May Day in Puerto Rico
Mass marches combat austerity & privatization

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

On May Day, the extreme political devastation in the Puerto Rican archipelago was clearly shown. The lines of combat were drawn. The interests that the administration of Gov. Ricardo Roselló — and those of his predecessors from the Popular and the New Progressive parties — have sought to disguise became evident. The face of the colony — which is at the mercy of the empire’s interests — was cruelly exposed.

National strike a success!

In the early morning on May 1, a typical workday in Puerto Rico, the streets of San Juan were deserted. Plaza Las Americas, the most important commercial center of the metropolitan area, was closed down. So were the businesses and banks in the Golden Mile, the financial center. The deserted streets verified that the national strike was a resounding success.

Then thousands of Puerto Ricans converged throughout the morning on the Golden Mile from feeder marches in response to the call issued weeks before by United People against Sale and Privatization of Public Services.

People came from Culebra and Vieques. Students came and mothers, fathers, children, seniors — entire families — as well as teachers and members of labor unions, women’s groups and environmental communities. All sectors of the Puerto Rican population were united.

In the island’s southern and western areas, demonstrations were organized for those who could not travel to the metropolitan area.

Those who did not attend the demonstrations still followed the guidelines of the convening organizations: Do not go to work or to school; do not buy anything; do not make any bank transactions. In short, try to paralyze the economy for a day.

All-out police attack

All of the marches were spirited as well as orderly, with militant chants and music. However, some eyewitnesses re...

Continued on page 8

More May Day stories on pages 6-7.

Socialist for Senate

Immigrant crises

Strike school in the streets

Indigenous women and land

PART THREE

Marx@200

Workers World Party celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx on May 6 as today’s revolutionaries delivered dynamic talks. Then the crowd attending ‘Marx@200: Class Struggle in the Age of Trump’ applied Marx’s legacy to the working-class struggle by marching out into New York City streets to nearby New School. Students there were occupying the cafeteria and mobilizing support for workers under attack by the administration. See page 3 for related story.

Poor People’s Campaign

On International Workers’ Day, ILWU Local 10 held an eight-hour shutdown at the port of Oakland, continuing its 85-year history of progressive work actions.

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John Parker for U.S. Senate: Vote for Revolutionary Change

By Lyn Neeley

John Parker, longtime socialist and member of Workers World Party, announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate during a May 4 press conference in Los Angeles. Parker, who is running on the Peace and Freedom ticket, is an anti-imperialist, anti-war activist. He wants to end capitalism and replace it with a self-managed, self-defending, self-supporting and self-owning society, where real work is done to provide a vital industry from private to public ownership.

Parker’s campaign platform, detailed in campaign leaflets, includes demands to stop deportations and attacks on migrant workers. He is proposing an Oscar Grant bill to empower Black and Brown communities with the means to remove local police departments and to use the resources to enable community-organized self-police and self-defense. He supports the right to end white supremacy, sexism, misogyny, anti-LGBTQ violence and discrimination.

“Homelessness is on the rise in Los Angeles, ICE is creating terror in the migrant communities, and police continue to kill Black and Brown people with impunity. This is why we need revolutionary change,” said Parker.

Parker’s goals also include defending the military, ending U.S. imperialism and proxy wars, and using the trillions going to the Pentagon to fund jobs, homes, free health care and education, and to stop global warming. Donate to Parker’s campaign at Socialist4senate.org. For more information and to volunteer: facebook.com/parkerforsenate or call (323) 306-6240.

Endorsers of the John Parker campaign include Union del Barrio-LA; the California Green Party; Clancy Thomas, secretary treasurer of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10, retired; Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general; Cindy Sheehan, anti-capitalist peace activist whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004; the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front Front- LA (FMLN-LA); the Sandinista National Liberation Front Front- LA (FSLN-LA); Frank Dorrel, veteran and peace activist; and Chris Silvera, secretary treasurer, Teamsters Local 1008, and former chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We stand against 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 utterity, 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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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism, and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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Workers World

VOTE FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

Standing in front of the courthouse for the Central Judicial District of Los Angeles, Parker asserted: “This campaign is about not accepting the unacceptable, which includes the symbols of slavery and genocide. And it is why we are by this status of this war criminal, Columbus, who is guilty of genocide against Indigenous peoples, and why we stand here accompanied by anti-racist freedom fighter Taikjah Thompson.” (at left)

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Student-worker solidarity occupies The New School

Since May 1, there has been an ongoing occupation of the cafeteria at The New School in New York City. Students and workers there seized the cafeteria on May Day and have been holding it in protest of the university’s attempt to lay off 35 members of UNITE HERE Local 100. The school wants to replace these union workers — all of whom are Black and Brown workers — with nonunion or student workers or “rehire” the workers — with no health benefits or pension plans.

The New School is traditionally known as a left-leaning school, so the anti-worker administration’s plans have reverberated in the student body. The Communist Student Group organized the cafeteria occupation, with more than 50 multi-national and multigender students currently holding the space and asking for support at #OccupyTNS.

Students are demanding every cafeteria worker’s job be saved, at higher wages, along with benefits, pensions and tuition vouchers for workers and their families. Other demands include resignations of key New School management, worker-student control of the cafeteria management, and full reimbursement of workers’ wages withheld during the occupation.

The Student Employers at the New School-United Auto Workers (SENS-UAW) has declared a strike for May 8. Beginning at 10 a.m., a picket line is set for 63rd St. and Fifth Ave.

The union’s bargaining committee announced that teaching assistants, teaching fellows, research assistants, course assistants and tutors at The New School will stop performing their job duties that day. The union demands that the school administration guarantee workers’ economic needs. See more information at sensuaw.org/strike/.

SENS-UAW has also announced that the occupied cafeteria will begin to function as a strike kitchen on May 8. In addition to food and coffee, the cafeteria space will have general assembly meetings, committee reports, civil disobedience workshops, and training for street medics and demonstration marshals.

Rev. Pinkney convictions overturned!

By David Sole

On May 1, the Michigan Supreme Court unani-

mously overturned the conviction of former politi-

cal prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney. He served 30 months behind bars until his release in June 2017. Pinkney was framed on five felony counts for allegedly changing some dates on a recall petition in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Pinkney’s original trial in 2014 was remarkable for the lack of any witnesses or actual evidence against the community activist. The all-white jury was told that “you don’t need evidence to convict Edward Pinkney.” The prosecu-
tor, with the approval of the judge, intro-
duced Rev. Pinkney’s political activism, protected by the Constitution, in order to prejudice the jurors.

Pinkney’s walking a picket line, his in-

viting the Rev. Jesse Jackson to speak in Benton Harbor and his outspoken radio broadcasts were all allowed as “evidence” of his likelihood to commit forgery on recall petitions.

Jailed immediately after being sent-
tenced to 2.5 to 10 years in prison, since December 2014, for the next 30 months Pinkney was moved from prison to pris-

Harvard grad student workers unionize

In a Harvard Crimson interview on May Day, President Drew Faust said she would bargain with its new graduate stu-
dent union. This decision, affecting 5,000 graduate and undergraduate teaching and research assistants, comes after eligible students voted to unionize on April 18-19.

Now Harvard Graduate Student Union—United Auto Workers is soliciting nomi-

nations for its bargaining committee.

What is the plight of these students? In the past the university has unilater-

ally imposed hardships like increased teaching loads and inadequate medical coverage on top of health care rate hikes without any discussion. Now the graduate students can negotiate for improved ben-

efits and working conditions and help set the terms of their employment.

This stability will allow them to focus on research and teaching and also “build a stronger political voice beyond Har-

vard on issues that matter to us as acade-

mics.” (HSGS-UAW.org) This refers to the activism of other Harvard workers, like those who recently formed the TPS (temporary protected status) Coalition to force President Faust to protect rights of im/migrant workers. (WW, Feb. 5).

Remember Odessa, demand justice

By Workers World New York City bureau

On May 2, the fourth anniversary of the Odessa massacre in Ukraine, the Interna-
tional Action Center held a protest and me-

morial outside the U.S. Military Recruiting Center in New York’s Times Square.

Those attending took turns reading the names of activists who died in 2014 during evening rush hour. Kayla Popuchet of the IAC denounced U.S. support for the “defendant was not properly charged for Pinkney and his supporters. It stated all convictions were quite technical, the prison warden and the Department of Correc-
tions with calls and letters demanding that steps be taken to insure his safety.

Pinkney was moved from prison to pris-

on. He spent much of his sentence in Marquette Branch Prison, about 500 miles from his spouse and friends.

At the isolated Marquette facility, Rev. Pinkney’s life was threatened by racist guards. A national campaign was carried out to deplete Michigan’s governor, the prison

A rally against fascist attacks in Odessa and in the U.S.—outside the U.S. Military Recruiting Center in New York’s Times Square, May 2, representing the United National Antifascist Coalition, explained how the families of Odessa massacre victims continue to be persecuted by Ukrainian authorities and right-wing goons. She said May 2 actions throughout the world were honoring the fallen anti-fascists and demanding pro-
tection for their families.

Popuchet read a statement from Alex-

ey Albu, a survivor of the massacre and coordinator of the banned Marxist or-

ginization Borshch: “We declare that we remember every deceased defender of the city and do not intend to forgive those re-

ponsibility.

“Four years have passed of brainwash-

ing, imposing alien ideological values on our children, disfiguring the city with

Continued on page 5

Remembrance of the victims of fascist crimes in Odessa.

1940s.

aining the government of Ukraine, then mur-

dered 48 anti-fascists in Odessa. Actually, we believe many more died,” she said.

Taryn Fivik of Workers World Par-
ty recalled: “I cried when I heard about what happened four years ago in Odessa. I didn’t imagine then that a few years lat-

er the city and do not intend to forgive those re-

ponsibility.

“Four years have passed of brainwash-

ing, imposing alien ideological values on our children, disfiguring the city with
New era of struggle

By John Steffin

Teaching and research assistants at Columbia University went on strike April 24, demanding the university recognize them as workers. The Graduate Workers Union. This was the first strike authorized by the GWU since it formed in 2004, and its battle for strike vote, taken earlier in April, passed with an overwhelming 1,832 to 130 majority.

The GWU planned to strike during the last week of classes, April 24-30. While the Columbia administration has not yet capitulated to its demands, next steps for recognition and a decent contract are already underway.

Class struggle at Columbia

That a strike happened at Columbia is no small victory. Contrary to its reputation as a progressive institution, Columbia is a private university managed for profit by a board of trustees comprised of real estate tycoons, banking directors, hedge fund managers, venture capitalists and their lapdogs on campus.

This rogue’s gallery of the ruling class no longer runs Columbia in the interest of its workers. Not for the last 15 years in office has Columbia president Lee Bollinger sat down with any campus unions, which include United Auto Workers Local 2110, 1199SEIU and Transit Workers Union Local 241.

Ruled by Bollinger and his bourgeois board of trustees, Columbia has waged a silent war on unions by eliminating unionized positions as workers quit or retire. This has reduced the number of unionized positions by the hundreds and weakened union power on campus.

Despite these conditions, over the last several months events on campus and across the country have created momentum for workers’ rights at Columbia, reaching a boiling point with the GWU strike. The director of graduate and professional student services at Columbia, John Rasmussen, said that when, after three years of legal delays, Columbia officially announced it would not recognize the Graduate Union and walked out on mediation, teaching and research assistants as workers.

The university claimed its main concern is “training scholars” and that bringing in a third party like the UAW will reduce the relationship between graduate workers and faculty to “ordinary terms of employment.”

Columbia’s argument is weak, and teaching and research assistants’ labor is vital to the functioning of the school. They perform research that shapes the curriculum and teach classes to undergraduates whose tuition is the financial bread-and-butter of the university.

The struggle for recognition as workers is one of the unique aspects of GWU’s struggle. The significance of a slogan like “Graduate Students are not ‘students’” in raising class consciousness on Columbia’s campus cannot be overstated.

Union busting by the university

As Columbia was maneuvering to destroy the GWU, it was also waging another battle against another union on campus.

For two years, 1199SEIU has struggled with Columbia to get eight medical assistants included in its contract. Over the course of 31 bargaining meetings, 1199SEIU fought to ensure the quality of the contract for these workers — including lowering pay, slashing health care and eliminating provisions that provide protection against sexual harassment in the workplace.

In February, the Columbia University College Republicans invited Mark Mix, president of the National Right to Work Foundation, to speak. Mix and his foundation are responsible for much of the union-busting legislation that has harred the U.S. in recent years. They are key players in the Janus versus American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees case currently being heard by the Supreme Court.

Mix was set to speak on campus just before the first oral arguments were heard. 1199SEIU and UAW Local 2110 took this as an opportunity to connect their struggle against union busting. They organized a protest against Mix, the first joint action by unions on campuses in years. (WW, Feb. 22) The contracts of the UAW and SEIU Local 2110 that the National Right to Work Foundation had actually submitted an amicus brief on behalf of Columbia in its attempt to crush their union. That connection cut through Columbia’s façade of progressive liberalism and revealed its reactionary core.

As the struggle at Columbia developed, there was a surge of working-class resistance across the country — from the Working People’s Day of Action in February to the wave of teachers’ strikes rippling out from West Virginia to Oklahoma, Arizona, and including Puerto Rico.

Conditions for a strike at Columbia University were ripe.

Days of the strike

Almost immediately after the Graduate Workers’ mid-April strike vote, the university administration tried to rally the community against the workers. In an email, the university argued that unionizing would force rank-and-file members to pay dues to an organization — like the UAW — whose positions they may not all agree with.

This is the argument being made against unions in Janus v. AFSCME and was a clear example of the National Right to Work Foundation’s role in helping Columbia fight the GWU.

The email also drew on the age-old bosses’ argument that workers are greedy, claiming graduate workers already receive $82,000 a year in “tuition and other benefits” — as if tuition pays the rent. In reality, teaching assistants receive far less in pay sometimes as low as $18,000 a year.

The administration also pointed to the Trump administration’s recent reversal of a 2016 National Labor Relations Board decision to recognize graduate students as workers — as if that added legitimacy to its argument.

Despite this hostile move, a large swath of the community was able to avoid the slan- der and joined the picket line throughout the strike. Solidarity came from campus unions, including 1199SEIU and the UAW, as well as Barnard Contingent Faculty (UAW Local 2120), as well as from workers and unions such as Communications Workers Local 1104 and several building trade laborers working on campus. Teamsters Joint Council 49 refused to deliver packages to the university during the strike.

GWU won the support of Columbia students by raising the struggles against racism and sexual assault that have seen militant battles during the last year. In October 2017, protesting students shut down two white supremacist scheduled to speak on campus. Shortly before the GWU strike, students occupied a building demanding more support for survivors of sexual assault.

Representatives from these struggles spoke at pro-union rallies of hundreds of striking graduate workers. The community effort in the GWU strike resembled the solidarity seen in other education strikes.

The struggle continues

During the strike week, attempts were made to extend or deepen the strike. Some graduate workers set up tents and tried to start an occupation on campus on April 24, but it lacked rank-and-file support and the administration swiftly shut it down. However, as the end of the strike drew near with no bargaining with the administration in sight, support for extending the struggle grew.

A petition circulated calling for an indefinite extension of the strike until a contract was won. By April 30, it had 690 signatures. On May 1, the GWU joined Workers World and a coalition of immigrant and migrant workers’ groups celebrating May Day in Union Square.

The contracts of the UAW and SEIU campus locals are up at the end of 2018. It remains to be seen what the impact of the GWU strike will be on their negotiations or on future labor actions on campuses.

Undoubtedly, the class solidarity that is being built here will provide the necessary infrastructure for greater victories to come.
First U.S. fast food union sizzles in Oregon

Workers at a Burgerville restaurant in Portland, Ore., won a momentous victory on April 23. With the National Labor Relations Board overseeing their election, they are now in the first federally recognized fast food union in U.S. history.

Burgerville is a regional chain owned by The Holland Inc. with over 42 restaurants in Oregon and Washington. (The Oregonian, April 23) Allied with the Industrial Workers of the World, the workers began their struggle in 2016 for better pay, healthier work conditions and union recognition. The company has constantly engaged in anti-union propaganda and retaliating against individual organizers, the Burgerville Workers Union was soon in action. But the company refused to negotiate without an NLRB election, even though six of the company’s 42 locations had publicly active unions and several in Portland held walkouts and three-day strikes in February. Then the NLRB agreed to the election, resulting in an 82 percent vote for unionization.

After the election, Burgerville’s senior vice president was forced to say the company would bargain in good faith. The week of April 16, workers at a second Burgerville location in Oregon filed for a federal election. Mark Medina, Burgerville worker and union leader, told the Oregonian: “A lot of us are poor, hungry and even homeless. [This will be] the beginning of the end to poverty wages.”

This is a landmark victory for all fast food workers and shows the impact of the Fight for $15 campaign that erupted in 2012. Poverty wages in a time where members of a union in 2017 — down from a peak of 8.8 community members, but labor unions came to show solidarity. They joined at the Capitol in Phoenix by students, parents and other Arizona unions show solidarity with #RedForEd

When Arizona teachers and other education workers began a statewide walkout April 26, they weren’t alone. Not only were Arizona unions showing solidarity with #RedForEd movement through social media, but national and international allies were also involved. Teachers. Playing perhaps an even more important role was the recently created Facebook group, Arizona Educators United, which started the #RedForEd movement through social media.

The strike was significant because Arizona has suffered from privatization of public education more than most U.S. states. In 1994, Arizona became one of the first to open for-profit charter schools. Very few charter schools are unionized, while most pay less than public schools and workers have very few to no benefits.

The state was also the first to create Empower Scholarship Accounts, prepaid savings plans that parents use for tuition at private, religious or charter schools. ESAs steal money from public school districts. West Virginia education workers were successful in defeating ESAs in their strike.

While the Arizona school workers’ action officially ended May 3, the results are complex. The #RedForEd walkout was a direct blow to the right-wing state government and forced huge concessions. As with West Virginia, the Arizona strike did unite teachers and other school workers, as well as students and parents.

But not all Arizona workers went back to school happy. It is hard to call the action a complete victory. Rank and file see only partial victory

On May 1 — International Workers’ Day — teachers marched both in Washington, D.C. and across the nation, demanding more funding, a pay raise next year, and an end to mass incarceration. The corporate media are falsely claiming that everyone is going to get a “two percent pay raise” because of how the money seems to be allotted. While right-wing legislators are upset, they now have to set aside $200 million for public schools. That figure is not comparable to state funding prior to 2008.

Many strikers strongly believe that if they had stayed out a little longer, as West Virginia school workers did, they could have gotten more of their demands met.

Gov. Doug Ducey and his corporate-controlled legislature did not want to give one penny to fund educators or public schools. Their contempt for school employees and the majority Latinx, Indigenous and Black student population is apparent in legislation they have pushed for the last three decades. Charter schools and vouchers have led to massive segregation of nationally oppressed students. Charter schools also discriminate against LGBTQ students and students with disabilities.

Though the strike may be a partial victory, education workers in Arizona and elsewhere are learning about the power they hold as workers. Teachers and support staff may go out again, especially if they do not get what was promised to them.

Remember Odessa

Continued from page 3

By Otis Grotewohl

Arizona education workers ended a six-day strike on May 3. The work stoppage involved more than 75,000 education workers throughout the state.

The arch-reactionary governor and Republican-led legislature were locked in a battle to pass a budget that will tentatively give some teachers a 10 percent raise next fall, though that could be lower if the overall budget total is distributed to all school workers. A 5 percent raise was promised in the next two years, but that will only happen if each legislative vote to include it in that year’s budget. Arizona public schools may receive a $200 million increase in funding.

Unions in the strike were the Arizona Educators Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Playing perhaps an even more important role was the recently created Facebook group, Arizona Educators United, which started the #RedForEd movement through social media.

The strike was significant because Arizona has suffered from privatization of public education more than most U.S. states. In 1994, Arizona became one of the first to open for-profit charter schools. Very few charter schools are unionized, while most pay less than public schools and workers have very few to no benefits.

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Though the strike may be a partial victory, education workers in Arizona and elsewhere are learning about the power they hold as workers. Teachers and support staff may go out again, especially if they do not get what was promised to them.
May Day — International Workers’ Day — is a time when workers show their strength, demand their rights and forge global solidarity. Its roots are in the 1886 struggle for the eight-hour day in Chicago. At this year’s U.S. marches and rallies, solidarity with im/migrants was key. Activists hailed the migrant caravan from Central America, which the Trump administration stopped at the U.S.-Mexico border. The White House has whipped up racist hostility to the families, mostly mothers and children, making it nearly impossible for them to enter the U.S. De- mands for im/migrant rights and an end to ICE assaults and deportations rang out loud and clear.

Another major theme was support for the growing wave of education worker walkouts demanding higher pay, collective bargaining rights and funding for public schools.

Many marches called for workplace safety, unionization and higher pay for all low-wage workers. They supported Black Lives Matter, opposed racist police vio- lence and called for an end to mass incarcer- ation and the school-to-prison pipeline. There were demands to end racist gentrifi- cation, evictions and utility shutoffs. Oth- ers also affirmed the rights of people with disabilities, women and LGBTQ people.

Global solidarity against U.S. imperial- ism was another focus. Marchers expressed support for the people of Puerto Rico and denounced repression in the Philippines.

Here are highlights of actions in which Workers World Party participated.

**NORTHEAST**

Hundreds of workers gathered in East Boston to fight for migrants’ and work- ers’ rights. They marched to Chelsea and were joined by contingents from local or- ganizations and then jointly marched to a rally in Everett. Signs and banners fo- cused on the connected struggles of un- documented im/migrants and the need to defend temporary protected status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arriv- als (DACA). They also demanded a living wage, workplace safety and unions.

May 1 rallies in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Durham, N.C., including the Durham Workers’ Assembly, WWP-Durham, Black Youth Project 100, DSA, IWW, United Electrical Workers Local 190, Durham Be- yond Policing and Comité Popular Sonnos Raleigh, gathered at the old Durham police station to demand a $15 hourly wage and unionization and an end to ICE raids, de- portations and police brutality.

The crowd of 200 marched to the jail downtown across from the Durham Per- forming Arts Center, where a musical about the service industry was taking place. Speakers told confused ticket hold- ers waiting in line what real workers’ struggles look like. Next, a march to a Mc- Donald’s downtown drew the connections among the bosses, police and jails.

**MIDWEST**

Rallies and a march took place in the Latinx community in Detroit’s southwest side. Participants rallied first at Clark Park and then marched through the neighbor- hood in support of im/migrant rights, civ- il rights, self-determination for oppressed peoples, Black and Brown unity, rights for disabled people, workers’ struggles for a living wage and other issues.

The closing rally at Clark Park called for a halt to all water shut-off, home foreclosures and evictions. Speakers expressed solidarity with workers and oppressed peoples worldwide. It was organized by a broad
cohort of forces, including the Montori- um NOW! Coalition, Michigan United, the Poor Peoples’ Campaign, Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association and others. — Abayomi Azikiwe

In Chicago, hundreds gathered at Hay- market Square where in 1886 police killed workers fighting for an eight-hour work- day. Speakers from labor unions, im/migrant rights groups, socialist organiza- tions and faith-based leaders demanded a living wage for all workers, an end to racist deportations and police murders. Everyone marched to Chicago’s Feder- al Building, the operations base for ICE, where speakers denounced the agency’s role in splitting up families, terrorizing communities and repressing im/migrant workers. Then religious leaders from pre- dominantly im/migrant communities be- gan the first leg of a planned walk from Chicago to Washington, D.C., to protest the repeal of DACA and deportation policies. — Andi Shihadeh

WWP had a robust presence this year in massive solidarity events in Waukesha, Wis., hosted by Youth Empowered in the Struggle and Voces de la Frontera. They protested the local sheriff’s plan to have his deputies start detaining im/migrants for ICE in June. — WWP Wisconsin bureau

SOME 500 people marched through the heart of Minneapolis to repudiate the racist imperialist system of the U.S. A co- alition of groups attended, including Min- nesota Immigrant Rights Action Com- mittee, IWW and union locals. The newly formed WWP Twin Cities branch carried a banner stressing that the workers’ strug- gle has no borders. Onlookers responded enthusiastically to protest slogans like “No Trump! NoKKK No racist USA!” — WW Twin Cities bureau

SOUTHWEST

May Day in Tucson, Ariz., was dedicat- ed to RedForEd. Thousands gathered in downtown’s Armory Park for a rally demanding increased funding for educa- tion. Speakers condemned the school-to- prison pipeline, state funding of prisons and the outrageous sums spent militariz- ing the border. They connected the teach- ers’ struggle to many other struggles for justice, including Black Lives Matter and supporting im/migrants against hostile federal and state agencies and policies. They also pointed out that any disruption to students caused by the teacher walkout is nothing compared to the disruption caused by the ever-present terror of ICE and Border Patrol agents, who cruise Tuc- son streets and daily tear families apart. The rally was followed by a spirited march through the streets of downtown Tucson. — Paul Teitelbaum

WEST COAST

In San Diego, 500 people gathered around the famous Aztec kiosk in historic Chicano Park for an evening rally where teachers, union organizers and other work- ers spoke about the history and impor- tance of May Day and the wave of teachers’ strikes that has hit the country. Chants of “I, se puede!” and “Shut it down!” rang out between speeches, led by Unión Del Barrio, initiator of the rally and march. — Rahui Suré Saldivar-Soto

Hundreds, mostly im/migrants, ral- lied at MacArthur Park in Los Angeles and then marched to City Hall, Unión del Barrio and anti-war and social justice or- ganizations initiated the demonstration. — Paul Teitelbaum

WWP organizer and Brazilian immi- grant Jefferson Azevedo was almost ar- rested. Security forces from Unión del Barrio, California for Progress and WWP had surrounded a Trump supporter who tried to get onto the stage-truck and who then attacked a woman member of Cali- fornia for Progress, as well as Azevedo. The police handcuffed Azevedo, but demo- nstrators surrounded him, chanting, “Let him go!” The cops finally removed the handcuffs but wouldn’t release him. Orga- nizers moved the truck across Wilshire Boulevard, one of the busiest traffic corri- dors in the U.S., and blocked this kidnap- ping. Within five minutes, Azevedo was freed and the march took the streets all the way to City Hall for a giant rally. — Scott Schefter

In a day highlighted by the unity of labor and im/migrant communities, over 1,000 people demanded, “No ban! No raids! No wall! Sanctuary for all!” “Stop police repression” and “Workers’ rights for all!” Actions began at the Port of Oakland, in California, where ILWU Local 10 held an eight-hour shutdown. Their members and community support- ers rallied at the Matson Terminal, then marched to Little Bobby Hutton Park. Speakers included actor Danny Glover; Oakland mayoral candidate Cat Brooks, Anti-Police-Terror Project; Se- guita Thompson, grandmother of Ste- phon Clark, killed by police; Yolanda Banks Reed, mother of Shaleem Tindle, slain by police; and Sagineh Salazar of the Oakland Sin Fronteras im/migrant May Day coalition. Producer Ryan Coogler’s video message was played. Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10 re- tiree, chanted: “Immigrant rights are workers’ rights and workers’ rights are immigrant rights!” Later a Sin Fronteras rally and march began at Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland. Large contingents from Bay Area im/migrant communities carried colorful banners showing diversity. The coalition’s unity statement emphasized that “we march in solidarity with working people across all borders fighting against economic and social inequality.” — Terri Kay
Continued from page 1

hour later the police lashed out furiously against the crowd, throwing tear gas and hitting people with their batons.

Multiple photos and video showed old eldery and young women with bloody heads, girls and boys who had been sprayed with pepper gas, and hundreds of police chasing youth to a residential area where they illegally invaded a house to arrest two students.

Several civil rights organizations are currently investigating the unconstitutional excessive presence of police and their actions — blocking routes, using chemical agents affecting children and the elderly, assaulting innocent people with rubber bullets, throwing pepper gas in residential areas, and arresting at least a dozen people without disclosing the location of where they were taken.

In the face of accusations of police violence, U.S. District Judge Gustavo Gelpi appointed a retired special agent to investigate the day’s events. Significantly, the Puerto Rican police force has been accused of recent abuse cases, and is currently undergoing a reform process conducted by the same judge.

Police entrapment has been part of the political history of Puerto Rico’s state against the independence movement. It evokes the massacre of Cerro Maravilla in 1978, when an undercover officer, under false premises, took two young independentistas to that site. In an ambush, police shot them.

Background to May Day events

The unsustainable crisis of a bankrupt colony that decadent capitalism seeks to restructure to satisfy its interests has provoked a resistance that is constantly showing signs of life — even though it has been wholly cohered. U.S. and local powers in Puerto Rico have prepared their repressive forces to stifle that resistance.

That is the reason why former FBI agente Oscar Pesquera has hired — with a yearly salary of $250,000 — as the leader of the new “National Security” umbrel-la in Puerto Rico. It includes police, fire, emergency and other agencies. Pesquera, who was totally ineffective in solving the civilian security crisis after the hurri cane, has orchestrated these repressive operations against the people.

The fiscal plans presented on April 19 by the Fiscal Control Board amounted to a declaration of war against the Puerto Rican people.

Wars have sides. The island’s people cannot be expected to silently and pas sively comply with the draconian mea sures imposed by the U.S. Congress under the PROMESA law and its Fiscal Control Board, which represents U.S. interests.

FCB President José Carrión warned: “The new proposed Fiscal Plans outline the pathway for the traumatic changes that Puerto Rico needs.” (Noticed, April 19) However, Sergio Marxuach, director of Public Policy at the Center for a New Economy, says, “The Plan seems to un derestimate the negative impact of the fiscal reform and overestimate the pos itive impact of the structural reforms.” (“The social cost of the Fiscal Plan,” 8ogrados.net)

‘Reforms’ = disaster for the Puerto Rican people

To carry out these reforms, the FCB presented fiscal plans for the government and agencies, including the Electric Power Authority, the Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, and the University of Puerto Rico. The board proposed a 5-year plan with an estimated increase of $4.2 billion in col lections and spending cuts of $9.9 billion.

Among the proposed measures are privatization of government agencies; closing schools and reducing payroll ex penses in education; decreasing the sub sidy to the University of Puerto Rico by more than $450 million; consolidating offices and eliminating police quar terheads; closing prisons and sending inmates to jail in the U.S.; and cutting economic transfers to municipalities by more than $775 million. There are many other mea sures, in addition to “consolidating” 114 agencies.

Crudely, the board would impose work requirements for poor people, including students, seniors and those with disabil ities, to obtain the Federal Assistance Pro gram benefits. For government workers, the FCB would eliminate Christmas bon uses, military pay increases and other awards.

For workers, the board’s actions would force: reduce paid days for vacation or illness; cut retirees’ pensions by at least 10 percent. Above all, the board seeks to reverse the negotiations.

The effects would be disastrous for the future of the Puerto Rican nation. Marxu ach’s article explains: “The six members of the Board that approved the Plan believe, despite all the evidence to the con trary, that Puerto Rico will become a neoliberal paradise. This is unlikely. It is more likely that we end up with an infer nal dystopia: with more social polariza tion, unemployment, extreme poverty, crime, corruption and greater violence; abuse of controlled substances and sui cides, and less schooling, life expectancy and social mobility.”

To the people of Puerto Rico, Rivera, professor at the Graduate School of Public Admin istration and former director of the Instit ute of Labor Relations of the University of Puerto Rico, analyzed aspects of the FCB plan in a May 2 article, “Institution al Violence as a Governmental Proposal.” (caridadpuertorico.com)

Referring to the proposed labor law that terminates collective bargaining, he wrote: “The systematic abandonment by the U.S. government of the traditional methods of collective conflict resolution, among them that of collective bargaining, is a call for the renewal of violence. If disputes between employers and workers can no longer be negotiated, then what remains is the confrontation of the parties in a conflict of difficult solution, violent, chaotic and endless.”

Additionally, Santiago Rivera stated: “Collective bargaining was understood as the appropriate means to permanently resolve the causes that caused the war between the parties. In the absence of this agreement, we enter a new global degradation today to a mere reference to the past: How exactly do we want to solve the labor and social problems that will arise?”

We marched on May 1, International Workers’ Day, to:
• Honor workers all over the globe and all workers to come out of the shadows.
• Celebrate workers’ myriad contribu tions to our lives.
• Unite in the struggle for our rights.
• Claim our right to freedom from op pression and exploitation.
• Declare that capital, austerity and misery must be banished forever, along with the racism, sexism and anti-LGBTIQ+ bigotry that the bosses use to divide us.
• Affirm the need for a revolutionary socialist future.

To work towards a better vision, then join Workers World newspaper in creating that future. Join us as we continue to build a strong, independent voice that speaks loud and clear, that the workers and oppressed are around the world. We need your financial support to grow the paper from a modest 12-page printed weekly edition, with daily web updates, into a robust paper with color photos, widespread national distr ibution and greater online capability.

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MAY DAY IN PUERTO RICO
Mass marches combat austerity & privatization

Hep A outbreak amid water shut offs

By Kris Balderas Hamel
Detroit

The ongoing fight to stop mass water shutoffs has stepped up with a series of “Solidarity Saturdays” protests at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department building.

Over 500,000 homes have had water services terminated since mass shutoffs started in 2014 during Detroit’s fed eral bankruptcy proceedings. In May the city began the process of shutting off wa- ter to another 17,000 residential properties. People throughout Detroit are demanding an immediate stop to the denial of water and sanitation to thousands of families.

A breakthrough of hepatitis A, spread by fecal-oral contamination, has hit Michi gan since August 2016. Public health officials say it is one of the largest outbreaks in the U.S. since a vaccine was developed 20 years ago.

From page 1

hated — and multiple videos played on social media showed — that police had to change agreed-upon routes and block free passage of the demonstrators. The police were hostile and insulted protest ers from the beginning to the end of the action. In fact, days before, the capitalist press had tried to instill fear and intimi dation among the population to prevent people from participating in the marches.

For weeks the police had complained that they had not been paid since Hurricane Maria and the authorities had aban doned them. They appealed to the people for solidarity and in large numbers called out sick with what’s known as the “blue flu.” While neglecting the wave of petty crimes, due to desperate conditions that plague the island, the police attended May Day in large numbers to fulfill their true role as agents of the state and pro tectors of the capitalists’ interests. More than 1,000 heavily armed agents were de ployed. Masked riot squads were present.

At the march’s end, police provocative ly and unjustifiably prevented the contin gent of the Promises Are Over Collective, composed mostly of youth, from passing the building that houses the Fiscal Con trol Board’s office, on their way to the main stage. Some protesters responded by throwing marbles and bottles. When Scot Barbés, the contingent’s leader, saw that the police were in attack formation, he began to negotiate with them. Officers promised to let the young people pass if they stopped throwing ob jects. The protesters complied — but an

Honor all workers in May! Build Workers World!

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Hep A outbreak amid water shutoffs

National march in Detroit against water shutoffs, June 2014.

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Indigenous women, the land vs. settler colonialism

This is Part 3 of a talk by Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, at an International Working Women’s Day forum on March 17 sponsored by the Boston branch of Workers World Party.

Some of you may have heard of an issue that affects indigenous women have been raising throughout North America, which is that of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirits. That issue was raised very strongly in Canada more than a dozen years ago. However, it has been the reality for Indigenous women throughout this hemisphere since the invaders first came, and it has been part of the long history of that here. Indigenous women and families have been trying to increase awareness of this issue by many means, ranging from campus awareness days to testifying at government hearings, to bringing information about this issue to women’s marches.

When talking about missing and murdered Indigenous women, I want to note that it is really hard to come up with enough statistics. Indigenous people are often not counted for many things. The state of Massachusetts, for instance, does not count high-speed death or many other things. There is no database of U.S. national statistics for missing and murdered Indigenous women, even though statistics are compiled for women of other races.

But I can give you some information: In the U.S., 84 percent of Native women experience sexual violence and at least 76 percent of Native women experience sexual violence. (I think that number is actually much higher in reality.) While the government and cops often say that this is due to the violence of Native men, in fact it is non-Natives who commit the vast majority of this violence.

In Canada, First Nations, Metis and Inuit women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than other women. Indigenous women there believe there are likely over 6,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, but do not have an exact number because there is still no national database. We do know that Indigenous women there are 4.3 percent of the population, but at least 16 percent of those murdered. In Manitoba, they are half of the murdered women.

The police often fail to investigate adequately. We believe that our people themselves are sometimes the culprits.

In the absence of proper investigations, families end up doing the best they can to search for and find missing family members, even dragging the Red River for bodies themselves. Many Indigenous youth in cities such as Winnipeg are at particular risk of violence because of the conditions of their being removed from their families and stuck into a dangerous and broken foster care system.

In 1976, it became clear that Mexican women in the Ciudad Juarez and El Paso area were being murdered in large numbers, many of them teens. The authorities did not care. Femicide — the killing of women — is a huge issue throughout the world. In 2012, an organization in Brazil called the National Indigenous Network said that over 5,000 women and girls are murdered and go unreported every year. It is about how to end gender violence. People who call for these solutions are not my leaders, and I don’t think they are your leaders either. We need to say that eradicating rape culture and organizing against gender violence does not need to mean fighting for more cops and prisons, because we know what the ramifications of that are. We need to point out the role of imperialism in gender violence worldwide and call bullshit on settler colonialist projects, which the U.S. say they are going to war to liberate women.

Decolonization I believe that ending settler colonialism as well as capitalism needs to be a key part of ending gender violence, too. Our bodies are our homes that we have a right to protect, just as we have every right to defend the land and water. To stop being commodified and exploited, we need more than reforms. We need to overthrow capitalism so that we and the Earth can stop being commodified in the pursuit of profits. I personally believe we need socialism as an economic system and that we also must decolonize from settler colonialism.

Anytime there has been a socialist revolution, one of the most important things that should happen is to begin to look at everything within the society, whether it is education, farming, child care, housing or health care — every aspect of society — and think about how people’s views and practices have been informed by the previous economic and social systems. There’s always been what should be an ongoing process of trying to change those things and clear out people’s minds from all the nonsense that capitalism has put into our brains. We need also to look at how every aspect of our lives has been influenced by settler colonialism.

Decolonization is already beginning to happen now for Indigenous peoples. It is about “resisting the forces of colonialism that perpetuate the subjugation and/or exploitation of our minds, bodies and lands. It is engaged for the ultimate purpose of overturning the colonial structure and realizing Indigenous liberations and the self-determination right to Indigenous peoples.” And, I would say, liberation for all of us, because all of us are poisoned by settler colonialism and capitalism. Every aspect of our lives and thought has been impacted.

Decolonization is something that Indigenous people are talking about a lot as the path to recovering ourselves, our land and escaping settler colonialism. It is about taking back our cultures and laws, minds and families, relationships with our lands and each other, and not collaborating with settler colonialism.

Fighting against gender violence including violence against trans and Two Spirit people is an important part of decolonization. Within our own communities, we have important work to do to bring Two Spirit people back into the center where they belong.

Ultimately, decolonization is going to lead to the return of control of the land to Indigenous peoples. It has to. You can’t have a revolution and not deal with the land question. The land question has priority. It’s also important to understand that different Indigenous nations may make different choices about what they choose to do economically and politically.

This may not necessarily mean everybody non-Indigenous needs to leave. Sometimes settlers panic about the return of the land and ask, “Are we all going to be herded onto reservations?” No.

But the return of control of the land does mean that Indigenous nations can finally exercise the right to decide what happens. It does mean there’s going to be an end to pipelines and fracking and all the other various things that might have at least a hope of saving our Earth. And I assure you that Indigenous women will continue to be leading the way.

PHILADELPHIA

Protests grow against Israeli apartheid

This week the campaign to stop the Phila. Orches- trava from performing in apartheid Israel was de- bated on the letter pages of the city’s mainstream newspaper, the Philadelphia Inquirer. On May 5, the fifth weekly protest in front of the Kimmel Center was larger than ever. In addition to signs, banners and chants, some participants enlivened the protest with a Daiko dance. “Philly Don’t Orches- trate Apartheid” and other slogans were chalked on the side-
The New York Times published an explosive report May 3 that the Pentagon has stationed a unit of Green Berets in Saudi Arabia near the Yemeni border. Their mission is to "locate and destroy caches of ballistic missiles and launch sites that Houthi rebels in Yemen are using to attack Riyadh and other Saudi cities."

Since the missiles launches are small and mobile, it is likely that the U.S. Special Forces unit will work with the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen to include U.S. personnel in what is now considered a "proxy war." This mission could have dire consequences for Yemen.

The Houthis are a Shiite Muslim groupings that has been targeted by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. For decades, the U.S. has supported the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen as a way to prevent Iran from gaining a foothold in the region.

This new escalation, states the Times report, "to contradict Pentagon statements that American military assistance to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen is limited to aircraft refueling, logistics and general intelligence sharing." Once again the Pentagon and the White House have launched a secret illegal war without congressional approval.

Saudi Arabia began a devastating air war against the people of Yemen in 2015 after the U.S. gave its support, according to the Times: "Officials said American support for the Saudi-led coalition against Houthis rebels, a campaign that includes the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Egypt, was initially outlined in a 2015 document known as the Rice memo, named after then-Secretary of State E. Rice. At the time, it was then Mr. Obama's national security adviser." Added more than three years ago, that campaign has killed at least 100,000 people and injured more than 50,000. The Saudi regime, with its Gulf State allies, has prevented vital food and medical supplies from reaching Yemen's 28 million people by blockading or capturing that country's ports.

Reuters corporate news agency opines: "Winning and keeping control of Yemen's ports in the Red Sea, how much water, is, of paramount importance to the UAE, a key ally in the Saudi-led coalition that has overseen the effort to wrest the coast from the Iran-aligned Houthis as part of a strategy to box them in around the capital, Sana."

"Dotted along one of the most important trade routes for oil tankers heading from the Middle East to Europe, the ports - also an entry point for Yemen's vital food imports and aid - are too strategic to lose," (reuters.com, April 9)

In November 2017, the Saudi regime promised to ease the blockade of Yemen, but that proved to be a lie. "Yemen's rebel-held port of Hudaydah, a lifeline for the war-torn country dependent on food imports, remains a 'wasteland' three months after a Saudi-led coalition alleged to have lifted its long-running blockade," (aljazeera.com, March 25)

This war has caused unbelievable suffering for the people of Yemen, one of the poorest countries on the planet. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are 17.8 million food-insecure people in Yemen and 7 million people on the brink of famine.

OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview found that an average of 110 people have been killed or injured daily since the escalation of the conflict, with children making up 13 percent of the Yemeni casualties. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refuges who has had limited access to "safe water and sanitation" resulting in an estimated 1 million cases of cholera. There are millions of families who are desperate for food.
Poor People’s Campaign begins Days of Action

By Kris Balderas Hamel

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, initiated by the Rev. William J. Barber II from North Carolina, kicks off on May 14. On that date, and on the following five Mondays, activists in 37 states will descend on their state capitals for Days of Action with mass rallies and civil disobedience.

Each Monday’s action will focus on a different aspect of the war on the workers and the poor. The themes for the Days of Action are:

• May 14: Women, the “Me Too” movement, LGBTQ+ struggle, people with disabilities, youth and child poverty, and the right to education for all.

• May 21: Connecting systemic racism and economic justice with voting rights and just immigration.

• May 28: Veterans, the war economy, militarism and gun violence.

• June 4: Right to health, and justice in health care, ecological devastation, climate change, water and fracking.

• June 11: “Everybody’s got the right to live” — jobs, living wages, guaranteed income, housing, education and social services.

These include the right to a job at a living wage; defense of unions; an end to all welfare cuts; and guarantee of the right to housing for all.

The Poor People’s Campaign has published a comprehensive list of demands in its “Declaration of Fundamental Rights and People’s Moral Agenda.”

The declaration calls for expansion of Medicare and national health care is achieved. It avows that education is a right and calls for free tuition at colleges and universities and cancellation of all student debt.

For more information, contact the U.S. Poor People’s Campaign and to join the actions in your state, go to poorpeoplescampaign.org.

National caravan to stop the killings in the Philippines

By Lyn Neeley

A delegation of Philippine educators, activists and survivors of human rights violations is traveling through the U.S. with the “Stop the Killings” Caravan. Their goal is to educate people and develop broad support against the atrocities and deaths of over 14,000 Filipinos people carried out by the U.S.-backed dictatorship of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The delegation is calling for social and economic equity, a return of farmers’ land, freedom from foreign intervention, and an end to all forms of U.S. military aid and support for fascism in the Philippines.

For more information, contact the U.S. International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines & Malayu Movement at icipus@gmail.com. Donations can be made at gofundme.com/stop-the-killings-caravan.
**PUERTO RICO EN 1RO DE MAYO**

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado 1ro de mayo se expuso clara-mente la extrema situación de devastación política en el archipiélago puertorriqueño. Se trazaron las líneas de combate. Se hicieron patentes los intereses que la admin-istración del gobernador Ricardo Rosselló – y de sus antecesores tanto Populares como Penepeutaz – ha querido disfrazar. Crucialmente se mostró la cara de la colo-nia a merced de los intereses del imperio.

**Exisuto Paro Nacional**

Desde temprano en la mañana del mar-te –un día corriente de trabajo en Puerto Rico- miles de boricuas salieron a las calles. Plaza Las Américas, el centro comercial más importante del área metropolitana cerró, así como todos los negocios y bancos en el centro financiero la Milla de Oro, lugar donde se concentrarían miles de boricuas respondiendo al llamado que el Pueblo Unido en Contra de la Venta y Privat-ización de los Servicios Públicos hiciera semanas antes. Ya esas calles desiertas pudieron constatar que el Paro Nacional fue un roto éxito. Quienes no acud-ieron a las manifestaciones, siguieron las orientaciones de las organizaciones con-vocantes: No ir al trabajo, ni a la escuela, comprar, no hacer ninguna transaccio-n bancaria, en fin, intentar paralizar la economía por un día.

Desde varios lugares salieron marchas que confluirían en la Milla de Oro. Llega-ron incluso desde Culebra y Vieques. Es-tudiantes, maestras/os, colectivos de mu-jeres, mujeres sexualidades, sindicatos, madres, padres, comunidades ambien-talistas, niñas, niños, ciudadanos/as de la tercera edad, familias enteras, en fin, en todos los sectores de la población puertorriqueña se unieron. En el sur y en el oeste de la isla se concentraron manifestación-es que indiferenciadas con las que no pudieron viajar hasta la zona metropolitana.

**Actuación criminal de la policía**

Todo con una actitud hostil e intimidatoria, la policía intentó dispersar a los demo-nstrantes, con gases, cientos de policías persigui-endo a jóvenes hasta una urbanización donde ilegalmente invadieron una casa para detener a dos estudiantes.

En múltiples fotos y videos se veían mujeres mayores y jóvenes con cabezas ensangrentadas, niñas y niños rocias-ados con gases, cientos de policías persigui-endo a jóvenes hasta una urbanización donde ilegalmente invadieron una casa para detener a dos estudiantes.

Varias organizaciones de derechos ci- villes están investigando esta actu-ación de la policía. Entre las violaciones cometidas indican: exceso de presencia policíaca, excesiva intimidación, bloqueo-rutas, uso de agentes químicos afectando a niños y personas mayores; agrediendo con balas de gomas a per-sonas que no cometían delito alguno; y arrestando al menos a una docena de per-sonas sin dividir a dónde les llevaban. Todo con una actitud hostil e intimidatoria, la policía intentó dispersar a los demo-nstrantes, con gases, cientos de policías persigui-endo a jóvenes hasta una urbanización donde ilegalmente invadieron una casa para detener a dos estudiantes.

Las personas fiscales pre-sentados el 19 de abril por la Junta de Control Fiscal han sido una verdadera declaración de guerra contra-el pueblo boricua. Y las guerras tienen bandos. No se puede esperar que el pueblo ante alaque y pasivamente unas medidas tan draconianas impuestas por el Congreso de los EE.UU bajo la ley PROMESA y su Junta de Control Fiscal, representando a millonari-os estadounidenses.

El mismo presidente de la ACF, José Carriz ad-vierte en su artículo: “Nuevos planes Fiscales propuestos trazan la agenda para el cambio transformador que Puer-to Rico necesita”. (Noticel, 19 de abril) Sin embargo, a juicio de Sergio Marxuach, director de Política Pública del Colegio de Economía de Puerto Rico, “El Plan parece subestimar el impacto neg-ativo de la tira de frío fiscal y sobreestimar el impacto positivo de las reformas estructurales”. (El costo social del Plan Fiscal, Boggardos.net)

Pero, ¿qué podemos reforzar? Para estas reformas, la ACF presentó los planes fiscales para el gobierno y agencias dependientes, contabilizadas y autorizadas. Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarilla-dos, la Universidad de Puerto Rico y otras. Propone una planificación a cinco años donde estiman un aumento en re-caudos de $2.926 millones y recortes en $9.972 millones.

Entre las medidas propuestas están: privatizaciones de agencias, eliminar bono de navidad y las mesadas por despido injustificado; reducir días de vacaciones o enfermedad; condicionar el beneficio del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional al trabajo; condicionar alza de salario mín-imo; cerrar escuelas y reducir gastos de educación; privatizar empresas y eliminar cuarteles de la policía; cerrar prisiones y enviar confinados a cárcel federal; reducir las prestaciones de la nómina en el 20% y seguir sobre el derecho a una vida y movilidad social.

Y podemos terminar con estas reflexiones que Carlos Alá Simón Rivera, Catedrático de la Escuela Graduada de Administración Pública y Ex-Director del Instituto de Relaciones del Trabajo de la UPR escribió el 2 de mayo en el periódico Claridad. En el interesante artículo “Vio-lencia Institucional como propuesta gu-bernamental”, refiriéndose sobre todo a la propuesta Reforma Laboral que amula la negociación colectiva, dijo: “El abandono sistemático del gobierno de Puerto Rico de los métodos tradicionales de resolución de conflictos colectivos, entre estos el del de negociación colectiva, es un llamado a la renovación de la violencia.... Si las con-traventuras entre los patronos y los traba-jadores ya no se pueden negociar, entonces lo que resta es la confrontación de las partes en un conflicto de difícil solución, vio-lento, caótico e interminable.... La nego-ciación colectiva se entiende como el medio adecuado para resolver pacíficamente las causas que provocaban la guerra entre las que se abre una brecha de tiempo o ante su suspensión y desgravación hoy a un mero referente del pasado. ¿Cómo exactamente se arreglarán los problemas laborales y sociales que surgirán?” (claria-ndaporter.com)