

End racist war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

Ultra-racists and warmongers like Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions, John Kelly and their Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are setting Washington's immigration agenda on behalf of the capitalist system.

This is intensifying the modern war to criminalize migrants in the United States that began in 2006. But it is a war that will ultimately be won by the unity of all the working class, whether foreign- or U.S.-born.

This war against immigrants is not separate from the government-Pentagon drive to imperialist war in Syria or North Korea. In fact, U.S. intervention abroad is a major cause of forced migration.

Washington is taking a very dangerous, threatening posture against revolutionary Venezuela as well. It is similar to when President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton orchestrated a coup in Honduras in 2009, which created further forced migration from that country.

The U.S. immigration issue is also critically linked to the refugee crisis in Europe. While the U.S. drops missiles in Syria on the pretext of caring for children, the Trump administration hypocritically refuses to admit Syrian refugees, including children, into this country.

Most Syrian refugees go to the countries of western Europe, which is also the destination of vast masses of migrants from other countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe. Conditions for these refugees in Europe are as bad as those for migrants on the U.S./Mexican border.

The war on migrants and the migrants' plight, whether in the U.S. or Europe, is deeply connected to every struggle, whether it's the fight against climate change or the cutbacks looming in Medicaid or the struggle for health care, union rights and education. It is connected to the Black Lives Matter movement as Black immigrants and/or Muslims are disproportionately targeted.

DHS headed by Southcom general

The Department of Homeland Security's website states that it "has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face."

The current secretary of the DHS is John Kelly, a retired general who spent 45 years in the armed forces.

On April 18, Kelly spoke at George Washington University. An April 21 New York Times editorial summed up his remarks as fear mongering: "The tone he sets can only encourage abusive behavior among his officers ... against immigrants, and also lead to the curtailment of civil liberties and privacy."

It adds that his "apocalyptic talk turns the Islamophobia and immigrant scapegoating that turbocharged the Trump campaign into marching orders for federal law enforcement agents and bureaucrats." Kelly's history is key to understanding his role today. He is a warmonger, one of those responsible for

Continued on page 6



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Overturn Mumia's wrongful sentence

On April 24, Mumia Abu-Jamal's 63rd birthday, supporters gathered outside of a state court in Philadelphia to demand the overturn of the political prisoner's incarceration sentence. Mumia's legal team argued that his right to due process was violated. Read more on workers.org.

May Day strike Immigrants vital in fight for socialism



By Larry Holmes

Excerpted from remarks by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes at a "Build for May Day" meeting in New York City, April 15. View the entire talk at tinyurl.com/jw3zxe9.

Workers World Party recently put on the front page of its paper a call for a global general strike. Questions asked were: Who are they that they would call for such a thing, or even suggest it? We are Workers World Party. This is our name.

Whether a global strike is realistic or not, we asked people to think about it because we wanted to make a couple of points.

One of them is to raise all the demands: Stop busting unions, double the minimum wage, make a universal minimum wage and so forth. But we also have to tell people we've got to overthrow capitalism and we've got

to replace it with socialism.

Even though the immediate demands that people have may be what we're demonstrating around tomorrow and next week, the need to overthrow capitalism and replace it with socialism can't be so far back in our minds, in our consciousness, that it's meaningless. The people of the world — all life — is in trouble as long as capitalism exists. It's getting worse. The entire planet is in trouble. We don't know how much time we have.

We can't tell the generation coming up: You're going to have to live under capitalism; we did, good luck. If we want to try to mold them into a vanguard, fighting force, we better tell them we're for revolution; that we are for getting rid of capitalism and replacing it, the sooner the better. You want to get rid of imperialist war, the threat of nuclear weapons, the horror of this giant bomb dropping on the people of Afghanistan? You've got to get rid of capitalism and imperialism.

Imagine if one May Day — or any day — there was

Continued on page 4

More INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY	6-7
Behind the death of Aaron Hernandez	3
Haitian candidate visits Bay Area	8
Solidarity with Bolivarian Revolution	9
U.S. hands off north Korea! Editorial	10
Imperialists ramp up war on Somalia	11

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Southern Workers School rocks Atlanta

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Where could you find dozens of dock workers, nurses, city and state workers, campus workers, fast food workers, sheet metal and manufacturing workers, some unionized, some not, engaged in serious discussion and education on how to build a fighting, Southern, social unionism movement? At the second Southern Workers School, held here April 22-23, that's where!

Unions present included United Electrical Workers Local 150, National Nurses United, International Longshoremens' Association Local 1422, United Campus Workers-CWA and Raise Up Fight for \$15 groups from several states.

A project of the Southern Workers Assembly, the school gathered together workers from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. For two days they exchanged information about the challenges and successes of organizing in their workplaces.

Historical labor law background was provided as well as examples of building workers' power in nontraditional ways. Small group discussions centered around develop-

ing strategies and tactics for various workplace scenarios common to many.

The goal, according to SWA leaders, is to create conscious rank-and-file leaders who are linked together in the Southern Workers Assembly and who strive to make significant changes in their locations and states.

A key point made numerous times in the sessions was "workers' power comes from exercising our rights." The need for workers to be directly engaged in determining demands and acting to achieve them was the uniting theme of the school's opening curriculum.

A complementary principle enumerated by participants was the inherent bond between struggles for human rights for all and workers' rights. Of course, everyone was encouraged to participate fully in May Day events in their cities.

The next six sessions of the school will take place using technology like Skype and conference calls, to be concluded with a wrap-up meeting in Atlanta.

The Southern Workers School was hosted by Project South and held in the Hunger Coalition building in Atlanta.

For more information, go to www.southernworker.org. □

1916 Easter Rising inspires workers' struggles

Ireland



This 1991 mural in Belfast marks the 75th anniversary of the Easter Rebellion. In foreground are the Republican signers of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

PHOTO: CPCML.CA

By Zach Gevelinger

This April 24 is the 101st anniversary of the Easter Rising in Ireland. Throughout the island, socialist republicans commemorate the event by wreath laying, marches with various flags of Ireland and rallies where statements reiterate the continuing struggle to build socialism in Ireland. The monumental impact of the Easter Rising lives on in the collective consciousness of oppressed communities worldwide.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine sent a greeting which read in part: "Together, our people continue to march forward, for return, unity, liberation and socialism, for a liberated, united Ireland and a liberated, united Palestine from the river to the sea."

Workers in the United States will remember Ireland's socialist labor leader James Connolly as May Day demonstrations call for mass walkouts, protests and a general strike against capitalist attacks on the multinational working class. □



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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.

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WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

End racist war on migrants.....	1
May Day strike: Immigrants vital in fight for socialism	1
Southern Workers School rocks Atlanta	2
The criminalization of Aaron Hernandez.....	3
Atlanta: 'Concert for the Incarcerated' held	3
On May Day: Lucy Gonzales Parsons, ipresente!.....	4
Tens of thousands laid off — more to come.....	5
Mexican electricians send May Day greetings.....	6
Schools say YES to sanctuary	6
Activists arrested in solidarity with immigrants	6
Protesters demand stop to sheriff-ICE lovefest.....	7
Support for women hunger strikers in ICE	7
Haitian presidential candidate welcomed in U.S.....	8
Scientists march on Earth Day	10
May Day and Marx, Chicago 1886.....	10
'Fund homes, not war!'	11

★ Around the world

Ireland: 1916 Easter Rising inspires workers' struggles.....	2
U.S./U.N. move won't end occupation of Haiti.....	8
Trump backs Erdoğan regime in Turkey	8
Stand with the Venezuelan people.....	9
Palestinian prisoners launch massive hunger strike	9
Trump escalates war in Somalia	11

★ Editorials

Korea: The facts, please.	10
The reemerging 'Dark Ages'	10

★ Noticias en Español

Racistas detrás de la guerra contra migrantes.....	12
Mensaje desde los y las electricistas de México	12

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The criminalization of Aaron Hernandez

By mYia X and Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

The news broke on April 19 that former National Football League star and New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez was dead. The “shock and awe” of the details reverberated across local and national media.

Hernandez, 27, was found dead in his cell at Souza-Baronowski Correctional Center in Shirley, Mass. He was serving a life sentence for murder. Many family members, friends, fellow football players, his lawyer and members of New England’s Black and Latinx communities refute the view that Hernandez killed himself. They are asking why he would do that when only days before he was acquitted of a double murder charge and planned to appeal his previous conviction.

Miami Dolphins player Mike Pouncey grieved the loss of his close friend on Instagram: “To my friend my brother! Through thick and thin right or wrong we never left each other’s side. Today my heart hurts as I got the worse news I could have imagined. ... I will forever miss you and love you bro.!”

Whether Hernandez committed suicide or was murdered is not known. But it is certain that the Department of Correction, its gatekeepers, police, prosecutors, politicians and others in the capitalist state apparatus will not conduct an impartial, honest investigation into his death.

The Hernandez family’s call for an independent investigation must be supported. His family wanted to donate his brain to Boston University to be studied for signs of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, a condition suffered by football players who have had multiple concussions and by prisoners who have been battered by guards.

But the medical examiner refused to



Aaron Hernandez with his daughter.

release Hernandez’s brain to his family, so it could be given to the university. Only after attorney Jose Baez held a press conference in front of the medical examiner’s office, accusing it of “illegally” holding the brain against the family’s wishes, was it finally released to the university, which has a major center for the study of CTE. The state’s actions only added to the Hernandez family’s grief.

Black and Brown athletes criminalized

This is a sickening example of the commodification of athletes of color. State officials can do whatever they want with the bodies of Black and Brown athletes, even long after their talents have been exploited and they have been thrown away. The criminalization of athletes of color is rooted in racism and exploitation.

The state has viciously attacked and imprisoned Black and Brown athletes, including former NFL quarterback Michael Vick and former Olympian Marion Jones. During his term, President Barack

Obama refused to posthumously pardon the great African-American boxer Jack Johnson.

Hernandez was an avid athlete. He played basketball at Bristol Central High School in Connecticut. He became a star on the gridiron, earning his first All-State Honors and Championship in the 2006 Central Connecticut Southern Division.

While attending the University of Florida, Hernandez garnered many accolades on the field, including an honorable mention All-American (2008) and the Consensus All-American (2009). His 111 catches were a school record for his position as a tight end.

In 2010, Hernandez was the youngest player in the NFL after being drafted by the Patriots. His contribution to the team led them to two impressive seasons.

In the April trial, Patriots coach Bill Belichick was subpoenaed to testify by Hernandez’s lawyers. However, he did not show up. The NFL has denied the scientific evidence brought by doctors, scientists and football players that the sport causes CTE. Neither team nor NFL officials issued sympathy statements about Hernandez’s death.

Afterward, the capitalist media quickly demonized the Puerto Rican athlete. The state and media campaign got louder and more racist, inferring that Hernandez “got what he deserved” because he was “subhuman.” If people are painted that way, then their deaths can be dismissed.

The character assassination of Hernandez is an extension of what happens every day to Black and Brown youth and LGBTQ people. Trump is counting on this to divide workers and poor people, including migrants, as seen in his pro-

posed budget which slashes essential governmental services and jobs.

U.S. has highest incarceration rate

The U.S. government spends hundreds of billions of dollars to maintain the world’s most brutal “prison-military-industrial” complex. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate. It has 4 percent of the world’s population, yet holds 22 percent of the global prison population. Added to that are the many people on probation or parole.

Susan Mortimer, longtime prison abolitionist with a loved one in the same facility, explained to Workers World: “Powerlessness, constant stress, solitary confinement and sensory deprivation inflict great suffering. Lack of fresh air and exercise, medical neglect and abuse, inadequate nutrition, guard violence, daily deprivation and degradation combine to destroy physical and psychological health. ... Prison policy and practice violate human rights. ... Conditions of confinement, inflicted by the state, manufacture disability. ... Further, labeling people as ‘mentally ill’ masks disablement caused by child abuse, poverty, racism, sexism and, finally, prison conditions.”

The real criminals are the Pentagon generals, the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, prison guards and the DOC — all part of the repressive state apparatus which commits crimes against workers and oppressed people at home and worldwide, protected by laws and courts.

The blame for Hernandez’s death should be placed on the capitalist system which promotes murder and violence. The DOC will use Hernandez’s death as an excuse to ask for even more funding for prisons. We say, No! Prisons are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. Tear down the walls! ☐

Atlanta ‘Concert for the Incarcerated’ held

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Hundreds of immigrant detainees and many more people, often imprisoned for minor drug and “quality of life” offenses and unable to make bail, are locked up in the multistory Atlanta City Detention Center.

On April 21 a “Concert for the Incarcerated” was held on the plaza fronting the jail, organized by the Georgia Detention Watch and others. Singers, musicians and spoken word artists took to the mic with their messages of solidarity and personal experiences of prison.

Others presented the demand that the jail be shut down since it functions as a debtor prison, a legal way to cage Black and Brown poor people. Large numbers of those held at ACDC are homeless; their poverty or mental illness is the crime for which they are jailed.

The city government, led by Mayor Kasim Reed, likes to describe Atlanta as a “welcoming city” for immigrants and refugees. But the city maintains a contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in which it is paid to house hundreds of immigrant detainees in advance of deportation. Many detainees’ only crime is driving without a license, something impossible for undocumented people to get in Georgia. Immigrant groups and their allies are demanding the end of all such contracts with ICE.

PHOTO: LOVETTE KARGO-THOMPSON

Members of Solutions, Not Punishment Collaboration rev up the crowd with their spirited chants. This Black, trans-led organization is engaged in several campaigns directed at ending the jailing of poor people of color at the Atlanta City Detention Center.

From the narrow slits that serve as windows, the incarcerated men cheered and waved to the crowd below, who responded in turn. Drivers of passing cars honked in support as they read the signs and banner.

A young woman described the pain of separation and the overwhelming cost of legal representation for her Nigerian fiancé, who is being held for deportation after overstaying his visa. She told of the visitation rules that allow only two 20-minute noncontact visits a week, on Wednesday and Sunday. The exorbitant cost of collect calls and a pre-paid phone account increased the couple’s separation. And tears fell as she spoke of the unrelenting fear of what was happening to him behind those walls.

The Concert for the Incarcerated was a creative protest that delivered recognition for and solidarity with the humanity of those held in the ACDC — and a defiant demand to the city to shut it down. ☐



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

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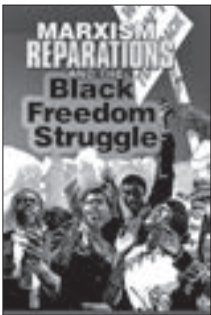
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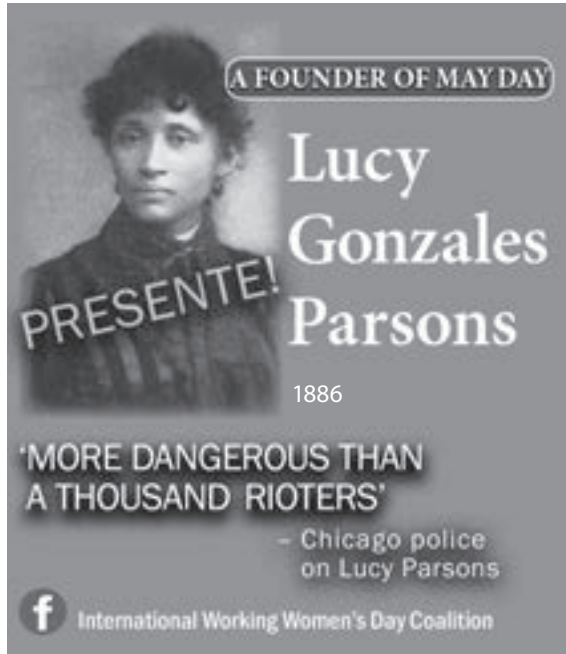
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GRAPHIC SAHU BARRON



By Monica Moorehead

It is fitting to honor the fighting spirit of Lucy Gonzales Parsons on May Day — International Workers Day — since she was one of its founders in 1886. Parsons was a woman of African, Mexican and Indigenous descent who was born into slavery in Texas in 1853.

She and her spouse, Albert Parsons, were forced to leave Texas due to miscegenation decrees that outlawed interracial marriages. Albert was white and helped register formerly enslaved Black people to vote during Reconstruction.

They moved to Chicago, an emerging industrial center during the 1870s where the battles between the mainly immigrant working class and the bosses were emerging; where working conditions were intolerable because there were virtually no collective bargaining contracts; where workers were worn down like machinery by profit-hungry capitalists.

In 1877, a major railroad strike helped lay the basis for the national fight for the eight-hour day, a goal that would come to the forefront nine years later.

Lucy Parsons emerged as an important labor leader along with Albert, who became a Haymarket Square martyr. She was declared by the Chicago police

On May Day Lucy Gonzales Parsons, ipresente!



as “more dangerous than a thousand rioters.”

A supporter of anarchist and anti-racist causes, she defended Sacco and Vanzetti, two Italian anarchists falsely accused of murder who were executed, and the Scottsboro Brothers, nine Black youth framed for the rape of two white women in Alabama.

She was one of two women, the other being Mary Harris “Mother” Jones, who founded the Industrial Workers of the World. The union welcomed all workers, regardless of nationality, religion, gender or skill, into its ranks.

Lucy was a fierce anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist, and above all else, a socialist, who wanted to empower the workers through revolution. Below is an excerpt from a speech she gave in 1905 at an IWW convention:

“We, the women of this country, have no ballot even if we wished to use it, and the only way that we can be represented is to take a man to represent us. You men have made such a mess of it in representing us that we have not much confidence in asking you. ...

“We [women] are the slaves of slaves. We are exploited more ruthlessly than men. Whenever wages are to be reduced the capitalist class use women to reduce

them, and if there is anything that you men should do in the future it is to organize the women. ...

“Now, what do we mean when we say revolutionary Socialist?

“We mean that the land shall belong to the landless, the tools to the toiler, and the products to the producers. ... I believe that if every man and every woman who works, or who toils in the mines, mills, the workshops, the fields, the factories and the farms of our broad America should decide in their minds that they shall have that which of right belongs to them, and that no idler shall live upon their toil ... then there is no army that is large enough to overcome you, for you yourselves constitute the army. ...

“My conception of the strike of the future is not to strike and go out and starve, but to strike and remain in and take possession of the necessary property of production. ...

“Let us sink such differences as nationality, religion, politics and set our eyes eternally and forever toward the rising star of the industrial republic of labor; remembering that we have left the old behind and have set our faces toward the future. There is no power on earth that can stop men and women who are determined to be free at all hazards. There is no power on earth so great as the power of intellect. It moves the world and it moves the earth. ...



May Day strike: Immigrants vital in fight for socialism

Continued from page 1

a global general strike by not just people who work or people who are fortunate enough to still have a union — wherever they are, whatever continent they are on — but everybody just shutting shit down on every continent, billions of people.

That’s power!

That’s important to us because that’s our preferred definition or circumstances for the class struggle, not bombs. Some countries have bombs. Syria tries to defend itself. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea can do it a little better. Russia can do it a whole lot better. Maybe even some liberation movements have bombs, and if they have to use them, we say we defend that right, but that’s not our preferred way to prosecute the struggle. We want the masses to come out. It’s bombs versus social revolution.

We don’t want the imperialists to be so high on using their bombs that they think they can scare us.

We don’t want to be worrying about bombs. We want to be about getting the masses in the street on a mass basis and shutting shit down, so the masses can feel their power and see one day that they can occupy, and they can seize, and they can make revolution, and they can take over things, and they can end capitalism. That’s our bomb. Call it a people’s bomb. Call it a

working-class and oppressed bomb.

Migrants lead the way

The other thing that we talked about in our call is the need to defend the most oppressed that Trump has targeted, no surprise: the Black Lives Matter movement, women. They just signed something where states are defunding Planned Parenthood. Some of this war stuff is to draw attention away from that. Otherwise, there might be rebellions in the street. This is an attack on women.

Migrant workers are trying to have a strike on May Day 2017 in this country. They’re trying to repeat what they did in 2006 — that tremendous strike against the Sensenbrenner bill when they shut down parts of the U.S. economy. They’re trying under very difficult circumstances, even more than 11 years ago, with the fear of being fired, of being arrested, the fear of intimidation and harassment, of being deported.

The attorney general, Jeff Sessions, was just down at the border making threats to arrest everybody, hiring 15,000 more border guards and ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] cops and setting up concentration camps all over the country to hold people.

Under Barack Obama, they established an office to regulate the way that immigrants were treated. It was a cover for the

deportations, but he based it on something along these lines: Well, these are not really criminals and so we shouldn’t be putting them in solitary confinement. We should take care that their food is OK. We should take care that we’re not breaking up families and some things like that.

That office was just closed. The Trump administration is saying, “We will treat you like you are in Attica Prison. We are criminalizing you. We always had criminalized you, but now it’s official.”

These workers are trying to fight back, and it’s important that we do everything we can to help them.

‘Workers defending other workers’

Now there’ll be mass 2017 May Day rallies around the country.

We’re calling on people to demand that there be no reprisals against workers who participate in the strike on May Day. No reprisals is our message to all the bosses — some of whom fired workers after the Feb. 15 strike. We’re also telling ICE we will respond in any way we can to repercussions from the government or from bosses.

It may be that most of our work in terms of defending these rights will begin after May Day, because that’s when the firings and the repression will come. We should get ready. We’re not the only ones doing that. People all over the coun-

try are forming defense committees.

We felt that because this attack on immigrant workers is really an attempt to smash working-class solidarity, maybe it was time that an organization called Workers World Party said that it was going to try to organize some workers, however symbolic the numbers may be, to come out and say, “We are workers defending other workers.”

That’s an important political point to make. We intend for that point to get bigger and bigger and bigger.

This May Day strike is so important for historic reasons. These workers want to strike not just on any day. They struck on Feb. 15. Some organizers are planning a week of strikes. But they’re striking on International Workers’ Day. That’s a high level of consciousness. That’s a communist holiday that’s known all over the world, but it was beaten back and suppressed in the U.S. The immigrant workers have brought it back. They brought it back in 2006, and they’re bringing it back again.

I hope that other workers are paying attention because these immigrant workers are the most class-conscious and the most militant sections of our class. The truth is: One of the reasons why the government wants to crush them, and wants to scare them and terrorize them, is because they know that these workers are

Restructuring retail

Tens of thousands laid off — more to come

By Fred Goldstein

As International Workers' Day — May Day — approaches, a major crisis is underway for retail workers in the U.S. A process of profound restructuring of the retail industry is unfolding. Driven by internet technology and its utilization by Amazon, among others, it has been made possible by the capitalist scientific-technological revolution.

In manufacturing, the struggle by big industry to increase profits drove automation and offshoring. In the retail industry, the giant monopoly Amazon has developed online shopping, which has already wiped out tens of thousands of retail jobs and is threatening hundreds of thousands more.

Online shopping has brought about a transformation in the so-called brick-and-mortar retail industry.

“This transformation is hollowing out suburban shopping malls, bankrupting long-time brands and leading to staggering job losses,” wrote the New York Times on April 15.

“More workers in general merchandise stores have been laid off since October, about 89,000 Americans. That is more than all of the people employed in the United States coal industry, which President Trump championed during the campaign as a prime example of the workers who have been left behind in the economic recovery.

“The job losses in retail could have unexpected social and political consequences, as huge numbers of low-wage retail employees become economically unhinged, just as manufacturing workers did in recent decades. About one out of every 10 Americans works in retail.” That’s around 15 million workers.

Thousands of mall-based stores are shutting down in what’s fast becoming one of the biggest waves of retail closures in decades.

More than 3,500 stores are expected to

close in the next couple of months.

Department stores like J. C. Penney, Macy’s, Sears and Kmart are among the companies shutting down stores, along with middle-of-the-mall chains like Crocs, BCBG, Abercrombie & Fitch and Guess.

As big retailers shut down in malls, there is collateral damage among the workers in small retail stores and fast food places that draw walk-by customers who shop in the big stores. Furthermore, window designers, lighting and maintenance workers, security guards, sanitation workers and many other mall workers are or will be thrown onto the unemployment lines.

From housing bubble to retail bubble

Online shopping is not the only thing responsible for the present crisis. Marxism teaches that in all industries, capital-



The restructuring in retail is different in form from manufacturing, but the same in essence, as far as the working class is concerned.

ist competition and the thirst for profit drive the retail and real estate bosses who rent to them to destroy their rivals by capturing market share. The result is capitalist overproduction. (Overproduction does not mean that capitalists produce more than people need, only more than the stores can sell at a profit.)

“The number of malls in the U.S. grew more than twice as fast as the population between 1970 and 2015, according to Cowen Research. By one measure of consumerist plentitude [capitalist overproduction, F.G.] — shopping center “gross leasable area,” the U.S. has 40 percent

more shopping space per capita than Canada, five times more than the U.K., and 10 times more than Germany.” (theatlantic.com, April 10)

“The seeds of the industry’s current turmoil date back nearly three decades, when retailers ... flush with easy money, rushed to open new stores. The land grab wasn’t unlike the housing boom that was also under way at that time.

“Thousands of new doors opened and rents soared,” Richard Hayne, chief executive of Urban Outfitters Inc., told analysts last month. “This created a bubble, and like housing, that bubble has now burst.” (wsj.com, April 21)

Amazon won’t make up for jobs lost

The standard line of the apologists for capitalist restructuring is that technological advancement creates new and better-paying jobs that will make up for the job losses. This is complete hogwash.

First of all, the workers who lose their jobs are out of a job NOW. They have the skills and training for retail. The capitalist class and the capitalist government do not swoop in to the rescue and give them jobs and training in new occupations they would feel suited for.

But second of all, assuming that the laid-off workers in the thousands could apply for jobs at Amazon or other online retailers, they would be confronted by the highly automated Amazon warehouse system. This system has far fewer jobs to offer than the 90,000 who have already been laid off since last October and the many thousands more who are in danger of losing their jobs.

Amazon’s automation is infamous among the workers as a speed-up device and a job-killer.

“In 2012, Amazon bought the robotics company Kiva Systems for \$775 million — and made it so Kiva’s technology could be used only in Amazon warehouses. These Kiva robots autonomously zoom around the warehouse using a series of barcodes on the floor to guide them, picking items and bringing them back to warehouse workers. These robots save these workers

from the immense physical toll of walking as many as 20 miles per shift, sometimes in unbearable heat; but this also means that fewer human workers are needed. The jobs that remain will be less labor intensive, and more like those of a robot supervisor. Since Amazon bought Kiva, a host of other companies are trying to develop even more advanced warehouse robots and sell them to Amazon’s competitors.” (prospect.org, Sept. 27, 2016)

It’s not likely that 90,000 robot supervisors will be needed at Amazon!

Capitalist restructuring in another form

Retail workers have already undergone the pressure of the scientific-technological revolution and the intensified exploitation that it brings. Retail salespeople and cashiers have been subjected to time studies and forced to adhere to a time standard for making sales. Cashiers have to ring up customers in a designated time tracked by the electronic cash register. And they have been subjected to many other profit-squeezing methods.

Now thousands of them are being eliminated altogether by internet technology and online sales.

This is comparable to when auto workers’ jobs were destroyed by robotization or steel workers’ jobs were destroyed by mini-mills and using electric arc furnaces. And coal miners’ jobs were destroyed by giant mining machines.

The difference is that this automation is being instituted by an external employer, Amazon. The restructuring in retail is different in form from manufacturing but the same in essence, as far as the working class is concerned. Amazon has reduced the necessary labor time involved in the process of commercial retail sales. As such, it can sell at lower prices and increase convenience for the shopper.

While automation reduces the walking time for workers in the warehouse and the burden of shopping for the consumer, the workers who are no longer needed by capital under the profit system suffer. Instead of the internet and robots being used to ease life for the working class, they are only making things more difficult and insecure.

The masses of workers who lose their jobs will not be able to afford buying anything, either online or in a store. For the working class, the whole capitalist system is a trap the workers must break out of.

Goldstein is the author of Low-Wage Capitalism and Capitalism at a Dead End, which can be obtained from online booksellers.

one of the most militant sections of our class, and they don’t want that militancy spreading. It’s a danger to the ruling class. It’s a danger to capitalism.

There’s more than solidarity involved here. But solidarity has always meant doing something that’s in your own interest.

We will not allow the government or bosses to come down on one of the most militant sections of our class at the very least. The entire working class needs them and that’s a fact.

We understand the historical importance of it, especially in this country. One of the founding documents of this party — before its founding — Sam Marcy, our late founder and leader, wrote this document in the early 1950s: “The Global Class War.”

What is the most important and relevant tenet of it today? The struggle has mostly been in the East amongst the oppressed in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America, the liberation movements. But the time will come, based on capitalist development, when that struggle will shift to where, generally speaking, the workers have not been as class conscious, have not been as politically conscious, have not been, as a whole, revolutionary.

But that will change, and that revolutionary class-consciousness will shift to the centers of imperialism. That was the most important, relevant thing that “The

Global Class War” document said. We see it happening. This strike on May Day is that prediction in some ways coming true.

Che Guevara ¡presente!

The great revolutionary comrade Che Guevara was martyred 50 years ago this coming October.

Another thing happened 50 years ago on April 15. The Cubans published a message from Che for an anti-imperialist conference in January 1966 in Havana. (tinyurl.com/chetotricontinental). It was called the Tricontinental Conference — meaning Asia, Latin America and Africa — of hundreds of anti-imperialist fighters.

To summarize, his message basically said that if we want to give U.S. imperialism a heart attack, we have to have two, three, many Vietnams. We have to begin cutting off [imperialism’s] extremities so they don’t get the blood and the oxygen to nourish the imperialist center.

To some extent, that has happened and is still happening. On another level, the way that the capitalist crisis has developed over the past 30 years, that’s another way that’s bringing the heart attack back to the center.

What we do in the belly of the beast has an impact on the class struggle, the anti-imperialist struggle, on a worldwide level. The ball is in our court. □

Mexican electricians send May Day solidarity

Mexican compañeras and compañeros in the United States,

Please accept fraternal greetings of solidarity from the Mexican Electricians Union, the SME.

We are very aware of the difficult situation that you live in that country and we want you to know that you are not alone.

There are many Mexicans organized in Resistance here in Mexico, who follow the events closely and who are launching solidarity initiatives in favor of the migrant movement. We demand that the deportations stop, that this policy of racist discrimination stop, and we also support all the initiatives that you are launching [in the U.S.] to defend yourselves against all these attacks.



We know that this May 1 there will be a big call by the migrant movements to demonstrate their rejection of these policies of exclusion and you should know that here in Mexico there will also be mobilizations commemorating International Workers Day.

And we will take up all these demands that you will raise in support of your interests and in support of a binational unity between workers and people of Mexico with the migrant population in the United States.

***A fraternal embrace,
Long live the migrants' struggle!***
José Humberto Montes de Oca Luna,
International Secretary of the SME

Activists arrested

By Workers World Los Angeles Bureau

Eight people were arrested April 17 in front of the Los Angeles "Hall of Justice," where the county sheriff's office is located, protesting Sheriff Jim McDonnell's anti-immigrant policies. Those arrested were part of a rally organized by the Caravan Against Fear, which held actions to highlight the attack against the immigrant communities by President Donald Trump and to support SB 54, legislation calling for a "sanctuary state" in California. That legislation prohibits state and local enforcement agencies from enforcing immigration laws and limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The caravan was organized by the Service Employees International Union - United Service Workers West (SEIU-USWW), the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) and Global Exchange. It is also traveling to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

In California, the caravan traveled north to south, starting in the state capital of Sacramento and ending in the border city of San Diego. One of its actions in Los

Schools say YES to sanctuary

After weeks of organizing on behalf of undocumented students and workers, a sanctuary district resolution for Milwaukee Public Schools was successfully won on March 30 by members of the Milwaukee-based organization Youth Empowered in the Struggle, or YES, along with key allies such as the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association.

The Milwaukee School Board passed the sanctuary resolution unanimously during a meeting where the building was packed with students, parents, teachers, staff and community allies. YES is now working to get similar resolutions passed in Sheboygan and Racine, Wis., where it also has chapters.

Over its history, YES has been a leading force in mobilizing tens of thousands from the Latinx community and their allies to resist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids and deportations, demand student and worker rights, and build a rainbow of people's struggles. YES and its sister organization, Voces de la Frontera, are



Milwaukee

now mobilizing for a May Day rally and march in Milwaukee. See facebook.com/YESstudents and facebook.com/VocesdeFronteraWI.

— Workers World Staff

PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY

End racist war on migrants

Continued from page 1

the criminal destruction and countless deaths in Iraq. He is a former head of the U.S. Southern Command, which includes Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, illegally occupied by the Pentagon and used for the last 16 years as a torture prison for people kidnapped from other countries and held without rights or trial. He is a former head of the U.S. Southern Command, which includes Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, illegally occupied by the Pentagon and used for the last 16 years as a torture prison for people kidnapped from other countries and held without rights or trial.

As head of the Southern Command, Kelly was also deeply involved with all U.S. military activities in South and Central America in the 1980s.

That was an important period in Central American history. Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, Salvadorans and Hondurans were fighting heroic, important revolutionary battles to free themselves from colonial and imperialist domination.

Had they been allowed to control their own destinies, we would not see the forced migration of today.

Now John Kelly is working nonstop to deport as many Central Americans as possible back to certain death and misery. And he continues Trump's racist, dangerous Islamophobia that attempts to blame Muslims for every act of terror.

Kelly is also a strong proponent of keeping the Guantánamo Bay prison open at all costs. Human-rights investigators from the United Nations and other agencies proved that prisoners, especially Muslims, have been held there in violation of their human and civil rights.

In fact, the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has led the legal fight against Guantánamo and represented some of the detainees, stated that Kelly's "aggressive oversight of the illegal military prison ... disqualifies him" from leading DHS.

News accounts report that Kelly supports waterboarding.

"Presiding over a population of detainees not charged or convicted of crimes, Kelly treated them with brutality," CCR reported. "His response to the detainees' peaceful hunger strike in 2013 was punitive force-feeding, solitary confinement, and rubber bullets. Furthermore, he sabotaged efforts by the Obama administration to resettle detainees."

This is the person now sending ICE agents to the homes of workers who only want to put food on their families' tables.

Money for people, not concentration camps!

During last year's election campaign, Trump promised that immigration would be a cornerstone of his administration. He is carrying out that promise.

The Trump administration is assembling a vast deportation force whose policies are being carried out by ICE agents who have publicly expressed their hatred of immigrants.

The Washington Post reported on April 12 that it had obtained an internal DHS assessment memo which revealed that the department has secured 33,000 more detention beds to house immigrants. These detention sites evoke the heinous period of Japanese internment camps in the 1940s.



Detentions are only one part of the rapidly enforced immigration policies carried out by the Trump administration. DHS is working closer than ever with local police forces, which are being empowered to carry out ICE roles. It is fast-tracking ways to hire more ICE agents and may even end polygraph and physical fitness tests for them. This opens up the possibility of hiring more thug-like agents than ever before.

Deportations will increase under Trump. Immediately on taking office he signed executive orders that expanded the pool of undocumented and even documented migrants to be singled out as a priority for removal.

An April 16 New York Post report on Kelly said that "under the Trump administration's tougher immigration rules, even a 'single DUI' can start the deportation process."

This means that a migrant stopped on the road can be easily put into the system, detained and deported.

It gets worse.

What was once a routine check-in for the undocumented has now become a day of terror. Before the Trump era, DHS officers had applied "prosecutorial discretion," leading to more so-called convicted criminals being deported, while those without a criminal record just checked in every year.

sted in solidarity with immigrants

LOS ANGELES

Angeles was the downtown civil disobedience action to protest Sheriff McDonnell's pledge to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and his opposition to any sanctuary legislation.

The International Action Center in Los Angeles endorsed the caravan and participated in the civil disobedience. Maggie Vascassenno and John Parker of the IAC, who are also members of Workers World Party, were arrested, along with six members of NDLON and SEIU-USWW, for blocking the street in front of the sheriff's office.

Said Vascassenno: "Trump is trying to destroy our solidarity. So his racist, fascist war agenda must be opposed. And on May 1 there will be millions out in the streets telling both Democrats and Republicans alike that we will fight Trump and any policies that push cutbacks, war and racism."

Parker and Vascassenno are part of the May Day General Strike Coalition demanding an end to deportations, an end to police and ICE terror, and sanctuary for all. On May 1, gather with them at 10 a.m. at Olympic and Broadway. Then march to City Hall, where all May Day coalitions will unite at a final rally. □



Activists block LA street to stop racist sheriff, April 17.



Protesters demand stop to sheriff-ICE lovefest

As part of an ongoing campaign against Alameda County Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern, and in support of the struggle against deportations, Workers World Party held a picket line in front of Glen Dyer Jail in downtown Oakland, Calif., on Monday, April 17, demanding Ahern stop cooperating with the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Ahern not only continues to cooperate with ICE by notifying them about

prisoner releases, but he is also the head of the California Sheriffs' Association, which promotes the same practices. He even signed a letter as the head of its political action committee to support the nomination of arch-racist Jeff Sessions for U.S. attorney general.

Organizers vow to keep the pressure on Ahern to stop cooperating with ICE. This demonstration was held on the same day that the Caravan Against Fear held a protest against Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell.

— Story and photo by Terri Kay



Support for women

hunger strikers in ICE prison

Protesters in Portland, Ore., marched on April 19 in support of immigrant hunger strikers at the largest immigrant prison on the West Coast. Immigrant women have relaunched a hunger strike started in early March at the privately owned detention center in Tacoma, Wash., run on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

During the strike more than half of the 1,400 detainees refused cafeteria meals because the food was making them sick. ICE had agreed on April 16 to im-

prove the food, but conditions have not changed as of April 24.

Besides nutritional food, some of the reasserted demands are decent medical care, more than \$1 a day in prison wages, educational programs and contact visits with children and other family members. Helping with the strike is the Northwest Detention Center Resistance, a group led by undocumented workers, which organizes to stop detention and deportation of immigrants.

— Report and photo by Lyn Neeley

That has changed. Now many walk into court for their annual check-in and do not walk out. So being undocumented is itself now being treated as a crime.

The immigrant rights movement points out that the rhetoric about "criminal" or "noncriminal" immigrants is a divisive wedge issue — and is rightly demanding the end of deportations of ALL immigrants, criminal record or not, and permanent residency for all undocumented workers. These workers and their families have certainly earned it.

Ultra-racist Sessions now top lawyer

Attorney General Jeff Sessions visited the U.S.-Mexican border at Nogales, Ariz., on April 11. The purpose of the trip was to announce policies to step up the government's prosecution of undocumented workers, policies that affect documented migrants as well.

In Sessions' written statement he called the policies a "move against filth like gangs and criminal aliens."

When Sessions was appointed attorney general, it summed anti-racists and civil rights leaders. "That means a man with white supremacist ties, a racist and homophobic legislative record, and a history of opposing voting rights is now the top law enforcement officer in the country," wrote Think Progress on Feb. 8.

In 1986 Sessions was denied a judgeship after testimony on his support for the Ku Klux Klan. Democrats have noted that Sessions is more anti-immigrant than anyone else in Congress.

Sessions said on the border: "This is a new era. This is the Trump era. The lawlessness, the abdication of the duty to enforce our immigration laws, and the catch-and-release practices of old are over."

A parent who brings children over the border can now be charged with "harboring," sent to jail and deported. Nonviolent immigrants who enter the country illegally for a second time will be charged with a felony, not a misdemeanor as previously.

Sessions is calling for charging workers with "document fraud" and "aggravated identify theft."

An anonymous federal prosecutor told the Daily Beast that the new directives are "generating widespread negative response" and called them "fucking horrifying." (commondreams.org, April 12)

Stop racist deportations and Islamophobia! Permanent residency for all migrants!

The Trump administration directives are a further call to war on migrants, meant to paint all immigrants

as threats and criminals. The administration wants people to think Muslims are all terrorists.

These moves to appease far-right anti-immigrant elements are part of an overall racist campaign to push back the gains that workers of color have made through militant struggle. The goal is to divide and conquer the working class.

But the real terrorists are the white supremacists and warmongers now running Washington. A "Blue Lives Matter" ideology is pushing policy that means more war here at home and abroad.

This makes the May Day 2017 strike much more important — and the struggles for migrant and worker rights that will go on after May Day that much more decisive.

More than ever our movements in the streets — whether for immigrant rights, against police terror, to stop wars abroad and climate change, for women's or LGBTQ rights — must become anti-capitalist as well as internationalist.

We must show not only in slogans but in our actions that there are no borders in the workers' struggle, that we stand united with workers in every country, from every country. Our lives depend on it. □

Haitian presidential candidate welcomed in U.S.

By Dave Welsh
Oakland, Calif.

April 23 — Five hundred people packed an Oakland, Calif., church today to welcome Dr. Maryse Narcisse, presidential candidate of Fanmi Lavalas, the party of Haiti’s first democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

“The U.S., U.N. and other so-called ‘friends of Haiti’ brought about the electoral coup d’etat,” Dr. Narcisse said. “The election of 2015 was thrown out because of widespread election fraud. Then, the rerun in 2016 was stolen again.

“But Nou Pap Obeyi (We Will Not Obey) — this is a slogan our people believe in, because Haitians, who overthrew French colonialism and slavery in 1804, will never accept foreign domination.”

There was music by the Vukani Mawethu choir and the revolutionary words of drummers Phavia Kujichagulia and Val Serrant. A Black community security service, Community Ready Corps, clad in black uniforms and berets, provided security for the event, protecting the special guest from the real dangers that democracy fighters in Haiti face every day and could face here.

Over the past two years, Haiti’s popular movement has fought a relentless campaign for free and fair elections in support of Dr. Narcisse’s candidacy, with tens of thousands in the streets almost



Jean-Bertrand Aristide campaigns with Dr. Maryse Narcisse.

daily for many months. They fought to overturn the results of fraudulent elections that gave the presidency to a U.S.-backed, right-wing candidate.

A longtime Lavalas militant, as well as a medical doctor, Dr. Narcisse has been in the streets with the people day after day, as they face police bullets, tear gas, water hoses and clubs. “When you give voice to the demands and grievances of the people,” she said, “you win their hearts.”

She pointed out that “Haiti is an unequal country, where 1 percent of the pop-

ulation own 45 percent of the wealth, and most live in abject poverty, with high unemployment. The economy is at a standstill. The price of food and fuel keeps going up. There is poisoned water, flooding and deforestation. Over 200,000 children cannot go to school, because most primary schools are private.

“There is constant meddling by the U.S. and the United Nations occupation force, creating instability,” Dr. Narcisse continued. “They don’t want us to have our own strong government serving our



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY
Mayors of Richmond and Berkeley, Calif., present proclamations to Dr. Narcisse.

people. These self-appointed ‘friends of Haiti’ want to hold onto the power so they can serve international interests. That is why they intervene and steal our elections.”

The small, right-wing, Haitian elite controls the government, said Dr. Narcisse, and there are signs of a return to the methods of the Duvalier dictatorship, which ruled Haiti from 1957 to 1986. “But in 1986, the people rose up and overthrew Baby Doc Duvalier,” she said. “As in those times, today we are reorganizing, holding large mass meetings, educating and mobilizing our people — because the people want to resist and they will never give up.”

The program, organized by the Haiti Action Committee, was a benefit for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund. See haiti-emergencyrelief.org. □

U.S./U.N. move won’t end occupation of Haiti

By G. Dunkel

After hundreds of demonstrations in Haiti and throughout the Haitian diaspora, U.N. military occupation of Haiti, which began June 1, 2004, to replace the U.S. occupation, is going to be transformed into a police presence. Minustah, the U.N. Mission to Stabilize Haiti, will become a police force called Minujusth, the U.N. Mission to Support Justice in Haiti.

This move is presented as a cost-cutting measure by U.N. officials such as Sandra Honoré, the special representative of the U.N. secretary general in Haiti. According to Papda (Platform for an Alternative Development in Haiti), Minustah cost \$8 billion during its 13-year existence. (AlterPresse, April 17)

But beyond the direct costs to the U.N. and its donors for this occupation, the presence of Minustah has imposed a tremendous burden on Haiti.

In 2010, a U.N. contingent with bad sanitary practices — dumping its feces into Haiti’s largest river — introduced cholera to Haiti. Since then 10,000 Haitians have died from cholera and hundreds of thousands have been sickened. Over the years there have been a number of incidents in which Minustah has acted like the military occupation force it is.

During the U.N. debate on Minustah becoming Minujusth, Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said, “[Minustah’s] support of the government has been essential in ensuring a secure and stable environment. It has also provided invaluable assistance in aiding the Haitian people in recovering from a number of natural disasters. (April 11)”

Haley’s version of “alternative facts” on this issue and others shows she is trying to be a good puppet for spreading U.S. imperialism’s lies. □



PHOTO: WESLEY GÉDEON
Haitians say ‘Down with the occupation!’

Trump backs Erdoğan regime in Turkey

By Chris Fry

With just 51.4 percent of the vote, Turkey’s President Recep Erdoğan won a national referendum on April 16 that vastly increases his executive power. While Erdogan announced, “My nation stood upright and undivided” (economist.com, April 22), large demonstrations against the government broke out in several cities across the country. Voters in three of the largest cities in Turkey — Izmir, Istanbul and Ankara — all voted against the measure.

Opposition parties in Turkey condemned the vote as rigged, particularly due to unstamped and unsigned ballots. They called for election results to be set aside. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which represents the view of many European governments, stated: “We observed the misuse of state resources, as well as the

obstruction of ‘No’ campaign events.” (bbc.com, April 17)

The election results permit Erdoğan to directly appoint top officials, increase his time in office to two five-year terms, exert more control over the judiciary and decide when to impose a state of emergency. After the referendum, Erdoğan announced plans for a vote to reinstate the death penalty in the country.

Even before this referendum, the Erdoğan regime has engaged in widespread and brutal repression against its political opponents, workers and the Kurdish national minority. After a coup attempt by sections of the military failed last July, the Erdoğan regime arrested more than 70,000 soldiers, jurists, academics, journalists, among many others.

Erdoğan charged that a U.S.-based Turkish cleric was the mastermind of the coup and that the Obama administration

supported the coup attempt. The Turkish president knows that most of Turkey’s people hate and mistrust U.S. imperialism. Despite his verbal attacks on the U.S., Erdoğan has stepped up his support of Washington’s campaign to overturn the government in Syria led by Bashar al-Assad.

Just hours after the voting results, the White House issued a statement which read: “President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Recep Erdoğan of Turkey to congratulate him on his recent referendum victory and to discuss the United States’ action in response to the Syrian regime’s use of chemical weapons on April 4. President Trump thanked President Erdoğan for supporting this action by the United States, and the leaders agreed on the importance of holding Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accountable.” (theatlantic.com, April 18)

That Erdoğan found it necessary to increase his powers of repression shows his lack of real, popular support. The continuing protests of the referendum and of his rule are a clear sign that the people in Turkey want to free themselves from this ruler who depends on the military and police to stay in power. □

WAR

WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Available on online booksellers. PentagonAchillesHeel.com

Stand with the Venezuelan people

By Teresa Gutierrez

The Pentagon, the Trump administration and all enemies of the poor are working overtime to destabilize the revolutionary government of Venezuela. The rich elite in Washington and Venezuela are undermining and sabotaging all attempts to build a society in Venezuela that provides education, health care, housing and a decent living for all, especially the poorest.

News about Venezuela in the United States is completely distorted. Lies about who is responsible for food shortages or for the violence in the country are all fabricated and aimed to set the stage for intervention by Washington.

Workers in the United States must stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people and their President Nicolás Maduro. We must say, “No to U.S. intervention!”

The people resist

On April 19, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets of Caracas for the country’s Independence Day, the vast majority in support of President Maduro.

Thousands of rich, right-wing Venezuelans also marched and tried to create a dangerous situation in the country.

One protester told Venezuelanalysis on



Masses pour out in support of Venezuelan government, April 19. PHOTO: RESUMEN LATINOAMERICANO

April 19, “I am here to support the Revolution ... because I love my country, I’m a Chavista. ... I support Chavez and Maduro, and I want that to be heard in the U.S., Europe and the rest of the world so they can’t say this is a show, that we don’t have numbers, that we’re paid to be here. No, this is real.”

Venezuelanalysis also quoted Jesus Pinto, national secretary general of the Tupamaros National Revolutionary Movement, that day, “Here we are at the largest anti-imperialist march in Vene-

zuelan history; the U.S. empire has done much harm and we have right-wing opposition sectors that seek the ouster of the legitimately elected government, [but] here we are in the streets, ready to give everything including our lives to prevent U.S. boots from touching our soil.”

It is been mainly in the wealthy neighborhoods of Venezuela where resistance and sabotage of Maduro is centered. Here the anti-poor destroy public property, obstruct roads, carry out arson, theft and all forms of violence.

Pro-Maduro activists report that the cruel use of barbed wire strung from lampposts across streets to block the roads and even decapitate passing motorcycle drivers has returned. The government has been forced to respond with tear gas and water cannons.

The destabilization effort has led to dozens of deaths on both sides of the war, but those fighting to defend Chavismo are of course the war’s heroes.

Telesur reported that trade union leader Esmin Ramirez was killed on April 23 in the state of Bolivar after being kidnapped the previous day. He was found dead with several gunshots in the head. Ramirez was a member of the Movement 21 labor syndicate and also a participant in the PSUV political party.

In another example of how dangerous the current situation is in Venezuela, Mayor of Caracas Jorge Rodriguez revealed that protesters “wanted to burn children.” (Telesur.net, April 22) He was referring to the anti-Chavistas attack on the Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias Maternal and Children’s Hospital on April 20. The facility had 54 children inside, but they were safely evacuated. The counterrevolutionaries burned garbage and threw rocks and sticks that severely damaged the hospital.

From the belly of the beast, the message must be loud and clear: Trump: Hands off Venezuela! ☐

Palestinian prisoners launch massive hunger strike

By Joe Catron

On April 17, the 43rd annual Palestinian Prisoners’ Day, over 1,500 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel on political charges launched a mass hunger strike, their largest in five years.

The strike, led by imprisoned Palestinian parliamentarian Marwan Barghouti, demands basic improvements to political prisoners’ conditions. These include adequate health care, regular family visits, access to telephones, and the end of solitary confinement and “administrative detention.”

While the strike has drawn most of its participants from imprisoned members of Barghouti’s Fatah movement, smaller groups of prisoners from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have also joined, with each organization pledging its support for the strikers and their goals.

“We are firmly committed to see each battle of confrontation with the Prison Service and its instruments of repression and intelligence agencies as a collective battle,” the PFLP’s prison branch said on April 16. “Every action initiated by any faction is all of our battle.” (pflp.ps)

The higher committee for Hamas detainees said on the same day: “We hail our steadfast prisoners for undertaking this strike, and we confirm that we will be following the updates around the clock, as we will never hesitate to back our prisoners in their just cause.” (hamas.ps, April 16)

Barghouti explained the prisoners’ reasons for striking in an op-ed posted online by the New York Times, also on April 16, and then published in the newspaper’s international edition the next day.

“This new hunger strike will demonstrate once more that the prisoners’ movement is the compass that guides our struggle, the struggle for Freedom and Dignity, the name we have chosen for this new step in our long walk to freedom,” he wrote from Hadarim prison. (nytimes.com, April 16)

Their jailors responded by throwing Barghouti and dozens of other hunger strike participants into isolation, denying strikers family and legal visits, and raiding striking prison blocks with attack dogs.

Israeli leaders have refused to negotiate, with war minister Avigdor Lieberman writing, “When it comes to the hunger strike ... I take the approach of Margaret Thatcher.” (jpost.com, April 18) British Prime Minister Thatcher presided over the deaths of revolutionary Irish prison hunger strikers in the 1980s.

April 27-30 global days of action

Palestinian supporters of the prisoners have called for a general strike across Palestine on April 27, followed by a “day of rage” against Israeli occupation forces on April 28.

“The excessive practices of the Israeli occupation, particularly those of the Israel Prison Service” require that “we clash



Weekly sit-ins for Palestinian political prisoners have been held in the courtyard of the International Committee of the Red Cross’ Gaza office on Monday mornings since 1995.

PHOTO: JOE CATRON

with the occupier everywhere across our homeland,” the Fatah movement said in its announcement of the mobilization on April 22. (maannews.com)

Internationally, Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and other organizations are mobilizing for several global days of action starting on Thursday, the day of the general strike, and lasting through Sunday, April 30, as the hunger strike enters its third week.

In New York, Samidoun activists will continue a series of weekly protests outside the Best Buy store in Manhattan’s Union Square from 5:30 p.m.. until 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28.

The store sells products made by Hewlett Packard, a major vendor to Israel’s

prisons and detention centers, military and security forces, and checkpoints and settlements.

Samidoun also urges supporters of the prisoners to join and organize protests elsewhere, and to call the White House (202-456-1111) to demand that the Trump administration end its support for Israel’s political imprisonment and other crimes against Palestinians.

For more information and announcements of these and other activities, visit Samidoun’s website at samidoun.net and subscribe to its email newsletter at eepurl.com/XFJr9.

Catron is an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.



TURN THE GUNS AROUND Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions by John Catalinotto

Turn the Guns Around is the story of rank-and-file members of the U.S. Armed Forces throwing a wrench into the Pentagon’s war machine as they joined the effort to organize a union, the ASU, in the conscript military during the U.S. war in Viet Nam.

It is also a story of three other wars: The Franco-Prussian War that sparked the Paris Commune; World War 1, which sowed revolutions in Germany and Russia; and the war of liberation in Africa that sparked a captains’ revolt in Portugal. In each case, troops turned their guns around.

Available online at all major booksellers.

Korea: The facts, please

Here are the facts that the U.S. media ignore about Korea:

There are no foreign troops in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — north Korea. The last Soviet soldiers, who aided Kim Il Sung's guerrilla army in defeating Japanese colonial rule, left in 1948. Chinese troops, who supported the DPRK after the U.S. invaded north Korea in 1950, left in 1953 after the armistice.

But U.S. troops have occupied south Korea since 1945; 28,500 are still there. There are 38 U.S. military installations in south Korea, plus one militarized golf course. (lifeinkorea.com) The golf course is the station for the first Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in south Korea, a U.S. radar system opposed by the Korean people, in the north and south, as well as China.

Every year, the U.S. carries out massive war exercises in and around the Korean peninsula. This year's Operation Key Resolve/Foal Eagle, which began in March and continued until April 24, has involved hundreds of thousands of troops from the U.S. and south Korea.

The south Korean news agency Yonhap reported on March 13: "The U.S. Navy SEAL Team Six will join the annual Foal Eagle and Key Resolve exercises between the two allies for the first time, along with the Army's Rangers, Delta Force and Green Berets." Yonhap quoted an unnamed military official as saying, "A bigger number of and more diverse U.S. special operation forces will take part in this year's Foal Eagle and Key Resolve exercises to practice missions to infiltrate into the North, remove the North's war command and demolition of its key military facilities."

In truth, it is the imperialist U.S. that is the "foreign power" in Korea and has created an explosive situation for the whole region in its attempts to destroy the DPRK. Five million people died in the Korean War. Continued occupation and threats from the U.S. have forced the north Koreans to arm themselves, including with nuclear weapons, in order to survive.

But threats won't work against the Koreans. As Sin Hong Chol, the DPRK's deputy foreign minister, told Al-Jazeera, the U.S. administration should "look at the world with open eyes."

"The time of dictating orders by brandishing U.S. military might has gone," he said. "If those businessmen in power in the U.S. thought of intimidating us by any military or sanction threats — as the Obama administration used to do and failed — they will soon find out such threats are useless." (April 23)

There's only one way to defuse the tensions on the Korean peninsula. The U.S. must sign a peace treaty ending the 1950-53 war (it never has) and get its troops out so the Korean people can at last determine their own destiny. □

The reemerging 'Dark Ages'

How revealing it is of capitalism's deepening decay that scientific workers in this country have felt it necessary to march by the tens of thousands in cities across the U.S. — just to defend science!

The U.S. had long been seen as the epitome of capitalism's success in subduing nature for its own ends through scientific-technological development. Capitalism as a social system arose from the stagnant, stinking corpse of feudalism, full of its self-importance as the answer to all of humanity's problems. The bourgeoisie unleashed the creative power of science in order to better navigate their merchant ships across the seas, turn ores into metals, and steam, coal and then oil into power for their burgeoning factories.

Science was no longer the passion of a few, relatively privileged individuals (almost all men) with the time and money to think and conduct experiments. As capitalism developed, it provided jobs for scientists in a myriad of fields, from medicine and agriculture to aerospace and climatology.

But along the way, science was harnessed to the profit needs of big pharma, agribusiness, the auto manufacturers and the military-industrial complex. The longer-term vision of scientists — to make the world a better place to live — was largely subordinated to Wall Street's bottom line.

That is what has gotten the world into the mess it is in today. And because so many scientists blew the whistle on superfund pollution and lead poisoning and the biggest scandal of all — human-induced warming of the whole planet — and because the people affected have been in the streets for years protesting the threats to their lives, from Love Canal, N.Y., to New Orleans to Flint, Mich., to the massive marches against climate change, some steps were finally taken to mitigate the terrible environmental effects of unplanned, rampant capitalist development.

Now comes the Trump administration, with backing from Wall Street and the Pentagon, to say that the priority is building a wall on the Mexican border and raising the military budget to bomb the Middle East and confront China and north Korea. Everything else must be cut: environmental protection, consumer safety, medical research and so on. And, oh yes, deny there's even a problem with global warming.

It feels like the Dark Ages once again. But it is not. The knowledge is there to deal with all these problems. It is not science that needs to be unleashed. It is the forces of production that need to be freed from control by the capitalists, so they can be used to solve humanity's problems rather than exacerbate them even as millions lose their jobs due to the scientific-technological revolution. The needs of socially responsible scientists and the needs of the masses of workers and oppressed are in sync. Our enemy is the same.

Scientists belong with the struggle against capitalism that is openly taking root today, especially among the young and the most oppressed who see no future under this system. □

Scientists march on Earth Day



WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL

WWP scientists in Chicago, April 22.

Scientists and their allies rallied and marched all over the United States in cities and towns, large and small, on Earth Day, April 22, as did others around the world. Tens of thousands came out in Chicago. In Columbus, Ohio, more than 5,000 turned out, including many medical workers and teachers. Thousands rallied in Detroit, and a rally was even held in the small town of Petoskey, Mich. Workers World Party activists took part in these and other actions in the global March for Science.

— Workers World Staff

May Day & Marx, Chicago 1886

To the Editor:

It is often noted that May Day had its origins here in Chicago. Two days after 40,000 workers marched for the 8-hour day on May 1, 1886, company detectives shot seven striking workers picketing the McCormick Harvester reaper factory.

At a massive protest rally at Haymarket Square the next evening, a provocateur's bomb killed several police, leading to the frame-up of eight anarchists, most of whom were not even at Haymarket Square that evening. Four of them were hanged. This familiar history is recited at annual May Day celebrations everywhere.

But it is not often noted that Eleanor Marx -- daughter of Karl Marx, the communist movement's chief theoretician who had died three years earlier -- visited Cook County Jail in Chicago in November 1886 and met with the imprisoned defendants as they awaited resolution of their futile appeals. The younger Marx, who was on a speaking tour of the United States to promote socialist ideas and organization, demanded justice for the condemned Chicago anarchists at every stop.

Upon her return home to London, she urged the working class in England to "strengthen the hands of their [U.S.] American brethren by holding meetings and passing resolutions protesting against the judicial murder of these men and demanding a new trial."

Although Eleanor Marx was strongly opposed to anarchist ideology, she believed it critical that communists defend all workers who suffer repression at the hands of the capitalist state. As she and her partner Edward Aveling wrote in their essay, "The Chicago Anarchists," "Our position of antagonism to the teachings of Anarchism strengthens our position in asking justice for the condemned men."

On this May Day, recalling Eleanor Marx's appeal for working-class solidarity against capitalist repression can only strengthen our resolve to build a mass movement of the workers and oppressed to fight for socialism.

**J. Sarles
Chicago**



For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**
Available at all major online booksellers.

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

Low-Wage Capitalism

What globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle

Trump escalates U.S. war in Somalia

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

United States President Donald Trump has pledged to intensify the war against the people of Somalia, which has gone on for decades.

His executive order granted the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) greater latitude in carrying out military operations inside the country against the al-Shabaab guerrilla movement. The operations no longer have to be approved at high levels in Washington nor do the officers have to show that U.S. lives are at stake and no civilian casualties will occur.

There is really no evidence that these parameters guided U.S. attacks in Somalia in the past. Though AFRICOM has often denied that its strikes and commando raids deliberately endanger civilians, this happens more often than not.

That doesn't mean the Pentagon is speaking wildly. AFRICOM Commander Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Waldhauser said the actions were needed to avoid civilian casualties and avoid making more enemies than the U.S. already has.

Trump claims that the Obama administration hampered the Pentagon's capacity to defeat al-Shabaab. Yet the Obama White House continued the same routine bombing operations, funding and training of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), maintenance of a CIA field station in Mogadishu and a flotilla of naval warships off the coast of the strategically located country in the Gulf of Aden as did previous administrations.

Washington has had a military posture toward Somalia since the Carter administration in the late 1970s. The Horn of Africa nation remains a source of instability throughout the region. Its people face a worsening situation regarding growing food insecurity and economic crisis. The transnational oil firms drilling

for petroleum have brought few benefits to the people.

Drone strikes and aerial bombardments have resulted in deaths and injuries of thousands of Somalis since 2007. At that time the George W. Bush administration sought to undermine the ability of Somalis to determine their own destiny. Every Somali administration since that period has been under the political dominance of Washington and Wall Street, which has spread corruption and inefficiency. Hundreds of thousands of people face joblessness and starvation.

Somalia's newly elected administration headed by President Mohamed Abdulahi Mohamed, who holds a U.S. passport, declared a renewed war on al-Shabaab after giving its members 60 days to surrender. Nonetheless, the capacity of the federal government to maintain security even within the capital of Mogadishu has proven to be extremely limited.

Wave of attacks kills dozens

It was reported that at least 15 people were killed in a car bomb attack on April 9 aimed at assassinating the newly appointed military leader of the Somali Federal Government. This operation took place right in the heart of Mogadishu in the aftermath of the inauguration of Gen. Ahmed Mohamed Jimale.

A driver attempted to ram a vehicle into the convoy carrying Gen. Jimale. The military official survived the attack, which struck a minibus carrying commuters, causing most of the casualties.

Within 24 hours yet another attack took place when a soldier wearing military gear walked into the training academy and detonated a bomb. The academy is located in the western section of Mogadishu.

Also on April 10, a civil servant died when a bomb in his vehicle was detonated apparently through a remote control

device in the Hamarweyne district of the capital.

Just the day before the attempt to assassinate Gen. Jimale, there was a major effort to seize a commercial cargo ship off the coast of the country by so-called pirates. The ship had 19 Filipino sailors aboard during the attack, which was only repelled due to the intervention of a joint Chinese and Indian anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden.

That incident was only one of five which have been reported over the last several weeks. Pirates recently took control of a Pakistani-owned ship transporting food off the coast of central Somalia. Later an Indian-owned vessel was commandeered and redirected for the purpose of seizing its goods.

U.S. policy undermines Somalia

Even with 22,000 Western-trained and funded AMISOM troops stationed in Somalia, the country still has not been stabilized. Trump's directive will only

create more death and destruction.

The humanitarian crisis in the country is worsening, with people fleeing to neighboring, war-torn Yemen. This country too is under siege by U.S.-backed forces led by Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council. A boat filled with Somali refugees was bombed by GCC's U.S.-manufactured warplanes on March 17, killing many people as they attempted to travel along the Red Sea from Yemen to the Republic of Sudan.

An East African regional bloc of nations known as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has failed to secure a ceasefire in Somalia. IGAD's response to the recent bombings has been to threaten further military activity directed against al-Shabaab.

Yet the regional states in East Africa should condemn U.S. policy in Somalia, which has resulted in further militarization of the area, destabilizing the society and increasing the impoverishment of the people. □



Racistas detrás de la guerra contra migrantes

Continúa de página 12

deportaciones de TODAS/OS los inmigrantes, con antecedentes penales o no, y residencia permanente para todas/os los trabajadores indocumentados. Estas/os trabajadoras y sus familias ciertamente se la han ganado.

Ultra-racista Sessions procurador general

El Procurador General Jeff Sessions visitó la frontera entre EUA y México en Nogales, Arizona, el 11 de abril. El propósito del viaje fue anunciar políticas para acelerar el enjuiciamiento de trabajadoras/es indocumentados por parte del gobierno, políticas que también afectan a migrantes documentados.

La declaración escrita de Sessions describió las nuevas políticas como un “movimiento contra la mugre que son las pandillas y los extranjeros criminales”.

Cuando Sessions fue nombrado procurador general, sorprendió a antirracistas y a líderes de los derechos civiles. “Eso significa que un hombre vinculado a supremacistas blancos, un historial legislativo racista y homofóbico, y una historia de oponerse a los derechos de votar es ahora el principal funcionario policial del país”, escribió Think Progress el 8 de febrero.

En 1986, a Sessions le fue negado un puesto como juez después de dar testimonio sobre su apoyo al Ku Klux Klan. Los demócratas han señalado a Sessions como el más antiinmigrante en el Congreso.

Sessions dijo en la frontera: “Esta es una nueva era. Esta es la era Trump. La anarquía, la abdicación de cumplir con nuestras leyes de inmigración y las prácticas de captura y liberación del pasado han terminado.”

Un padre que trae niños por la frontera ahora puede ser acusado de “albergar”, y será enviado a la cárcel y deportado. Los inmigrantes no violentos que ingresen al país ilegalmente por segunda vez serán acusados de un delito mayor, no de un delito menor como antes.

Sessions quiere poner cargos a las/os trabajadoras por “fraude de documentos” y “hurto de identificación agravado”.

Un fiscal federal anónimo le dijo al Daily Beast que las nuevas directivas es-

tán “generando una respuesta negativa extensa” y las calificaron como “jodidamente horribles” (commondreams.org, 12 de abril)

¡Fin a las deportaciones racistas y la islamofobia! ¡Residencia permanente para todas/os los migrantes!

Las directivas de la administración Trump son un llamado más a la guerra contra las/os migrantes, a quienes pretende pintar como amenazadores y criminales. La administración quiere que la gente piense que las/os musulmanes son terroristas.

Estos movimientos para apaciguar a elementos anti-inmigrantes de la extrema derecha forman parte de una campaña global racista para rechazar los logros que las/os trabajadoras de color han hecho a través de una lucha militante. El objetivo es dividir y conquistar a la clase obrera.

Pero los auténticos terroristas son los supremacistas blancos y belicistas que ahora dirigen Washington. La ideología de “Vidas Azules Importan”^{*} está empujando una política de más guerra aquí y en el exterior.

Esto hace que la huelga del Primero de Mayo de 2017 sea mucho más importante - y las luchas por los derechos de migrantes y trabajadoras/es que seguirán después del primero de mayo mucho más decisivas.

Más que nunca, nuestros movimientos en las calles - ya sea por los derechos de las/os inmigrantes, contra el terror policial, para detener las guerras en el exterior y el cambio climático, por los derechos de la mujer o de LGBTQ - deben ser anticapitalistas e internacionalistas.

Debemos demostrar no sólo con consignas, sino también con nuestras acciones, que no hay fronteras en la lucha obrera, que estamos unidas/os con las/os trabajadoras de todos los países. Nuestras vidas dependen de ello.

^{*}Las Vidas Azules Importan = Movimiento en defensa de la Policía represora del estado; opuesto a las Vidas Negras Importan.

^{**}DUI = Driving Under Influence (Manejando intoxicada/o) □

‘Fund homes, not war!’

By **Anne Pruden**
New York

April 20 — A lunchtime civil-disobedience action blocked traffic in front of the Manhattan Federal Building today, as a thousand people protested at a “No Cuts-Housing” rally. This was prompted by President Donald Trump’s proposal to cut \$6.2 billion from the budget for public housing. One hundred city workers from DC 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees were at the protest, which was called by many tenant and homeless organizations.

The cuts are planned for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, while over 60,000 homeless people suffer in New York City where affordable housing is sorely needed. The cuts include 43 percent in public housing, 23 percent for veterans, 20 percent for people with disabilities and 10 percent for seniors.

Some 85 percent of homes receiving federal rent assistance in New York include seniors, people with disabilities and children. According to Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, by 2035 low-income seniors may use more than half their income for housing.

At today’s event, Katie Goldstein, of Tenants and Neighbors, said that Trump’s proposed HUD cuts “really is a homelessness plan for low-income New Yorkers!” The next meeting of the group



WWW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

will plan for more fightback as another attack is anticipated from the racist president. The working class gets the connection between tax funding for war and the rich while most struggle with low-paying jobs and impossibly high rent. “Hands off HUD!” was heard loud and clear in today’s chants.

With the increase in gentrification leaving working-class communities devastated, it is not surprising that protests demanding affordable housing are getting attention in local media. More people from these communities, which are majority Black and Latinx, are participating in such protests. □



FOTO: RESUMEN LATINOAMERICANO

Caracas, 19 de abril.

Racistas detrás de la guerra contra migrantes

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

Los ultra-racistas y belicistas como Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions, John Kelly y sus agentes de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas están estableciendo la agenda migratoria de Washington a favor del sistema capitalista.

Esto está intensificando la guerra moderna que comenzó en el 2006 para criminalizar a las/os migrantes en EUA. Pero es una guerra que será finalmente ganada por la unidad de toda la clase trabajadora, ya sea nacida en el exterior o en EUA.

Esta guerra contra las/os inmigrantes no es diferente del empuje belicista del gobierno a través del Pentágono hacia la guerra imperialista en Siria o Corea del norte. De hecho, la intervención estadounidense en el exterior es una causa primordial de migración forzada.

Washington también está adoptando una postura muy peligrosa y amenazadora contra la Revolución Bolivariana en Venezuela. Es similar a cuando el presidente Barack Obama y la entonces secretaria de estado Hillary Clinton orquestaron el golpe en Honduras en el 2009, que creó una migración forzada adicional de ese país.

La cuestión de la inmigración en EUA también está vinculada de manera crítica a la crisis de las/os refugiados en Europa. Mientras EUA lanza misiles en Siria con el pretexto de cuidar a las/os niños, el gobierno de Trump rechaza hipócritamente admitir refugiadas/os sirios a este país.

La mayoría de las/os refugiados sirios van a los países de Europa occidental, que es también el destino de inmensas masas de migrantes de otros países de Oriente Medio, África del Norte y Europa del Este. Las condiciones para estas/os refugiados en Europa son tan malas como las de las/os migrantes en la frontera entre EUA y México.

La guerra contra y el ruego de las/os migrantes, tanto en EUA como en Europa, está profundamente conectada con todas las luchas, ya sea la lucha contra el cambio climático o los recortes en Medicaid o la lucha por la salud, los derechos sindicales y la educación. Está conectada con el movimiento Vidas Negras Importan, ya que las/os inmigrantes negros y musulmanes son atacados desproporcionadamente.

DHS encabezado por general del Comando Sur

El sitio web del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, Siglas en Inglés), dice que “tiene una misión vital: proteger a la nación de las muchas amenazas que enfrentamos”.

El actual secretario del DHS es John Kelly, un general retirado que pasó 45 años en las fuerzas armadas.

El 18 de abril, Kelly habló en la Universidad George Washington. Un editorial del 21 de abril del New York Times resumió sus comentarios como una alarma de miedo: “El tono que él establece

sólo puede alentar el comportamiento abusivo entre sus oficiales ... contra los inmigrantes, y también conducir a la restricción de las libertades civiles y la privacidad”. Su “discurso apocalíptico convierte la islamofobia y el inmigrante como chivo expiatorio que encendió la campaña de Trump, en órdenes para los agentes y los burócratas federales que aplican de ley”.

La historia de Kelly es clave para entender su papel actual. Es belicista, uno de los responsables de la destrucción criminal y de innumerables muertes en Irak.

Él fue jefe del Comando Sur de los EUA, que incluye la Bahía de Guantánamo en Cuba, ocupada ilegalmente por el Pentágono y usada durante los últimos 16 años como una prisión de tortura para personas secuestradas en otros países y privadas de derechos o juicio.

Como jefe del Comando Sur, Kelly también estuvo profundamente involucrado con todas las actividades militares de EUA en América del Sur y Centroamérica en los años ochenta.

Ese fue un período importante en la historia centroamericana. Las/os nicaragüenses, guatemaltecos, salvadoreños y hondureños luchaban heroicas e importantes batallas revolucionarias para liberarse de la dominación colonial e imperialista.

Si se les hubiera permitido controlar sus propios destinos, no veríamos la migración forzada de hoy.

Ahora John Kelly está trabajando sin descanso para deportar a tantas/os centroamericanos como sea posible a una muerte cierta y a la miseria. Y continúa la racista y peligrosa islamofobia de Trump, que intenta culpar a las/os musulmanes por cada acto de terror.

Kelly es también un firme defensor de mantener abierta la cárcel de Guantánamo a toda costa. Investigadores de derechos humanos de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos demostraron que los prisioneros, especialmente musulmanes, han sido detenidos allí en violación de sus derechos humanos y civiles.

De hecho, el Centro de Derechos Constitucionales, que ha liderado la lucha legal contra Guantánamo y representó a algunos de los detenidos, declaró que la “agresiva supervisión de la prisión militar ilegal ... lo descalifica” de dirigir el DHS.

Las noticias informan que Kelly apoya la técnica de tortura por ahogamiento.

“Presidiendo sobre una población de detenidos sin acusaciones ni condenas por delitos, Kelly los trató con brutalidad”, informó CCR. “Su respuesta a la huelga de hambre pacífica de los detenidos en 2013 fue la alimentación punitiva forzada, aislamiento y balas de goma. Además, sabotó los esfuerzos de la administración Obama para reasentar a los detenidos”.

Esta es la persona que ahora envía agentes ICE a las casas de las/os trabajadores que sólo quieren poner comida en



las mesas de sus familias.

¡Dinero para la gente, no para campos de concentración!

Durante la campaña electoral del año pasado, Trump prometió que la inmigración sería una piedra angular de su administración. Ahora está cumpliendo esa promesa.

La administración Trump está reuniendo una vasta fuerza de deportación cuyas políticas están siendo llevadas a cabo por agentes de ICE que han expresado públicamente su odio hacia las/os inmigrantes.

El Washington Post informó el 12 de abril que había obtenido una nota interna de evaluación del DHS que reveló que el Departamento ha asegurado 33.000 camas más de detención para alojar inmigrantes. Estos lugares de detención evocan el período atroz de los campos de internamiento japoneses en la década de 1940.

Las detenciones son sólo una parte de las políticas de inmigración rápidamente aplicadas por la administración Trump. El DHS está trabajando más cerca que nunca con las fuerzas policíacas locales, que están siendo capacitadas para desempeñar los roles de ICE. Está tratando de contratar a más agentes de ICE rápidamente e incluso puede terminar las pruebas de polígrafo y de aptitud física. Esto abre la posibilidad de contratar más que nunca agentes matones.



Mensaje desde los y las electricistas de México

Compañeras y compañeros mejicanos en Estados Unidos

Reciban un saludo fraterno y solidario del Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas.

Estamos muy conscientes de la difícil situación que viven en aquel país y ustedes deben pensar que no están solos.

Están muchos mexicanos organizados en Resistencia aquí en México, muy al pendiente de los acontecimientos y lanzando iniciativas de solidaridad a favor del movimiento migrante. Exigiendo el alto en las deportaciones, el alto a esta política de discriminación racista y respaldando también todas las iniciativas que ustedes están realizando allá para poder defenderse en contra de todas estas agresiones.

Las deportaciones aumentarán bajo Trump. Inmediatamente después de asumir el cargo, firmó órdenes ejecutivas que ampliaron el grupo de inmigrantes indocumentadas/os e incluso documentados para ser señalados como una prioridad para la remoción.

Un informe sobre Kelly del 16 de abril en el New York Post dijo que “bajo las reglas de inmigración más duras de la Administración Trump, incluso un DUI** único puede iniciar el proceso de deportación”.

Esto significa que un migrante detenido en la carretera puede ser fácilmente puesto en el sistema, detenido y deportado.

Y se pone peor.

Lo que antes era una visita rutinaria para las/os indocumentados se ha convertido en un día de terror. Antes de la era de Trump, los oficiales del DHS aplicaban “discrecionalidad procesal”, lo que llevó a la deportación de supuestos criminales convictos, mientras que aquellas/os sin antecedentes penales se podían quedar.

Eso ha cambiado. Ahora muchas/os de los que entran a la corte para su vista anual no regresan. Así que ser indocumentado ahora está siendo tratado como un crimen.

El movimiento de derechos de inmigrantes señala que la retórica sobre los inmigrantes “criminales” o “no criminales” es divisivo y exige el fin de las

Continúa a página 11