Congress be damned

Fight for free health care

By Fred Goldstein

President Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan have led the first wave of a cruel congressional assault on the health care of the masses of people in order to transfer billions of dollars to the already rich. The second wave will begin when the Senate takes up the health care bill.

After passing the bill, the criminal gang that forced it through the House took a bus to the White House for a high-five celebration, with Trump and Ryan leading the cheers.

While health care should be a human right, the attitude of the group that passed this bill was candidly expressed by right-wing Rep. Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), who explained to CNN’s Jake Tapper that people with higher-cost conditions should “contribute more to the insurance pool” to offset the cost “to those people who lead good lives, they’re healthy, they’ve done the things to keep their bodies healthy.” This is the amorality of the ruling class spoken plainly and publicly, without shame.

Meanwhile, Democratic Party leaders, neglecting the crying need for universal health care, were preoccupied with defending the insurance-company-driven Affordable Care Act and their own narrow political prospects for 2018.

Trump and the House Republicans would not wait for the Congressional Budget Office to assess the consequences of the bill because the assessment of the previous version estimated that 24 million people would lose their health care coverage by 2024 and premiums would rise for those remaining.

Tax cut for the rich, charging sick people more

In fact, the bill is really a tax cut for the rich disguised as a health care bill. It contains over a trillion dollars in spending cuts. About $346 billion over 10 years will go in direct tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires by eliminating taxes on investment income and the Medicare payroll deduction on high-income earners that was required under the Obama administration’s ACA. These taxes funded subsidies for low-income workers to help pay their insurance premiums. (New York Times, May 5)

Of course, under both plans the money still ends up in the hands of the insurance companies. But with the subsidies gone, millions of people will no longer be able to afford premiums.

The bill permits states to get easy permission to waive ACA rules that prohibit insurance companies from charging sick people larger premiums. Before the ACA, people with a medical history of heart disease or cancer—even acne, heartburn, back pain, asthma, hay fever or hives—could be declared uninsurable by insurance companies. In 2011 the Department of Health and Human Services said that up to 129 million people could be denied insurance for these “pre-existing conditions.” (Los Angeles Times, May 7)

The new Trump/Ryan bill would restore the old rules by allowing state waivers.

Attack on Medicaid

The bill converts Medicaid from an open-ended entitlement to block grants to the states, which would quickly be exhausted. That provision would strip over $800 billion from Medicaid over 10 years.

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Newark, N.J., protest, 2011.

Fare evaders are not criminals

Not everybody is aware that they have the right to refuse answers from the police. The police could be using people’s Social Security numbers to check their immigration status. This could lead to people being deported, all over a train ride. I ended up eventually being hit with one charge, which carries a fine, and I have to appear in court. Nobody should have to pay hundreds of dollars over a train ticket. A person who is unable to pay for a train ticket certainly can’t pay that hefty fine. How can someone who can’t even afford transportation get to court? It could also mean missing a day of work.

The police are more concerned with protecting capital than they are with protecting the people. The police kill Black and Brown folks daily with impunity, and deliberately target immigrants, who could lead to their deportation. While killer cops face no punishment, people are being punished over failing to pay a couple of dollars for something that should be free. The people of Newark, and of every city around the world, deserve access to reliable, quality transportation, Continued on page 3

Complain but why should I have to comply with a bull- shit law that punishes people for not having $1.60? Why do I have to comply with having my rights violated and being unlawfully searched? Imagine if they had asked an undocumented person for their Social Security number.

Police repression of fare evaders

By Heather Morris

Newark, N.J.

Newark is the largest city in New Jersey, with most of the population being Black and Latinx. Many of the residents are immigrants, including those who are undocumented. Even in light of recent attempts to “revitalize” this city, which was hit by white flight after the 1967 Black rebellion, and despite being dubbed “the next Brooklyn” by the bourgeoisie media, nearly 90% of the city’s population lives below the poverty line, according to a 2013 study by the Legal Services of New Jersey.

Eases County, where Newark is located, has 14.7 percent of the state’s homeless population according to a 2016 Monarch Housing Associates report; yet luxury condos continue to be built. Although hundreds of thousands of people commute to Newark daily for work, 6.6 percent of Newark’s residents remain unemployed.

The Newark Light Rail is used by commuters and residents alike. Riders walk onto the train after purchasing a $1.60 ticket, which is time-stamped as proof of payment. A few times a month, police officers stand on the train platforms checking tickets as passengers exit. For somebody who is poor, even $1.60 could affect their ability to put food on the table or pay bills on time. If the police rarely check for tickets, why pay every time?

As somebody who has evaded in the past for being unable to pay, I decided to just hop on the train one day simply because I was in a rush. The police happened to be checking tickets. Desperate to avoid paying any fines, I showed them an old ticket with an unclear time stamp, hoping they wouldn’t scrutinize it too closely.

The police ordered me to show ID, although I hadn’t committed an actual crime. They never told me whether I was being detained or under arrest. I said I did not have any ID, and they took down my name and address. They then asked for my student ID, and I gave it. I was being detained or under arrest. I said I did not have any ID, and they took down my name and address. They then asked for my student ID, and I gave it.

Since I refused to answer any questions, a Latina cop started speaking to me in Spanish, even though I clearly- ly understood English! They weren’t satisfied with my school ID, so they said they were going to search my bag for another ID. I refused to let them search without a warrant, but gave them my ID anyway so they would stop harassing me. They asked for my Social Security number but I refused, as they had no right to ask for it.

The cops told me they would have to let me go had I been compliant. But why should I have to comply with a bull- shit law that punishes people for not having $1.60? Why do I have to comply with having my rights violated and being unlawfully searched? Imagine if they had asked an undocumented person for their Social Security number.

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 guaranteed to be targeted down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should re- main in the hands of the people, not in the pockets of capital- ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guar- antee basic human needs.

Since 1919, Worker’s World Party has been 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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Worker’s World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Le- ninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast.

We are a multinational, multilingual and multiden- sity organization that does not exist to defend capitalist- ism, 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 aus- terity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved un- der 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.
Adam Jones & Boston racism at Fenway Park

By Myia X & Phoebe Eckfeldt
Boston

In April, Major League Baseball celebrated the 70th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. However, on May 2, Baltimore Orioles player Adam Jones was on the receiving end of racist attacks by Red Sox fans at Fenway Park.

Jones stated that “adisreputable person threw a bag of peanuts at me and I got called the N-word a handful of times. I'm still going to go out to Fenway, Fenway Park, for the most part. I'm going to Fenway, not to Fenway but Fenway. I'm going to Fenway Park, not to Fenway Park but Fenway Park.”

After the first attack was revealed, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh tweeted, “This is unacceptable and ‘Not who we are as a city. These words and actions have no place in Fenway, Boston, or anywhere.”

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker called it “shameful.” And during a press conference, Jones stated that John Henry, principal owner of the Red Sox, met with him in person.

New York Yankees pitcher C.C. Sabathia revealed that the only place he’s ever been attacked with racial slurs was in Boston. Sabathia added, “That’s our city. We all know. When you go to Boston, expect it.”

In solidarity with Jones, Red Sox pitcher David Price discussed various racist incidents he has endured from fans at Fenway.

On May 3, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred issued a public statement that read in part “The racist words and actions directed at Jones at Fenway Park last night are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated at any of our ballparks.”

Jones returned to Fenway Park on May 3 to a standing ovation. However, moments later, Cabell Hinnick, a Boston Globe writer who is white, confronted a racist Red Sox fan publicly attacking an unnamed Kenyan singer performing the national anthem.

When confronted by Hinnick about the attack, the fan reportedly said, “Yeah, that’s what I said, and I stand by it.” (boston.com, May 4) The racist fan was eventually removed.

The norm, not the exception

These attacks are not isolated incidents of a few people behaving “badly.” They are indicative of structural and institutionalized racism that permeates Boston sports arenas.

On May 1, 2014, P.K. Subban, a Black National Hockey League player for the Montreal Canadiens, was viciously attacked on Twitter by racist fans of the Boston Bruins. The online attack resulted in the N-word becoming a top trending topic. Columnist Rosie Dimanno stated in response, “If you’re black-skinned, you have to be thick-skinned.” (thestar.com, May 2)

Robert Traynham, a 1950s star player in the Negro Leagues, told Workers World, “When the Negro Leagues were broken up into clubs in the late 1950s, most of the major league teams began shunning Black players. The Red Sox were the last team to integrate. Tom Yawkey, the Red Sox owner at the time, owned a plantation in South Carolina. He did not want Blacks playing on the team and turned down Jackie Robinson, saying that even HE was not good enough!”

When racism is woven into the historical fabric of a city, how can the attack on Adam Jones be an isolated incident? In the early 1800s busing for desegregation in Boston was court-ordered. Buses carrying Black school children were stoned daily by screaming, racist, white mobs.

Black families’ homes in predominantly white neighborhoods were set on fire and vandalized. Reports of people of color being beaten and abused while walking after games in the vicinity of Fenway Park were common. A Black man walking across City Hall Plaza in downtown Boston had his nose broken by racist thugs wielding a U.S. flag.

The march to Boston in 1974 to say NO to racism, which WWP was instrumental in organizing, stemmed the tide of this racist onslaught.

Racism is alive and well in Boston -- from attacks on Black students at Boston Latin School, the country’s first public school, to the ongoing “stop and frisk” policing of Black and Brown youth, and the increased disenfranchisement of communities of color through gentrification, attacks on public education, and cuts to social programs, etc.

The rise of Trumpism emboldens pathological racist elements all across the U.S. Banning an individual from Fenway Park will NOT eradicate racism from Fenway Park or anywhere else. Only an united mass struggle will.

Mass rally confronts racists over Confederate monuments

By Quest Riggs
New Orleans

Some 1,200 people came out on May 7 for a loud and proud “second line” celebration of the demand to remove all symbols of white supremacy in New Orleans. In New Orleans parades, the second line of dancers or marchers come in behind the official first line.

For six decades anti-racist, civil rights activists in New Orleans have been demanding removal of Confederate monuments in New Orleans. Take ‘Em Down NOLA renewed this fight leading to a City Council resolution in 2015. The march was led by veterans of this struggle, who walked the entire route.

Police repression of fare evaders

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housing, food, education and health care. We don’t need expensive policing in our communities.

We don’t need more luxury condos being built that nobody can afford, white thousands remain homeless. We don’t need more expensive restaurants opening up in gentrifying communities, while people of color in communities only have access to foods from the corner store.

The police are only trying to trap people to make arrests; they are not concerned with the poverty that plagues many Black and Brown communities.

They carried banners calling for “Power to the people” and “Bury white supremacy,” along with giant enlargements of Rev. Avery Alexander and of Capetown, South Africa, students toppling statues of 19th-century British imperialist Cecil Rhodes.

This took place May 7 despite violent threats from fascist Nazis and KKK veterans, claiming they were coming to New Orleans to do battle to keep the racist monuments, and despite the city asking Take ‘Em Down NOLA to cancel its demonstration.

Accordingly, and organized the “second line,” with chanting and a brass band, marched from Congo Square through the French Quarter to the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee monument. All along the route both Black and white residents and tourists cheered the march.

City governor uses violence threat as pretext

Take ‘Em Down NOLA has said the city has falsely used threats of violence to justify middle-of-the-night removal and no ceremony. The city’s statement shows that New Orleans’ white capitalist establishment wants the masses excluded so no new civil rights struggle arises.

Wesley Lynch III, a 25-year-old unemployed African American, told the May 6 New York Times that the statues are “living symbols of a social order that, from his experience, wanted people like him to rise only so far.”

“They’re putting that image right in our face and saying, ‘Blacks at the bottom, whites at the top.’ That’s what they’re saying.”

The white ruling class loves the food and culture of New Orleans, but hates the masses. The last thing they want is for the people to make the connection between the white supremacy of the Confederacy and the white supremacy of New Orleans today.

After the first removal, racists and fascists were allowed into the city. Despite an ordinance that bans firearms from protests, the cops let them carry loaded machine guns and pistols for weeks as they camped out around monuments. This created a tense situation in the majority Black city, and it created several spontaneous confrontations.

In this situation Take ‘Em Down NOLA called for an open celebration in the streets. The group decided to walk a traditional second line, this time to “Bury white supremacy.” It was called for May 7, the last day of Jazz Fest, which is an annual giant tourist attraction, the darling of New Orleans’ tourism industry.

The racists responded by calling for reinforcements. Calling the confrontation the “second battle of New Orleans,” they drew in an assortment of around 150 violent KKK and Nazis. The city blusted the threat of violence on local media to try to discourage people from coming to the celebration.

They put an equal sign between Take ‘Em Down and the racists. The media portrayed the conflict as those for or against monuments, rather than as between civil rights activists and Klan scum.

None of this stopped over 1,200 New Orleans from taking to the streets to celebrate the people’s victory. TEDNO- LA leaders encouraged the crowd to not be intimidated, and led them to the Lee statue where the racists were posted all morning.

Intimidated by the numbers and confidence of the crowd, the racists avoided attacking the parade and instead fought among themselves. TEDNOLA claimed its territory, mustering barricades up to the monument to address the crowd.

Take ‘Em Down NOLA is planning a national conference. For more information and to support, see takeemdownnola.org.
Tens of thousands face foreclosures, water shutoffs

By Jerry Goldberg

Over 8,000 Flint, Mich., families are facing the loss of their homes due to unpaid bills for contaminated water. The delinquent water bills, totaling $5 million over the past two years, are now being tacked onto property taxes, subjecting the families to tax foreclosure. This was during a two-year time period when Flint residents discovered their children had been lead-poisoned. This happened because the state-appointed “emergency manager” decided to stop getting city water from Detroit and draw, instead, from the Flint River. His decision to not spend money on anti-corrosive additives caused lead in aging pipes to leach into the water supply.

To this day, residents still cannot drink their water without filters, are forced to rely on bottled water, and suffer skin rashes, hair loss and breathing issues from showering.

The process of replacing lead service lines is proceeding very slowly; most of the pipes are still lead-based.

What makes this policy even more contemptuous is that $200 million in federal dollars are sitting unspent, money that could pay these delinquent tax bills. These funds are what remain of Michigan’s allocation under the Helping Hard Hit Homeowners Program. Of the $750 billion bank bailout fund under the Troubled Assets Relief Program, a mere $9 billion nationally and $761 million for Michigan was provided to keep families in their homes.

Instead of using these federal funds for their intended purpose, however, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which administers the funds, is diverting the vast majority of this money to tear down homes. The “blight elimination” programs in Detroit and Flint operate with no supervision and have been subject to federal and state audits for corruption. In contrast, MSHDA creates so many obstacles for poor families who try to access these funds to pay delinquent tax bills and mortgages that the homeowners for whom the funds were intended are denied any assistance.

In the city of Detroit, the Great Lakes Water Authority has started a new round of water shutoffs, with 18,000 households facing shutoff. That is on top of the 89,000 residential water shutoffs that occurred in the years 2014-2016, (bridgeme.com, May 21) Thirty-one thousand occupied homes occupied homes in Detroit are also subject to seizure by Wayne County for tax foreclosures this year.

In 2015, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs for Water and Housing declared the U.S. faced a “water and housing crisis,” meaning it is a product of a developed capitalist system moving backwards in meeting the basic needs of the majority as a result of corporate greed.

The new Coalition to Stop Tax Foreclosures is holding a town hall meeting in Detroit in June to galvanize the struggle against tax foreclosures and water shut-offs in Detroit and Flint.

For more information, visit moratorium-mi.org or join the Moratorium NOW! Coalition group on Facebook.

Fight for free health care

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Since the implementation of the ACA, which includes Medicaid expansion, near the beginning of the United States are now covered by Medicaid and its subsidiary program, the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Medicaid covers 60 percent of children with disabilities, 30 percent of adults with disabilities and one in five Medicare recipients.

While the attack on Medicaid is an attack on the working class in general, people of color are more likely to use Medicaid, as well as have less access to health care. So the blow to Medicaid is a blow to racist character. (Rewire, May 1)

Essential services endangered, blow to women’s health care

States would have the opportunity to opt out of an ACA requirement that insurers cover in essential medical services: outpatient services; emergency services; hospitalization; maturnity and newborn care; mental health and substance use disorder services; pediatric services, including both preventive and rehabilitative services; and laboratory services. They include both preventive and wellness services.

The bill defunds Planned Parenthood for the first time in the program’s 46-year existence. Planned Parenthood was unable to achieve this after it expelled the U.S. imperialists and their capitalist stooges from the island.

The answer to the health care crisis for the working class is a world-class, affordable health care. This would mean the expulsion of the insurers and big pharma from the process. This can be achieved by struggle. But it also demands an end to Europe during the era of the USSR.

By Kathy Durkin

May Day. Workers. Resistance. May 1 is International Workers’ Day, officially commemorated in over 80 countries, but not in the United States where it originated in 1886 in Chicago as part of the struggle for the eight-hour workday. Its militant legacy is marked by strong protests by the multinational global working class. Importantly, it’s a day of solidarity. The class struggle is alive and well as was shown by the millions of people who took to the streets. From El Salvador to South Africa to Indonesia, workers, students, and farm workers led protests, marching and marching to work to protest the 10-year economic crisis and new austerity measures. The colonial regime plans to cut public and private sector workers’ benefits, close 184 schools, undermine health care and social security, raise taxes and water fees, and privatize government operations. The masses said a loud “NO!” to all these attacks on workers, students and poor people.

Led by women, students, labor unionists and other groupings, crowds marched on the “Golden Mile,” San Juan’s financial district where the U.S. Congress-appointed Fiscal Control Board is headquartered. They denounced this “junta” and U.S. colonialism, and demanded an audit to find those responsible for the $70 billion debt. The bondholders’ restructuring of Puerto Rico’s economy has devastated the country and the people have suffered. But the masses showed their anger and their power on May Day.

In Haiti, workers rallied for better working conditions in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. They chanted anti-government slogans outside an industrial park.

In Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, mass demonstrations protested President Michel Temer’s coup government and his anti-worker, anti-poor, austerity measures. Signs read, “Resistir!” (“Resist!”). Workers also marched for their rights in El Salvador, Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and other Latin American countries. Protesters in Tegucigalpa denounced the right-wing, U.S.-backed government of Honduran President Juan Orlando Ordonez and demanded better economic and social conditions.

Fidel and Che Presente!

Some 50,000 Cuban youth led the parade of workers in Havana to celebrate May Day, which was presided over by the socialist country’s President Raul Castro. The day was dedicated to young people, who are the country’s future. Across the island, 6 million of Cuba’s 11 million people in rallies to celebrate the Revolution’s advances and eagerly showed their willingness to build their society. They paid tribute to the Revolution’s late leader, Comandante Fidel Castro, and revolutionary Che Guevara whose photographs were everywhere. All were united in defense of their nation’s sovereignty and in the demand to end the U.S. economic blockade of their country and for the return of Guantanamo Naval Base. Marchers expressed solidarity with their Venezuelan sisters and brothers in the face of U.S. hostility.

Solidarity with migrant workers; no deportations!

Tens of thousands took to the streets of Paris and other cities in France. Various groupings protested racism, capitalism, police brutality, Islamophobia and the “no to the Right National Front. Labor unionists called for workers’ rights and social equality.

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New York City

After a militant noon rally at Union Square, thousands in New York City took to the streets on May Day in a show of multinationa1, multigenerational and multigender strength. The rally and march were organized by the Union Square May Day Coalition, with more than 50 groups.

Workers and students from across the tristate area (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut) marched, while chanting “La Migra! La Policia! La misma porquería!” and “Black lives, they matter here! Migrant lives, they matter here!”

Dozens of red flags waved in the air, joined by Puerto Rican, Venezuelan, Syrian, Filipino, Palestinian, Honduran and flags from other nations fighting against U.S. imperialism.

A host of speakers took to the mic before the march. They represented BAYAN-USA, the International League of People’s Struggle, Sparc, the Laundry Workers Center, the People’s Power Assembly, NYC Shut It Down and Workers World Party, among others.

The police commanders and boards of chiefs must have received orders to crack down on the march. As activists attempt ed to leave Union Square, a quick barrage of arrests and a tense standoff with the police ensued. Swift action and tactical response by the coalition’s security team, including quickly changing the route, allowed the march to proceed.

At the end of the march, police once again attempted to destroy the militant action by pushing contingents into Foley Square, where NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio had just finished speaking.

Yet Union Square demonstrators con tinued the march, and some joined with NYC Shut It Down for People’s Monday, which honored the life of Berta Cáceres, an Indigenous and environmentalist leader killed by death squads in Honduras. Other marchers joined to greet the freed arrestees as they left 1 Police Plaza.

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About 1,000 teachers held another morning protest about their lack of a contract for more than four years. Organized by the Working Educators’ caucus of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, they stayed out of work, demonstrated outside their respective schools and rallied at the School Reform Commission headquarters. Then they marched to City Hall to join the Junto march.

Present also were a contingent from Service Workers Local 32BJ, representing janitors in Center City office buildings, and members of UNITE HERE, who held an earlier rally at the Philadelphia airport and members of UNITE HERE, who held an earlier rally at the Philadelphia airport and then marched in downtown Raleigh.

WWP organized a militant and diverse feeder march, which started near police headquarters, stopped at a Wells Fargo bank, where speakers denounced its financing of for-profit prisons, and paused at the Federal Building to indict the Trump administration in its push for wars against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Venezuela, Syria and other countries. At Jefferson Hospital, speakers addressed the health care crisis.

Marchers called for a Peoples Defense Network to support anyone targeted or punished for participating in the May Day strike. Morgan Robinson, a PDS organizer, said, “After people signed our pledge, many joined us to march and carry signs in support of immigrants, refugees and against ICE and police.”

Members of the Comité Boricua Filipina-Camen spoke out against the capitalistic fiscal control board imposed on Puerto Rico and the role of Santander Bank there. Other speakers exposed the role of the banks in gentrifying Philly’s Black communities and the attacks on South Asian immigrants.

At City Hall, marchers started the chant “Out of the sidewalks! Into the streets! Several hundred demonstrators from other feeder marches joined together militantly circling City Hall to greet and join the arriving Junto march.

**South**

**Baltimore**

After hundreds marched from downtown Baltimore, four activists – Rev. CD Witherspoon, Rasika Ruwanpathirana, Andrew Mayton and Alec Summerfield – were arrested at Baltimore’s ICE offices while demanding that it be shut down. Rev. Witherspoon is a noted Baltimore activist and former president of the local Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Ruwanpathirana is an immigrant, filmmaker and WWP member. Mayton is a union activist; and Summerfield is a Baltimore law student.

Right before his arrest, Rev. Witherspoon discussed the commonality that the Black community shares with the Latinx community. He stated, “We were brought here in chains against our will and understand the persecution that the Latinx community faces. We need to unite.”

The People’s Power Assembly unfurled a banner in the street in front of ICE that explained the group’s demands: a city-wide jobs program, $15 minimum wage NOW, shutting ICE down, permanent residence for immigrants, and ending racism and police terror.

**Huntington, W.V.**

Workers World Party called for a May Day demonstration in front of City Hall. The action was endorsed by Students for a Democratic Society at Marshall University.

**Raleigh, Durham & Greensboro, N.C.**

Despite pouring rain, the Triangle People’s Assembly held a two-hour mass rally and then marched in downtown Raleigh.

Several hundred people joined first to the Wake County Detention Center, which doubles as a jail and an immigrant detention center, and then on to the State Legislative building.

The TPA has been hosting mass assemblies every month since Trump was elected. The Durham Branch of WWP played a leading role in convening the People’s Assembly and coalition.

The rally brought together 35 organizations, including six grassroots immigrant rights groups. Latinx organizers secured the closing of several businesses in solidarity with the struggle.

The State Legislative Building is railroading through a series of bills against sanctuary cities, mandating local enforcement of anti-immigrant measures, adding many anti-union and anti-worker measures, and giving billions in tax breaks to corporations.

In front of the Legislative Building, the crowd chanted, “Shame on you!” led by Comite Accion Popular activist Martha Hernandez. A banner explaining the retributionary bills was thrown to the ground and stomped on by the protesters.

That evening, the TPA, in conjunction with Durham Beyond Policing, rallied and marched again, starting at the site of the new $71 million police office building in east Durham. Speakers demanded the construction project be halted, no extra funding for police and ending racist checkpoints, with the money to go to restorative justice programs, city worker wages, education, health care and youth recreation.

The crowd marched to the Durham County Jail, in solidarity with inmates and demanding justice for 17-year-old Uniece Fennel, who died at the hands of prison guards while awaiting trial. Some in the crowd were almost run over by a white supremacist in a truck, who many believe was emboldened by House Bill 330 which would make such motorist actions protected activity.

Marching to City Hall, a few hundred people from the crowd streamed into the Council chambers, seven standing direct before City Council members, declaring them obsolete and appointing themselves the new people’s council. The group read demands to end checkpoints and defund the police, then marched out chanting, “If we don’t get it, shut it down!”

At May Day in Greensboro, several hundred gathered inside the Beloved Community Center to raise up demands from the recently formed Triad Unites coalition. The family of Jose Charles, a 15-year-old brutally assaulted by police last year, has demanded justice. Victor Vincent, a leader in the newly formed chapter of the Greensboro City Workers Union, United Electrical Workers Local 150, spoke in favor of living wages, safe staffing and a fair grievance procedure for workers.

**Atlanta**

Immigrants, union members, low-wage workers, students and community activists from Black Lives Matter and anti-gentrification struggles gathered on the steps of Atlanta’s City Hall on May Day. Organizations, including Atlanta Jobs with Justice and the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, mobilized those representing movements fighting for economic and social justice.

Marchers supported a range of issues, including a $15 minimum wage for city workers. Speakers urged that Atlanta become a true sanctuary for all, stopping the detention of immigrants in the city jail before deportation, and ending policies criminalizing poor people and displacing working-class and Black neighborhoods through gentrification.

From Asian Americans Advancing Justice to the Solutions Not Punishment Midwest and West continues on page 8
MAY DAY IN THE U.S.: MARCHING IN SOLIDARITY

Midwest

Detroit

Progressive forces gathered downtown for the annual May Day action called by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice, the Michigan Peoples Defense Network, the Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association and WWP. These organizations have been on the frontlines of the struggle to win adequate housing, water services, education and pensions, and to end state repression and the renewed Pentagon war drive. A rally at Grand Circus Park featured speakers from these groups and others who called for a broad united front among workers and the nationally oppressed in the U.S. and around the world. Detroit Food Not Bombs provided a meal during the dinner-time rally.

The multinational gathering then marched down Woodward Avenue, demonstrators, including Black Youth Project 100 Detroit members, took the streets leading to the Federal Building where the crowd rallied again before proceeding past the Federal Court building and through Campus Martius Park.

Chicago

About 10,000 people participated on a rainy Chicago May Day in several rallies and a march from the Near West side to the Loop, with a majority of the multinational marchers from the Latinx community. There were significant delegations from the Service Employees and other unions.

Workers World Party participated in an anti-imperialist contingent, along with organizations representing national liberation movements in Palestine and the Philippines. Erica Anna spoke for WWP at one of the preliminary rallies, urging the crowd “to make the link between all of our struggles, to find the common thread that flows through the oppression of us all, because once we find that, we can work to dismantle it and replace it with something better, something that truly serves the people.”

Los Angeles

Crowd estimates ranged as high as 30,000 for the May Day march in Los Angeles, which was festive as well as angry and assertive. People voiced that they would not stand by while racist policies threatened to rip their communities apart. They refused to accept ICE raids and deportations and called for an end to police violence at home and U.S. imperialist wars abroad.

The May Day Coalition, which included the County Federation of Labor and non-profit immigrant rights organizations, joined forces with the May Day General Strike Coalition, which included Workers World Party as well as the Congreso Latino, Unión del Barrio, Hermandad Mexicana, the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán’s CA for Progress, the League of United Latin American Citizens, BAYAN-USA, the National Lawyers Guild, LA for Palestine and the Free Press World Party as well as the Congreso de los Pueblos de América. The MDGSC joined the labor federation by City Hall after a march. The two coalitions shared speakers at start and end rallies.

The MDGSC’s march and rally, with emcees Ron Gochez of Unión del Barrio and Rebeca Jackson of WWP, featured colorful flags of Latin American countries, the Black Liberation flag, and flags of other oppressed nations.

At the front of the joint rally, speakers addressed the crowd passionately, with English and Spanish translations. Speakers included one of the founders of the 2006 “Great American Boycott,” Gloria Saucedo of Hermandad Mexicana, as well as WWP members Timothy Blutt and John Parker, who also represented the International League of Peoples’ Struggle. Angélica Salas of CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights in Los Angeles) spoke for the County Federation of Labor coalition.

Dancers and drummers relentlessly performed in the scorching sun. Thousands of protesters lined up for many hours; four people were arrested.

John Parker, who also represented the International League of Peoples’ Struggle, spoke: “The time has come to stand together against the racial, economic, and environmental violence that is tearing our communities asunder. We must stand in unity and say: ‘Sanctuary for all, no ban, no wall!’” He then marched to join those at Manning Plaza.

San Diego

A coalition of organizations and individuals met monthly to organize the May Day rally and march in San Diego, uniting in solidarity the many groups initially planning separate actions.

Over 40 organizations endorsed In Solidarity with the Closing Rally. For the closing rally.

San Francisco

Over 10,000 people in the Bay Area took to the streets on May Day. From Santa Rosa, San Jose, Oakland, Berkeley, Concord, Richmond and San Francisco, they demanded “Sanctuary for all, no ban, no wall!” and an end to attacks on health care, education and workers’ rights to organize. People stayed home from work and school. Many businesses, especially in immigrant communities, voluntarily shut down.

At 8:30 a.m., hundreds circled the ICE building in downtown San Francisco before marching to join thousands more at Chelsea Manning Plaza. At 9 a.m., the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 rallied at their hall near Fisherman’s Wharf. Speakers there included former ILWU Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Thomas and Laura Kwien, director of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center. Hundreds then marched to join those at Manning Plaza.

In Oakland at 8:30 a.m., protesters arrived at the Alameda (County) Board of Supervisors office, demanding an end to the sheriff’s collaboration with ICE. They called for a halt to jail expansion and the militarization of policing. Clergy chained themselves to the office door for three hours; four people were arrested.

Back in San Francisco, the rally at Chelsea Manning Plaza, organized by the Un Dia Sin Inmigrantes Coalition, led into a noon march of well over 3,000 that headed to the Civic Center, site of another rally.

At 3 p.m. in Oakland, at least 3,000 people gathered at Fruitvale Plaza, shut
San Francisco
San Diego
Workers World Party literature table in Union Square, New York City.
read Workers World weekly newspaper.
the capitalist media,
anti-sexist analysis,
of the working class
in the interests
of events covered
in the second round — a choice between a rock and a hard place — and the high rate of abstentions and blank ballots.
Analysis of the election results showed that while the leftist Mélenchon got the most votes from unemployed workers in the first round, most of those voters did not come out for Le Pen in the second. Especially in the big cities, including Paris, they rejected her demagogy that blamed unemployment on immigrants. (The Guardian, May 8)
Political struggle among various ruling-class factions for their share of the spoils is sure to continue, especially as Macron’s new party has no seats in the National Assembly and will have to make deals with other capitalist parties to get any legislation passed.
Labor unions, garment workers and their allies marched in Dhaka and other cities in Bangladesh for higher wages, better working conditions, health care, housing, and legal and union rights. The country’s clothing factories supply multi-million-dollar U.S. and European transnational corporations.

By Deirdre Griswold

The far-right, immigrant-bashing bigots in Europe and elsewhere who had hailed the election of Donald Trump in the United States didn’t get a repeat of that scenario in the May 7 French election. But the denizens of the Bourse, the French equivalent of the New York Stock Exchange, did get what they wanted, as did the capitalists oriented toward the European Union.
There are two rounds in France’s presidential election process. Many parties participate in the first round; then the two with the most votes compete in the second. The election took place as the two establishment parties of the French ruling class had sunk to their lowest point in years. This time, neither the so-called Socialist Party nor the Republicans, the two parties that have dominated French politics for decades, made it to the second round.
Instead, Emmanuel Macron, a 39-year-old banker and defector from the Socialist Party, ran against Marine Le Pen, whose National Front has a long history of anti-Semitism and far-right demagoguery aimed at turning the anger and frustration of those hurting economically against French citizens of color, Muslims and all immigrants.
Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a left-socialist democrat who appealed to many workers, got almost as many votes as Le Pen in the first round, but not enough to put him in the runoff against Macron.
The final vote, according to the Interior Ministry, was 66.1 percent for Macron to 33.9 percent for Le Pen. Of special note is that 25 percent of the electorate did not vote, the lowest turnout in half a century. Of those who did vote, 12.3 percent deliberately cast blank ballots as a protest over the choices available — a record high.
Ruling-class support for banker Macron
There can be no doubt that the French ruling class swung behind investment banker Macron, who has never held elected office before, when it became clear the establishment party candidates had no chance. In the first round, Macron had been only two percentage points ahead of Le Pen, but his new party, En Marché!, was then endorsed by leaders of the SF, including former Prime Minister François Fillon.
Le Pen was hoping that the uproar over terrorism would propel her campaign, and it undoubtedly did help win her the vote. She made it to the second round. The National Front won an historic high number of votes in the second round and remains a threat. But in the first round, the voters rejected the National Front and its attacks on immigrants by nearly two to one.
However, the high number of abstentions and blank ballots must also be seen as a protest against both the racism of Le Pen and the pro-big-business program of Macron.
Unemployment stands at 10 percent in France. The capitalist establishment blames it on the guarantees that French workers have worked on many decades of struggle, such as a 33-hour work week, long vacations and better job security than most other capitalist countries. Macron wants to end all of this, claiming that the economy will boom once businesses have been “unleashed.”
But most workers in France don’t buy that. Hence the dilemma when voting in the May 2017 elections. The economy was not doing particularly well, and there were protests against Macron’s austerity measures. On the other hand, Le Pen was not the answer either. She is a far-right racist, and she has been a failed candidate before, when it became clear the ruling class swung behind investment banker Emmanuel Macron.

French elections
Big capital tops Le Pen as many opt out

When the march was well underway, the police, donning riot gear, announced they were revoking the march permit, ordering demonstrators to disperse. But the protesters refused! They persisted in marching with chants of “Keep Marching! Keep Marching!”
The police responded by attacking the rear of the march, then announced the avenue was closed. Employing flash bangs, tear gas and impact weapons, the cops attempted to kettle demonstrators. Some in the crowd retaliated against the state violence by smashing windows of businesses, lighting street fires and throwing cans of Pepsi into the ranks of the aggressors.
Twenty-five workers were arrested in the crackdown, which showed the full force of the city and county police.

Seattle
Strong protest against the anti-immigrant and anti-labor policies of the Trump regime was displayed at the Seattle May Day March for Worker and Immigrant Rights. Thousands of workers represent many labor unions, strong Latinx and Indigenous peoples’ participation, and political groups stretched for three miles.
Nikkitia Oliver, a Black Lives Matter candidate for mayor, used spoken word poetry to compare the day’s call for a national general strike to the Seattle general strike of 1919 and pointed to the path forward.
A crowd’s working-class, anti-feeder march led into the May Day rally after starting from the Garden of Remembrance war memorial. Some groups represented were Veterans for Peace and Veterans Respond, which provided logistical support last fall for Indigenous resistance at Standing Rock, N.D.; Andy Ribaudo, of Washington Veterans Action Network, proclaimed to the crowd, “When I was at Standing Rock, it was the first time I ever felt that I was talking to the people.”

Abagami Azikivu, Gene Clancy, Sage Collins, Tonya Corder, Jamin Dodds, Terry Kay, Alex Mayor, Danielle McQuet, Suren Nalin, Carlos Norris, Betsy Pettey, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Jeff Sorel, Gloria Verdieu, WW Baltimore Bureau, WW Boston Bureau and WW Huntington. Bureau contributed to this article.

May Day around the world

Continued from page 5
Thousands of Taiwanese workers marched in Taipei for higher wages and denounced worsening pensions and working conditions. Labor unions, garment workers and their allies marched in Dhaka and other cities in Bangladesh for higher wages, better working conditions, health care, housing, and legal and union rights. The country’s clothing factories supply multi-million-dollar U.S. and European transnational corporations.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea commemorated May Day with “colorful” celebrations in its capital, Pyongyang. Art, cultural and sports exhibitions were held throughout the country. This courageous socialist country deserves international solidarity in light of increasing bellicose threats by Washington.
In Seoul, South Korea, the 10,000-strong Korean Confederation of Trade Unions contingent within a larger march called for a decent minimum wage and chanted, “Trade union rights for all!” and “Abolish precarious work!”

In San Jose, thousands more demonstrated, with an explicitly anti-capitalist message, gathered in support of immigrants, calling for no work, no school, no shopping. Union representatives, artists, housing and racial justice activists spoke. A Gabriela Portland organizer delivered a fiery speech encouraging support for national self-determination and urging that “workers of the world unite.” The crowd began a permitted march led by children, families and folks with mobility issues.

To get a view of events across the interests of the working class with anti-racist, anti-sexist analysis, independent of the capitalist media, read Workers World weekly newspaper.
To subscribe go to workers.org or send in the sub coupon on page 1.

Workers World Party literature table in Union Square, New York City.

DPRK
Bangladesh
South Korea
Defend Venezuela

According to a May 3 Reuters article, “An influential group of Republican and Democratic U.S. senators introduced sweeping legislation ... to address the crisis in Venezuela, including sanctioning individuals responsible for undermining democracy there and authorizing new sanctions.”

The quote cited needs translation, as it really means: Some top Senate millionaires want to grab workers’ taxes to overthrow the elected, popular government of Venezuela.

That U.S. imperialism works to undermine the Bolivarian government in Caracas is nothing new. Washington even promoted a military coup against Hugo Chávez in 2002. The Venezuelan people smashed the coup and strengthened Venezuela’s revolution.

Earlier and much greater funding for the U.S. efforts at regime change — that is, counterrevolution — have been buried in the budgets of the CIA, AID and other organs of undercover imperialism. Intervention disguised as promoters of “democracy” now join with promoters of imperialist intervention like Republicans Marco Rubio and John McCain and Democrats Ben Cardin and Dick Durbin in giving the U.S. covert effort the Senate’s open blessing.

Anyone who thinks the Senate aims to save democracy is deceiving themselves about its agenda. Soon, the Senate will reach some rotten compromise on the new “Health Care” Act. The millionaire senators will determine how many million U.S. residents too poor to pay medical costs should be kicked into the nearest grave.

Does the Senate really aim to stop governmental corruption? It could start by doing something to stop the Trump family gang from profiting on everything from casinos to golf courses to stays at hotels with the presidential brand. No, what the Senate is taking aim at is the people of Venezuela. The Senate hates any attempt by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to better the lives of the poor people of that country at the cost of the oligarchs and imperialism.

In collusion with Venezuela’s rich and reactionaries, U.S. imperialism has disrupted the country’s economy. In collusion with the corporate media, it has exaggerated the depth of the crisis to create a pretext for intervention. In collusion with the Organization of American States — another U.S. creation — it has targeted the Venezuelan government for “regime change.”

For those who want to defend the independence of countries to the south of the United States, it is essential at this time to defend the Bolivarian government of Venezuela from this imperialist attack.

Down with the Senate plan for sanctions! ¡Chávez presente! ¡Maduro presidente!

State escalates persecution of #J20 protesters

By Ava Lipatti

On Jan. 20, District of Columbia police cracked down on protests against Donald Trump’s inauguration by mass arresting 217 people, including protestors, legal observers, medics and journalists. Each was charged with “felony rioting,” punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a $25,000 fine.

Since then, several have had their charges dropped, one has pleaded guilty, and another has pleaded down to a misdemeanor. But in late April, new charges were filed against the remaining defendants as well as others not arrested on Jan. 20. These included a Disrupt J20 activist whose home was raided by D.C. police on April 3.

The defendants were indicted by a grand jury on eight felony charges: five counts of property destruction, one count of rioting, one count of inciting a riot and one count of conspiracy to riot. In total, these charges carry up to 70 years in prison — essentially a life sentence.

According to the Washington Post, the #J20 demonstration was (unsurprisingly) săiled by undercover cops. Given this information, the persecution of over 200 people for a small amount of property damage is even more questionable.

The charges leveled against the #J20 defendants are being met with resistance. A mass movement is forming in support of the 200-some defendants, many of whom have taken a pledge not to take a plea deal. The heavy charges are meant to instill fear about organizing and resisting and to scare defendants into taking plea deals, but these courageous activists refuse to be intimidated.

Felony riot charges are becoming more common across the country. Nearly 300 protestors are facing felony charges in total, in cities such as New Orleans and Philadelphia.

In Jacksonville, Fla., on April 7 a protest in response to the U.S. missile strike against the Syrian government the previous day, a small group of activists and community members were met with unrelenting harassment from pro-Trump provocateurs, with support from Jacksonville police. The harassment escalated to a vicious physical attack on the protestors by both the hecklers and the cops. Five anti-war protestors were arrested and charged with felony rioting, including a deaf black man who had to be hospitalized due to the attack.

In addition to the new felony charges, the state is developing other means to criminalize activists and protestors. The Obama administration laid the basis by signing the Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in December 2016. The NDAA had a stated goal to “counter foreign propaganda and disinformation,” in effect criminalizing dissent.

Few protestors are cheering the Labor Department’s report that the unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent in April. Why should they? While the jobless rate now matches the level of May 2007 — just before the latest capitalist economic crisis — it still leaves 7.1 million people “officially” unemployed.

Even the Labor Department admits that 5.3 million people who are counted as employed are forced to work part-time, even though the demand and need for full-time jobs. Another 1.5 million people “were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey,” according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many people with disabilities are not included among the jobless. The 2.2 million members of the working class who are incarcerated are not even considered.

Neither are the thousands who collect cans and bottles for a small deposit fee in New York and a few other states.

While the latest jobless rate for whites is 3.8 percent, the figure for Black workers is more than double that, at 7.9 percent. “Last hired, first fired” is still the racist standard for African Americans.

At the height of capitalist “prosperity,” Black workers and their families are still stuck in a recession. It’s a depression for Black teenagers, whose latest jobless rate is 20.3 percent.

Usually a drop in unemployment is accompanied by a rise in wages. Workers feel more confident in taking better-paying jobs or demanding raises. Not this time. The average wage increase of 2.5 percent over the past 12 months was almost wiped out by inflation, which rose by 2.4 percent. For workers being paid the miserable federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, inflation meant a pay cut.

All the union-busting attacks, including those against public workers, have had their effect. Over the last 40 years, thousands of union strongholdshave been shut down by capitalists taking advantage of automation.

Having millions of unemployed people is a necessity for capitalist profits. Fredrick Engels, the co-worker of Karl Marx, called the jobless an “industrial reserve army.”

Capitalists know this well. Samuel Insull, whose Enron-like Midwest utilities empire collapsed during the Great Depression — bragged that “the greatest aid to the efficiency of labor is a long line of men waiting at the gate.” That means women and men desperately seeking a job.

Workers put up with so much abuse because they know the boss can usually hire someone else to replace them.

While millions need a job, millions of employed are forced to work two or more jobs in order to pay the rent. “The condemnation of one part of the working class to enforced idleness by the overwork of the other part, and the converse, becomes a means of enriching the individual capitalists,” wrote Marx in “Capital.”

The labor movement needs to fight for a 30-hour workweek with no cut in pay. The Soviet Union’s first five-year plan abolished unemployment by 1930. Socialists and revolutionaries hold a job a right of all Soviet workers.

We need to fight for a socialist revolution that will abolish unemployment and poverty forever.
GABRIELA New York:
A decade of defending Filipina women

By Vijou Bryant
New York City

On April 20, 2017, 100 community members gathered to celebrate GABRIELA New York’s 10-year anniversary as a mass-based women’s organization committed to moving, mobilizing, and organizing local communities in New York and surrounding areas. Formerly known as Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment (FIRE), GABRIELA New York is a member organization of the national alliance GABRIELA USA, an overseas chapter of GABRIELA Philippines.

The celebratory night highlighted the early formation of FIRE, including a video message from founding members Sandy Panopio and Valerie Francisco, former chairperson of GABRIELA USA. The night continued with a comprehen- sive presentation of 10 years of campaign work, drawing on victories recaptured by Jeninne Ventura of GABRIELA USA, who stated, “Conducting Personal Migration discussion allows us to help Filipino women in the U.S. un-
derstand the connection between their own migration or why their families migrated here in the U.S. to the issues and conditions in the Philippines.”

Zarah Vidal of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) USA highlighted the contribution of GABRIELA New York in fighting against mod-
ern day slavery under NAFCON’s STOP Trafficking Our People campaign. Struggles of trafficked survivors have been the focus of the Dwang Pinay cultural pro-
gram. From exposing the impact of U.S. militarization in the Philippines to can-
celling NBC’s “Mail Order Bride” show, GABRIELA New York upholds its com-
mitment to defend women’s rights.

Interpersed throughout the program were cultural performances and recogni-
tion of key organizations and early part-
ners like Philippine Forum with the Kab-
alikat Domestic Workers Network, as well as honoring longstanding solidarity allies. Keynote speaker Monica Moorehead, 2016 U.S. presidential candidate on the Workers World Party ticket and Interna-
tional Women’s Alliance executive comm-
mittee member, stated: “When I was preparing to visit the Philippines for the first time in 2011 as a representa-
tive of the Women’s Fightback Net-
work for the First General Assembly of the International Women’s Alliance, the GABRIELA sisters invited me to attend a daylong educational session at Hunter College on the historical role that women have played in the Philippines dating back to the strug-
gle against Spanish colonialism and up to the struggle against U.S. imperialism. Not only was this informative but also extremely interactive and engaging. It re-
ally deepened my political consciousness more than any book, which really helped to prepare me for what I was about to experience in the Philippines with the GABRIELA sisters there. … All the move-
tments can take lessons from how GA-
BRIELA organizes and we look forward to continuing to learn from your talents and skills to fight shoulder to shoulder with you until all forms of class rule are swept away into the dustbins of history.”

As a militant women’s organization based in the U.S., GABRIELA New York continues its exposure program, designed to reveal the true current conditions and pressing issues of the Philippines through visits with different community organi-
zations who are working to address those issues. Exposurists [as these visitors are called] have the opportunity to integrate with different sectors of Philippine soci-
ety, such as the urban poor, LGBTQ peo-
ple, Indigenous tribes, migrant workers and more.

Raising almost $1,000 at the anniver-
sary to support GABRIELA NY members’ 2017 exposure trips to the Philippines, monetary contributions are encouraged to continue promoting future “exo” programs. Go on Venmo (@GabrielANewYork) or con-
tact Cole Carpenters (colec@carpenters-
gmail.com) for more information on how to donate.

GABRIELA New York will continue to uphold the fighting legacy of Gabriela Sil-
ang, the first Filipino woman to lead a re-
volt against the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. In the spirit of being modern day freedom fighters, we must rise against all forms of violence, resist militarization and defend our sovereignty, and unite to-
wards national and social liberation. Stay connected to us through social media or at www.gabrielanewyork.org

Sulong Gabriela, Lumaban Makibaka!
Abante Babae, Palaban Militante!
Be Gabriela! The writer is the vice chair of GABRIELA NY.

No war on DPRK:
People’s Briefing for Korean Peace

By Terri Kay

In response to 45% (aka President Trump’s) invitation to the U.S. Senate to join him at the White House for a “brief-
ing” on Korea, a “People’s Briefing for Korean Peace” was held in the Financial District of San Francisco on April 27. The rally was called by Hella Organized Bay Area Koreans. About 50 people came to demand no war on Korea. Hyejin Shim of the Kore-
an American Coalition to End Domestic Abuse pointed out U.S. hypocrisy in call-
ning north Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, a threat to peace: “If a nuclear war breaks out, you will be the first to tell us to evacuate.”

Shim continued, “Since the Korean War ended in 1953, the Korean War Veterans Organization (KVOA) has been demanding the U.S. to stop the THAAD missile system in place in Seongju before the May 31st election takes place. On Jeju Island, villagers have been opposing the construction of a naval base for the past decade. In Songju, people overwhelm-
ingly oppose THAAD, and have been blocking access roads every day to stop military vehicles from entering.”

Shim also noted how the U.S. has been ignoring human rights of north Koreans living in North Korea: “If a North Korean woman is arrested by the North Korean military, she will be sentenced to five years without parole, and if she is convicted of a serious crime, she will be imprisoned for up to 15 years. If she is found guilty of killing another person, she will be sentenced to death.”

Shim concluded, “We must continue to attend a daylong educational session to understand the connection between the issues of North Korea and the U.S. Women have played an incredibly important role in the Second Intifada. Palestinian women have been protesting brutal conditions in Israeli jails. Speakers included Aarab Barghou-
ti, son of Marwan Barghouti, the prima-
ary hunger striker organizer. Barghouti is serving five life sentences and has been imprisoned since 2002 for his leading role in the Second Intifada.

Solidarity with Palestinian prisoner hunger strike

Over 100 demonstrators picketed Chi-
cago’s Israeli Consulate on May 4 to ex-
press their solidarity with the over 1,500 Palestinian prisoners who have been on a hunger strike since April 16. They are protesting brutal conditions in Israeli jails. Speakers included Aarab Barghoutu-
ti, son of Marwan Barghouti, the prima-
ry hunger striker organizer. Barghouti is serving five life sentences and has been imprisoned since 2002 for his leading role in the Second Intifada.

A crowd also held a solidarity vigil in the neighborhood of Dearborn on May 3, called by American Muslims for Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace. At the close, or-
ganizer Amer Zaher asked everyone to stand up and raise their fist in solidarity for the prisoners. Zaher asked them to think about what it means to be on hunger strike and subsist on nothing but water and salt.

—Jeff Sorel and Martha Gretz contributed to this report.
Por Fred Goldstein

De acuerdo con su papel en la socie-
dad capitalista, la mayoría de los altos
funcionarios del gobierno, elegidos o
nombrados, tienen cualidades de gánster.
Estos funcionarios pasan gran parte de
su tiempo buscando chantajear con los
ricos para estafar o atacar de otra mane-
ra a las masas populares. A diferencia de
la mafia, que debe obrar en el marco de
la política capitalista.

La mafia se diferencia del establec-
imiento capitalista en que no está obliga-
da a seguir un horizonte político o una
agenda bien marcada. Además, los crímenes
de la mafia son más menores que los
crien los empresarios con quienes
tratan.

Dicho esto, entre los políticos bur-
gueses con más cualidades de gánster,
está Donald Trump. Es un mitad
miliarista, propiedad de Wall Street)

Presidencia como el camino hacia (más) riquezas

Trump no sólo ha rehusado despre-
dere de sus multimillonarios activos,
sino que ha tratado de ganar aún más al
estar en la Casa Blanca. Sigue insistiendo
que a sus amigos rasos y su famosa gángue.

Por otro lado, se sienten frustrados
porque esperaban obtener grandes ex-
causales tributarios a partir de la revol-
cución de la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a
Bajo Precio, y querían poner sus manos en
880 miles de millones de euros en
la discusión interna de la Casa Blanca
seguramente de que el mismo día del despliegue,
la discusión interna de la Casa Blanca
seguramente de que el mismo día del despliegue,
lo que ha obligado a llamar a los presidentes de
Havana, ha aumentado su influencia en
el estancamiento económico que son características
de las empresas estatales y de la planifi-
cación económica que son características del
socialismo en el país socialista, el Partido
Comunista de China. La política de la
cía negociaciones.

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