migrants and the working class, especially since the election of Donald Trump. We’ve also seen resistance by migrants, who have taken a lead role in organizing May Day demonstrations honoring the international working-class struggle. After this year’s May Day, join Workers World Party for an afternoon of panel discussions and celebration, Marx @ 200: Class Struggle in the Age of Trump. Two hundred years since the birth of political theorist Karl Marx, the revolutionary ideas he developed have informed revolusions and struggles all over the globe — from Russia to China, Cuba, Korea, Vietnam, Haiti, Palestine, the Philippines, and numerous places in between. This lively discussion will continue building upon the international working-class solidarity of May Day.

While the character of the working class today is changing, the revolutionary ideas of Marx remain just as relevant in the struggle against capitalism. Today, a new generation of revolutionaries is grappling with Marx’s legacy. What is the working-class struggle today, in the age of globalized capitalist exploitation and Trumpian white-supremacist onslaught, police murders and Immigration and Customs Enforcement roundups?

On Marx’s 200th Birthday, Workers World Party will begin a much-needed discussion in this new, growing movement about who the working class is today. Capitalism has gone through a rapid and massive restructuring over the past four decades, leveling down wages and attacking workers’ rights and livelihoods on an unprecedented scale. At the same time, the world working class has grown, and opportunities to build solidarity on a global scale have never been greater.

Working-class struggles are increasingly led by Black, Brown and Indigenous people, migrants and refugees, women, LGBTQ people, the disabled and youth. Are their struggles a distraction from the workers’ struggle, as some claim, or do they spring from the same root as the Marxist-Leninist analysis of national liberation and special oppressions? The program will feature a diverse group of youth and veteran activists and organizers sharing their perspectives.

WWP First Secretary Larry Holmes will open with a talk on “Marx’s Revolutionary View of the Working Class: Unity of the Workers and Oppressed.”

Comrade Juliana Varejohse, who is helping organize the event, shares why Marx is relevant to today’s working-class struggle and the liberation of oppressed identities and nationalities: “His theory is still relevant today because it is a scientific analysis of human history, which has been dominated by class struggle. We come to that conclusion through scientific means.”

The “working class” as some people think of it — white males who work with their hands — is not today’s working class. As revolutionaries who center on oppressed peoples, we include sex workers, political prisoners, people with disabilities, migrants, racialized others, Indigenous people and more in the working class. We will not see a revolutionary overthrow of the class system until we work in solidarity with our most oppressed workers,” Varejohse concluded.

Join Workers World Party at 155 W. 23rd St. in New York City, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., on Sunday, May 6. If you can’t join us in person, tune in to our livestream on the WWF Facebook page: facebook.com/WorkersWorldParty.

We will celebrate the great history of working-class struggle as well as explore how Marx’s revolutionary ideas guide our present and future struggles against capitalist exploitation. Hope to see you there!

By Monica Moorehead

On a cold, rainy day here, more than 120 students, many of them women of color, walked out of their classes at Pace University April 19 to rally against ongoing sexual violence on that campus. The protest included survivors of sexual violence who refused to be silenced, not only by their abusers but also by an administration headed by Dean of Student Affairs Marjori Russell O’Grady. Students accuse O’Grady of being more concerned with protecting the school’s reputation than with protecting its students.

PaceUndRape student activist Ariel-la Riapos put out the call for the “Women & Femmes Walkout” on Facebook, for all women-identified and nonbinary/queer students to protest the rape culture on the Pace campus.

Riapos, a Latinx senior, stated on her Facebook page: “We won’t stand for this censorship or repression. We gave a clear and concise list of demands, and as told to us by the Assistant Dean of Students in Pleasantville, N.Y., last night, the university has yet to even set a date for a meeting to begin discussing our proposed policies. This is UNACCEPTABLE. We will NOT be silenced.

“We as women (of color), femmies, non-binary, queer and trans people experience some of the highest rates of abuse and sexual violence, and we will hold our university accountable to receive the protection we DESERVE!” Riapos continued.

“Tomorrow we walk out to DEMAND a safe college experience!” (April 19) Riapos had been sexually assaulted and stalked by her ex-partner, another Pace student, since she was a freshman, causing her to suffer depression and emotional anxiety. Among the 10 demands raised by the students are:

• Creating different categories for No Contact orders for more serious issues such as stalking and DV (domestic violence) and for sexual assault survivors;

• Hiring of at least 10 full-time staff members for the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Education (Pace currently has only one part-time employee);

• As mandated, reporters, faculty and staff will no longer report cases of DV, sexual assault, etc., need to be held accountable by the administration;

• Instead of the deans handling Title IX decisions, we demand a mixed stu-dent-professor judiciary committee with mandated training workshops on sexual assault and DV.” (tinyurl.com/ yb8m8cg)

Riapos told the crowd: “We are here to demand that our university take our issues seriously and do whatever it can to protect us. We are here to demand that we have a safe college experience.” (www.amny.com, April 19)

What is happening at Pace is not an isolated development, but reflects the systemic sexual violence targeting women, including trans women, under a patriar-chal, capitalist society.
Dairy farmer Marcial de Leon Aguilar was kidnapped from a farm in Rome, N.Y., on April 18 by seven armed agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. A protest to mobilize for Aguilar’s release was held April 20 in front of ICE offices in Syracuse, called by the local Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network and the Workers’ Center of Central New York.

John Collins, the farmer who employed Aguilar, witnessed the kidnapping. Aguilar’s children were waiting for Aguilar at the dairy when they heard gunshots. “I came running and only saw one gun, or maybe two,” Collins said.

Aguilar was kidnapped in Central New York on Wednesday morning, its agents were also conducting raids in New York City, Long Island and the Hudson Valley, arresting 225 immigrant workers. (ABC/ NY, April 18) These attacks are being justified by labeling the workers as “criminals.”

The racist fabrication of this criminality is clear in two detentions in Central New York in the last two weeks.

Agus Susanto, carrying an Indonesian passport, was seized April 7 for a “criminal” breath test at the Syracuse Regional Transportation Center, where the U.S. Border Patrol trolls for travelers of color to detain. Pastor Herrera Nuñez was arrested April 26 after being stopped for a “seat-belt violation” by Manlius police and turned over to ICE. Previously Manlius cops engineered the detention of four immigrant workers after stopping them for “mowing obstructing the view of license plates.”

Anti-immigrant raids are ranging deeper and wider, from individual workers and families in rural areas to groups of urban workers at chain stores like 7-Eleven, to immigrant rights organizers.

Worker leaders have been under increased scrutiny, including Ardy Tomás Orozco of Syracuse. In 2014, she was part of a delegation that succeeded in limiting collaboration of New York State Troopers with ICE and the Border Patrol. In December 2017, ICE arrested her partner, Hector Navarro, now in Buffalo Federal Detention in Batavia, N.Y.

The local Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network is demanding an end to deportations, an end to local police collaborating with ICE and the Border Patrol, and an end to racist policing. They ask for support for the Greenlight NY: Driving Together campaign to ensure access to licenses for all. The Defense Network is planning to pick the courtrooms for Marcial de Leon Aguilar on April 24. To support their work, go to Facebook for Workers’ Center of Central New York.

U.S. detains, tortures Philippine activist

By Lyn Neeley

Jerome Aba, a 25-year-old peace activist from Quezon, the Philippines, was detained April 17 for 28 hours in isolation at the San Francisco International Airport by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Despite showing a valid visa, Aba suffered physical and psychological torture and was denied the right to a lawyer before being sent back to the Philippines.

“The whole time we were outside the CBP office, the CBP implemented torture tactics used by the CIA in places like Guantánamo Bay, not something we expect to happen in the SF Bay Area,” said Terry Valen, president of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (facebook.com/ichrpnw).

Aba came to the U.S. to participate in the “Stop the Killings Speaking Tour: The People’s Caravan for Peace and Justice in the Philippines.” He is the national chairperson of Suara Bangsamoro and co-chair of Sandugo Movement for Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self Determination.

The caravan will travel to six major cities from April 20 through May 11. It will expose the human rights violations in the Philippines through testimonies from Filipino people who have witnessed grave abuses by the U.S.-backed Rodrigo Duterte regime.

According to Valen, “The CBP lied in an apparent cover-up of their torture of Jer-ome. The reason for his detention was very political, not an ‘unspecified crime’ or ‘very common glitch’ with his visa. They knew about his advocacy for Indige-nous and Moro people and accused him of being a terrorist.

“The only food they gave him had pork, in blatant disrespect to his Muslim religion, and they restricted water for him to drink. We are outraged and will continue to stage protests calling for Justice for Jerome!”

Demonstrations to protest Aba’s treatment and demand his return took place in Washington, D.C.; New York City; Portland, Ore.; and Chicago, and will continue in a number of cities.

Protesters picketed the Portland, Ore., ICE office on April 20. Passing traffic supported them with honks, thumbs up and raised fists. The demonstration was called by CHIRP, Gabriela and Anakbayan and supported by Workers World Party.

Chicago: Justice for Jerome Aba

By Chicago Workers World bureau

Chicago activists from numerous organizations spoke out on April 20 to express solidarity with the detained torture victims, the deportation of Filippo, Moro Mus-lim, Indigenous activist Jerome Aba by the U.S. Border Patrol. Jerome Aba had been arrested and held for 28 hours, 22 of them without any contact with a lawyer.

“A long time peace and human rights activist, Aba traveled to the United States on April 17 for a scheduled meeting with the U.S. Council of Bishops and congressional representatives, as well as to participate in the “Stop the Killings” speaking tour. Despite having all relevant paperwork in order, including a 30-year visa, Jerome was detained and held for 28 hours, 22 of them without any contact with a lawyer.

“Why was Jerome silenced?” Love Jor-dan, an activist with Anakbayan Chica-go, asked the gathered crowd. “Were they afraid of his mes-sage of peace and international solidarity? We are here today in righteous indignation and outrage at the inhumane treat-ment of our friend and kasa-ma (Tagalog for “comrade”).

Organizations supporting the demonstration included Chicago Committee for Hu-man Rights in the Philippines, Anakbayan Chicago, National Alliance for Filipino Con-cerns, Workers World Party, Freedom Road Socialist Or- ganization, Chicago Boricua Resistance, Answer-Chicago and Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

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Indigenous women, the land vs settler colonialism


I would like to acknowledge that we are on the stolen and unceded traditional territory of the Massachusett, land also traversed by the Narragansett, Nipmuc, Wampanoag and many others. I also recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.

Settler colonialism

Let me review for just a minute what settler colonialism is here in the country currently known as the United States — incidentally, I believe someday we will have a different name for the U.S. because you have to believe and dream, in addition to struggling day-to-day and being out on the street; we gotta dream for our futures, you know.

We can look at history through a lot of prisms. For instance, we look at things through the lens of class and through the construction of race. We talk about intersectionality. If we are socialists, we look at things through a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint. There are all these tools that we use to look at history, how we got here, who we are and how we fit into the society.

The speakers in the photos are Shireen Al-Adeimi, a Yemeni-Canadian activist and doctoral candidate at Harvard; Randi Nord, a journalist with Geopolitics Alert and a member of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party; and Maya Arcilla, chairperson of Anakbayan-Chicago.

More than 300 people turned out in Chicago on April 21 to demand an end to U.S. foreign wars and to domestic repression, in an action called by the new Chicago Anti-War Coalition. After an initial rally in Grant Park, the demonstrators marched through the Loop to two more rallies, one at Trump Tower and the other at the Chicago Tribune building, chanting “Money for schools, not for war!” and “U.S. out of Syria!” They pledged to return to the streets, and called for a massive action in August on the 50th anniversary of the police riot at the 1968 Democratic Convention.

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workers.org
Armed only with strong voices and boundless determination, thousands of Palestinians from Gaza challenged for the fourth straight week the Israeli fence on April 20 that has imprisoned nearly 2 million of them in a tiny enclave. With shoot-to-kill orders in hand, snipers from the so-called Israeli Defense Forces killed four more protesters, including a 15-year-old boy. The tally for the wounded was 729, including 199 struck by gun fire, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, (Chicago Tribune, April 20).

Since March 30, which is Palestinian “Land Day,” commemorating the day in 1976 when Israeli police shot six Palestinians protesting Israeli land seizures, thousands of Palestinians have marched every Friday to the border fence with Israel.

Since then, at least 32 have been killed by Israeli soldiers, including disabled active-ist and journalist Yasser Murtaja, and more than 1,600 have been wounded, including many children.

Israel and Egypt have blockaded Gaza by land and sea since 2007, denying its citizens’ right to receive fuel, building materials or medicines. Electricity is available only five hours a day, and unemployment is above 40 percent for Gazans.

The weekly Friday protests are organized by the liberation organization Hamas, which not only demands an end to the blockade, but also asserts the right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland. The protests are slated to culminate May 15, which Palestinians mark as “Nakba,” or “the catastrophe,” the date in 1948 when thousands were driven from their homes during Israel’s creation as a garrison state. The Palestinians call this current struggle the “March of Return.”

“We will stay here until we reclaim our lands,” said Ahmed Nasman, 21, speaking in a protest tent camp east of Gaza City. Activists near him prepared to fly kites over the fence. “Every day, we will come here with a new way to resist them.” (Reuters.com, April 20) “Them” refers to Israel.

Global condemnation of Israel

The brave resistance by the Palestinian protesters, in the face of more than a hundred Israeli snipers and other soldiers armed to the teeth by the U.S., has won worldwide support. Nickolay Mladenov, the U.N. special coordinator for the long stalled peace process between the two states, said on Twitter: “It is outrageous to shoot at children! How does the killing of a child in Gaza today help peace? It doesn’t! It fuels anger and breeds more killing. Children must be protected from violence, not exposed to it, not killed! This tragic incident must be investigated.” (ABC News, April 21)

Israeli-born, Oscar-winning actor Na- ta- lie Portman announced on April 21 that she was turning down the million-dollar Genesis Prize because she did not want to travel to the same stage as Prime Minister Netanyahu. “The misfortunates of those suffering from today’s atrocities is simply not in line with my Jewish values,” she said. (reuters.com, April 21) Organizers were forced to cancel the event.

In the U.S. pro-Palestinian demonstra- tions have erupted in cities across the country, protesting the Israeli atrocities against the Gaza residents. Eight members of the Jewish youth group called IfNotNow were arrested when they chained themselves to the front of the Israeli consulate in Boston on April 3. Seven members were arrested on April 9 outside the New York City office of Sen. Chuck Schumer. Nine more members were arrested on April 13 for blocking the doors to the San Francisco office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

In Israel itself, activists from the group Boycott from Within confronted Israeli soldiers near the Gaza fence. “Aren’t you ashamed of massacring civilians?” an activist asked a soldier, who responded by asking him to put his camera down.

“No I can’t,” replied the activist. “You are a terrorist and I’ll take your picture. Are you proud of what you do? A soldier in the army of terror?” (Times of Israel, April 11)

Students from across the country, protesting the Israeli atrocities, a similar vote for divestment will take place at George Wash- ington University on April 23.

The Israeli shootings have even caused Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sand- ers, long-time supporters of the assis- tance to Palestinians, to come out against what they call the “Zionist occupation.”

In Brazil, the Brazilian Parliament has voted to cut off all aid to Brazil itself. In 2020, it is the part of a cultural tour” to celebrate the 70th an- niversary of Israel’s occupation of Indig- enous Palestinian lands. The orchestra’s “cultural” itinerary includes a tour of an Israeli Defense Forces base.

Earlier in April, Philly Don’t Orches- trate Apathied was launched to galva- nize opposition to the tour. The tour is funded and supported by the Jew- ish Federation as part of a decade-long “Brand Israel” campaign to shift global public perceptions about Israel and cov- er up the realities of its brutal colonial occupation.

Outside the Kimmel Center, classical music provided a background for a video played on a screen so concertgoers could witness the Zionist violence that Israeli troops and settlers inflict on Palestinian people, even children.

Activists held signs, chanted and hand- Continued on page 22

No la guerra de Europa contra inmigrantes

Continua de página 12

La ciudadanía trabaja para obtener una califi- cación satisfactoria en sus evaluaciones de desempeño, se requerirá que los jueces terminen al menos 700 casos al año y revuquen menos del 15 por ciento de sus sentencias.

Las/os inmigrantes de habla critica- ron el plan. “Las/o s decisiones en un tribu- nal de inmigración tienen consecuencias de vida o muerte y no se pueden gestionar como una producción en cadena”, dijo Jeremy McKinney, secretario de la Aso- ciación Estadounidense de Abogados de Inmigración. (NPR, 3 de abril)

Mientras tanto, en lo que podría ser la mayor redada en un lugar de trabajo bajo el gobierno de Trump, dos oficinistas fueron detenidas y procesadas para su deporta- ción o detención el 7 de abril, luego de una redada de Inmigración y Aduanas en una fabrica de bebidas en Illinois.

Eso sigue las incursiones de ICE sin- cronizadas en más de 100 tiendas 7-Elev- en en un principio de enero. En un solo día, los agentes de ICE llegaron a 200 tiendas en busca de trabajadoras/es in- documentadas. (Newsweek, 10 de enero) El jueves, un ladrón lanzó un pequeño in- criado en el momento de que esto era solo el comienzo: “No se limitará a grandes empresas o cualquier indú- stria en particular, grande, mediana y pequeña... Esto es lo que nos estamos preparando para este año, y lo que va ser más y más.”

Sin lugar a dónde ir

Las/os inmigrantes y refugiados en EUA viven ahora en estado de sitio. Ya sea que salgan de compras o vayan a servicios reli- giosos, ya sea en la escuela, en la corte o en el trabajo, mientras conducen o caminan a cualquier lugar, las/os inmigrantes y sus fa- miliares en contacto con el sistema de estrés postraumático es real, especial- mente entre las/os hijos de familias mi- grantes, con consecuencias permanentes.

Las/os inmigrantes se ven obligados a abandonar sus países de origen y emigrar a los Estados Unidos debido a las condi- ciones intolerables, que resultan direct-amente del militarismo imperialista de EUA. Sólo al vencer de una vez por todas el sistema depredador y racista de este país, terminará esta guerra contra las/os inmigrantes.

El Primer de Mayo de 2018 debe dedi- carse una vez más a la lucha de las/os mi- grantes y refugiados, ya sea que vengan de Honduras o Haití, Siria o Somalia.

“¿No hay fronteras en la lucha de las/os trabajadores!”


“Brand Israel” campaign to shift global public perceptions about Israel and cover up the realities of its brutal colonial occupation.

In Israel itself, activists from the group Boycott from Within confronted Israeli soldiers near the Gaza fence. “Aren’t you ashamed of massacring civilians?” an activist asked a soldier, who responded by asking him to put his camera down.

“No I can’t,” replied the activist. “You are a terrorist and I’ll take your picture. Are you proud of what you do? A soldier in the army of terror?” (Times of Israel, April 11)

This is a tremendous victory for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions move- ment that targets U.S. complicity with Israeli atrocities. A similar vote for di- vestment will take place at George Wash- ington University on April 23.

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Activists held signs, chanted and hand- Continued on page 22
New Cuban president continues ‘Work of the Revolution’

Cuban Parliament.

Mexico toward Cuba in 1956, opening the way for the economic system of capitalism to come here. Religion has often been used as a weapon to enforce these viewpoints. So when we look at the role of Christianity within Indigenous communities, we see that it was to wipe out all of our beliefs and enforce a totally dominant worldview — this is not to disparage people who follow Christianity, but more to speak of how it was used.

Settler colonialism is not just something that happened in the past; rather, it is ongoing. It is really important to remember that it is happening today. As one of my favorite Indigenous thinkers, Art Manuel, wrote: "Colonialism has three components: dispossession, dependence and oppression. Indigenous people live with these forces every day of their lives."
The symbolism of Shinzo Abe shaking hands with Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago compound in April 2018 is not lost on most people in the United States, but it certainly resonates with Koreans.

Abe, the current prime minister of Japan, is the grandson of Roh Hobok Kishi, the brutal ruler of the puppet state of Manchukuo. Some 80 percent of the people opposed to Abe’s return to power, which imperial Japan set up in northeast China in the 1930s, were ethnic Koreans. In 1940, Japan had invaded Korea and set up a harsh colonial rule, leading many Koreans to leave their homeland and settle in northeast China. They only too soon found themselves once again under the Japans’ “shoeglers” will die, or will come close. As it stands, the opiod epidemic has decreased the average lifespan of people with drug issues, with tens of thousands of deaths yearly, causing deaths of young people here.

How did it get to be this way? We have to look at the causes. First of all, through the trade wars, and the increasing competition over markets and areas for exploitation.

The Japanese rulers surrendered after the Pentagon dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 200,000 people, mostly civilians, in a few days. Of the dead, many were Koreans who had been forcibly dragged to labor in the factories and mines of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, replacing Japanese workers drafted into the military.

After Japan’s defeat in World War II, Kishi, the former overlord of Manchukuo, became the main face of war crimes. But he was then released by the U.S. military because “they con- sidered Kishi to be the best man to lead a post-war Japan in a pro-American direc- tion. As such, he has been called’Ameri- can Occupation’s favorite war criminal’” (Japan Pol- icy Research Institute).

With Abe’s rise to twice become prime minister of Japan, first in 2006 and again in 2012, the right-wing Kishi political dynasty was again in the saddle, with the blessings of the U.S. Within days of his meeting with Abe, Insys offered to the Yasukuni Shrine for the war dead, a symbol of Japan’s imperial military conquests in China and Korea.

Can it be forgotten that the U.S. and Japan were imperialist rivals in World War II? That countless young draftees on both sides were killed or maimed in that bloody struggle? The U.S. claimed it was to make the world “safe for democracy,” but it really was motivated by capitalist interests in its political markets and areas for exploitation.

One of the solutions to drug addiction is one that’s been used before in revolution- ary China: offer drug dealers the op- tion to go “straight.” Have them turn over their heroin and their fentanyl, destroy it, and offer them a cash reward and employment. Drug dealers are just as motivated as people who are fighting drug dealers, to much applause from his drug dealers, to much applause from his admirers and exploiters that, thanks largely to U.S. imperialism, continues in Japan to this day. The north Koreans are fiercely proud of the continuity of anti-imperial- istic struggle embodied in their own lead- ership, beginning with the legendary Kim Il Sung and continuing with today’s Kim Jong Un.

Trump and his war hawks

Donald Trump is expected to meet soon with Kim, leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. What made such a development possible? It’s the determination of the DPRK to develop a nuclear defense against another U.S. invasion. No matter how you cut it, it is the DPRK’s nuclear arsenal that has compelled even the discussion of such a meeting by the White House.

In the mix are also the tremendous mass mobilizations for a solid year in south Korea that brought down the corrupt government of Park Geun-hye, the president at the time, as a military dictator. Her overthrow enabled a rapprochement between north and south that was clearly seen in the enor- mous public enthusiasm for a joint Kore- an team at the winter Olympics.

The Trump Administration is pushed into their war hawks like Michael Flynn, particularly those in the northern right, are keenly aware of this tortured history. In con- trast to the political dynasty of oppressors and exploiters that, thanks largely to U.S. imperialism, continues in Japan to this day, the north Koreans are fiercely proud of the continuity of anti-imperial- istic struggle embodied in their own lead- ership, beginning with the legendary Kim Il Sung and continuing with today’s Kim Jong Un.

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In the mix are also the tremendous mass mobilizations for a solid year in south Korea that brought down the corrupt government of Park Geun-hye, the president at the time, as a military dictator. Her overthrow enabled a rapprochement between north and south that was clearly seen in the enor- mous public enthusiasm for a joint Kore- an team at the winter Olympics.

The Trump Administration is pushed into their war hawks like Michael Flynn, particularly those in the northern right, are keenly aware of this tortured history. In con- trast to the political dynasty of oppressors and exploiters that, thanks largely to U.S. imperialism, continues in Japan to this day, the north Koreans are fiercely proud of the continuity of anti-imperial- istic struggle embodied in their own lead- ership, beginning with the legendary Kim Il Sung and continuing with today’s Kim Jong Un.

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Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico, un instrumento de lucha

Por Martha Grevatt

La Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico (FMPR) realizó una exitosa huelga de un día el 19 de marzo contra los despido de maestras/os y se impuso un impuesto a las ventas. Esto fue para acelerar la huelga de la cuota de los maestros, que es una de las categorías más importantes. La FMPR también ha trabajado incansablemente para construir un país en el que queremos vivir, sin la inestabilidad y represión generalizadas que caracterizan la actualidad.

Después de la huelga de maestros, la FMPR ha continuado luchando. Nos hemos enfrentado a la represión del gobierno, pero también a la retórica de miedo y la manipulación de las noticias. A pesar de todo, la FMPR sigue trabajando incansablemente para construir un país en el que queremos vivir.

¿Qué hay de las caravanas al norte?

Por ejemplo, el costo total estimado para las caravanas que viajan por todo México es de $1,6 mil millones de un congreso.

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