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New Cuban president continues 'Work of the Revolution'

By Teresa Gutierrez

Perhaps the most thrilling angle about the U.S. capitalist 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

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MAY DAY WW EDITORIAL

HOPE, RESISTANCE, SOLIDARITY

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

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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 any 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.

In order to 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 do get elected, I can, as any politicians who say they are progressive can, use the amplified voice I would have to expose, 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, while every few hours, Black and Brown people are murdered by racist genocidal police who should be jailed immediately, along with the police chiefs who enable them. And I'd expose the real reason that jobs and livable wages are being kept from us, and the simple solutions to these problems that are not allowed by the banks and corporations. In other words, I'd use that position to motivate the movement to take over the reins of power.

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. Stopping global warming, endless wars by the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Pentagon, and stopping racist, sexist and anti-LGBTQ violence all begins by exposing the forces that allow them to continue and empowering the people to act outside of the boundaries of what's acceptable. It's the only thing these so-called progressive politicians should be doing in office — but instead they are enabling and encouraging compliance with this system.

Perhaps my first day in office could be to start the groundwork amongst grassroots and progressive organizations on the left to work on mobilizing an occupation of the White House that was sustainable and could last for months. After the groundwork was laid, maybe I'd call a

WHAT DO WE DEMAND —

- STOP THE WAR ON BLACK & BROWN PEOPLE**
Declare a state of emergency in Black & Latinx neighborhoods, ending the sanctioned use of deadly force by police.
- END ALL DEPORTATIONS**
Stop the Attacks on Migrant Workers!
- End All U.S. Wars & Proxy Wars**
Use War \$ for Living-Wage Jobs, Homes, Free Healthcare, Free Education and to Stop Global Warming
- Industry for the People**
Initiate a referendum to convert private ownership of vital industry to actual public ownership.
- Unity & Solidarity**
No tolerance for white supremacy, sexism, misogyny, anti-LGBTQ violence & discrimination. Black Lives Matter, Black Trans Lives Matter

Endorsers include:

- Unión del Barrio - Los Angeles
- California Green Party
- Clarence Thomas - Secretary-Treasurer of IUMU Local 10 (retired)
- Ramsey Clark - Ex-U.S. Attorney General
- Cindy Sheehan - anti-capitalist, peace activist whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004.
- FMLN - Los Angeles
- FSLN - Los Angeles
- Frank Doreel - veteran & peace activist
- Chris Silveira - Sec.-Treasurer Teamsters L. 808; Ex. chair of Teamsters Nat'l Black Caucus * Excerpted with permission only

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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 — depending on the state of the movement in the streets, maybe I'd be able 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 time, whomever the largest financial and industrial monopolists favored with their donations won.

Even in this election of Trump, in which he was supposedly outspent (but not if you count the free media he

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered 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.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people 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 capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, 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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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 held by a neo-Nazi group known as the National Socialist Movement. The large anti-racist crowd was multinational, multigenerational and consisted 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 heinous acts of violence in Charlottesville, Va., last August fresh in the country's consciousness, anti-racists made sure to come out in large numbers to send a clear message to

white supremacists that while their racist and anti-immigrant agenda is supported by the state and reactionary segments of society, including President Trump, the masses at large will drown them out and shut them down.

The Greenville Street Park was enclosed by an 8-foot metal fence, double barricades and a line of shoulder-to-shoulder rifle-carrying police. The hundreds across the street who chanted down the vile hate speech emanating from the park had to enter at designated checkpoints to be frisked. People were only allowed to bring a cellphone into this "protest pen." No signs or even water bottles were allowed.

Many other anti-fascists chose to stay in the streets, keeping their bullhorns, signs and banners, and confronting the

some 700 heavily armed police from 42 different agencies, including various city, county and state forces. All downtown intersections were barricaded, armored vehicles carried reinforcement troops, and drones and helicopters circled overhead. This large group persisted in marching through downtown Newnan, their banners and signs denouncing white supremacy, as they chanted, "No Nazis, No KKK, No Fascist USA."

An early example of the repressive government force was that multiple police vehicles pulled up within minutes of a group of anti-fascists gathering at a corner. Confronting the protesters, police pulled youth off the sidewalk, slammed individuals to the ground and handcuffed them, as others pointed their assault rifles at the unarmed crowd.

During the course of the day, at least 10 protesters were violently arrested for wearing masks or happening to rub an officer the wrong way. Clearly, their mandate to "protect and serve" did not go beyond the fascists.

Such jack-booted tactics reflect the true role of the police in the maintenance of capitalism and white supremacy. As always, they are an occupying army in people of color and working-class communities. It should come as no surprise that the "boys in blue," who kill people of color regularly and with impunity, would defend their brown-shirted brothers. The brutal arrests of anti-racists lay bare the relationship of the state to the order of white supremacy. In the words of the anti-fascists, "The cops and the Klan go hand in hand!" □

Activists stop racist memorial, honor Ida B. Wells

By Savannah Webb and Joan Auf
Chicago

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 50 people congregated at the gates that open up to the private Oak Woods Cemetery, which houses the National Park Service-owned "Confederate Mound."

This cemetery housing the Mound — a 46-foot tall monument that the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood's mostly Black residents can see as they walk along Emmett Till Road — is also the final resting place of investigative journalist and anti-lynching advocate Ida B. Wells, Olympic hero Jesse Owens and former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, among many others.

Smash White Supremacy Chicago (SWSC), a group of anti-racist individuals and organizations, presented two visual timelines at the cemetery gates. One traced the history of the Mound and statue, and the other outlined the life and work of Ida B. Wells.

Speakers from various groups talked about Wells' legacy in Chicago and the role that white supremacy has played, and continues to play, in the shaping of our city. The closing of schools and mental health facilities, and home foreclosures in Black and Brown communities,

were all identified as concrete manifestations of white supremacy.

After the timelines were presented, the group transitioned into a somber choir as they entered the cemetery to hold a memorial service for Wells. Her 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 recounted the violence they experienced growing up in Memphis, Tenn., during the Jim Crow era. Another speaker presented a poem that ended with the lyric, "Our revolution is justified." Many in the crowd shed tears as they placed flowers

and candles at Wells' grave.

Keeping Wells' words in mind — "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them" — organizers felt the need to dispel the myths surrounding the Confederate monument. We understand that statues glorifying white supremacy have nothing to do with history, and everything to do with ongoing, state-sponsored racist terror. In 2009, the statue benefited from a federal stimulus of \$250,000, at the same time that social services were being cut in the city's most oppressed neighborhoods.

The Confederate Mound commemorates the deaths of more than 4,000 Confederate prisoners of war who died at Camp Douglas in Chicago. The "Sons of the Confederate Veterans" won't tell you that these POWs only died because their government

refused to include Black Union soldiers in prisoner exchanges, choosing instead to sell those captured into slavery.

The Sons claim that their memorial service is about heritage, not hate, but their tired lies weren't able to fool the residents of Greater Grand Crossing, who remember fighting for the right to be buried in Oak Woods Cemetery.

While SWSC was present, the racists were too afraid to show their faces. They drove in and out of the cemetery without attempting interaction. Of course, they were protected by a sizable police presence for the entirety of their so-called memorial.

According to Greater Grand Crossing residents, the gatherings of previous years were often accompanied by a "military salute" — blanks fired off in unison — but we heard no celebratory gunfire today. □

Sims statue removed; struggle continues

By Dolores Cox

The controversial statue honoring Dr. J. Marion Sims, known as "the father of gynecology" for his medical advances in the treatment and cure of pregnant women with vaginal fistulas, was finally removed on April 17 from the perimeter wall of New York City's Central Park. Erected there more than 80 years ago, the statue faced the New York Academy of Medicine across the street.

Sims' reputation was based on performing torturous and mutilating surgical experiments on enslaved Black women without antiseptics or available 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. On one 17-year-old girl, he performed 30 surgeries over a four-year period. Sims later moved from Alabama to New York.

Sims' statue became known as one of the numerous monuments symbolizing white supremacy throughout the U.S. The current residents of the East Harlem neighborhood near the statue are predominantly Black and Latinx. For a decade, the community protested the presence of the statue and what it historically represents, adding to intergenerational emotional trauma.

In 2007, activist Viola Plummer, along with then City Councilmember Charles Barron, petitioned the Parks Department to remove the statue. The East Harlem Preservation advocacy organization began a campaign for the statue's removal 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' "despicable acts ... repugnant and reprehensible." (New York Daily News, Aug. 21) Recently she commented, "This individual is considered the father of gynecology, but he practiced and basically tortured enslaved women." (NYDN, April 17) Local politicians Letitia James and Inez Barron were among current supporters of the statue's removal.

Last September, in response to national protest against the white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Va., Mayor Bill de Blasio created a Commission on City Art, Monuments and Markers to review "all symbols of hate" in New York City. 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 [19th century] 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/yb6rfu86)

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

However, South Brooklyn community members reject the placement of the sadistic doctor's statue in the cemetery. Concerned Members of the Green-Wood Cemetery launched a petition stating that Sims' statue is not welcome there. They

asserted in an open letter: "The community in Harlem fought for years to have this statue removed, and we are a group of neighbors who do not want to see it publicly displayed in our community either. ... [It] serves as an unwelcome reminder of centuries of U.S. non-consensual medical experimentation on black and brown bodies."

Letter signers say that as neighborhood residents who "visit and value Green-Wood's public spaces, we are totally opposed to the placement of ... Sims' statue there. Dozens of us have written with our concerns to Green-Wood, without effect."

Green-Wood President Richard J. Moylan says that placing the statue near Sims' grave is "not meant to glorify him." (amny.com, April 19) Petitioners disagree and assert, "The cemetery management claims the statue is educational — but statues are designed to honor the people they represent, and this statue is a monument to Sims' racist legacy."

The letter concludes: "We are neighbors living in Sunset Park, Kensington, South Slope, Windsor Terrace and beyond who refuse to house a memorial to white supremacy in our neighborhood. We are working to end anti-black racism and xenophobia in South Brooklyn, and this is an unwelcome step backwards. We demand that ... Sims' statue not be relocated to Green-Wood Cemetery. There is no space for honoring white supremacy in our neighborhood."

To read the petition and support this struggle, see tinyurl.com/ydhf3uc9. For previous articles on the community struggle against Sims' statue, see tinyurl.com/ww170831DC and tinyurl.com/ww180118DC.

Continued from page 2

got), the ruling class could have used the electoral college any way they wanted to change results — but I think they liked those promised tax cuts. In history, the Electoral College was used for that purpose, and was also used to help end Reconstruction.

The electoral struggle has to be used as a means to a revolutionary end — not to enable acceptance of this unacceptable system of capitalism. The electoral struggle should not be a struggle for a career; it should be seen as one of the many tools that can be used to expose and abolish capitalism. The measure of my success is not winning the office of senator, if that could happen — and I guess in an infinite universe, anything can happen.

But I'm running to win our future. I'm running to quicken the pace of the revolutionary process liberating humanity from exploitation, oppression, poverty and war. I need your vote to do that.

Let's show others that our numbers are large and the revolutionary waters are warm, so they will feel compelled to come on in and start swimming. Whatever we do, we can't continue to accept and enable the unacceptable. □

A crucial moment

Fill the streets for Mumia on April 30!

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest Post-Conviction Relief Act petition will be heard in Pennsylvania's Court of Common Pleas before Judge Leon Tucker on April 30 in Philadelphia. It is now over a year since the appeal was first heard on April 24, 2017 — Abu-Jamal's last birthday.

The long and arduous process has seen numerous court hearings. It has witnessed a pattern of repeated and intentional delays by the Philadelphia district attorney's office, including a yearlong failure to fully comply with Tucker's rulings to turn over all files and memos related to Abu-Jamal's case.

Demonstrators have repeatedly packed court hearings and filled the streets outside the court and at the DA's office, demanding they "do the right thing" and comply with Tucker's orders. Protesters will be out again in full force on April 30.

Supreme Court ruling vs. former Philly DA

Abu-Jamal's petition seeks to overturn all of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decisions on his appeals from 1995 to 2008, citing bias and conflict of interest by former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald D. Castille. During Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial for the alleged murder of a Philadelphia police officer, for which he pleaded innocent, Castille was a senior assistant DA. By 1989, Castille had become Philadelphia's DA and opposed Abu-Jamal's appeal of his conviction and death sentence.

Elected to the higher state court in 1994, Castille ruled against every appeal Abu-Jamal brought before him. Most of these appeals were critical of the actions of the DA's office during Castille's own tenure. During his campaign for the judicial office, Castille bragged that he had helped sentence 45 men, including Abu-Jamal, to death. He received financial backing from the Fraternal Order of Police, which has led the campaign to kill Abu-Jamal and once honored Castille as "Man of the Year."

The basis of Abu-Jamal's current legal challenge is a June 2016 precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Williams v. Pennsylvania*. The Supreme Court held that "it is a violation of the due process right to an impartial tribunal free of judicial bias if a judge participating in a criminal appeal had 'a significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision' in a defendant's case." (rachelwolkenstein.net)

The *Williams* case — Terry Williams had been convicted of murder in 1984 — involved Castille, who was serving as Philadelphia DA at the time and approved the prosecutor's request to seek the death penalty. When Williams' appeal for a stay of his execution reached the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2012, then Justice Castille denied the request for penalty relief and reinstated the death sentence.

In Abu-Jamal's case, as in that of Williams, Castille has refused every request asking him to step aside from ruling on post-conviction appeals. The *Williams v. Pennsylvania* decision appears to validate Abu-Jamal's right to not have Castille hear his case.

At the initial April 24, 2017, hearing, then Deputy DA Ronald Eisenberg, a Castille protégé, argued that granting Abu-Jamal a new hearing would "be a huge impact" on the higher courts, saying, "At some point you just have to draw the line." Abu-Jamal's attorneys challenged this attitude, asking "just how much justice is too much justice?"

Eisenberg resigned last December and Philadelphia's new and more progressive DA, Larry Krasner, took office this January. At the recent hearings on Abu-Jamal's appeal, the assistant DAs under Krasner were granted two extensions based on their request for "more time to thoroughly research all files related to capital cases during Castille's tenure." A full hearing on this is scheduled for April 30.

The DA's office has specifically been charged with producing a memo from Castille to former Assistant DA Gayle McLaughlin Barthold, in which he raised 18 capital cases, including Abu-Jamal's.



WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Participants in the Free Mumia Film Festival gather after the April 20 screening of documentaries on health care and environmental issues in prisons. It featured Pennsylvania state Rep. Vanessa Lowery-Brown, former prisoner Kempis Songster (Ghani) and a call from Frackville prisoner Bryant Arroyo.

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 Fanon 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 decadeslong case. The festival will include a celebration of Mumia's birthday on April 24. See tinyurl.com/y9xlxomn 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 offer the same considerations to Abu-Jamal that it recently

granted to Philadelphia rapper Meek Mill.

After making public a list of police officers whom previous DAs had advised prosecutors not to call as witnesses because they were known to lie, the DA's office at Mill's hearing on April 16 supported a new trial for the rapper because the officer involved in his arrest was on the list of dishonest cops. In Abu-Jamal's case, 15 of the 35 police officers involved in collecting evidence in 1981 were subsequently jailed for evidence-tampering.

Krasner has promised to review previous cases involving police corruption. Mumia's should be at the top of his list! An online petition drive asking Krasner to do the right thing for Mumia can be found at actionnetwork.org/petitions/freemumia.

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 of Philadelphia for Mumia on April 30! □

Still on death row

Lucasville Five, 25 years later

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 tuberculosis 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 21 demands.

Later the authorities scapegoated a group of 50 inmates, giving most harsh sentences of 5 to 25 years and sending five to death row, including prisoner leaders who had actually negotiated the peaceful surrender. The five — Siddique Abdullah Hasan, Keith Lamar (aka Bomani Shakur), James Were (aka Namir Mateen), Jason Robb and George Skatzes — remain on death row. Imam Hasan spoke to Workers World Contributing Editor Martha Grevatt on April 2-3.

On April 20, Ohio state prison authorities restricted the phone and email access of Imam Hasan, Lamar, Were and Robb. Greg Curry, currently serving time for Lucasville charges but not on death row, was also denied that access. Prison staff have admitted the restrictions are to deny them the chance to tell their story of the 1993 Uprising. With the help of other prisoners, Hasan, Lamar and Robb have communicated they will refuse food until access is restored. In 2011, the three went on hunger strike for 13 days to get access to phones, contact visits and legal resources. Supporters ask for calls to the Ohio State Penitentiary at 330-743-0700/press 0. More information at LucasvilleAmnesty.org and at facebook.com/events/1773815042661544/.

Martha Grevatt: What were the issues that led to the rebellion?

Imam Hasan: There was numerous issues. For example, prisoners was only given one five-minute phone call per year to speak with their family and it was referred to as a Christmas call. Food was inadequate nutritionally and unsanitary. Visi-

tors had to go through a lot of harsh treatment and disrespect from staff members. Medical care was inadequate. The straw that actually broke the camel's back would have been the inoculation testing. It was scheduled for April 12 — all prisoners who had not submitted to the Mantoux tuberculin skin test which consists of phenol.



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 Warden 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 was 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 do not forfeit their Constitutional rights. But when you find people in authority, whether it be Warden Tate, Donald Trump or other people, people just believe that they're above the law and there's no accountability.

MG: Describe the events that began April 11, 1993.

IH: A couple of weeks before the uprising happened, you had about 150 people that were refusing to take the test. Warden Tate called myself and two other Muslims to participate in a meeting. He seen that we was trying to talk to him, have a diplomatic conversation or intelli-

gent conversation with him, [but] it was falling on deaf ears.

So Muslims had decided what they was going to do. Initially it was intended to be a peaceful protest to bring it to the attention of [Tate's] superiors in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. What was intended to be a peaceful protest end up turning into a full-scale rebellion. I guess the question becomes how.

When officers start running helter-skelter and leaving prisoners unmonitored — they was more concerned about their own safety as opposed to fulfilling their job — they left their posts. When prisoners seen that — I mean that long train of abuses that prisoners was going through; staff-on-inmate violence; staff instigating prisoner assault among themselves; and the whole nine yards — prisoners just seen the opportunity to take advantage of a situation. And one thing led to another.

MG: Can you talk about the unity of the inmates?

IH: From the very beginning of the uprising, the majority of people who was actually murdered or who was assaulted was white. So when white prisoners seen that, they became panicky, thinking it was a race riot. But they came to see that these people who was assaulted or murdered was supposedly informants. And there's a prison saying that "snitches get stitches."

Continued on the next page

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Target to pay millions for racist background checks

In a victory for a select group of jobseekers, Target Corp. is being forced to get rid of its racist criminal background checks. As part of a class action lawsuit won by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education 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 5, will now allow those applicants to be eligible for priority hiring or interviewing, with restitution for each one of 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. (Minnesota Star Tribune, April 5)

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 in the U.S. to be a human right — as they are in Revolutionary Cuba — all barriers need to be removed. La lucha continua!

Disney reneges 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 nonmanagement worker would receive a \$1,000 bonus. (NPR, Feb. 22)

The caveat? Disney demanded 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 Disneyland workers make less than \$15 an hour, and some live in cars or motels. (ocregister.com, March 7)

Meanwhile, on April 4, hundreds of hospitality and housekeeping Disney World workers, custodians, ride operators and cast members marched to Disney Springs, an outdoor shopping and entertainment complex, and handed out signs stamped "End Disney Poverty." As one worker said, "Disney wants you to make magic for the guests, but they don't give magic to the cast members." (Shadowproof, April 4)

JetBlue crewmembers vote union

The push to unionize nearly 5,000 JetBlue flight attendants took off April 17 with a 2 to 1 vote in favor of joining the Transport Workers Union. Obviously, the workers didn't buy the company's anti-union, anti-worker tactics — like offering flyers \$25 to report attendants who use cell phones during a flight or violate company regulations.

TWU plans to start contract bargaining "immediately," according to a statement by TWU President John Samuelson: "This historic victory is yet another example of the tide turning in America as workers collectively fight back to defend their livelihoods." He added: "The number of working women and men in unions increased last year — for the first time in decades. The JetBlue vote is a strong sign that the upward trend is continuing this year."

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 organizations in DC Just Pay Coalition, announced the release of a new report, "Making Our Laws Real," on how rampant wage theft, combined with lax enforcement of labor laws, cost workers across the U.S. more than \$15 billion last year.

"I worked three different retail jobs in D.C. and my wages were stolen in one way or another in each one," said Project Retail member Kristi. Jaime Cruz of Trabajadores Unidos DC noted: "Because of bureaucratic barriers and delays, workers have to turn to community groups like ours to seek justice. We need to end the wage theft epidemic." (dc.labor.org, April 12) □

Educators battle austerity cuts in Wisconsin

By Wisconsin Workers World bureau

As a part of the international workers' movement against austerity, educators in Wisconsin continue to fight back against Wall Street's intent to destroy public education and unions.

Following the implementation of the 2011 Act 10 union-busting law, the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association's leaders and members have adopted a social-justice or class-struggle union approach. The MTEA has especially been leading the fight to defend public education in Wisconsin.

In 2011, a right-wing, racist cabal took over the legislature and governor's office. Since then, poor and working people in this Midwestern state especially have faced more intensive Jim Crow-type austerity. Black workers in Wisconsin, who have long experienced some of the worst conditions for people of African descent in the United States, are taking the brunt of the banks' and their political servants' vicious attacks.

Right-wing think tanks like the Milwaukee-based Bradley Foundation designed many of the anti-public education and union-busting models implemented in the Midwest. Now, the Trump administration (and Obama before him) is using them on a federal and even international level.

The MTEA and its allies in the Latinx 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 creative and militant organizing tactics 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 Rico-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 direly needed 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 the UW Regents that govern the system and are trying to impose cuts.

Milwaukee is a majority Black and Brown city. Since 2011, students in 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 per-pupil funding when compared to their suburban counterparts.

The evisceration of residency rules for city workers and increasing debt service to the banks are 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



PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY

More than 1,500 teachers, staff, students and community supporters pack an April 10 Milwaukee Public Schools school board meeting.

the problem. They could be demanding an end to charter schools, which drain hundreds of millions annually from MPS. Instead of advocating for full funding, these administrators now propose an additional 5 percent, across-the-board cut for students and schools, and massive health care and benefits cuts that would be even more devastating. (mtea.weac.org)

MTEA members and their supporters answered the administration on April 10 with one of the largest mobilizations at a school board meeting in the union's history. Over 1,500 MTEA members and supporters packed the school board meeting room and overflowed into adjacent rooms, the basement and outside.

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 health care 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 mass 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 Administration has accepted and passed along years of budget cuts and austerity to Milwaukee Public School students and classrooms. Tattered textbooks, crowded classrooms, and shrinking art, music, and physical education programs are just a few of the consequences students and educators face thanks to Scott Walker's unprecedented public education cuts. Enough is enough! See you on the picket line!" (wisafclcio.typepad.com)

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/VocesdeFronteraWI) □

Lucasville Five

Continued from page 4

The Muslims, we step up to the plate and we talked to other groups. We wanted to bring peace and harmony. So representatives from the Muslim community, representatives from the Aryan Brotherhood and representatives of the Black Gangster Disciples got on the bullhorn and notified prisoners that it was not inmate-on-inmate. It was us against the administration that was depriving us of our rights.

Another thing was a turning point on the first day, several hours into the uprising. As Muslims we have five prayers that we must perform on a daily basis. The disturbance happened at 3 [p.m.]. So we made the midafternoon prayer, but then we decided for the sunset prayer and

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 five prayers a day, we got to get ready to say our sunset prayer, and we ask that everyone give us the respect that we would give them."

And it was complete silence when we got to making our prayer. So after we got through with our prayer, we told people that we saw there's some Christians, some Jews and people of other religious denominations, and if they want, to come down here in brotherhood and pray because we don't know what tomorrow holds. We don't know if these people gonna come in and storm this prison. The Christians got together, they prayed. Other people got together and prayed. People seen that there was really unity. Those were the two main turning points that brought about the concrete unity between Black and white. □

Haitians protest Trump, racism



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

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.

Trump has revoked temporary protected status for immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Sudan and spewed racist slurs against Haitians, Africans and other immigrants.

People are determined to resist any more Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids. The April 20 march was organized by Haitian Enforcement Against Racism and other organizations.

— Steve Millies

'Marx @ 200': class struggle in Trump age

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 revolutionaries and struggles all over the globe — from Russia to China, Cuba, Korea, Vietnam, Haiti, Palestine, the Philippines, Burkina Faso 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 Julie Varughese, 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 are now seeing imperialist wars being waged that Marx predicted in the 19th century. He came 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," Varughese concluded.

Join Workers World Party at 135 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 WWP 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! □



Ariella Riapos

WW PHOTOS: GREG BUTTERFIELD

By Monica Moorehead
New York

On a cold, rainy day here, more than 100 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 speakout 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 Marijo Russell O'Grady. Students accuse O'Grady of being more concerned with protecting the school's reputation than with protecting its students.

PaceUEndRape student activist Ariella 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), femmes, 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.

Students rally against rape culture

"Tomorrow we walk out to DEMAND a safe college experience!" (April 18) 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 who do not 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 student-professor judiciary committee with mandated training workshops on sexual assault and DV." (tinyurl.com/y7bmwh55)

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 patriarchal, capitalist society. □

MAY 1 INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY 2018

10 am RALLY outside Matson Terminal

Berth 63 1579 Middle Harbor Rd (near end of Adeline viaduct)

11 am MARCH to Rally at Little Bobby Hutton (DeFremery) Park

march to

3 pm RALLY & MARCH Oscar Grant Plaza, Oakland, Calif. for Immigrant & Worker Rights

ILWU

To honor May 1st - **MAY DAY** - the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Longshore Division, will stop work for eight hours at all 29 ports on the West Coast. Join dockworkers Local 10 & 34 for a day of solidarity & resistance.



For more information: maydayilwu.local10@gmail.com

JUSTICE for STEPHON CLARK

NO INJURY TO ONE LOCAL 10

JUSTICE for SAHLEM TINDLE

STOP police repression!
WORKERS RIGHTS FOR ALL!
If the working class is to be heard then **Labor must Shut it Down**

Activists protest ICE raid

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Dairy worker Marcial de León 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. So did two of Aguilar's children waiting for the school bus. Collins heard yelling and ran inside a barn to see armed men attacking Aguilar. The men were not wearing ICE jackets and had no warrant or legal paperwork. Collins ordered them to leave Aguilar alone and leave the property. When Collins attempted to photograph the men, they smashed his phone, handcuffed him and threatened to arrest him. (syracuse.com)

Aguilar is partnered with Virginia, a Guatemalan who is seven months preg-

nant. She is seeking asylum for herself and their children because of violence in her country. Since a 1954 U.S.-backed coup in Guatemala to protect United Fruit Company property, genocidal anti-Indigenous and anti-worker purges have devastated people's lives there.

While ICE was kidnapping Aguilar 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. (ABC7/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 waiting for a Greyhound bus at the Syracuse Regional Transportation Center, where the U.S. Border Patrol trolls for travelers of color to detain. Pastor Herrera Núñez was arrested April 16 after being stopped for a "seat-belt violation" by Manlius police and turned over to ICE. Previously Manlius cops en-

gineered the detention of four immigrant workers after stopping them for "snow 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 Arely 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 ac-



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Rebecca Fuentes, organizer with the Workers' Center of Central New York, speaks at protest in front of ICE offices, Syracuse, N.Y., April 20.

cess to licenses for all. The Defense Network is planning to pack the courtroom for Marcial de León 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 Mindanao, 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 at an airport on U.S. soil, right here in the SF Bay Area," said Terry Valen, president of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns. (facebook.com/ichrp.pnw)

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 Jerome. The reason for his detention was very political, not an 'unspecified problem' or 'very common glitch' with his visa. They knew about his advocacy for Indigenous 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. □



PHOTO: TABITHA

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 ICHRP, 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 against the detention, torture and deportation of Filipino, Moro Muslim, Indigenous activist Jerome Aba by U.S. Border Control this week.

A longtime 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 10-year visa, Jerome was detained and held for 28 hours, 22 of them without any contact with a lawyer.



WW PHOTO: ANDI SHIHAEDEH

"Why was Jerome silenced?" Love Jordan, an activist with Anakbayan Chica-

go, asked the gathered crowd. "Were they afraid of his message of peace and international solidarity? We are here today in righteous indignation and outrage at the inhumane treatment of our friend and kasma" [Tagalog for "comrade"].

Organizations supporting the demonstration included Chicago Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, Anakbayan Chicago, National Alliance for Filipino Concerns, Workers World Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Chicago Boricua Resistance, Answer-Chicago and Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. □



ALL OUT FOR MAY DAY... BUILD WORKERS WORLD!

Every year on May Day, we:

- Honor workers all over the globe
- Invite all workers to come out of the shadows
- Celebrate workers' myriad contributions to our lives
- Unite in the struggle for our rights
- Claim our right to freedom from oppression and exploitation
- Say that capitalist greed, austerity and misery must be banished forever, along with the racism, sexism and anti-LGBTQ bigotry that the bosses use to divide us
- Affirm the need for a revolutionary socialist future

If this is your vision, then join Workers World newspaper in creating that future. Join us as we continue to build a strong,

independent voice that speaks loud and clear for the workers and oppressed around the world. We need your financial support to grow the paper from a modest 12-page printed weekly edition, with daily web updates, into a robust paper with color photos, widespread national distribution and greater online capability.

We established the Workers World Supporter Program 41 years ago so readers could help promote working-class truth needed to make revolutionary change. Members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give others for a donation of \$75 a year. For \$100 you also get a new publication or book from World View Forum. For \$300 (\$25 a month) or more, you get your pick of five books. □

Chicago protest: NO WAR!



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.

— Photos and report Jeff Sorel

PORTLAND, ORE. Protesters say 'Stop U.S. warship'

By Roy St. Warren
Portland, Ore.

Protesters gathered April 21 in industrial Portland behind a banner that read, "Stop the U.S. War Machine," to voice opposition to the city's hosting the christening of new U.S. warship USS Portland. The new \$1.6 billion warship will depart to Hawai'i to participate in military parades and be outfitted with Laser Weapon Systems (LaWS).

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown attended the christening ceremony and declared April 21 "USS Portland Day." Portland anti-war demonstrators chanted, "Not in our name!"

Before marching to the riverfront, local activists Alyssa Pariah and Olivia Pace from Don't Shoot PDX spoke about the connection between police violence at home and expanding military abroad. Mayor Wheeler has been vocal about increased support for the Portland police and is set to increase their budget by \$12.7 million next year.

The Portland Committee for Human rights in the Philippines asked demonstrators what they thought the money spent on militarization should be spent on instead. Some popular responses included reparations and clean water for Flint, Mich.

Demonstrators marching to the waterfront ran into a small detachment of mil-

itary enthusiasts waving U.S. flags and drowned out their chatter with chants of "Stop the U.S. war machine!" When they reached the warship, the angry anti-war group called out the mayor and the others at the ceremony with slogans like "USA! How many kids did you kill today?" and "Ted Wheeler sucks!" □



WW PHOTO: ROY ST WARREN

Black Workers for Justice say: 'No to U.S.-led war on Syria'

The following statement was issued by Black Workers for Justice, based in North Carolina, on April 19.

Again, we see the U.S. government trying to start another war as a diversion from the capitalist crisis that is causing great suffering among masses of working-class and poor people. The U.S. wars violate international laws and the U.S. Constitution, while attacking basic democratic and human rights to challenge the suffering and brutality carried out by the capitalist economy and the "State" (government).

Trump got elected president on the racist promise of making America great again! Trump is intensifying the War on Black America — killing, maiming and jailing Black and Brown people, criminalizing immigrants and Muslims, and fostering regime change throughout the Americas.

This attack on Syria is part of a U.S.-led global war that includes the War on Black America. Black people must oppose this war on Syria, all wars abroad and in the U.S. This war contributes to the economic and social crises.

As our tax money is spent by the ruling 1% for war, there are more cuts to public services, schools, vocational education, jobs, health care, affordable housing, clearing up the environment, repairing the infrastructure, and supporting veterans that are disabled and mentally broken from fighting in these imperialist wars.

The struggle for Black liberation must also be a struggle against imperialist wars. The European heads of the global capitalist system — the U.S., France and



the U.K. — are again deciding what part of the world they want to dominate and control for increasing their wealth, and positioning their militaries to dominate the world.

We Say No to U.S. Led Racist and Imperialist Wars! □

Indigenous women, the land vs settler colonialism

PART 1

A talk by Mahtowin, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, at an International Working Women's Day forum on March 17 sponsored by the Boston branch of Workers World Party.

I would like to acknowledge that we are on the stolen and unceded traditional territory of the Massachusetts, 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 construct 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 understanding of "settler colonialism" is another tool that can be used along with all those others, and I think it is an important tool. Some people have thought that viewing the question of land through the framework of settler colonialism was just an academic exercise that you learn about if maybe you take a class in Indigenous studies in college.

However, I disagree with that because I am not an academic at all, just a working-class street activist really, and I find concepts of settler colonialism to be a fundamental tool for understanding a lot of things, as do many other Indigenous people. If you don't know what settler colonialism is, then I just want to explain that a little here, because I would never assume that anyone would know what that means. It's just not something that everyone learns much about.

It is really important to be specific about each country's historical experience when talking about settler colonialism. Some generalizations can be made, but clearly Australia does not have exactly the same history as Canada, for instance.



Mahtowin

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Here in the U.S., we have Indigenous peoples who are from many nations. We also have Indigenous peoples who have migrated from Mexico and El Salvador and Canada and other countries. They are crossing borders that certainly never existed for any of us historically.

There are settlers, who stole land and eradicated millions of Native peoples,

from Massachusetts (settlers such as the pilgrims and the puritans and all those folks) to Oregon and California, Florida and elsewhere. Settlers intend to stay and often to supplant the Indigenous populations. Settlers become the law, they become the government, they supplant our own Indigenous laws and beliefs with their own values.

I have heard some people say that everyone who is not Indigenous is a settler. And I want to say that is wrong, and just ignorant when speaking about the situation in the U.S. We have millions of Stolen Peoples (or arrivants), people who were forced here through colonial violence, which in the U.S. would predominantly be Black people. Certainly Black people whose ancestors were brought here in bondage are not settlers.

There have been countless instances of Black-Indigenous solidarity, something that I hope to speak further about at another time. But even though we have so many common interests, settlers have sometimes pitted us against each other. Sometimes the Stolen People have been utilized to enforce settler colonialism, such as in the case of the Black Buffalo

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Gaza resistance wins worldwide support

By Chris Fry

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 159 struck by gunfire, 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 activist 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 key supplies, including medicines. Electricity is available only five

hours a day, and unemployment is above 40 percent for Gazans.

The Friday marches 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." (miamiherald.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 Natalie Portman announced on April 21 that she was turning down the million-dollar Genesis Prize because she did not want to be on the same stage as Prime Minister Netanyahu. "The mistreatment 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 demonstrations 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 door 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 at Barnard College in New York City, by a margin of nearly 2 to 1, voted yes April 18 to a referendum demanding that the school divest from U.S. companies that profit from Israel's violation of human rights. These include Hyundai Heavy Industries, Caterpillar, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Elbit Systems, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Bank Hapoalim and Mekorot. Barnard has the largest percentage of Jewish students of any secular school in the country.

This is a tremendous victory for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement that targets U.S. complicity with Israeli atrocities. A similar vote for divestment will take place at George Washington University on April 23.

The Israeli shootings have even caused Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, longtime imperialist supporters of the Israeli settler state, to rebuke the Netanyahu government's harsh actions.

It was the Trump regime's decision, announced in February, that the U.S. would move its embassy to Jerusalem that emboldened the Israelis to use such vicious repression against the Palestinian protesters in Gaza. The U.S. blocked a U.N. investigation into the Israeli killings April 1.

It is time for every progressive in the U.S. to demand that Washington stop its support for the racist Israeli regime and remove itself entirely from the Middle East. □

Protests continue vs. Philly Orchestra's Israeli tour

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

For the third week in a row, demonstrators gathered outside the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia on April 21 to protest the Philharmonic Orchestra's planned visit to Israel in June. The visit is part of a "cultural tour" to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Israel's occupation of Indigenous Palestinian lands. The orchestra's "cultural" itinerary includes a tour of an Israeli Defense Forces base.

Earlier in April, Philly Don't Orchestrate Apartheid was launched to galva-

nize opposition to the tour. The tour is fully funded and supported by the Jewish Federation as part of a decade-long "Brand Israel" campaign to shift global public perceptions about Israel and cover up the realities of its brutal colonial apartheid occupation of Palestine.

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-

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WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

No a la guerra EUA contra inmigrantes

Continua de página 12

sintiera la presión de estar de acuerdo con los gobernadores reaccionarios muestra que la campaña antiinmigrante de Trump está cobrando impulso. El anuncio de Brown es también un ejemplo de cómo los demócratas continúan traicionando a inmigrantes y sus defensores.

Redadas aumentan en lugares de trabajo

La solicitud de soldados por parte de Trump está destinada a afectar tanto a migrantes como activistas. Esto sigue a otras políticas para aterrorizar a la comunidad migrante y refugiada. El 5 de abril, Trump emitió una directiva según la cual las agencias de aplicación de la ley de inmigración de EUA cesen cualquier práctica de "captura y liberación". En este procedimiento degradante, las/os inmigrantes indocumentados que habían sido arrestados en la frontera eran liberados mientras se procesaban sus casos.

Además, el Departamento de Justicia, administrado por el ultra racista Procurador General, Jeff Sessions, ahora establecerá cuotas para los jueces de inmigración en un esfuerzo por acelerar las deportaciones. Según la Radio Nacional Pública, "para obtener una calificación satisfactoria en sus evaluaciones

de desempeño, se requerirá que los jueces terminen al menos 700 casos al año y revoquen menos del 15 por ciento de sus decisiones en apelación".

Las/os abogados de inmigración criticaron el plan. "Las decisiones en un tribunal de inmigración tienen consecuencias de vida o muerte y no se pueden gestionar como una producción en cadena", dijo Jeremy McKinney, secretario de la Asociación 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 ataque de Trump, 97 personas fueron detenidas y procesadas para su deportación o detención el 7 de abril, luego de una redada de Inmigración y Aduanas en una planta procesadora de carne de Tennessee.

Esto sigue las incursiones de ICE sincronizadas en más de 100 tiendas 7-Eleven a principios de enero. En un solo día, los agentes de ICE irrumpieron en 100 tiendas en busca de trabajadoras/es indocumentados. (Newsweek, 10 de enero)

El director ejecutivo en funciones de ICE se jactó en el momento de que esto era solo el comienzo: "No se limitará a grandes empresas o cualquier industria en particular, grande, mediana y pequeña. ... Esto es lo que nos estamos

Boston students, activists rally for Palestine



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

By Workers World
Boston bureau

Heeding the call, Rally for Palestine! Education Under Occupation, Students for Justice in Palestine from campuses across the city, some attending their first demonstration, rallied on Boston Com-

mon and marched to the Massachusetts statehouse on April 21 in solidarity with young Palestinians on the front lines of the Great Return March in Gaza.

Palestinian students led the action, with broad endorsement from local anti-war, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions and socialist organizations. Speakers urged stepped-up BDS actions, especially the Massachusetts Against Hewlett Packard campaign, to isolate the brutal Zionist settler occupation. Israeli snipers have been murdering unarmed protesters, including schoolchildren, on live video with impunity for weeks.

An SJP statement began, "As students living in the United States on the 70th anniversary of the Nakba, we raise our voices and our fists in solidarity with our student counterparts in Palestine, who suffer daily harassments and deprivations at the hands of the Israeli occupation."

Brian Shea, of the Disabled People's Liberation Front and Workers World Party, emphasized uniting Palestine solidarity with self-determination for the entire Arab world, including Syria. "We demand that the U.S. immediately stop the bombing and war against the popularly elected government of Syria," said Shea. "End all support for the Israeli occupation, and get out of Jerusalem and all Arab nations now! Victory to Palestine!" □

preparando para este año, y lo que vas a ver 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 religiosos, ya sea en la escuela, en la corte o en el trabajo, mientras conducen o caminan a cualquier lugar, las/os migrantes y sus familias viven en completo terror. El riesgo de estrés postraumático es real, especialmente entre las/os hijos de familias migrantes, con consecuencias permanentes.

Las/os migrantes se ven obligados a abandonar sus países de origen y emigrar a los Estados Unidos debido a las condiciones intolerables, que resultan directamente 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 migrantes.

El Primero de Mayo de 2018 debe dedicarse una vez más a la lucha de las/os migrantes y refugiados, ya sea que vengan de Honduras o Haití, Siria o Somalia.

¡No hay fronteras en la lucha de las/os trabajadores!

Teresa Gutiérrez es una veterana activista por los derechos de los inmigrantes.

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

MAY DAY

Hope, resistance, solidarity

Continued from page 1

targeted by white supremacists, who are arrested for just sitting in a Starbucks in Philadelphia; or shot down while working at a Waffle House in Nashville, Tenn., or worshipping in the very church of freedom fighter Denmark Vesey in Charleston, S.C.

We must defend women who are given the inhuman choice of rape and sexual assault or their jobs, from farm workers to film actors. We must fight to guarantee workplace protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people and to overturn still-existing, vile anti-LGBTQ laws.

As the U.S. government and military continue to mobilize anti-Islam bigotry to ramp up attacks on people in the U.S. and also build for war on Syria and Iran, we must expose how the war budget bleeds the life out of all workers, draining money for health care, education and retirement hopes.

We must spread the word to all workers that people with disabilities are endangered to the point of losing their lives by such austerity measures as requiring people to work to get Medicaid, cutting school budgets so there are fewer special education aides or slashing accessibility in public transportation.

On a practical level, this May Day solidarity can be carried out in everyday actions, with support for workers' rights in pro-worker "picket lines" wherever we are, to marching and rallying weekly in solidarity with local struggles. We can make visible that "I am fighting for your struggle as my very own."

Hope is already visible in how connections between struggle movements are being made in every current of liberation. In the Black Lives Matter movement, the entwined violence facing women of color has been brought to the fore by #SayHerName actions. Many of the overwhelmingly female striking education workers in West Virginia and Oklahoma have cited the 2016 women's marches as inspiration. In the recent demonstrations sparked by the massacre at a Florida high school, young people have militantly raised issues of school-to-prison pipelines, racist police, state violence and U.S. imperialist war as inextricably tied to "gun violence."

Indelible lessons in resistance come from Indigenous people still fighting for their land and the Earth, opposing the exploitative and polluting pipelines of Big Oil at Standing Rock and elsewhere. Five hundred years after the seizure and colonization of Indigenous homelands, financed by European capitalists of that early era, Indigenous people still fight on.

We can study and learn from the hundreds of years of resistance recorded in rebellion after rebellion of enslaved people of African descent in the U.S. — Stono in South Carolina, 1739; New York City, 1741; the German Coast in Louisiana, 1811; Nat Turner in Virginia, 1831; and countless unrecorded others. We can learn resistance from Haiti in 1804 — when enslaved people won their freedom by waging their own war of liberation.

We can take heart in the resistance of May Day 2005 by the Million Worker March Movement. Begun by class-conscious Black labor unionists on the West Coast, East Coast and U.S. South, and endorsed by Workers World Party, this action targeted May 1 to affirm that work-

ers must fight independently in their own name, unchained from the Democratic and Republican parties. (See the flier in this issue about the port-closing action this May Day by the International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Local 10.)

We can take heart, lessons and inspiration from the historic revival of May Day 2006 with strikes led primarily by low-wage and im/migrant workers throughout the U.S., ignited by the reactionary Sensenbrenner bill. The state of California was essentially closed down in a general strike that May Day, while millions marched nationally. This massive action was organized by workers from the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, who were battle-honed in the struggle against devastation in their home countries by U.S. economic and military imperialism over two centuries of blockades, "free trade" monopoly, invasion and occupation.

Now all workers in the U.S. are attempting to survive the ruin from those same "austerity" economics. The privatization schemes of big banking and finance are stealing systems that had been won for the people's common good. Capitalist exploitation is destroying water systems, transportation systems, education systems from Detroit and Flint, Mich., to Puerto Rico.

Meanwhile, white supremacy is being viciously mobilized by the anti-worker forces of capitalism in a last-ditch attempt to keep us from uniting and fighting for each other. We have to topple white supremacy as surely as the freedom fighters of Durham, N.C., toppled a racist monument!

May Day is an international call to abolish capitalism and replace it by a socialist system that will empower all workers regardless of nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, age, skills, whether employed or unemployed, in a union or fighting for one, working in the home or working in the gig economy.

As more and more of our class — the multinational, multigenerational working class — develop a deeper hatred of capitalism and more openness to building a socialist society that puts human needs first, solidarity is our best tool and our best weapon. □

Indigenous women, the land vs. settler colonialism

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Soldiers who were sent to kill and control Indigenous people on the plains. There are in turn some Indigenous people who participate in the anti-Blackness that runs through society, and there were even some members of the Cherokee, Choctaw and some other nations in the southeast who held Black slaves.

We have also Newcomers, more recent immigrants who came here after most of the initial slaughter and displacement of Indigenous peoples. Some of those newcomers are refugees.

Have in mind, though, that even those who are not settlers usually adopt much of the worldview of settlers and benefit from settler colonialism.

Settler colonialism has been the path-

New Cuban president continues 'Work of the Revolution'

Continued from page 1

around the world.

Díaz-Canel has a long history of struggle and political leadership. He was the first secretary of the Communist Party in the province of Villa Clara, a member of the UJC (Young Communist League) and participated in an international solidarity mission to Nicaragua. He has long supported LGBTQ rights in Cuba.

Díaz-Canel was minister of education, a vice president of the Council of Ministers, and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba. (Granma, April 19)

He has worked tirelessly alongside the rebels of Cuba, Fidel and Raúl. This gives extra confidence to socialists and revolutionaries worldwide.

At his inaugural speech he began by recognizing the stellar leadership of General Raúl, who ran for deputy and received the most votes in the general elections. The fact that Raúl and other Commanders of the Revolution were in the same hall gave Cubans the "opportunity to embrace history," Díaz-Canel pointed out. He raised the many "dark," but failed "attempts to destroy" the Revolution.

He pointed out that in the National Assembly, which also had elections, women occupy "decisive positions in the state and the government."

The 2018 electoral process has provided Cubans, Díaz-Canel continued, "the consolidation of unity in Cuba." In fact, hashtags in Cuba abounded that read #SomosContinuidad (#Wearecontinuity).

"The flag of the Revolution is passed on to Younger Hands" was a Granma headline and a main theme of the elections, as Raúl had made it clear that his generation would do just that.

Raúl: Salute to a revolutionary stalwart

Raúl leaves his position as Cuba's head of state, but remains first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, as well as head of the military.

Raúl has rightly earned his place in history. In 1953, he fought at the Moncada Barracks against the brutal regime of the butcher Fulgencio Batista. He was a political prisoner along with Fidel. Raúl is the one who saw something special in Che Guevara and introduced him to Fidel in Mexico. They, along with many others, launched the famous Granma yacht in



Cuban Parliament.

Mexico toward Cuba in 1956, opening up the guerrilla war to successfully oust Batista.

Raúl was the minister of defense, vice president and second secretary to the Party for 47 years. Under his leadership, he helped strengthen the economy and provided more internet and cell phone access — not because he was "softer" on opening up society or "open" to capitalism, but because the material conditions for such were available.

When Fidel began to get ill in 2006, Raúl took over more of the leadership. During this time he helped oversee the liberation of the Cuban Five political prisoners from U.S. jails, hosted the first visit of a U.S. president since the Revolution, hosted the Colombia Peace Talks, and achieved many other significant accomplishments.

Díaz-Canel said of Raúl, "He remains our First Secretary, as the reference that he is for the revolutionary cause, teaching and always ready to confront imperialism, like the first, with his rifle at the ready in the moment of combat."

Raúl "put his sense of duty ahead of human pain," Díaz-Canel said, in reference to the loss of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on Nov. 25, 2016. (Granma, April 18)

The Revolution continues

"I assume this responsibility with the conviction that all we revolutionaries, from any trench, will be faithful to Fidel and Raúl, the current leader of the revolutionary process," Díaz-Canel declared at his inauguration as the new president of Cuba.

He continued, "I confirm that Cuban foreign policy will remain unchanged. Cuba will not accept conditions. The changes that are necessary will continue to be made by the Cuban people."

"I do not come to promise anything, as the Revolution never has in all these years. I come to fulfill the program that we have implemented with the guidelines of Socialism and the Revolution."

As for the enemies of the revolutionary process, he said: "Here there is no space for a transition that ignores or destroys the work of the Revolution. We will continue moving forward without fear and without retreat; without renouncing our sovereignty, independence, development programs, and independence."

"To those who through ignorance or bad faith doubt our commitment, we must tell them that the Revolution continues and will continue," he declared.

His final words at this historic inauguration were: "The world has received the wrong message that the Revolution ends with its guerrillas."

Fidel once said: "A revolution is a struggle to the death between the future and the past." In the new period in Cuba, the world sees the best of the past and the hope of the future. □

Trump and Shinzo Abe

The handshake that enraged Koreans

By Deirdre Griswold

The symbolism of Shinzo Abe shaking hands with Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate on April 18 may be lost on most people in the United States, but it certainly resonated with Koreans.

Abe, the current prime minister of Japan, is the grandson of Nobosuke Kishi, the brutal ruler of the puppet state of Manchukuo. Some 80 percent of the people oppressed by Japan in Manchukuo, which imperial Japan set up in northeast China in the 1930s, were ethnic Koreans.

In 1910, 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 Japanese imperialists' iron heel, with the establishment of Manchukuo.

One of those Koreans was Kim Il Sung, to become leader of the Korean struggle for socialism and liberation, who gained valuable military experience in the 1930s fighting the Japanese in Manchukuo as commander of the Third Division of a joint Chinese-Korean army. Later he would draw on that experience to fight the U.S. invaders to a standstill in the 1950-53 Korean War.

After Japan's defeat in World War II, Kishi, the former overlord of Manchukuo, was imprisoned for three years for war crimes. But he was then released by

the U.S. government because "they considered Kishi to be the best man to lead a post-war Japan in a pro-American direction. As such, he has been called 'America's Favorite War Criminal.'" (Japan Policy 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 Trump, Abe sent a ritual offering to the Yasukuni Shrine for the war dead, a symbol of imperial Japan's 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 was really motivated by capitalist competition over markets and areas for exploitation.

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

The people of Korea, particularly those in the socialist north, are keenly

aware of this tortured history. In contrast 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-imperialist struggle embodied in their own leaders, 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, daughter of a previous U.S.-approved military dictator. Her overthrow enabled a rapprochement between north and south that was clearly seen in the enormous public enthusiasm for a joint Korean team at the winter Olympics.

The Trump administration is packed with war hawks like CIA director Mike Pompeo, who is set to become Trump's

new secretary of state, and National Security Adviser John Bolton. They will press Trump to insist that the DPRK abandon its nukes with no guarantees against a U.S. attack. Bolton has even advocated initiating a war with the DPRK. ("The Legal Case for Striking North Korea First," Wall Street Journal, Feb. 28)

Washington's excuse for its continued military occupation of the south — 65 years after the Korean War — and its annual huge war "games" simulating an invasion of the north and "decapitation" of its leadership have always been that U.S. troops were there to defend the south against the north.

Clearly, the people in south Korea today don't see it that way. They want an end to the state of war that still exists between north and south. They don't want U.S. dictates continuing to divide a people whose shared civilization and culture go back thousands of years.

Progressives in the U.S. must not be passive spectators in this struggle. Continued U.S. military aggression against the DPRK could escalate into a catastrophe for the whole world. Ever since the U.S. imperialists divided Korea in 1945 and then fought a terrible, bloody war to keep it divided, our fate has been entwined with that of the Korean people.

We must say loud and clear: Hands off Korea! Sign a peace treaty and bring the troops home! □

Capitalism caused opiate epidemic

By Princess Harmony

There's an opiate epidemic currently ravaging the working class in the U.S. Tens of thousands of people have died already, and thousands more will die or will come close. As it stands, the opioid epidemic has decreased the average lifespan of people in the U.S. and is one of the leading causes of death of young people here.

How did it get to be this way? We have to look at the causes. First of all, although the face of drug dealing — as the mainstream media portray it — is Black or Latinx youth, the reality is that the major drug dealers responsible for all this death and destruction work in a boardroom.

Insys Therapeutics marketed Subsys, a sublingual spray containing the deadly drug fentanyl, to patients inappropriately. Originally intended to alleviate the searing pain of cancer, doctors — at Insys' urging — deceived insurers and made it look as though patients had cancer when they didn't. Although those with chronic pain disorders need medication to control their pain, fentanyl wasn't intended to be used in that manner.

For that scheme, insurance giant Anthem took Insys to court. But it wasn't just deception to insurance companies. There were also bribes to doctors, in the form of fake fees, in exchange for prescriptions.

It's this kind of drug dealing — the kind that takes place in doctors' offices and boardrooms — that's most responsible for the drug epidemic.

It was the constant pushing of OxyContin (oxycodone) onto patients by doctors at the urging of Purdue Pharma that caused this epidemic. In league with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Purdue Pharma lied about the abuse potential of OxyContin and funded research which deceived the public as to its addictive nature.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine says that four out of five people

who try heroin started off with prescription opioids. Thus, big businesses like Insys and Purdue, and the doctors who fell in line with their scheme, are most responsible for this heroin epidemic.

The corporate media and even some politicians try to portray drug addiction, and this particular epidemic, as a menace that spread from the cities to the suburbs. The racist governor of Maine, Paul LePage, blamed his state's opiate epidemic — which he has not done anything to fight during his entire time as governor — on "out of state drug dealers."

Indeed, this epidemic didn't start from the inner cities or other states and leak into the suburbs; it started in the boardrooms and leaked to the doctors' offices.

There's no solution in sight, yet as a Marxist-Leninist and a person in recovery, I know the solution is revolution. Only under a socialist system can the social conditions that led to this problem be wiped out. Only under a socialist system can the mental and physical anguish that pushes us towards addiction be dealt with.

Nevertheless, that doesn't stop people from trying to wipe out addiction via the tried and failed methods of fascist dictators and of decades past. Taking a page out of Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte's playbook, at a rally Donald Trump floated the idea of the death penalty for drug dealers, to much applause from his political supporters. Trump integrated these comments into his drug policy plan, as an exhortation to prosecutors.

Activists who seek a progressive drug policy, alongside policy experts and anti-death penalty activists, pushed back on this policy that would not only have achieved nothing but, as the death penalty always does, would have targeted primarily the Black and Latinx communities.

That obvious attempt to empower the prison-industrial complex to kill more Black and Latinx people was fought

fiercely by progressive forces. However, other efforts to increase the prison population (and do nothing else, really) have been met with disappointingly thunderous applause.

Case in point, there've been a recent spate of arrests throughout the southeastern and south central Pennsylvania tri state region (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware). These arrests aren't of shady "pain clinic" doctors, nor of CEOs of big pharma; they were of Black and Latinx men who were found with heroin and fentanyl on them.

Of course, heroin and fentanyl are a great plague, and drugs are a deadly weapon against the working class. However, imprisonment isn't necessary and, in fact, contributes to the problem by forcing those who've been imprisoned back into underground economies to survive.

Protests vs. Philly Orchestra's Israeli tour

Continued from page 9

ed out fliers explaining why the trip should be canceled. Speakers addressed concertgoers as they entered the Kimmel Center to hear the orchestra. Demonstrators chanted, "Cancel your trip to Apartheid Israel!"

The PDOA demonstrations coincided with "Right of Return" protests in Gaza, where Israeli soldiers have fired on hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators, with the intent to kill and maim, murdering over 30 to date. The Gaza protests are aimed at breaking an inhumane border blockade imposed by Israel in 2007 that turned Gaza into an "open air prison."

Israeli soldiers firing April 21 from across a border fence killed four Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, and wounded more than 150 others, health officials said. These crimes occurred as

several thousand people in blockaded Gaza staged a fourth round of weekly protests on the Israeli border.

On the same day as the protest against the orchestra's planned trip, Israeli Deputy Knesset Speaker Bezael Smotrich of the Habayit Hayehudi party posted an insulting tweet about Ahed Tamimi, the Palestinian teenager famed for slapping an Israeli soldier on camera. "In my opinion, she should have gotten a bullet, at least in the kneecap," he wrote. "That would have put her under house arrest for the rest of her life." (scribd.com, April 23)

PDOA has launched an online petition campaign calling on the orchestra to cancel its trip. Sign the petition at Don't Collaborate with Apartheid, Cancel Your Tour to Israel! (tinyurl.com/y7vzjy8f)

Demonstrators will be out again on April 28. □



PARA EL 1° DE MAYO

No a la guerra EUA contra inmigrantes

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

A medida que se acerca el 1° de Mayo, migrantes y refugiadas/os en EUA y el mundo permanecen en una crisis humanitaria de proporciones épicas. El giro continuo del presidente Donald Trump hacia la derecha está exacerbando esta situación.

En EUA, las redadas en los juzgados y lugares de trabajo han aumentado. La Guardia Nacional ha sido enviada a la frontera sur para militarizar aún más el área. El fiscal general de EUA ha reforzado medidas legales represivas para aterrorizar a las/os trabajadoras/os inmigrantes y dividir a la clase trabajadora.

Ahora más que nunca, las luchas por los derechos de las/os migrantes y refugiados deben estar vinculadas a la lucha contra el terror de la policía estatal y para ganar los derechos de las/os trabajadoras/os.

Es fácil alejarse del espectáculo que es la administración Trump o reírse de Trump por ser un payaso naranja sin talento en un circo barato. Pero Trump es extremadamente peligroso. Aliado a una facción ultraderechista, ha convertido a su administración en un régimen militarista y de supremacía blanca.

Esto tiene consecuencias desastrosas para las/os trabajadoras/os y oprimidos en todas partes. Esto debe combatirse con uñas y dientes.

Agenda racista de línea dura

Este mes, Trump una vez más decretó su agenda antiinmigrante a través de una serie de "tuits de Pascua", afirmándose a su base "cristiana" de supremacía blanca. (CNN, 5 de abril)

Pidió nuevas leyes para que sea aún más difícil que inmigrantes puedan obtener el estatus de refugiado. Logró la enorme cantidad de \$1,6 mil millones de un Congreso dispuesto a construir su muro racista en la frontera con México, y exigió más aún. Pidió a los gobernadores de derecha que enviaran sus tropas de la Guardia Nacional a la frontera. También declaró que asignaría tropas militares de EUA para patrullar allí, aunque por ley, esa acción requiere la aprobación del Congreso.

Para avivar las llamas contra las/os inmigrantes, Trump afirmó nuevamente que las políticas de inmigración "han debilitado al país" y "han conducido a riesgos de seguridad pública". (Washington Post, 3 de abril) Pero esa retórica racista es realmente una cortina de humo para confundir a las/os trabajadoras/os blancos sobre el origen de la embestida real a sus salarios, salud y educación.

Por ejemplo, el costo total estimado del muro supremacista blanco de Trump sería de aproximadamente \$25 mil millones, dinero que podría y debería destinarse a la atención médica, los salarios de las/os docentes y otras necesidades de trabajadoras/os y oprimidas/os.

La verdad es que la migración a EUA se encuentra en uno de los niveles más bajos en años. El aumento del clima antiinmigrante desde 2006 significa que cada vez menos trabajadoras/os mexicanas/os ingresan a EUA, mientras más regresan a sus países.

A principios de abril, Trump amenazó verbalmente a una caravana de inmigrantes que viajaba de América Central a México, con el objetivo de llegar a la fron-

tera de Tijuana. Cubierta por Fox News con retórica de miedo, la caravana fue tratada como una horda de delincuentes peligrosos "serpenteando" y abriéndose paso sigilosamente en los EUA.

Muchas de esas honrosas caravanas han recorrido el camino por México durante décadas, ya que las/os defensores de los derechos migrantes crearon apoyo para las/os millones de trabajadores desplazados en la región. Cada año, las caravanas viajan por todo México. No son solo para las/os centroamericanos, sino también para las familias en México que han perdido el contacto con sus hijas/os u otros parientes migrantes y están tratando de averiguar qué les sucedió.

Estas familias no saben si sus seres queridos llegaron a EUA o están detenidos. Tal vez perdieron la vida montando "La Bestia", el tren de mercancías en el que las/os inmigrantes brincan para dirigirse hacia el norte, y donde cientos mueren o pierden extremidades en el intento.

Trump demonizó específicamente una caravana organizada por Pueblo Sin Fronteras. Destacando las preocupaciones de los centroamericanos, muchos de Honduras, Guatemala o El Salvador, la caravana comenzó con más de 1.000 personas. La logística de organizar el transporte, la comida y el alojamiento a esa escala muestra el valor y la determinación del movimiento para las/os migrantes en México.

Creciente militarización de EUA

¿Por qué hay tantas caravanas al norte? No para hacer mal, como dicen los racistas, sino porque el militarismo y el imperialismo de EUA han desestabilizado sus

tierras natales, destruido sus hogares y quitado su sustento. Por ejemplo, Honduras se ha convertido en un escenario de inestabilidad y represión generalizadas desde el golpe de 2009, cuando se derrocó el régimen progresista del presidente Mel Zelaya. Ese golpe ilegal tenía huellas de los EUA, particularmente las de la entonces secretaria de estado Hillary Clinton.

El que Trump y los de su clase nieguen el racismo que dirigen a estas/os migrantes es pura hipocresía. Negar el asilo político a los cientos de refugiadas/os forzados a huir de su región no solo es erróneo, es una sentencia de muerte.

El imperialismo estadounidense ha militarizado a México y América Central, y ahora Trump intenta militarizar aún más la frontera de EUA. No la frontera norte con Canadá, por supuesto, sino la frontera de EUA con México.

Tras el llamado de Trump, los gobernadores conservadores de Arizona y Texas desplegaron sus unidades de la Guardia Nacional (Newsweek, 7 de abril), aunque todavía en números más bajos que los convocados por el presidente republicano George W. Bush y el presidente demócrata Barack Obama. Arizona desplegó 150 miembros y Texas prometió 250. Se prevé que el total de todos los estados fronterizos llegue eventualmente a 4.000.

El gobernador de California, Jerry Brown, anunció el 11 de abril que enviaría tropas a la frontera. Esto es alarmante, ya que el movimiento por los derechos de las/os migrantes ha sido muy fuerte en California. Que un gobernador supuestamente liberal

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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 ataques legislativos a maestros y estudiantes. La FMPR ha estado a la vanguardia de la lucha de clases durante décadas y está trabajando incansablemente para proporcionar alivio luego de los huracanes en ausencia de asistencia gubernamental de los EUA.

El 8 de abril, la presidenta de la FMPR, Mercedes Martínez, se dirigió a las/os más de 3.000 sindicalistas y activistas que asistían a la conferencia 'Labor Notes' en Chicago. La editora colaboradora de Workers World-Mundo Obrero Martha Grevatt entrevistó a Martínez y al vicepresidente Edwin Morales.

Martha Grevatt: Cuéntenos sobre la historia de la FMPR.

Mercedes Martínez: Fue fundada en 1966. Las/os maestros estaban molestos con la Asociación de Maestros de PR (AMPR), afiliada al AFL-CIO. Era un sindicato patronal, no un sindicato de lucha de clases. Las/os maestros puertorriqueños necesitaban una unión que luchara por ellos. Las/os maestros trataron de cambiar el sindicato, entendiendo que son trabajadores y merecen el derecho a negociar, protestar e irse a la

huelga para mejorar sus intereses. En ese entonces, los patronos de la educación estaban en la misma asociación que los maestros. Necesitábamos una asociación de solo maestras/os. La AMPR era como un ministerio, diciendo que tienes que sacrificar y no protestar.

Tuvimos una huelga de 30 días en 1974. En ese entonces, la lucha de clases estaba en un proceso de movilización, con 1.400 huelgas en un año. La primera huelga fue por la FMPR, como un sindicato de base vinculado a organizaciones políticas antiimperialistas. El sindicato estaba tratando de transformar el sector docente.

MG: ¿Cómo la FMPR ha estado luchando contra la austeridad?

MM: Hemos resistido de muchas maneras, con el trabajo organizativo y dando a las comunidades un contexto político de por qué está sucediendo. Para construir un país en el que queremos vivir, no es solo estar en contra de las escuelas autónomas, la privatización y los despidos, sino también una movilización masiva de la comunidad.

Nuestro sindicato ha estado en primera línea durante muchos años. Cuando la crisis colonial capitalista empeoró en 2006, los patronos comenzaron a eliminar derechos y destruir los contratos. En 2008, nos declaramos en huelga cuando hubo un déficit y el gobierno cerró. Hubo

despido de maestras/os y se impuso un impuesto a las ventas. Esto fue para acelerar la agenda neoliberal. Pero la huelga detuvo las escuelas tipo charter.

La Ley 35 prohíbe las huelgas. La FMPR fue descertificada en 2008 [incluso antes de la huelga], pero las/os miembros decidieron seguir adelante con la huelga porque los derechos de las/os trabajadoras/os eran más importantes. La FMPR era un instrumento de lucha.

Fuimos recertificados en 2009. Tuvimos una huelga en el 2011 y de nuevo fuimos descertificados. [La junta] no pudo cobrar las cuotas y la junta ejecutiva fue despedida. Trabajamos por un año sin salario. Fuimos recertificados nuevamente en el 2013.

La FMPR ha continuado luchando. Nos hemos enfrentado a la represión del estado, pero tenemos el respeto del pueblo puertorriqueño.

MG: ¿Cuál ha sido la respuesta del sindicato a los huracanes?

Edwin Morales: Irma fue simplemente devastadora para nosotros: nuestras propias pérdidas individuales - familia, comunidad, escuelas - un vasto panorama. La solidaridad fue la parte salvadora. Venían personas de todas partes, muchos activistas sindicales. Entregamos \$525.000 a los trabajadores escolares. Reconstruimos escuelas y hogares, volvimos a abrir cami-

nos, proporcionamos comida y refugio, y organizamos contra el cierre de escuelas.

MG: Cuéntenos sobre la reciente huelga y las luchas venideras.

MM: La huelga [de un día] se llevó a cabo el 19 de marzo con 60.000 maestras/os. El 90 por ciento de los estudiantes se ausentó. Anunciamos la huelga un miércoles y el lunes salimos a la calle. Pre organizamos. Dimos charlas en las comunidades para explicar la nueva legislación y organizar contra las charter, los cierres de escuelas, los despidos y la agenda neoliberal. La Ley 85, aprobada el 29 de marzo, permite que el 10 por ciento de las escuelas sean charter, el 3 por ciento de los estudiantes obtengan vales [para escuelas privadas o parroquiales] y permite el cierre de las escuelas.

El 15 de abril, vamos a celebrar una asamblea general de maestros y miembros de la comunidad en San Juan. Vamos a discutir los planes del gobierno, la necesidad de una huelga y cuántos días permanecer fuera. Va a ser un proceso democrático e incluirá miembros de otras organizaciones. También se invitará a otros miembros de sindicatos de la educación para que sepan lo que está sucediendo. Todos los trabajadores pueden entrar.

Done para ayudar a los esfuerzos de alivio de huracanes de FMPR en tinyurl.com/y8gx4kul. □