By Monica Moorehead

It is no coincidence that Baltimore’s state attorney, Marilyn Mosby, announced on May 1 that six police officers had been indicted and arrested for the murder of Freddie Grey, a day before a major march and rally had been scheduled to protest a lack of indictments and arrests of police since Grey’s death.

An official autopsy on Grey has not been released yet, although it is public knowledge that at least 80 percent of his spine had been severed between the time of his arrest on April 12 and when he lapsed into a coma and died on April 19. The charges against the officers, three white and three Black, range from involuntary manslaughter to second degree depraved heart murder, the latter charge meaning indifference to human life.

The Fraternal Order of Police in Baltimore and legal experts have criticized the indictments, claiming that there is a “conflict of interest” between Mosby and her spouse, Nick Mosby, a member of the local city council who represents the district where Grey lived. These critics also say that because there are no known eyewitnesses forthcoming in saying exactly what happened to Grey in the police van, convictions of the accused police officers will be next to impossible. The police have called for a special prosecutor to replace Mosby, who is African American.

The fact that any indictments against the police occurred at all is unprecedented. This is especially true in a majority Black inner city like Baltimore, where police terror including occupation is systemic and has lasted for decades. Over the past three years, close to $6 million in compensation has been paid to victims who brought legal suits against the Baltimore Police Department for its brutality.

The rebellion that took place in West Baltimore and then spread to East Baltimore’s commercial area on April 27 may have been ignited by Grey’s death, but it was a culmination of many years of pent up anger and frustration on the part of Black youth, who have been treated like prisoners in their own community. The cops have been their jailers and occupiers.

Police riot caused rebellion

Eyewitnesses state that the police sparked the rebellion when they shut down the only way out of the area, closing off a nearby subway and major bus depot that hundreds of students use to get home from the nearby school. Cutting off this path trapped the students. Based on police rumors of a march from the high school, cops surrounded and trapped huge numbers of people in the area. Police have spread such rumors in the past to cause confusion and dissension among the masses and within the movement.

Recently, cops spread a rumor that the Bloods and Crips youth gangs had united to put out a contract to
Supreme Court pressured to grant right to marry

By Martha Grevatt

Last week the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments for and against legalizing same-sex marriage. Plaintiffs from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee — where state courts upheld same-sex marriage bans — brought cases opposing the bans before the high court. The court’s ruling, expected in late June, will decide whether the U.S. Constitution gives same-sex couples a right to marriage. SCOTUS will also decide if states must recognize same-sex marriages conducted in other states or countries. Same-sex marriage is legal in all but 13 states and in 17 countries.

For the majority of the plaintiffs, the driving issue was the couple’s need to be recognized as joint parents. The problem hit home for Kentuckian Pam Yorksmith when she took the child she is raising with Nicole Yorksmith to the hospital. The hospital would not authorize treatment with them listed as parents.

For 40 years, Lake Barlowe and Jimmy Meade of Kentuck passed as roommates, keeping their 2009 wedding a secret. But when they learned of the lawsuit, Barlowe remembered trying to commit suicide as a teenager. Thinking about the many lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer teens who still kill themselves, Barlowe explained, “We wanted to do this not for us — it does nothing for us — but we wanted to do it for the kids coming up behind us.” (Detroit News, April 23)

Ban Upheld

Justice Anthony Kennedy is viewed as the swing vote who will decide if the court votes 5-4 in favor of marriage equality or 5-4 against it. He stated during the hearing, “The notion that marriage as an institution has been with us, unchanged, for “millennia,” is contradicted by a mountain of anthropological evidence. Some 150 years ago, Frederick Engels, Karl Marx’s life-long collaborator, published a historical materialist analysis of human social/sexual relations. “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State” traced the evolution of “marriage” from the beginnings of hominid sociality, through various stages of band and tribal society, into the first agricultural settlements that witnessed the rise of private property relations and led to the slave-owning, feudal and capitalist modes of production. With each society’s unique economic relationships came an equally unique “definition” of marriage. WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars and gender violence — prehistorically an inconceivable notion —

Continued on page 11

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This is opposed to the bigots demeaning LGBTQ people to hell. Poll after poll shows a majority of people in this country support the right to marry. Yet, decades after the Women’s Liberation movement trashed the stereotype of woman as baby-ma- chine, Michigan’s Special Assistant Attorney General John Bursch argued the state had a compelling interest in protecting the “procreative” function of marriage to serve purposes that, by their nature, arise from biology.” (Between the Lines, April 28)

Huge throngs packed the courtroom and demonstrat- ed outside for marriage equality, greatly outnumbering the small crowd of bigots denying LGBTQ people to hell. Poll after poll shows a majority of people in this country support the right to marry. Yet, decades after the Women’s Liberation movement trashed the stereotype of woman as baby-ma- chine, Michigan’s Special Assistant Attorney General John Bursch argued the state had a compelling interest in protecting the “procreative” function of marriage to serve purposes that, by their nature, arise from biology.” (Between the Lines, April 28)

By Andrew Shemitz

Rebellion forces charges against Baltimore cops

A community activist: Stop Mumia’s murder by neglect!

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in fired union leaders
Boston school bus drivers vote
By Brenda Ryan

In a stunning victory, the militant, fighting and filing of the Boston school bus drivers’ union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, voted in the full slate of Team Solidarity candidates on April 30. The union’s survival during the nearly two years since Veolia and the mayor’s office began their union-busting assault.

The membership sent a clear message to Veolia/Transdev, the union-busting school bus management company, as well as to Boston Public Schools and Mayor Marty Walsh, that they will continue the struggle for the return of their union and the rehiring of their leaders. They will also unite with the communities they serve to struggle for Equal Quality Education.

This new wave began in the spring of 2011 with the amicable retirement of the 80-long union, whose members are largely Haitian, Cape Verdean and, in places, President Andre Francois, longtime local vice president, Steve Kirschbaum, a founder of the local; Treasurer George Scott, veteran of the 1965 Civil Rights March in Selma, Ala.; Financial Secretary Steven Gillis, the outgoing vice president and benefits administrator; Recording Secretary Claude "Too Fins" St. Germain, a former militant activist; Grievance Committee member Garry Murchison, a three-term past president, Frank Mendez, two-term president, and Richard Lainie; Trustees Vincent "Fan Fanz" Cadet, Fred Froleal and Judy Long; Guide Chantal Suffrant Casi-mir; Guards Adriano Barbosa and Luday Pierre; and Accident Review Committee member Jerome Samir Stanley, Kathy Moore and Robert Saiby. Murchison led the local in an 800-member walkout, which ended with a 48-hour lockout of the mayor’s office.

Veolia illegally fired Francois, Gillis, Kirschbaum and Murchison in November 2013, following a company-ordered, police department-enforced lockout on Oct. 24. The strike occurred after the local requested an emergency meeting. The walkout occurred in the midst of a three-month fight with the new company over wage theft, its refusal to honor the drivers' long-standing contract and Veolia's illegal demand — because it is in violation of the contract — the day before the lockout.

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Small clique of business-minded, company-owned officials, including the current president — who bowed out during the election campaign — tried to turn the membership against Team Solidarity’s leadership. They bombarded members with the message: “Don’t vote for the people who were fired. They don’t do any good.

The climax of year-long bargaining over a new concessionary contract was the company’s divisive campaign that included: calling for the defeat of the union for the fired leaders and using false ‘retro-pay’ payroll documents produced by management. But the members voted 2,465-350 for the new contract, their first 9-0-0 victory with the United Steelworkers sea:...
May Day in Baltimore

By Monica Moorehead

Baltimore

Thousands march for amnesty for youth

The Baltimore People’s Power Assembly called a special rally and march for May Day, also known as International Worker’s Day, to demand justice for Freddie Grey and generate amnesty for the hundreds of Black youth who were arrested during the April 27 rebellion following Grey’s funeral.

Other important demands included the end of a five-day curfew and the immediate withdrawal of thousands of gun-carrying National Guard troops called out by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to occupy the Black community.

Not even the presence of the police and the Guard at McKeldin Square could quell the militancy of the crowd.

The May Day march attracted a multinational crowd of more than 10,000 mainly young people, including children, who took to the streets following a brief gathering and rally at McKeldin Square. The square was the site of theOccupy movement’s two-month occupation back in 2011 and is designated as a free speech zone.

In 2013, a historic march of 10,000 people demanding justice for Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old African American murdered by vigilante George Zimmerman in 2012, was also held at McKeldin Square before the assembled masses took over City Hall for four hours.

The May Day march for Grey, the 25-year-old African American tortured to death by six Baltimore police officers, was the largest organized since the one held for Martin. The protesters spontaneously marched to a nearby prison complex, which is presently incarcerating the youth arrested during the April 25 demonstration, those allegedly taking part in the April 27 rebellion, and those arrested subsequently for curfew violations.

Among the many signs in the crowd were ones that read, “Our youth are not thugs and looters.” These messages countered the racist, demonizing labels that the mayor, the police and the media are using against rebellious Black youth.

The march then continued on to Pennsylvania and North avenues on the West Side, known as ground zero of the rebellion, where the crowd had swelled to at least 15,000. There was so much jubilation in the air.

It was at this site on April 27 that a CVS drug store was liberated of goods denied to the Black community, a community that has been decimated by layoffs of jobs, water shutoffs, and inadequate food, housing and other necessities of life.

Colleen Davison, a leader of Baltimore’s revolutionary youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) and an eyewitness to the rebellion, wrote, “Men, women and children were coming into the stores with empty hands and leaving with bags and boxes of the basic necessities of life. Food, drinks, toilet paper, baby food, diapers, etc. — all things that they never had free access to under capitalism. Children were getting their first pairs of new shoes and coming out of the stores smiling with fruit and candy.

“Community members came together and took as much as they could to give to the people, especially the elderly who weren’t able to come out. This all was happening at the end of the month, as food stamps are running out, the stamps being a grudging form of assistance which has already been reduced by the ruling class to the point where most people in cities like Baltimore are hungry and desperate.” (workers.org, April 30)

The five-hour march ended at City Hall. There, hundreds of youth stayed at City Hall to hold a press conference and discuss whether to conduct a civil disobedience action to break the curfew, which officially began at 10 p.m. and ended at 5 a.m.

At approximately 9:45 p.m., a group of 90 youth sat in a wide-circle discussing civil disobedience to the curfew. Steven Ceci, a PPA organizer who was a part of this group, told the crowd, "We demand amnesty for all arrestees." (workers.org, April 30)

On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

Calif. nurses strike for health coverage, safety

Some 5,000 registered nurses, organized by the California Nurses Association and National Nurses United, went on a one-day strike or marched on picket lines April 30 after contract negotiations with the Sutter Health hospital corporation hit a dead end. Despite raking in more than $8 billion in annual profits over the last five years and paying its CEO an obscenely high $6 million salary in 2013, Sutter continues to demand cuts to nurses’ health care plans and dangerously low staffing levels at its hospitals.

Emergency room nurse Debra Bucellato told the press: “We need adequate health care for ourselves and for our families along with staffing conditions that are safe. As it is, Sutter is trying to cut corners despite tremendous profits, but nurses deserve basic essentials ... [like] quality health care coverage and safe staffing.” (National Nurses United, April 30)

Sutter hospital nurses were joined by nurses at Kaiser Permanente and Providence Health hospitals in various cities who also walked off the job to protest corporate policies that promote profit above decent health care.

Federal contracted employees demand living wage

While politicians campaign across the country making empty promises about “economic opportunity” and a fair shot at the “American dream,” workers at the U.S. Senate’s own cafeteria struggle just to make ends meet. That’s why contract food service and janitorial workers at U.S. federal buildings in Washington, D.C., went on a one-day strike April 22 to demand fair wages and collective bargaining rights.

President Obama’s 2014 executive order raising federal contract workers’ minimum wage to $10.10 per hour isn’t enough, said Bertrand Olotara, a single father who earns $12 an hour as a cook in the Senate cafeteria. “Even though I work seven days a week — putting in 70 hours between my two jobs — I can’t manage to pay the rent, buy school supplies for my kids or even put food on the table,” he wrote in an April 22 letter to The Guardian. “I hate to admit it, but I have to use food stamps so that my kids don’t go to bed hungry.”

With support from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, workers rallied outside the Capitol Building to demand $15 an hour and a union for all federal contract workers, who number about 26 million, or 22 percent of the civilian workforce. (AFSCME.org, April 22)

Mourn the dead, fight for the living

Every year on April 28, Workers’ Memorial Day, laborers throughout the world remember workers who have been killed on the job or injured by their work and pledge to renew the struggle for workplace safety. In 2013 in the U.S. alone, 4,585 workers died as a result of workplace accidents and an estimated 50,000 died from occupational diseases, as detailed in the AFL-CIO’s 2015 edition of “Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect.” Nearly 3.8 million work-related injuries and illnesses were reported, but because many are not reported, the true toll is more than two to three times greater, or 7.6 million to 11.4 million injuries each year. (afcio.org, April 28)

Among those taken by workplace tragedies in 2015 was 40-year-old construction worker Trevor Lofthus, who was killed April 24 in New York City in a freak accident when the hydraulic system on the crane he was operating failed, crushing him. (New York Daily News, April 24) Workers need strong, fighting unions to ensure workplace safety and a totally different economic system where human lives are valued above profits.

Labor opposes Trans-Pacific Partnership

The organized labor movement, along with national environmental and immigrant rights groups, has taken a strong, united stand against the trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). What’s hidden from the public is that as a result of the trade agreement, workers and environmentalists who have been killed on the job or injured by their work and pledge to renew the struggle for workplace safety. In 2013 in the U.S. alone, 4,585 workers died as a result of workplace accidents and an estimated 50,000 died from occupational diseases, as detailed in the AFL-CIO’s 2015 edition of “Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect.” Nearly 3.8 million work-related injuries and illnesses were reported, but because many are not reported, the true toll is more than two to three times greater, or 7.6 million to 11.4 million injuries each year. (afcio.org, April 28)

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Fighting police brutality on May Day

Longshore workers shut down Bay Area ports

By Terri Kay

Oakland, Calif.

May 1 — Once again the membership of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 did a remarkable deed when it led U.K. labor on May Day 2015 by shutting down all Bay Area ports and march to Oakland City Hall to stand up against police terror. The political focus of the time of that decision, was the April 4 police killing of Walter Scott in South Carolina. Scott had strong family ties to the International Longshore Association there, and ILWU Local 10 so voted to show solidarity with the ILA.

“I put forth the resolution to shut down the port because I am proud of my union’s history of resistance, and I felt it was time labor came out loudly against police terror,” said Stacey Rodgers, the ILWU member who initiated the port action. “We are in an historic moment in our country. Labor has always been part of the historic moments in this country, and it is our job now to take that legacy on May Day.”

Then Freddie Grey was killed by the Baltimore police.

The National Workers’ Day, the ILWU membership and well over 1,000 community members came out strongly to show their anger about recent police killings and all the cases of police terror. Local 10 and a number of community groups and other union organizations rallied at the Port of Oakland, a march through the Acorn Projects in West Oakland and a rally at Oscar Grant Plaza in front of Oakland City Hall.

At the port, longshore workers spoke out against police terror, including the family of Jeremiah Moore, an autistic man shot by police in Valejo, Calif., on Oct. 22, 2013, and the uncle of Freddie Pe- rez, an unarmed man shot by the Rich- mond Police Department on Sept. 14.

The ILWU drill team led the marchers. Marshalled banners, including one reading, “Justice for Yuvette.” Yuvette Henderson was killed Feb. 7 by an Eryav- elyce police. Also, “May Day! Fight for Freddie Grey,” “No execution by medical neglect, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal,” and “Stop police terror, ILWU Local 10.”

Students in the playgrounds of both an elementary school and a high school on the march’s path waved and chanted jubilantly as the protesters passed. Marshals even stopped to teach chants like, “All night, all day, we will fight for Freddie Grey.”

Cat Brooks, of ONXY and the An- ti-Police Terror Project, said in a press release, “The only way this country is go- ing to take us seriously is if we interrupt their commerce and impact their bottom line. Simply appealing to their humanity doesn’t work. If that was the case, the ep- idemic of Black genocide at the hands of police would have ended decades ago.”

In a message read to the crowd at Oscar Grant Plaza, Clarence Thomas, of Local 10, said, “This mobilization today is beyond protest. It is an act of resistance. Local 10 is shutting down the movement of international cargo. By silencing the cranes at the ports, we, the working class, make our voices heard loudly around the world today. The supreme task of labor is to challenge corporate America — head on — as part of a new peoples’ movement for all workers and the oppressed in this country.”

Eyewitness report on Baltimore Rebellion

By Colleen Davidson

Baltimore

April 27 — Last night, some comrades and I went to the front lines of the rebel- lion in Baltimore, at North Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. As we got closer to the area, food, both hot and cold, was being passed out. Young people saw our signs calling for community con- trol of the police and justice for Freddie Grey, and raised their fists in the air as they walked by.

When we got within a block of the ac- tion, the smoke from the burning CVS was so thick, it was hard to see and breathe. It wasn’t until the smoke dissipated for a mo- ment that a line of riot cops appeared, wait- ing, clearly looking for blood as they stood with their nightsticks and shields. Apparently, they were furious because of the brave fighters when they had fought earlier that day, who had reportedly caused many police injuries, including broken bones.

The streets were littered with smashed glass, broken police shields and garbage. A police car was on fire. The protesters had fought with police officers’ heads and coming down on him. The protesters were not even fighting was grabbed by the police and pulled behind the police line. One man who moved towards the police. One man who wasn’t even fighting was grabbed by the police and pulled behind the police line. We couldn’t see him on the ground but we saw about 12 batons coming up above the officers’ heads and coming down on him. They made a wall so we couldn’t get past to help him. Clearly, they didn’t want re- cords by witnesses of the savage beat- ing that he was enduring. Everywhere around us looked like a war zone.

Continued from page 1

killed police. This was a lie. The truth was that these youth gangs had announced a truce with each other in order to unite and protest police repression. They had marched together at an April 25 protest. Following Grey’s April 27 funeral, peo- ple as young as 12 years old were con- fronted by tear gas, rubber pellets, a form of rubber bullets. One of these pellets struck a reporter, Shawn Carrié, on the scene. The reporter was later arrested and spent 49 hours in jail, according to the May 2 is- sue of The Guardian. (theguardian.com)

Stores at the Mondawmin Mall had windows smashed. Youth then encircled the police and headed to nearby Penn- sylvania Avenue, the closest commercial area, and fired shots to the fiction of North and Pennsylvania avenues in the Black community.

WW correspondent Lamont Lilly, an eyewitness to the rebellion, described the conditions he saw in Baltimore: “When you take your time and walk by foot, the intense degree of poverty completely par- alyzes you. It shocked me, and I’m from the hood. The absurd amount of board- ed homes is astounding. The makeshift neighborhoods, comprised of trash, for- gotten debris and the countless number of dilapidated buildings, are an absolute travesty in this, the richest country on the planet.

“The lack of grocery stores, play- grounds and recreation facilities is ap- parent. The community’s one and only primary school was closed last year. The wasting away of Black bodies, good peo- ple and buried hope. The emphasis on education is for those suffering property own- ers. While Freddie Grey was laid to rest today, these are the images that remain.” (workers.org, April 28)

As has been stated by People’s Power Assembly organizers, while the battle is far from over, the people in the street recognize that the indictments announced by the State’s Attorney’s Of- fice were a direct result of the youth rebellions and the continuous protests led by the community since Fred- die Grey’s death, which have been spectacular and orga- nized. The PPA is calling for a people’s tribunal against police violence and structures of white supremacy to be held in Baltimore on June 6.
From April 30 to May 3, people in many U.S. cities held rallies, marches and other events in solidarity with the rebellious youth of Baltimore protesting police brutality. On May 1, immigrants, including many from Latin America, organized and called demonstrations for immigrant and workers' rights, but they also stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and its latest manifestation in Baltimore. Workers World reports on some of these activities here.

In the tenth such march since hundreds of thousands of mostly immigrants brought International Workers’ Day back to New York City with a bang in 2006, the May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights first gathered for a rally in Union Square Park and then marched to the federal buildings downtown. This year the thousands of people in the march were swelled by an influx of people even younger than the immigrant workers — youth, Brown, Black and white, who had come out in response to a call by organizers to show solidarity with the rebellious youth of Baltimore and demand justice for Freddie Grey.

Police did their worst, setting up metal fences to keep the popular demonstration separate from people along the long route of march downtown. This could not stop many of the bystanders from raising their fists and their voices to show they were with the marchers.

Across the continent, hundreds came to the May Day March and Rally in downtown San Diego organized by the May 1st Planning Committee. Babies in strollers, toddlers, high school and college students, youth from Association of Raza Educators; MECHA-Lincoln High School, Association of Chicano Activists, San Diego Student Union; International Workers World, International Workers of the World and other organizations that participated. The theme was “Worker Rights Are Human Rights.”

The rally, which began with traditional drumming and dance by Danza Aztec, focused on workers directly affected by the main points of unity. A group of youth carrying flags from many countries, with a banner that read “Workers United for Dignity and Justice,” led the march. They also carried signs and wore T-shirts that read “All Mothers Are Workers,” “Don’t criminalize the Workers” and “Fight for 15, Union Yes.” Midway through the march was an amazing performance by Mujeres en Resistencia Culture. People gathered in front of the courthouse across from the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego.

Police brutality and terror or terror on everyone’s mind. Marchers shouted “Hands Up! Don’t Shoot!” as the police rode bicycles and walked on the side trying to keep marchers on the path. People were literally grabbing from disbelieving bystanders from stores, fiery speakers continue to speak out for dignity and justice. We will win.

Madison’s May Day rally began at Brittingham Park along West Washing-ton Avenue, followed by a march to the Wisconsin Capitol. Organizations such as the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition, the International Workers of the World and the Wisconsin International Workers’ Union de Trabajadores Inmigrantes sponsored the events. Protesters united a variety of demands, including justice for Freddie Grey, Tony Robinson, Dontre Hamilton and all those killed and tortured by cops and vigilantes. Demands included an end to raids and deportations; an end to austerity, including union busting in Wisconsin; and an end to police brutality.

The rally was called by Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration. Many held signs saying “Black Lives Matter” with “#4Shutitdown” at the bottom.

“Chanting “All night, all day, we will march for Freddie Gray,” over 200 people rallied April 30 near the Syracuse University Quad in New York state. The first speaker read a message from the three co-founders of Black Lives Matter, noting they were all lesbian, gay, bi and trans women: “We stand in solidarity with the people of Baltimore and the millions of Black people across the country who are tired of poverty, racism and state-sanctioned murder.”

Defending Baltimore protesters who liberat-ed needed supplies from stores, fiery speakers named the seizure of Indigenous lands by U.S. colonizers as the real looting, pointing out that they were all lesbian, gay, bi and trans women: “We stand in solidarity with the people of Baltimore and the millions of Black people across the country who are tired of poverty, racism and state-sanctioned murder.”

The crowd shouted out the names of Black people killed by U.S. police, then marched...
rights, against police murders

For immigrant and workers' rights, against police murders

Top right: Crystal Richardson, of Coalition for REAL Justice spoke on struggle for justice for Freddie Grey, and in response to the violent murder of Freddie Grey and against police brutality local organizers called a “Philadelphia Is Baltimore Solidarity Rally” for April 30. Over 2,000 people responded in one of the police. Demonstrations against the epidemic of police murders of Black and Brown youth held here so far.

This is the first major street event that the Black youth-led coalition initiated since it formed in December 2014 after the massive protests calling for justice for Michael Brown and Eric Garner.

REAL Justice has held twice-a-month town hall gatherings since then, each drawing between 300 to 400 people.

The rally outside City Hall was followed by several hours of marching and confrontations with police on bicycles and horses as it zigzagged through Center City, effectively shutting down major streets during rush-hour traffic. A march against traffic on Market Street was greeted with honking horns and fists raised by motorists.

The march was fully in support of the rebellion of the youth of Baltimore and the stand the community there took in response to the violent murder of Freddie Gray.

Philadelphia has experienced hundreds of murders of Black and Brown youth by police who have never been brought to justice. It has high rates of poverty, gentrification, unemployment, redlining and underfunded schools. The board- ed-up row houses in Freddie Grey’s neighborhood could be any community in Philadelphia.

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Temple University Professor Anthony Mundine drew a parallel when he spoke on labor’s need to support the Black Lives Matter movement and for unions to end their support for the Fraternal Order of Police.

Brenda Ryan, Heather Cottin, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Joe Piette, Gloria Verdieu, Workers World Milwaukee Bureau, Chris Fry, Betsy Piette, Ellie Dorritie and Gene Clancy contributed to these reports.

downtown to the county jail and to the “Jerry Rescue” monument. This statue celebrates an 1873 public rescue when a Syracuse anti-slavery, abolitionist crowd stormed the city jail and freed William “Jerry” Henry, who had been arrested by U.S. marshals under the Fugitive Slave Act.

Latino and Latina immigrant farmworkers held their first-ever May Day march in upstate New York at Marks Dairy Farms in Lowville on May 1. The dairy workers were protesting the violent beating and firing of Francisco, a worker who objected to being ordered to work overtime and the right to form a union.

Nearly 200 militant demonstrators seized the streets of Rochester, N.Y., on May 1 in solidarity with the protests in Baltimore over the murder of Freddie Grey and against police brutality locally. Despite a large police presence and without a permit, the demonstrators took over entire streets, beginning in the poor and working-class neighborhoods and winding their way downtown. They frequently slowed or stopped traffic as they proceeded to single out and denounce a who’s who of local symbols of oppression, including the Public Safety building.

The demonstration was organized by BLACK (Building Leadership and Community Knowledge), an organization of students at the University of Rochester. They were joined by a number of organizations including the People’s Power Assembly.

On May 3, traffic at the heavily traveled intersection in the Kensington-Balley area of Buffalo crawled to a halt as protesters came out in solidarity with the people in Baltimore to demand justice for Freddie Gray and all victims of racist police violence. The large rally was called by the Buffalo Anti-Racism Coalition.

Recognizing the potential for an uprising in response to police brutality in Philadelphia like that in Baltimore, the Philly Racial, Economic And Legal (REAL) Justice Coalition called a “Philadelphia Is Baltimore Solidarity Rally” for April 30. Over 2,000 people responded in one of the police. Demonstrations against the epidemic of police murders of Black and Brown youth held here so far.

May 1st organizer Jose Canas spoke of May Day solidarity across borders: “As we march in Lowville, workers in my country of El Salvador are marching for their rights — our families are marching for our rights and theirs.” He also emphasized how dairy workers’ labor creates mega-profits for transnational businesses. New York state is fourth in U.S. production of milk and first in yogurt. Lowville is home to the plant that is the largest maker of Kraft Philadelphia cream cheese in the U.S.

Chanting “El pueblo unido jamás será vencido” (“The people united will never be defeated”), the crowd marched on dirt roads through the farm, past giant milk tanks, and winding their way through downtown. They frequently slowed or stopped traffic as they proceeded to single out and denounce a who’s who of local symbols of oppression, including the Public Safety building.

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This is the first major street event that the Black youth-led coalition initiated since it formed in December 2014 after the massive protests calling for justice for Michael Brown and Eric Garner. REAL Justice has held twice-a-month town hall gatherings since then, each drawing between 300 to 400 people.

The rally outside City Hall was followed by several hours of marching and confrontations with police on bicycles and horses as it zigzagged through Center City, effectively shutting down major streets during rush-hour traffic. A march against traffic on Market Street was greeted with honking horns and fists raised by motorists.

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Punishment for profit: The economics of mass incarceration

By Joyce Chediac

"Mass incarceration on a scale almost unseen in human history is a fundamental fact of our country today — perhaps the fundamental fact, as slavery was the fundamental fact of 1830." (“The Caging of America” by Adam I. Papick)

The excessive arrests and unjustified long-term imprisonments of mostly people of color, and the devastat- ing poverty and systemic discrimination that have been imposed upon them have been exposed and denounced by community, reli- gious, human rights, legal and advocacy organizations, and individual researchers.

The question now is how to stop?

Because for a very powerful few, mass incarceration is not a bad thing at all. It is the source of fabulous prof- its. For them, prison equals profits.

The total cost to government of incarceration is $700 billion a year. The privately run prison industry, which feeds on mass incarceration, is one of the fastest grow- ing and widest reaching of U.S. industries. In 2009 alone, when most industries were in a slump, the prison industry brought in $34.4 billion in revenues. (“Prison Labor and Crime in the U.S. — Inmate Facts and Stats, a report by the Black Congressional Caucus at tyn.org/pcg/d/16)

The rate of profits from prison industries is compara- ble to what U.S. companies extract from exploiting labor markets in countries throughout the world, with added transportation costs. There is virtually no over- head for these corporations, because the profits are paid for and prisoners are housed at tax dollar expense.

Secret corporate cheerleaders of mass incarceration

It is this why some of the world’s most powerful finan- cial institutions — Bank of America, Goldman Sachs Group, JP Morgan Chase & Co. and others — are the pri- mary investors in the prison-industrial complex and the secret cheerleaders of mass incarceration.

That’s why virtually every major company and em- ployer — from the U.S. military to Exxon, to McDonald’s, to Victoria’s Secret — and a great many minor ones, profit from mass incarceration, either directly or indirectly from low-cost prison labor.

This reach is so vast that the products of prison labor touch virtually every part of life, from the food we eat, the jeans we wear, the phones we use, to how our pen- sions are managed.

That’s why the judiciary, the courts, the police, the legislators and even whole federal agencies have be- come cheerleaders for this system of mass imprisonment in punishment for profit, having had their palms smeared by its main corporate players.

Legislation that enables financial gain from prisons, such as the three strikes for nonviolent offenses, were actually written by the prison profiteers, then passed by legislatures in their pay.

Prison labor has taken the place of many jobs. So punishment for profit contributes to unemployment, undermines workers’ demands for living wages and cre- ates obstacles to trade union organizing. How did this happen?

Emergence of the prison-industrial complex

The term “prison-industrial complex” was coined in 1997 by activist and former police officer An- gela Davis to describe the high rate of profit made by the corporations running prisons, the merger of these companies with the biggest banks and businesses, and the devastating effect this phenomenon has had upon the working class, communities of color and the socially vulnerable.

Before 1980, there were no private adult prisons in the U.S. Private companies began to run state and federal prisons in the 1980s, under President Ronald Reagan. The Vera Institute for Justice states in its report, “The fundamental fact of 1850.” (www.phewacommunity.com) El Diario-La Prensa of Manhattan, reported that in Cal- ifornia alone, society, prisoners were processed “more than 680,000 pounds of beef, 400,000 pounds of chicken products, 430,000 gallons of milk, 280,000 loaves of bread, and 2.9 million eggs.” Signature Packaging Solu-
tions, a Starbucks subcontractor, was using prisoners to package holiday cookies.

Inmates are producing airplane parts, medical supplies and much more. They are even raising seeing-eye dogs.

Inmates in prison labor and the prison-industrial complex include the oil giants ExxonMobil Corp. and Chevron, Koch Industries, a host of utility companies, and pharmaceutical companies such as GEICO, State Farm and Fidelity Investments, which holds the 401(k) and retirement counts of millions of people, according to Slon.

Involving in punishment for profit are a host of gi- ant pharmaceutical com- panies involved in the making of antiretrovirals, GlassSmithKline, Merck & Co. and Pfizer. Also making a business of the misery of those incarcerated are Cantor Edel, International Game Technology, virtually all the telecommunications companies, and transportation companies such as American Airlines, Boeing and Unit- ed Parcel Service, says Sloan. So the hotel and airline reservations we make for vacations are often handled by prisoners. And this is just a sampling.

Sloan concludes, “The Prison-Industrial Complex is simply too vast to avoid or boycott — in a manner typi- cally used by consumers and concerned citizens.”

To get your job back ‘go to prison’

Factories are closing and workers being laid off because it’s cheaper for the bosses to get prisoners to do the work.

For a capitalist, what’s not to like?

A system ‘too vast to boycott’

Prisons replacing farmworkers

Fruits and vegetables are often picked by immigrants, many of them undocumented, The Obama administra- tion, however, has deported undocumented workers in record numbers, while it slowed the legal flow of con- tracted agricultural workers into the country. At the same time, more states are issuing visas to farmers and agricul- tural businesses who hire undocumented workers.

With fewer workers available to pick crops at the go- ing rate, the prison-industrial complex has happily stepped in to fill the gap. Today, prisoners pick onions in Georgia, watermelons in Arizona, apples in Washington and potatoes in Idaho.

For a capitalist, what’s not to like?

Profiting from people in jail is undeniably a horrible form of exploitation, destructive to all working people and to society as a whole. This is the raw face of capi- talism in the 21st century, without the ideological touch ups provided by Wall Street public relations firms or the corporate media.

The drive for ever greater profits is built into the capi- talist system. Money gravitates to where the rate of profit is the highest, regardless of the social cost. This is why virtually all the corporate establishment sharks are in a feeding frenzy over the profits to be made off of punishment.

For a capitalist, what’s not to like?

Next: The terrible human toll. How do the prison profiteers get away with it?
Global activists say
Stop Mumia’s murder by medical neglect!

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Intensive worldwide efforts have been ramped up to raise awareness of the dire health crisis facing Mumia Abu-Jamal since his marriage to Wadiya Jamal, the sounding alarm over his deteriorating condition. They demand that Pennsylvania state officials do everything in their power to undo Mumia’s condition of being incarcerated, especially after SCI Mahanoy prison doctors denied him the drug cyclosporine. Its dangerous side effects seemed to exacerbate his condition. This drug is contraindicated for people with diabetes; Mumia has adult onset diabetes.

So many calls flooded the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ phones that officials complained they could not make outgoing calls. A half-page ad in the New York Times of April 29 addressed this crisis. Several people traveled to the state Capitol building in Harrisburg for a protest conference and to see Gov. Tom Wolf’s mansion on April 29. A video addressing the state’s attempt to murder Mumia produced by Steve Victoria, director of “Long Distance Revolution,” was widely circulated. View it at tinyurl.com/It67357.

Mumia was wrongfully convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1981. He was incarcerated and sentenced to death. He was imprisoned on death row until April 2011, when he finally pressured the courts to rescind the death sentence. In 2012, he was transferred to general population at SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, Pa.

In January 2013, Mumia began to develop serious skin allergies. Due to mistreatment and misdiagnosis by doctors at the prison infirmary, his condition worsened, leading to complications of adult-onset diabetes. On March 30, when his blood sugar and sodium levels were at potentially fatal levels of 779 and 168 respectively—and he had collapsed from diabetic shock—he was transferred to the intensive care unit in Schuylkill Medical Center in Pottsville, Pa.

Three days later, Mumia was returned to the prison infirmary, into the hands of the same doctors who had failed to diagnose his diabetes despite administering three blood tests.

In spite of insulin treatments and some adjustments to his diet, Mumia’s health has deteriorated. His symptoms include uncontrolled diabetes, blood in his urine, the loss of over 65 pounds, uncontrolled hand tremors, slurred speech, memory loss, and a painful skin disease with open sores. His skin has hardened and his body is partially disfigured, particularly on his neck and face.

Proper medical care is a right!

While prison doctors seemed incapable of properly diagnosing and treating Mumia’s increasing health crisis, the Department of Corrections denied his grievance requesting to be seen by well-trained specialists of his choice. Yet, when John E. du Pont, an heir to the famed chemical empire fortune, was imprisoned, the same officials granted him access to private doctors. Mumia deserves the same treatment.

When Mumia’s lawyer, Bret Grote, attempted to visit him on April 27, he learned that Mumia had been sent to the prison infirmary. Yet prison officials held an unconstituted lawyer-client visit. Then, no one had received calls from Mumia in the days following the visits with Wadiya Jamal on April 24 and 25, raising grave concerns that his condition, untreated and misdiagnosed by prison doctors, could result in his death.

The combined pressure of phone calls, ads and direct actions finally resulted in prison administrators allowing the doctors of Mumia’s choice to review his medical records. While not allowed direct access, these doctors will be able to consult Mumia by phone to advise him on what treatments would be best. On medical advice, Mumia stopped taking the cyclosporine.

Grote was finally allowed to visit Mumia at the prison infirmary on May 1. Pam Africa, who saw him on May 2, reported that “while his condition seems somewhat better, Mumia is still far from being out of the woods.” She urged supporters to continue to pressure the state, reminding them that global movement to support Mumia, the Black Lives Matter movement against police violence and the struggle against mass incarceration have also played a key role.

Colombia talks — in Cuba
Women combatants want to achieve peace

By Martha Grevatt

Peace talks between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the Colombian government, taking place in Havana, Cuba, are making some progress despite many challenges.

From April 11 through 18, 33 United States and other international solidarity activists had the opportunity to meet in Havana with FARC-EP plenipotentiaries, as well as representatives of the Colombian government and the guarantor countries, Cuba and Norway, along with the FARC-EP legal advisors from Spain.

One of the most illuminating sessions was our meeting with the “Sub-Commission on Gender.” This body was established to make sure that any agreements between the parties “reflect an advance of women, make sure their position is advanced, recognize women’s central role and empower women to improve their position,” according to Victoria Sandino, a leading FARC-EP representative on the sub-commission.

The FARC-EP did take seriously the demands that were raised by Colombian women during many discussions. As a consequence, the Sub-Commission on Gender was created.

Many of these proposals from organizations of women and of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people were made through a process that includes a website set up by the FARC to submit suggestions, which are then presented by a table of conversations (that is what they call the agenda of talks between the FARC-EP and the government). The process is a democratic one that allows the Colombian masses to make their concerns and suggestions heard. Over 100,000 suggestions have been received. Women suffer disproportionately from the consequences of the war, which the Colombian government, with Washington’s backing, wages against the people.

Women have been made to suffer. They comprise 70 percent of the millions of displaced. They experience workplace discrimination. They see their children murdered. And to earn income, they become “mules” who smuggle illegal drugs out of Colombia. As political prisoners and prisoners of war, they are subject to torture and sexual violence.

All of this came to light when both sides at the table of conversations listened to testimonies from victims of the conflict. In a process the FARC-EP insisted on. Of the 60 witnesses, six were from women’s organizations and two from LGBT groups. Their proposals were integrated into the process of talks. Some 80 percent of Colombian women have been victimized some way or another by the war. “But,” Sandino stressed, “we aren’t only victims; we are actors, we are political agents. We have been fighting and making demands.” While the Colombian government also is represented on the sub-commission, it became clear to us that the FARC-EP women were its driving force. All of the seven women and one man who spoke to our delegation about the sub-commission were from the FARC-EP side of the table. “Women combatants want to achieve peace,” they explained.

Speakers also dispelled some of the myths about the women in the guerrilla army. The capitalist media have portrayed FARC-EP women as sex slaves of male combatants, making false claims of forced abortions and innumerable other abuses. In fact, women have always played leading roles since the FARC’s founding in 1964 and comprise at least 30 percent of the millions of fighters to the “Table of Conversations” listened to our delegation about the sub-commission. Some 80 percent of Colombian women have been victimized some way or another by the war. “But,” Sandino stressed, “we aren’t only victims, we are actors, we are political agents. We have been fighting and making demands.”

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All women receive the same training as men — training that includes “learning the causes of oppression and allowing people to imagine a world where the moral and ethical values of being a revolutionary, and the humanitarian values we are fighting for.”

“The rights of women and children, including those who experience domestic abuse, are attended to in areas under FARC-EP control. When asked about the fact that the top leadership — the FARC Secretariat — is all men, the speakers stated that the goal is to improve, that “we are in a perpetual state of growing, becoming better than we were.”

LGBT rights are respected and protected

The Sub-Commission on Gender is also reviewing all agreements to make sure LGBT rights are respected and protected. “We have the utmost respect for people wherever they come from, sexually speaking,” a member of the group stated. “As a matter of principle we would never discriminate against anyone for their sexual orientation.”

The delegation enjoyed this rare opportunity to learn how real peoples’ democracy — a process that makes an extra effort to make the most oppressed voices heard — can be conducted even under the most extreme conditions of war, repression and neocolonial austerity.

Martha Grevatt represented the International Action Center on the delegation that traveled by the balance of Global Justice. The delegation also included representatives of the National Lawyers Guild and several Latin American solidarity groups.
Disarm the Pentagon

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Fighter aircraft from the Saudi-Gulf Cooperation Council coalition continued their massive bombing operations in Yemen in late April by attacking the international airport in the capital of Sanaa. The U.S.-backed Saudis present this struggle as a proxy war against Iran, with these latest attacks aimed at blocking Iranian aid to the Ansarallah movement (the Houthis), who have popular support in the large swaths of Yemen's territory that they control.

Despite Washington and Tehran's agreement over Iran's nuclear energy program, the U.S. government has not lessened its hostility towards Iran. The Pentagon is providing fuel for the Saudi-U.S. war planes and intelligence support, which has resulted in the massive destruction caused by the bombing that began March 26. Yemen is now important military base in Yemen earlier this year, the Pentagon sees a victory in Yemen as central to U.S. imperialist interests in the region.

The April 28 British Guardian noted: "Iran's state news agency IRNA said Saudi jets tried to force what it said was an aid plane back after it entered Yemeni airspace, but the pilots had ignored these 'illegal warnings.' The jets then bombed Sanaa airport, the cigarette industry. Saudi Arabia is making an approach to land, forcing it to turn back, IRNA added." Saudi Arabia seeks to reinstall a moderate and bankrupt regime.

Al Jazeera Middle East

Yemen's Houthi rebels, who are fighting for this carnage — they're just stuck with..."
On 40th anniversary of Vietnam’s victory

The power of people’s war and global anti-imperialist solidarity

By Dee Knight

It took 30 years of hard fighting, but the last weeks were like a blur. First a lightening

assault in Vietnam’s Central Highlands. Then rapid attacks on the key political centers

of the Saigon puppet administration. Then quick advances on the Saigon bypass road to

the Saigon puppet army scattered in the face of their assault. This April 30 marks the 40th

anniversary of Vietnam’s 1975 Great Spring Victory.

This April 30 marks the 40th anniversary of Vietnam’s 1975 Great Spring Victory. In those final

weeks, the Saigon puppet army was in hopeless retreat. In the words of Gen. Giap, the country

was “in the grip of a typhoon.”

The true legacy of Vietnam, as stated

by Gen. Giap, is that “the myth of the

American pilots, and have sunk or set fire
to more than 3,200 of the most up-to-date
aircraft of the United States, killing or
capturing a sizable number of top
American pilots, and have sunk or set fire
to hundreds of enemy vessels. The so-called
air superiority of the U.S. imperialists — the
chieftain of imperialism which used to boast
of its wealth and weapons and which is notorious for its cruelty — has received a staggering
blow at the hands of the Vietnamese people.” (Army Day speech, Dec. 21, 1968)

This was three years before the PLAF knocked out 30 B-52 Stratofortresses — a third of the

In 1968, Gen. Giap spoke of “all 31 million
Vietnamese fighting U.S. imperialism — capturing a sizable number of top American pilots, and have sunk or set fire to hundreds of enemy vessels. The so-called air superiority of the U.S. imperialists — the chieftain of imperialism which used to boast of its wealth and weapons and which is notorious for its cruelty — has received a staggering blow at the hands of the Vietnamese people.” (Army Day speech, Dec. 21, 1968)

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Luego de Ferguson, policía contraataca: Resistencia en masa es la respuesta

Por Fred Goldstein

El desafío arrogante y el obstinado intrusismo de la policía de Baltimore ha manifestado ante el video que les muestra arrastrando el cuerpo inerte de Freddie Gray en un furgón policíaco como una amenaza de desafío de la historia de los departamentos policíacos en todo el país.

La policía de Baltimore está acostumbrada a acoso, comer atrocidades y matar gente negra con impunidad. Como sus contrapartes en ciudades de todo el país, desde Filadelfia a Tulsa, desde Los Ángeles a Cleveland, Nueva York, Albuquerque, Portland, Virginia. Pasó en el estado de Washington y en otras ciudades y pueblos, grandes y pequeños, la policía de Baltimore está acostumbrada a ser en sí una ley virtual. Todos los asesinatos por la policía desde Fergus- son hasta el pasado en el currículo del comisario.

En el mes de marzo, se registraron 111 asesinatos policiales. Los apologistas de la policía dicen que los asesinatos no han aumentado recientemente, sino que han aumentado en vídeo. Pero el hecho es que en marzo hubo 36 muertes más registradas que en febrero. (thinkprogress.com, 4° abril) En los primeros tres meses de 2014 hubo 244 homicidios cometidos por la policía; este año hubo 297 en el mismo periodo. Estas cifras son compiladas por grupos privados porque no se mantienen estadísticas nacionales.

La exposición de la policía asesina en videos y en los medios de comunicación capitalista no ha frenado los departamentos de policía en el país. Al revés, la policía ha más asesina que nunca, a pesar de la desconfianza constante y el autoritarismo creciente. El momento de su renuncia no puede ser ignorado.


Holder relató ser detenido por agentes de la ley en el sector de Georgetown en Washington, D.C. mientras corría, y otra vez, sin ninguna razón, mientras le patrullaba por el New Jersey. Eurozón. La policía registró su coche, y dijo que fue “humillante” y lo dejó “enmojado”.

Holder aprobó la exoneración de Darren Wilson, quien mató a Michael Brown. Pero luego publicó un informe sobre Ferguson que era una acusación mordaz de la policía y de los funcionarios raciales de la ciudad, acusando a la policía de abuso en el nivel más alto. Holder también lanzó docenas de investigaciones de abuso por departamentos locales de policía.

A pesar de ser un leal servidor de la clase dominante, Holder mostró, en el mes de abril de la visita de Ferguson, el 25 de septiembre, Holder renunció.

¿Qué camino va a ir Loretta Lynch?

Loretta Lynch, una fiscal general afro-americana de Brooklyn, acaba de ser aprobada para ser la próxima Secretaria de Justicia de EUA. Tomó seis meses para obtener la aprobación de los republicanos del Congreso, quienes bloquearon su nominación en una lucha sobre la financiación del aborto.

El fiscal dominante está tratando de dirigir en una dirección pro-policía. El New York Times publicó un artículo por Matt Apuzzo el 23 de abril declarando: “Como fiscal de carrera con una reputación de ley y orden, [Lynch] entra al cargo con fuertes relaciones con muchos de los grupos policiales que se han sentido injustamente criticados durante una serie de episodios de alto perfil de hombres afro-americanos muriendo a manos de oficiales blancos”.

The Times continuó: “El señor Holder recien- temente completó una gira nacional de barrios de minorías para discutir el trabajo policial. La Sra. Lynch planea una gira similar de los departamentos policiales, de lo que indica un cambio en el enfoque... ella ha descrito, en términos pasionales y personales, cómo la policía es una fuerza de bien en barríos de minorías”.

Aún está por verse si Lynch realmente desem- peñará el papel que se espera de ella. Pero haga lo que haga como fiscal general, no es probable que la policía se reconcile con ella—porque es una mujer afro-americana e ir al poder en un país que agrue- dió a Abner Louima en la ciudad de NY. Aunque la continuación de página 10

EDITORIAL
Gaza y Baltimore

Gaza es la prisión más grande del mundo. Casi dos millones de palestinas/os están encerrados allí por el bloqueo militar de Israel. El año pasado, el estado racista de Israel mató a más de 2.000 palestinas/os en Gaza, incluyendo 547 niños. El Pentágono proporcionó más bombas cuando el Estado sionista quiso “reconquistar” una ciudad en el sur del país.

Baltimore, al igual que Palestina, está bajo ocupación militar racista. La fuerza policial de Baltimore –la sexta más grande en la 24º ciudad más grande de EUA– trata a las/os negros como prisioneros. Según el censo de 2010, mientras que 72 por ciento de la población de Baltimore son personas de color, un 48 por ciento de la policía es blanco.

Las clases de la comunidad negra de Baltimore parecen como zonas quemadas de guerra. La última atrocidad es la de policías de Baltimore torturando hasta la muerte a Freddie Carlos Gray, cuya columna vertebral fue cercenada al menos 80 por ciento mientras estaba bajo control policial.

El asesinato de Gray – un afroamericano de 25 años— fue un punto de explosión para la mayoría negra de Baltimore. Manifestaciones continuas han estallado en la ciudad, haciéndose públicos en Ferguson, Misuri, contra el asesinato policial de Michael Brown.

Generaciones de afroamericanas/os en Baltimore han sufrido terror policial. Maryland era un estado en el que los afroamericanos mueren a manos de oficiales blancos”.

la pérdida de los empleos, escuelas y atención médica gratuitas. Estos son los derechos humanos que las/os trabajadoras en Baltimore, especialmente las más oprimidas, necesitan –no el terror policial- y la encarcelación en masa.

El desafío arrogante y el obstinado intrusismo de la policía de Baltimore ha manifestado ante el video que les muestra arrastrando el cuerpo inerte de Freddie Gray en un furgón policíaco como una amenaza de desafío de la historia de los departamentos policíacos en todo el país.

La policía de Baltimore está acostumbrada a acoso, comer atrocidades y matar gente negra con impunidad. Como sus contrapartes en ciudades de todo el país, desde Filadelfia a Tulsa, desde Los Ángeles a Cleveland, Nueva York, Albuquerque, Portland, Virginia. Pasó en el estado de Washington y en otras ciudades y pueblos, grandes y pequeños, la policía de Baltimore está acostumbrada a ser en sí una ley virtual. Todos los asesinatos por la policía desde Fergus- son hasta el pasado en el currículo del comisario.

En el mes de marzo, se registraron 111 asesinatos policiales. Los apologistas de la policía dicen que los asesinatos no han aumentado recientemente, sino que han aumentado en vídeo. Pero el hecho es que en marzo hubo 36 muertes más registradas que en febrero. (thinkprogress.com, 4° abril) En los primeros tres meses de 2014 hubo 244 homicidios cometidos por la policía; este año hubo 297 en el mismo periodo. Estas cifras son compiladas por grupos privados porque no se mantienen estadísticas nacionales.

La exposición de la policía asesina en videos y en los medios de comunicación capitalista no ha frenado los departamentos de policía en el país. Al revés, la policía ha más asesina que nunca, a pesar de la desconfianza constante y el autoritarismo creciente. El momento de su renuncia no puede ser ignorado.


Holder relató ser detenido por agentes de la ley en el sector de Georgetown en Washington, D.C. mientras corría, y otra vez, sin ninguna razón, mientras le patrullaba por el New Jersey. Eurozón. La policía registró su coche, y dijo que fue “humillante” y lo dejó “enmojado”.

Holder aprobó la exoneración de Darren Wilson, quien mató a Michael Brown. Pero luego publicó un informe sobre Ferguson que era una acusación mordaz de la policía y de los funcionarios raciales de la ciudad, acusando a la policía de abuso en el nivel más alto. Holder también lanzó docenas de investigaciones de abuso por departamentos locales de policía.

A pesar de ser un leal servidor de la clase dominante, Holder mostró, en el mes de abril de la visita de Ferguson, el 25 de septiembre, Holder renunció.

¿Qué camino va a ir Loretta Lynch?

Loretta Lynch, una fiscal general afro-americana de Brooklyn, acaba de ser aprobada para ser la próxima Secretaria de Justicia de EUA. Tomó seis meses para obtener la aprobación de los republicanos del Congreso, quienes bloquearon su nominación en una lucha sobre la financiación del aborto.

El fiscal dominante está tratando de dirigir en una dirección pro-policía. El New York Times publicó un artículo por Matt Apuzzo el 23 de abril declarando: “Como fiscal de carrera con una reputación de ley y orden, [Lynch] entra al cargo con fuertes relaciones con muchos de los grupos policiales que se han sentido injustamente criticados durante una serie de episodios de alto perfil de hombres afro-americanos muriendo a manos de oficiales blancos”.

The Times continuó: “El señor Holder recien- temente completó una gira nacional de barrios de minorías para discutir el trabajo policial. La Sra. Lynch planea una gira similar de los departamentos policiales, de lo que indica un cambio en el enfoque... ella ha descrito, en términos pasionales y personales, cómo la policía es una fuerza de bien en barríos de minorías”.

Aún está por verse si Lynch realmente desem- peñará el papel que se espera de ella. Pero haga lo que haga como fiscal general, no es probable que la policía se reconcile con ella—porque es una mujer afro-americana e ir al poder en un país que agrue- dió a Abner Louima en la ciudad de NY. Aunque la