By Teresa Gutierrez

May Day actions this year marked the tenth anniversary of the upsurge of immigrant workers that gave birth to today’s national immigrant rights movement.

Legislation introduced by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis) in December 2005 had been one of the most racist and reactionary bills to pass in the House.

The Sensenbrenner bill would not only have made it a felony to be in the United States without documents, it would have made any relative, employer, coworker, clergy, lawyer or friend of an undocumented immigrant into an “alien smuggler” and also a criminal.

This threat sparked an explosive reaction from immigrant workers.

Throughout the spring of 2006, tens of thousands of immigrants and their supporters poured into the streets, not just once but several times. Mexicans, who make up the bulk of the immigrant population, brought out their flags in a show of pride and coined the phrase heard many times in the days to come: “Si, se puede.” (Yes, we can).

Mexican immigrants were joined in many cities by Caribbean, Asian and African migrants who also came out to fight for their right to be in the U.S.

The actions culminated on May Day 2006, which was a general strike and a boycott, as workers and students walked out of their jobs and schools in a show of militant defiance in “A Day Without Immigrants.”

The following joint statement was issued by three 2010 election campaign candidates of Workers World Party: Monica Moorehead, presidential candidate; Lamont Lilly, vice presidential candidate; and John Parker, candidate for U.S. Senate from California. Parker is also the Peace and Freedom senatorial candidate. For more information, go to workers.org/wwp.

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A message from WWP candidates

Moorehead-Lilly ’16

Abolish Capitalism - Black Lives Matter - Fight for Socialism @wwp2016

Monica Moorehead for U.S. President Lamont Lilly for U.S. Vice President

For national electoral candidates of Workers World Party, May Day — International Workers Day — is an occasion to cry for dignity and unconditional liberation for the multinational working class from the yoke of global capitalism or imperialism around the world.

We salute the millions of workers in poor and rich countries who take to the streets in protests, strikes and shutdowns on May Day to call attention to all forms of injustices, as well as triumphs, against a system that puts corporate profits before human needs. We salute the Cuban revolution where millions of workers march on May Day to commemorate 57 years of socialist progress in the form of free health care, free education and other basic needs for all its population.

ORIGINS OF MAY DAY

This year, 2016, marks the 130th anniversary of May Day when on May 1, 1886, the American Federation of Workers called a nationwide strike to demand the right of workers to an eight-hour day. As Martha Grevatt, a WW contributing editor and long-time Chrysler autoworker, wrote in a March 23, 2012, article on the origins of May Day: “About a quarter of a million took part in many cities, but Chicago, with its militant, left-wing labor movement, had the largest demonstration. There, tens of thousands laid down their tools, and women and men poured into the streets. The demonstrations continued past May 1, and on May 2 police attacked and six workers were killed.

“The next day a protest over the killings was held in Haymarket Square. A bomb was thrown, a policeman was killed, and a struggle...”

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Workers World Party in Baltimore. Both are running in this fall’s election as revolutionaries and socialists. They have been organizing support for the Black Lives Matter movement for the past two years. Powell is running for mayor of Baltimore and Black for City Council president.

The two plan to use their campaigns to promote the BLM movement and to demand that Baltimore put people’s interests before those of banks and big business.

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WWP ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, STAFF

Andre Powell, left, and Sharon Black are two of the leading activists in the people’s Power Assembly and Workers World Party in Baltimore. Both are running in this fall’s election as revolutionaries and socialists. They have been organizing support for the Black Lives Matter movement for the past two years. Powell is running for mayor of Baltimore and Black for City Council president.

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Rev. Pinkney’s appeal set for May 11

By David Sole
Marquette Branch Prison, Mich.

A three-judge panel of Michigan’s Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in the case of political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney on May 11. Rev. Pinkney has already served 17 months in prison following his conviction in December 2014 in Berrien County on the western end of Michigan.

Rev. Pinkney’s attorney, Tim Holloway, filed an appeal in September 2015. The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Lawyers Guild then submitted amicus briefs supporting the appeal.

On April 15, this writer drove almost 500 miles north from Detroit to visit Rev. Pinkney in Marquette Branch Prison. He was in good spirits and looking forward to having his case heard. “If there is any justice, any attention to the facts and the law, I will win this appeal,” he said.

During his brief five months of felony forgery it came out that there was no evidence connecting Pinkney to the alleged charges. No witnesses, no handwriting testimony, no confession and no chain of custody implicated him.

He was convicted on charges brought by the judge, “You don’t need evidence to convict Pinkney.” They were instructed that evidence of Rev. Pinkney had led the movement, spoke at press conferences and organized peaceful protests was enough to show how the most to gain from the alleged alterations. Convicted, Rev. Pinkney was sentenced to 2 to 5 years. Judge Schrock said he was going to “make an example” of Rev. Pinkney.

Life inside prison has been hard and stressful on this 67-year-old political prisoner. On Oct. 6, 2015, he was transferred from Lakeland Correctional Facility, just a few yards from his home, to Marquette Branch Prison in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. As a practical matter, this dramatically cut the number of visits he could receive from family and friends. Rev. Pinkney immediately faced threats and harassment from the remote prison’s guards.

For his life, his supporters held an “Emergency Conference to Save Rev. Pinkney” in Detroit in December 2015. A national campaign flooded Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s office and Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington’s office with phone calls and letters demanding safety for Rev. Pinkney. Several state senators and representatives got their legislative corrections ombudsmen, Keith Barber, to make official inquiries.

The Court of Appeals will meet in Grand Rapids, Mich., on May 11 to consider whether to uphold or overturn Rev. Pinkney’s conviction after hearing short oral arguments that supplement the lengthy legal briefs. The ACLU brief focuses on the unconstitutional prosecution of Rev. Pinkney for engaging “in the political and civic life of his community. In addition, his trial was tainted by improper references to his controversial, but lawful First Amendment activities” (ACLU brief, p.2).

The original prosecutor was allowed to argue that Pinkney “was an outspoken critic of the Harbor Shores development, the Senior PGA [golf course built on land taken from a public park], Whirlpool. He has T-shirts with judge’s names on them described as ‘criminal in humanit y.’ He’s a minister of the people. He’s brought Hollywood celebrities to town; Jesse Jackson.”

The ACLU argues the appeals court that “a citizen should not be concerned that his or her unpopular political views will be accepted by a court as the basis for criminal liability. Yet, the prosecutor was permitted to argue during closing that Rev. Pinkney’s protected political speech somehow made him more likely to commit a crime” (ACLU brief, p.7).

Supporters of Rev. Pinkney are planning to come from around the state to fill the courtroom during the May 11 oral arguments.

Drastic class warfare is inevitable. The capitalist mode of production is planned to satisfy human need. This means of production is the basis of a social structure in which the means of production are centralized in the ownership of society, not the individual. The means of production are owned and worked by all individuals as a collective whole, not individual contractors.

In capitalism, this collective ownership of society by all individuals is dispersed among workers, who are not free to control their own labor.

The working class is spread all over the globe, working in every sector of society. They are dispersed in industries, in the cities, on farms and in the mines. They are dispersed in the workplace, While the working class is dispersed, it is dispersed in relation to one another. The working class faces the same problems in every part of the world, problems caused by capitalism, but solutions determined by its dispersion.

Class struggle is inevitable. It is the class struggle that separates the working class from the capitalist class. It is the class struggle that creates the working class and forms the working class into a social force.

The working class is dispersed. It faces capitalism’s wars and aggressions. Its solution to capitalism’s wars and aggressions is to fight back. It is the working class that fights in every sector of society against the ruling class.

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Youth protest defies cops, rejects KKK

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Stone Mountain, Ga.

April 23 — Today, hundreds of anti-racist youth and others met the challenge of a “white power” rally called by the Ku Klux Klan. It was on top of Georgia’s Stone Mountain, a massive granite outcropping, where the KKK was revived in 1915 with a cross-burning ritual.

The letter also put Wolf on notice that the refusal to provide an available cure for prisoners with hep C contradicts his public position on the death penalty and amounts to “executions through medical neglect.”

Yesterday’s rally, Wolf said, eliminated the possibility that evidence of his innocence would be reviewed by higher courts.

Considering that Wolf’s office has been inundated with petitions calling on Wolf to make the hep C cure available to Abu-Jamal, attendees held the message that “everyone deserves the right to live free of these heinous crimes.” The latter bill, signed 20 years ago on April 24, Abu-Jamal’s birthday, would continue in July at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

For Mumia and Pa. prisoners

Protests demand hep C cure for Mumia and Pa. prisoners

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Family, friends and supporters of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal took to the streets of Philadelphia in actions on April 22 and April 23 to raise awareness of the dangerous impact of untreated hepatitis C on Abu-Jamal and thousands of others across Pennsylvania.

The weekend wrapped up with a celebration of Abu-Jamal’s 62nd birthday on April 24.

On April 22, protesters rallied outside Philadelphia City Hall and marched to the local office of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. The event was originally planned to deliver thousands of petitions calling on Wolf to make the hep C cure available to Abu-Jamal, 10,000 thousand others imprisoned by the state and 50,000 mainly black Philadelphia residents suffering from this deadly but curable disease.

Earlier in the week organizers learned that despite repeated requests, Wolf’s office refused to make a representative to meet with Abu-Jamal supporters, under a phony pretext that sufficient time wasn’t given for the request. They were told they could deliver the petitions to “an office manager,” but no official meeting would take place.

Considering that Wolf’s office has been inundated with bills and emails voicing concern over Abu-Jamal’s condition for over a year and that registered letters about the meeting were sent twice to Wolf, yet received no response, organizers sent Wolf a letter challenging his excuse for delaying his response on this life-and-death matter and made it public through a press release.

The letter placed Abu-Jamal’s dire circumstances in the context of former President Bill Clinton’s passage of the 1994 crime bill and his signing of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act in 1996, which dramatically eroded the right of prisoners to file writs of habeas corpus.

The letter pointed out that his refusal to provide an available cure for prisoners with hep C contradicts his public position on the death penalty and amounts to “executions through medical neglect.” The letter also put Wolf on notice that the bold protests that have challenged Hillary Clinton’s primary campaign would continue in July at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Wolf is the top-ranking Democratic politician and effective death penalty in Pennsylvania.

The march through the ‘hood’

The rally on April 23 also served to oppose racism by as much as 20 to 1. Instead, it was the opponents of racism who arrested several youth for wearing bandanas over their faces.

This attack on the people’s right to oppose racism prompted additional skirmishes with the police, including some rock throwing by the angry, multinational crowd.

With all the paved roads to the site of the KKK rally blocked by police vehicles, baton-wielding cops and others with military-grade guns, the anti-racist forces from both actions dispersed into the surrounding woods, trekking through underbrush and jumping creeks until finally emerging at the edge of the parking lot where the two dozen or so Confederate flag-waving racists were congregated inside a fenced area.

A police helicopter circled overhead. A line of perhaps 75 to 100 black-uniformed riot police ringed the fence to protect the racists. At the curb of the parking lot where eventually hundreds of militant, chanting demonstrators amassed was a similar line of SWAT cops wearing gas masks with their finger on their gun triggers, as well as many members of the six police agencies on hand.

The grassy slope and the sidewalk filled with the youthful, diverse crowd inching ever so determinedly onto the parking lot pavement, forcing the police line back. With chants of “The cops and the KKK and the riot police and the police agencies on hand.

The same day, in Rome, Ga., some 80 or so Black-uniformed Nazis and their supporters, including several in Klan robes, marched in what was billed as a “national” rally marking Hitler’s birthday.

Hundreds of residents of the city turned out to oppose their fascist and racist platform and demanded they leave and never come back.

Youths from Tallahassee, Fla., SDS confront KKK at Stone Mountain, Ga.

The call for action came mainly from two Atlanta-based groups, “All Out Atlanta,” a coalition formed in January of 2016 to organize for April 23, and “Rise Up,” a grassroots formation led by Black, queer and women activists who have been instrumental in empowering low-wage workers and bringing justice for Anthony Hill, murdered by police.

Individuals and organizations responded to the call from far and wide, with “Students for a Democratic Society” coming from across Pennsylvania, “Heey P. Newton Gun Club” members from Alabama, multiple chapters of anti-fascist and anti-authoritarian groups from across the southeast, and representatives of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and thousands imprisoned by the state who demanded their entrance fee back.

This multimedia event promotes the “heroism” of the Confederate leaders Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stone-wall Jackson, whose images astride their horses are carved into the mountain side.

This was a project supported by the KKG and initiated by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1916, although it wasn’t completed until the park came under state control in 1972. State law prevents any alteration to the bas-relief images without legislative approval.

Some visitors who had been unaware of the racist rally taking place were shocked at the overwhelming presence of heavily armed police and blocked roads demanded their entrance fee back.

While the corporate media focused on the arrests of anti-racist demonstrators, describing them as “violent,” there was no reporting of the hate-filled, violent rhetoric and actions of the white supremacists while inside their secured pen or as they roamed the park, yelling their vile threats.

April 23 falls between German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler’s birthday and Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park. The same day, in Rome, Ga., some 80 or so Black-uniformed Nazis and their supporters, including several in Klan robes, marched in what was billed as a “national” rally marking Hitler’s birthday.

Youths from Tallahassee, Fla., SDS confront KKK at Stone Mountain, Ga.

Youths from Tallahassee, Fla., SDS confront KKK at Stone Mountain, Ga.
More water cutoffs in Detroit

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Schuette, a Tea Party Republican, announced plans to travel abroad — with an eye to an “illegal lockout,” since it becomes impossible to live in a home or apartment without this essential service. This has forced tens of thousands to leave Detroit, the largest majority African-American municipality in the U.S. In the last census period, 2000 to 2010, Detroit lost nearly 25 percent of its residents. Detroit homes with minor children are subject to intervention by Child Protective Services if there’s no water, under the guise that the household is dangerous and unfit to live.

Mass strike to end environmental contamination

During the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, Detroit was forced by mass action two years ago to declare a moratorium on water shutoffs for several months. However, payment plans set up since then have failed to bring tens of thousands of households from shutoff status. Another plan was introduced in March to set up the Great Lakes Water Services Authority, which ostensibly provides assistance to those in low-income households. This plan allocates only $4 million to assist those unable to pay their bills, many of which are questionable and uncollectible.

Labor, environmentalists stand up for Flint

By Martha Grevatt

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced on April 20 that criminal charges had been brought against three individuals in relation to the Flint water crisis. Two are mid-level funcionários from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The third is former Flint Utilities administrator Michael Pogreba.

Flint residents are puzzled by the charging of Lansing, who actually tried to discourage the state from approving the toxic decision to draw water from the polluted Flint River. He warned the MDEQ in the summer of 2015 that some Flint homes had high lead levels in their water. Yet he faces one felony and one misdemeanor count for tampering with evidence and willful neglect of duty.

A news release stated: “Representatives from Water Defense, all 343,000 members who are trained by the union in “the best available methods of servicing” plumbers and service technicians (UA). Harold Harrington, a master plumber and Flint resident, represented UA on April 22 at a joint press conference with Scott Smith, Melissa Mays of Water You Fighting For and Flint City Council member Eric Mays.

For months, hundreds of union plumbers have been volunteering their time, helping Flint residents install water filters and retrofitting their faucets when the filters would not fit. Now, in partnership with Water Defense, all 343,000 UA members across the country will be trained by the union in “the best available water testing technology which enables us to better protect the communities we serve” and “detect problems before they become irreversible,” said UA General Secretary Mark McManus.

Thus, while state and federal governments are stepping up their feet in sending needed assistance to Flint, the solidarity of labor, community and environmental movements is bringing justice.
Verizon strike solidarity: Sea of red from Massachusetts to Virginia

By Martha Grevatt

After 10 months of trying to negotiate a contract with their anti-union bosses, 40,000 Verizon landline and FIOS workers in nine states and Washington, D.C., struck the company April 13. The two striking unions, the Communication Workers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, are up against an antagonistic, intransigent company demanding outrageous concessions.

As CWA District 1, which includes New York, reports, “The company has not moved off of any of their retrogressive proposals.” However, the 30,000 CWA members and 10,000 IBEW members are showing no signs of backing down either. New York striker “Fitz,” a CWA Local 1101 shop steward, explained to WW, “We’re currently on strike because Verizon is trying to institute a system of breaking our union through different techniques. They want to be able to move us up to 200 miles away for a period of time. As a father and a husband, [that would mean] I can’t be there for my family, and it’s just wrong. Here in New York less than 40 percent of the city is wired up for FIOS [fiber optic system for high-speed internet]. There is enough work for us to do here in New York so that we can stay and do the job that Verizon promised to its customers.

“Also they want to freeze our pensions at age 21. We’re going to win, threats and the abuses and no safety on workers has gone on for too long. The song’s message: “The way you treat your employees is wrong.”’

Johnnie Stevens and WW staff in Virginia contributed to this article.

‘We’re going to win,’ say Bronx workers

The Laundry Workers Center launched a new campaign, “Titlanice” or “We’re going to win,” to defend restaurant workers being broken up through different techniques. They want to be able to move us up to 200 miles away for a period of time. As a father and a husband, [that would mean] I can’t be there for my family, and it’s just wrong. Here in New York less than 40 percent of the city is wired up for FIOS [fiber optic system for high-speed internet]. There is enough work for us to do here in New York so that we can stay and do the job that Verizon promised to its customers.

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Johnnie Stevens and WW staff in Virginia contributed to this article.

low-wage autoworkers win union

By Martha Grevatt

On April 14, low-wage workers had a nationwide strike demanding $15 an hour or more.

Now, workers at Detroit Chassis in Avon, Ohio, at least have a union. The 58 workers, who assemble axles for a nearby Ford plant, built their own, one-axle, duty trucks, were all temporary contract workers employed by a staffing agency. Not a single one worked directly for Detroit Chassis, a Detroit-based company that recently opened the Avon factory.

It did not take long for the workers to realize they needed a union. Knowing that they could shut down the Ford assembly plant that they supplied in less than a day, on April 17 the workers voted unanimously to strike for union recognition. Before the strike had even begun, however, Detroit Chassis agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers as the workers’ bargaining representative.

Their hourly wages range from $9.50 to $11.50 and they get no paid holidays, vacations, sick time or health insurance. They had falsely been led to believe that once they got their foot in the door, there would be a path to permanent, full-time employment. Now, with a union, that is finally happening.

Over the past decade, “real wages” — wages adjusted for inflation — have fallen nine times faster in the auto parts industry than in the economy as a whole. Now, one of every 10 autoworkers makes $9.60 an hour or less, according to a report by the National Employment Law Project. The census statistics do not include workers hired by temporary agencies, who are often at the bottom of the pay scale and receive no benefits. By forcing down wages while auto sales are at an all-time high, Ford and General Motors are making the biggest profits in their many decades of existence.

Unionizing the auto parts sector is critical to the UAW. Over 70 percent of this country’s autoworkers now make parts; only 30 percent actually assemble vehicles. Less than 30 percent of parts workers are unionized. Following organizing gains at Alabama and Michigan parts plants, winning recognition at Detroit Chassis is a huge and much-needed victory.
Students win gender-neutral bathroom

By Teresa Gutierrez

Transgender and queer students at a high school here scored a victory for the entire lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, and queer communities and the working-class students at a high school here when they won the right to have the first gender-neutral bathroom in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

For several months, the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at the Santee Education Complex in historic South Central LA has been organizing for a gender-neutral bathroom after trans* student Alonzo Hernandez, 16, faced problems when trying to go into the girls’ bathroom. Alonzo transitioned from female to male and said they* were uncomfortable going to the boys’ room since students and staff mainly recognized them as female. (The pronoun that some transgender people choose to be identified by is they/them.) Alonzo said they waited all day to use the bathroom because of the difficulties.

Santee Education Complex has a history of activism. Many of its teachers and staff are political and even revolutionaries. So it was no brainer for many of the staff to support trans* and queer students for the right to “pee in peace.”

When news came out that this LA high school would be the first school in history to let students of different genders use the same bathroom and that a sign would be hung saying “All-Gender Restroom,” right-wing homophobes mobilized. On April 19, these bigots and reactionaries protested outside the school and even attacked some of the students.

However, the students, teachers, and community were quick to respond and called a community demonstration in support of the GSA for the following day. One of the key organizations they called for support was Union Del Barrio, a community-based, revolutionary, grass-roots organization that takes up many working-class issues. Spokesperson Ron Gochez and militant work and expressed their firm solidarity with the GSA.”

Two meetings in Oakland this weekend kicked off the Bay Area Workers World Party presidential election campaign. The first meeting was a WW rally held April 16 at the Oakland Public Library. The second was a debate April 17 between the three candidates contending for presiden- tial ballot status on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. Monica Moorehead, the WWP presidential candidate, and John Parker, WWP California candidate for the U.S. Senate, spoke at both events.

Parker, also the Peace & Freedom Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, appointed as a question and answers session at the rally. Parker said, “Whether it’s police terror, like efforts in North Carolina, or Black and Brown communities, who are the most victimized by police terror, the ability to remove their police depart- ments and use those resources to enable community-organized self-policing and self-defense,” he stated.

The U.S. Senate candidate went on to explain, “Now I can say these things be- cause I am not a Democrat or a Republic- an. I am a communist.” I am running to amplify the demands of the people. I am not running to abolish capitalism. I am run- ning to abolish it.”

Monica Moorehead continued the theme of the candidates’ meeting by ex- posing the racist, terrorist nature of the capitalist system. She spoke about her early involvement in anti-racist strug- gles and how the fight continues today. Moorehead also tied in the struggle of immigrants against deportations and Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids with the over-riding fight against racist terror in the U.S. “These struggles are part of our larger fight to bring down the capitalist system. As revolutionary social- ists, we believe that this brutal capitalist system cannot be reformed. It must be abolished,” Moorehead stated.

Moorehead expressed her solidari- ty with the families who have lost their loved ones to police terror. She pointed to one of the mothers in the audience, and said, “I want to pay tribute to my sister Di- onne Smith, who is such an inspiration to all of us. Her son, Kevin, was murdered by the police in Stockton. She continues to fight for justice for her son and all victims of police terror.”

The following day, Moorehead joined two other presidential candidates, Gloria LaRiva, of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and candidate, at a debate sponsored by the Alameda County Peace and Freedom Party. All three candidates will also be on the June 7 primary ballot. Parker, who is also a leader of the Los Angeles branch of Workers World Party, gave an impassioned talk about the need to abolish the capitalist system. Moorehead presented the key points of the Workers World Party presidential cam- paign. As a leader of the Los Angeles branch of Workers World Party, Moorehead presented the key points of the Workers World Party presidential cam- paign. As a leader of the Los Angeles branch of Workers World Party, Moorehead presented the key points of the Workers World Party presidential cam- paign.

Long Live International Workers’ Day

Millions came out across the U.S. in organized protest of the extremely racist anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner Bill. That also marked the occasion of May Day. Bill includes a reduction of billions of dollars in corporate profits and sentenced to that bill to an early death, never to rise from again. It’s no surprise this historic action was carried out by the immigrant community, especially from Mexico and Central America, whose native countries have been raided by U.S. imperialism with “false trade” agreements that favor the financial
Long Live May Day!

May Day is a celebration of the worker class, a people’s movement, a people’s movement against capitalist exploitation — against racism, sexism and white supremacy. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices of workers before us — a time to reflect on the battles yet to be won. For example, in North Carolina, House Bill 2 is the exact kind of policy that seeks to divide the working class with anti-Lesbian, -Gay, -Bisexual, -Trans and -Queer discrimination. In Alabama, HB 56 seeks to marginalize the immigrant community, with the goal of paralyzing the entire working class of that state. Only through unified struggle, not elections, will these kinds of bigoted laws be defeated.

May Day is a reminder to all workers that solidarity is our best weapon, a reminder that every struggle is a worker’s struggle, including equal pay for equal work for women workers, the right to 145 an hour for low-wage workers as well as student-athletes, the right to a healthy planet and a permanent end of war and occupation.

Most importantly, May Day is an international call to abolish capitalism and replace it by a socialist system that will empower all workers regardless of nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, abilities, age and skills.

Notably, it was also Cinco de Mayo that led to the mass incarceration of Black youth begun that led to the U.S. jail more people than any other country in the world. The capitalist state sees this as the United Nations Immigration policy, despite the clamor for a national humane and just reform. Democrats allowed Republicans, especially the Tea Party, to create a state of Washington.

No proposed legislation ever granted legalization to the over 12 million undocumented people, despite workers having earned it a hundred times over. No proposed legislation ever recognized the root cause of migration — U.S. government foreign and economic policies — that forced workers to leave their homelands in the first place.

The courts, out of sight

Today, a highly political juggling act is taking place in Washington. Immigrants are the objects thrown into the air. Immigration reform has been forced on the courts.

On April 18, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of United States v. Texas, otherwise known as the “DAPA/ DACA” (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans/Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) case.

At stake is the implementation of two parts of President Barack Obama’s November 2014 executive action, DAPA/DACA aimed to provide some administrative relief from deportation but is temporary and could be reversed by the next president.

This minor but important relief has been blocked by a heartless — and legally unsubstantiated — lawsuit initiated by Texas and 25 other states.

On April 20 a New York Times editorial described the current Supreme Court debate as “momentous” where “the lives of millions hang in the balance.” The Huffington Post said it was dubbed the “biggest immigration case of the century.”

Yet a decision is not expected until June. Where is the outcry by the Democratic Party when the Republicans have brought the guttering South Asian migrants to Florence, Ariz., as a staging ground for immigrant mass deportation. Many of the Muslim migrants from Bangladesh were participants in … hunger strikes at the end of 2015 … the last time detention to the prolonging, unjustified, and discriminatory detention of Muslim and South Asian migrants.

As candidates Trump and Cruz stir anti-Muslim sentiment … the Department of Homeland Security under the Obama administration is already racial profiling against Muslims, by holding detainees for indefinite … periods of time, setting unusually high bond amounts, and now preparing to deport Muslim detainees en masse to their potential deaths.

Lessons learned: Look to the youth

In 2006, at many of the massive demonstrations, workers brought the U.S. flag — in defiance, for protection, and for a real end to racism, extrajudicial and illegalized and “We are not criminals” were the main slogans.

In 2016, it has been demonstrated that the workers cannot count on Washington for any relief. In fact, it is Washington that puts them in harm’s way. They cannot count on the Democrats who, despite the good intentions of some, wear the complex shackles of the capitalist system that will rein them in every time.

That is why, in this period, it is important to look to the youth. Black and Brown youth are especially upping the ante and are challenging and shutting down not only Trump events but challenging the Democrats as well. Black and Brown youth are taking it to the streets and realizing to it is they who have the power, not the elected officials.

Young adults are coming to protests demanding not legalization but LIBERATION. Revolutionary attempts are being made to unite the immigrant rights movement with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The masses can be confident that the next upheaval around the corner will be the base of an organization that can penetrate the heart of the state.

Immigrant workers are permanent members of the U.S. working class, de-pending on the attempts to expel them. As workers, they are the gravediggers of our oppressors.
John Parker, WWP candidate for U.S. Senate

On April 24, Workers World newspaper spoke with John Parker, the Workers World Party candidate for the U.S. Senate from the state of California, who is on a ballot in that state on the Peace and Freedom Party line.

Workers World: What do you expect to accomplish with your campaign for the U.S. Senate?

John Parker: I’m not expecting to win. Since the hundreds of millions of dollars that monopoly industries donate is only earmarked for the Democratic and Republican Party campaigns, our votes are “trumped” — pun intended — by the dollars of the ruling class. And, that’s one of the reasons for this Senate campaign: to expose how undemocratic the capitalist system is. Whatever democracy exists is reserved for the ruling class, who decide the priorities of society, the distribution of wealth in society and the level of repression necessary to maintain an unjust society.

I live in working-class south central Los Angeles, a community mainly consisting of Black and Brown people. On my block there was a Ralphs supermarket, which is a large grocery chain. A corporate decision replaced large grocery chains with smaller stores. CVS Pharmacy replaced Ralphs and now I’m paying almost twice what I used to pay and have an inferior selection of groceries. Our community had no say in that decision, just like the people of Flint had no say in whether GM would be allowed to contaminate the water children would be drinking with lead.

WW: What are the issues you are raising regarding police killings?

JP: Our campaign has joined nationally and locally to join a call to end police killings and all failures to prosecute killer cops. We will also build solidarity between all sectors of the working class, to turn the levies like Black Lives Matter.

The Los Angeles Times reported in February that in six southern California counties there has been a police shooting every other day since 2004. The prima - ry targets of this police terror are Black and brown people. Plus many Mexicans and Central Americans have been hunted down and killed by racist vigilantes or the Border Patrol.

The criminal justice system in fact encourages murder by law enforcement by refusing to prosecute, especially in the six southern counties of California. Even former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti said the near certainty that local prosecutors won’t file charges against cops means it is time to take the decision out of their hands and give it to the state attorney general.

By the way, my main opponent in this Senate race is Attorney General Kamala Harris, in the Democratic Party, who opposed a bill like the one Garcetti proposed. Harris has done absolutely nothing to stop the engulfing this genocide in California. Politicians like Harris want to maintain their career path in politics, so they had better not start challenging the tools of oppression — like the cops, ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and the private, for-profit prisons that warehouse especially Black and Brown youth.

I’m neither Democrat or Republican, I’m a communist, so I don’t have to worry about losing the funding of the ruling class — and my career path is towards revolution, not the White House.

WW: How will your campaign relate to building community in California?

JP: Like Workers World Party’s national campaign, my efforts here in California will be to build connections and roundups nationwide and to support full rights for all immigrants, including Muslim immigrants.

People should first understand that it is the imperialist economic wars — especially by the U.S. — creating unfair trade policies that destroy the livelihoods of peasants and workers in other countries, that drive people to emigrate from their countries. For example, the NAFTA agreement drove millions of cocaine producers and working-class people out of Mexico and Central America.

A recent study found that the Border Patrol is allowed to get away with murder and an alarming number are engaged in criminal collusion with drug cartels. With the use of1000Camp defended those committed than those committed by police terror. The Mexican and Central American immigrants face murder when attempting to cross the border and here they face the daily fear of deportation.

Then there are the imperialist wars and proxy wars like the 2000 coup in Honduras that the Obama administration orchestrated, replacing an elected government with a pro-U.S. military regime and making Honduras one of the most dangerous places in the world. Parents send their children alone to this country in order to save their lives. In California, Filipinos are the second largest immigrant community, and, likewise, they are forced to work here and endure the racism, discrimination and police terror.

This repression is a reflection of the world capitalist crisis of overproduction that makes for even more severe imperialist wars. Like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, along with austerity and the squeezing out of workers’ social services. Austerity is a common demand of the masses all over the world that would represent the same multinational monopolies that have destroyed predominately Black cities like Detroit and Flint, Michigan.

The immigrant workers’ struggle, therefore, is a reflection of the economic and military violence by U.S. imperialism around the world that makes the building of working-class unity and solidarity essential.

WW: How do you stand on U.S. foreign policy?

JP: All imperialist wars are for the purpose of enriching the ruling classes. They are never in the interests of working people. The trillions of dollars that go towards enriching the military-industrial complex players like Raytheon, Lockheed, Boeing, etc., are directly taken from the monies that would go towards health and human services.

We must support the national liberation struggles, especially against U.S. imperialism. We stand in solidarity with those fighting the drones and endless war, we must be in solidarity with the LGBTQ communities here fighting for basic respect and equality, we must be for the Palestinian fighting U.S.-supported Israeli apartheid.

Philadelphia

‘Don’t vote for Hillary — she’s killing Black people’

By Betsey Piette

Members of the Racial, Economic and Legal Justice Coalition and Black Lives Matter disrupted a Hillary Clinton campaign event here, chanting, “Don’t vote for Hillary! She’s killing Black people!” seven minutes into her speech at the Fillmore Theater on April 20.

The R.E.A.L. Justice Coalition demonstrated solidarity and asserted that the criminal justice system is “riddled with racism” and “should be abolished.” Members of the coalition will, “directly confront the candidates and their policies as part of an effort to mobilize the community and build support for a strong, mass movement against the criminal justice system,” coalition spokesperson Malachi told neighbors.

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The video of the demonstrators’ April 7 confrontation with Bill Clinton in Philadelphia about his administration’s racist agenda has been widely viewed. (tinyurl.com/b7jvqbo) Hillary Clinton tried to deflect the confrontation by attacking the victims who were wrongly convicted or who were wrongly targeted by the government with a pro-U.S. military response orchestrated, replacing an elected president by an imperialist government.

“If you look at her criminal justice platform, there is nothing but promises,” said Imani Henry, who is running for the U.S. Senate in California.

Henry called out Clinton’s opportunism. “Her racial justice platform, if you look at her crime bill — the president has the power to pardon any federal prisoner. If you look at her background, if you look at her career path as attorney general, as secretary of state under Obama, her campaign against Barrett Obama in 2008 she had to a lot to say about Black people and ‘it wasn’t pretty.’”

Deandra Price, a Temple University student and R.E.A.L. Justice Coalition member, blocked from entering the Fillmore, was told to “go out and be a guest” on Clinton’s list. Price called Hillary Clinton’s brand of feminism “opportunistic and only for white women.”

Other speakers addressed Hillary Clinton’s reactionary and murderous ten-year tenure as secretary of state under Obama.

Transgender youth organizer Shanae Akilah, of Haitian descent, challenged the Clinton’s use of the earthquake disaster in Haiti in 2010 to set up their neoliberal agenda. “You cannot continue to colonize us,” Akilah stated. “It’s a new day.”

Scott Williams, with Workers World Party, called out Clinton for her role in the destruction of Libya in 2011 and support for the right-wing coup d’état in Hondura s in 2009. “We are putting Clinton and the D.A.R.E. program that there will be tests every day during their convention in Philadelphia starting July 24.”

By Monica Moorehead

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination

LeiLani Dowell • Black Youth: Repression & Resistance

Sam Marcy • Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation

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Available at all major online booksellers.
Solidarity still needed to break blockade of Cuba

By Carl Lewis
Washington, D.C.

A forum at the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clark School of Law, entitled “Through Cuban Eyes,” discussed the blockade and current status of U.S.-Cuba relations, and what solidarity activists can do to fully normalize relations between the two countries. This April 22 event concluded the 2016 Days of Action Against the Blockade of Cuba in Washington, D.C., which took place starting April 18.

Keynote speaker, Cuban Ambassador José Ramón Cabanas Rodríguez, stressed the need for solidarity: “In order to create the vision of the future, we all need solidarity.” Cuba is mourning the three Cuban physicians killed in Ecuador’s earthquake, but will not withdraw aid, but instead send even more doctors and other humanitarian help.

The earthquake killed more than 600 people and injured thousands in Ecuador. “For those who have doubts about the need for solidarity, we have to see what is happening around us,” Cabanas continued. “And in those first world countries, most of the problems are fixed from an economic point of view. You have those who own a lot and those who have no resources for a decent life. With those people we need to create solidarity.”

“Cubans of the last three or four generations have been born and educated with the principle that we have to show solidarity everywhere, because we have received a lot of solidarity from you, from many countries and many societies.”

“One thing I want to emphasize, the blockade is still in place. … The core issue is still there. Large regulations and limits have to be overcome if we really want to have a normal relationship with the United States. … The sanction regime from 1962 and what the Helms-Burton law established — by the way, 30 years ago this year — is still there.”

Solidarity with Cuba and in Cuba

Among the forum panels were Venceremos Brigade representative Jennifer Bryant and Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization Executive Director Gail Walker. Their organizations, as well as the Institute for Policy Studies, and the National Network on Cuba carried out grassroots activities and advocacy on Capitol Hill; they also held informational forums at American University and the University of the District of Columbia. The 2016 Days of Action was initiated by the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, Alicia Japko moderated the concluding forum.

Others on the panel were attorney José Pertieri, noted author Stephen Kimber and two U.S. graduates from Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM): Vanessa Avila and Alicia Steele. Both Latina doctors expressed their admiration and gratitude for the opportunity to become medical doctors, which they otherwise could not have afforded in the class-based elite U.S. medical schools. They emphasized Cuba’s holistic approach to medical practice, which emphasizes prevention and education as well as the mental, physical and social aspects of patient care.

As if to underline what the ambassador said of the unfinished normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations, only one of five Cuban speakers invited to the Days of Action — journalism student Jorge ‘Oscar is our Nelson Mandela!’

By Anne Pruden
New York

Thirty-four Latinas who gathered in New York City’s Union Square Park carried signs reading: “Oscar is our Nelson Mandela!” and “Jorgito” — received a U.S. visa in time to participate in Washington on April 22, after missing earlier events in New York. A documentary film, “The Power of the Weak,” by German filmmaker Tobi Jerez, who was born with severe cerebral palsy in 1993, at the height of Cuba’s Special Period, when Cuba lost its economic and trade aid following the collapse of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European socialist countries.

In short, the film emphasizes how a society built on socialization can provide health care and education free for all Cuban citizens. Such was the life of Jorgito, who is now a self-sufficient journalist in Cuba. His presentation and moving testimony at the forum illustrated the support Cuba provides for people with disabilities. Jorgito concluded his presentation, without reservation and with a strong note of conviction: “Without Cuba and its history, I wouldn’t be Jorgito.”

A full report and extensive photos of the 2016 Days of Action to end the blockade of Cuba will be posted at the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, coordinated the 2016 Days of Action.

A year later, López Rivera was arrested and became a co-defendant. He also faced charges of weapons possession. But López Rivera was actually punished for fighting for his beliefs and for the freedom of his country. He was never accused of hurting anyone or participating in violent crime.

Of his 34 years imprisonment, and his many years of resistance, López Rivera says: “The U.S. government categorically denies it has political prisoners in its gulags. … It uses the denial as its license to deny the most basic human rights by subjecting us to isolation and sensory deprivation regiments that are nothing less than cruel and unusual punishment. “It uses it to hoodwink its own citizens to believe that it doesn’t criminalize dissenters or opponents of its wars and other imperialist practices … to disconnect us from our families, communities, supporters and the just and noble causes we served and try to continue serving.”

重要作用 of the International Day of Solidarity with Oscar López Rivera, led to a Nobel Peace Prize win for 1995, Archibishop Desmond Tutu, former President Jimmy Carter, the United Methodist Church, the Catholic Archbishop of San Juan, New York state politicians, Puerto Rico’s Gov. Alejandro García Padilla, popstar Ricky Martin and international human rights coalitions.

Important follow up plans include the International Day of Solidarity with Oscar López Rivera on June 20, when activists from 35 countries will demand his freedom at the United Nations. Everyone is invited to join with freedom fighters for this event. Come to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza for a rally from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, email info@ObamaFreeOscarc.org.
The heart-stabbing news about Mexico reported in the U.S. media is written with an appropriate tone of shock and horror. A special international investigative team attempted to uncover what happened to the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa that has reported that its investigation was stonewalled by both local and national authorities.

Information about the murderous police assault on the students — simply because they tried to communicate the local buses to attend an event, something that had become an annual “prank” — was covered up at every level, says the team. Despite the cover-up, a few bodies have been discovered, and their mutilation is sickening to the core, revealing a sadistic brutality that numbs the mind.

But what is left out of all the reporting in this country? The same basic facts that are left unsaid when dealing with the desperate mass emigration that has been going on for years now from Mexico and Central America.

The trade agreement imposed on Mexico by U.S. big business, called NAFTA, has ruined the small farmers who used to be able to survive on what they could grow. They could not compete with U.S. agribusiness, which has taken over the market and the land. The resulting desperation funded the drug trade and the violence that it breeds. The state itself became part of the instrument of “protection” for what it calls illegal but which it feeds on. The customers for the drugs are, of course, largely in the United States.

A people’s investigation into Ayotzinapa cannot leave out the monstrous crimes of U.S. imperialism toward the Mexican people.

Low-Wage Capitalism describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.

The United Nations Antiwar Coalition is sending a delegation of U.S.-based anti-war and human rights activists to Odessa to join other international groups participating in the memorial. UNAC is also appealing to people to contact their elected officials, along with local and national media, and demand they pay attention to what is happening in Odessa.

A statement issued by UNAC supporting the memorial and calling for a United Nations investigation of the 2014 events reveals: “A memorial will be held in Odessa, Ukraine, to honor the memory of scores of pro-democracy activists who were brutally murdered on that date in Odessa two years ago.”

“Hero City” Odessa is one of the “Hero Cities” of the former Soviet Union, honored for the civic resistance of its people during the World War II. Hitler’s modern-day successors have viciously attacked such commemorations, have threatened the organizers and vowed to prevent the memorial from taking place.

Behind them, the Ukrainian government headed by President Petro Poroshenko and Odessa Regional Governor Mikhael Saakashvili — a U.S. stooge and former president of the republic of Georgia, on the run from corruption and war crime charges in his own country — are mobilizing police and the fascist-dominated National Guard from all over Ukraine to “maintain order” in Odessa. (Timor-Odessa.net, April 19)

Hero City under siege

Odessa is one of the “Hero Cities” of the former Soviet Union, honored for the part its residents played in resisting Nazi occupation during World War II.

Hilder’s modern-day successors have special hatred for this city. Like many major seaports, Odessa has long been a battlefield for inclusion in a multinational city. That was reinforced through decades of socialist development when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.

It’s no surprise, then, that the forces behind Ukraine’s 2014 coup single out Odessa residents for abuse. And yet, the people of this Hero City keep rising up.

On Jan. 28, when the Security Services of Ukraine (SBU, the Ukrainian FBI) and anti-Nazis targeted a memorial event on the Kulikovo Field where their loved ones died.

Delegations from several countries plan to monitor and support the event, including deputies of the European Parliament and activists from the U.S.-based United National Antiwar Coalition.

Neonazi groups like Right Sector, Svoboda, Autonoma and Maidan Self-Defense, which routinely and violently attack such commemorations, have threatened the organizers and vowed to prevent the memorial from taking place.

Our city, our state, our country is bursting at the seams. After years of neglect and repression, we have a new government that is working to protect the people. We are left unsaid when dealing with the desperate mass emigration that has been going on for years now from Mexico and Central America.

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Capitalism at a Dead End

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

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, visit www.LowWageCapitalism.com. Available at all major online booksellers.
Day of infamy in Dhaka, Bangladesh

By Kathy Durkin

April 24 is a day of infamy for the global garment industry. On that day in 2013, the Rana Plaza complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh, housing five clothing factories, came crashing down. At least 1,138 workers were killed and over 2,000 injured. This year, the 11th year since the disaster, workers and victims’ families protested at the site of the disaster on its anniversary. They, together with union organizers, called on Bangladesh’s government to close all dangerous factories and put on trial all those responsible for the catastrophe.

Union leader Abul Hossain stressed: “These three years have passed and still we don’t see any justice. No one has been held to account for one of history’s worst man-made disasters.” (NPR, April 24)

Alarmed workers had warned of massi- cne cracks in the building’s façade but were threatened with losing wages and their jobs if they didn’t return to work. Bangladesh’s courts took two years to charge the building’s owner and 40 others with murder — but 16 are out on bail and 24 have been bailed. No further steps towards justice are in sight.

Left off the hook altogether are the global brands that made a fortune from selling garments produced in Bangladesh while paying low production costs. The country’s 4 million textile workers, mostly women, are paid $2 to $3 a day. A month. Worldwide sales enhance the profits of the biggest clothing brands. Corporations search the globe looking for areas where they can maximize profits by paying the lowest wages. In this race to the bottom, factory owners offer the cheapest production costs, deny workers’ rights, ignore safety and repress organi- zation, all to meet transnational compa- nies’ demands.

The Rana Plaza tragedy focused world attention on the exploitative, dangerous conditions under which Bangladesh garment workers toil. It revealed the cruelty of capitalist globalization: Profits rule, and the lives of the workers, who create all the wealth, are expendable.

International outrage brought about demands for safety measures in the plants and compensation for victims and families. Inspections have found over 100,000 hazards and many unsafe plants, but owners are stalling on making repairs or even installing fire exits.

Financial compensation has been woefully inadequate for workers so dis- abled they cannot work again and for families of deceased workers. Paltry contributions from global companies don’t even make a dent in imperialist super-profits.

Moreover, despite making modest pay- outs and agreeing to a few safety mea- sures in order to appear “ethical,” the global brands have not fundamentally changed how they function. They keep exploiting these workers and raking in megaprofits without missing a beat.

The European Union, the United States, Canada and the Bangladesh gov- ernment all claim they want to improve labor rights and factory safety, but have not agreed to any mandates. They uphold capitalist globalization, but just want to make it appear fairer.

Build solidarity! Garment workers say factory condi- tions are “cruel, humiliating, unsanitary and exploitative.” Wages are delayed and so low they can’t cover daily meals. Work- days are often 14 to 16 hours long, with workers forced into work until 3 a.m. Six-day workweeks are usual. Verbal, sexual and physical abuse is rampant.

Fighters for workers’ rights and union- ization are harassed, beaten and fired.

Western brands and local bosses ex- pect Bangladesh’s government to keep the workers in line, without union inter- ference. Abuse of organizers goes on un- punished. The murderers of union leader Anisul Islam are still at large, four years after his death.

But government officials, plant owners and global brands cannot stop the class struggle and the workers rising up from winning allies worldwide. Bangladesh garment workers keep fighting back. They need activists in the U.S. and Eu- rope to demonstrate against the decision. They need activists in the U.S. and Eu- rope to demonstrate against the decision. They need activists in the U.S. and Eu- rope to demonstrate against the decision. They need activists in the U.S. and Eu- rope to demonstrate against the decision.

Egypt's gift of islands to Saudi Arabia

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

During the week of April 11, it was re- vealed that the Egyptian government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is propos- ing to hand over the strategic islands of Tiran and Sanafir to Saudi Arabia. These islands have been under Egyptian admin- istrative control since 1957, just two years after the founding of the state of Israel.

This Egyptian decision indicates that the existing foreign policy imperatives of Washington, Wall Street and the military-industrial complex are pushing the Egyptian state. In a nationally televised speech on April 11, al-Sisi announced that Egypt had been consulted before the decision. “Egypt has cooperated with Israel and the regional states of the Gulf Cooperation Council leadership in the year-long war against the people of Yemen. This war has resulted in the deaths of at least 10,000 people and the displacement of millions of others. This decision on the islands, which is subject to approval by the Egyptian parliament, has generated much debate in Egypt, Syria and Jordan, was prompted in part due to the President Gamal Abdel Nasser government’s exercise of sover- eignty. Egypt had blockaded the Straits of Tiran, preventing Israeli shipping from passing through the Gulf of Aqaba beginning on May 23, 1962. Tel Aviv later launched an attack against Egypt, which was backed by the U.S. administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In a speech to soldiers at an advanced Air Force headquarters in Sinai, Pres- ident Nasser said that if any ships flying Israeli flags or transporting strategic ma- terials would be forbidden to pass in and out of the Gulf past Sharm El Sheikh at the mouth of the Gulf. One week earlier on May 16, 1967, Nasser ordered the re- moval of the first United Nations Emerg- ency Force from the Sinai.

The UNEF had been established in the aftermath of the Suez crisis of 1956, when the Egyptian government had national- ized the canal, sparking the intervention of Britain, France and Israel in a failed effort to overthrow Nasser.

After the death of Nasser in 1970, an- other war was fought in October 1973. Egypt under President Anwar Sadat moved in the Sinai to reclaim land that Israel had seized in 1967. In the after- math of the 1973 war, another UNEF was deployed from October 1973 to July 1979. During this period, Egypt and Syria’s governments supported the liberation of Palestine and the defense of regional states from Israeli aggression. The Sovi- et Union supported Egypt politically and militarily in both the 1967 and 1973 wars, while the U.S. backed Israel.

Egypt dependent on Saudi Arabia and U.S.

Today, Egypt’s military-turned-civil- ian regime is largely dependent upon economic and political support from Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Washington supplies at least $8.3 billion in direct aid to the Egyptian government every year, along with military equipment, advisors and intelligence sharing.

A popular uprising in 2011 removed President Hosni Mubarak, who was Sadat’s successor after the latter’s 1981 assassina- tion. Three subsequent Egyptian govern- ments have continued their reliance on assistance from Washington and its allies in the region, including the state of Israel.

Saudi Arabia has facilitated U.S. dom- inance in the area by providing loans to Egypt. According to an article published by Bloomberg on Jan. 10, 2016, “Egypt agreed to provide Egypt with more than $8 billion in loans and grants to help its oil-starved economy. ... The loans are on favorable terms.”

Gaza: Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WP, edited by Joyce Chiedi

Here is the story of the most heroic resistance from 1948 to 1974, the year in which 1968’s Yom Kippur War shocked the world. The book presents testimonies of fighters, activists and scholars... — Rachel Clark

gazeresistancebook.com

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