‘Black Mamas Bail-Out’

Jailed women freed

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

A joyous celebration took place in Atlanta’s Howell Park on May 14, as hundreds of people enjoyed a bountiful array of food, music, children’s activities and the company of the 17 women bailed out of jail in time for Mother’s Day, along with the organizations that made it possible.

“Black Mamas Bail-Out Day” was launched by Southerners on New Ground (SONG), a LGBTQ organization headquartered in Atlanta, to expose the use of bail as an inherently anti-poor and racist measure that keeps thousands of working people in jail before they are convicted of any offense.

SONG’s research found that on any given day, some 700,000 people are held in jails in the U.S. solely because they lack the funds to make their bail. They can lose their jobs, housing and children while awaiting their day in court.

Most often these people are arrested for minor offenses such as disorderly conduct, using fighting words, or even jaywalking, loitering or trespass. Police discretion in many of these arrests targets people of color and poor and working-class neighborhoods. People are arrested at traffic checkpoints for unpaid parking tickets, lapsed insurance or the lack of a driver’s license. The inability to pay a traffic fine can land a person behind bars.

Some 80 percent of incarcerated women are mothers or caregivers. Their absence from their families injures their children and communities in immeasurable ways.

This creative, political campaign was seized upon by dozens of organizations around the country, stripping Mother’s Day of its commercial veneer and truly recognizing the value of women to the well-being and liberation of their families and people.

Black Mamas Bail-Out Day took place in at least 18 cities, from Birmingham, Ala., to Baltimore and from New York City to Oakland, Calif. Tens of thousands of dollars were raised to pay the ransom money known as “bail” for women. Services were offered to help with job placement, housing needs, health and wellness concerns, legal counsel and more.

In Atlanta, women were bailed out of the Fulton County jail on May 11 and from the Atlanta City Detention Center on May 12. At each location, a welcoming group was stationed outside with flowers, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority cards, gift bags and warm smiles.

The women emerged from the jails, not knowing who or how their release had been secured. Upon learning of this community effort to bring them home for Mother’s Day, tears of joy were shed, and hugs and smiles were plentiful.

At the May 14 celebration, some of these women’s sto-
Domestic violence survivor still trapped in detention

By Terri Kay
San Francisco

Bulletin: Yazmín Elias was released on bond on May 12.
After a "successful" bail hearing at the Immigration and Customs Enforce- ment Detention Center in Richmond, Calif., family and community members were anxiously awaiting the release of domestic violence sur-vivor Yazmín Elias outside the West County Detention Center in Rich-mond, Calif., on May 11. Instead, according to a May 12 press release issued by her support-ers, they learned that "local entan-glement with ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] had led to a bizarre catch-22" which unfairly blocked Yazmín's release.

Specifically, during the 15 months that ICE has detained Ms. Elias in Richmond, she has, of course, been physically unable to attend local court hearings in Sono-ma [a California city some 40 miles from Richmond]. Yet, local warrants were issued for Yazmín's arrest, despite the fact she was locked up in ICE custody.

Elias is now being held in the Sonoma County Jail and is being treated by a judge on May 16. Her public defender, Luis Reyes Savañal, expects her to be released at that time.

"I was already packed up and ready to see my children, and having to deal with this, I'm just so frustrated because they keep playing with my life," Elias said after re-ceiving the news.

A survivor of domestic violence for nearly two decades and the mother of three children who are U.S. citizens, Elias migrated to Santa Rosa when she was four years old. On May 13, she was finally granted a $25,000 bond with ICE.

The May 12 press release states, "Her detention by ICE, despite a local judge ordering her released to continue a substance abuse treatment program for survivors of do-mestic violence, has sparked serious concerns from ad-vocates of domestic violence survivors. "Community groups also continue to express opposi-tion to the deportation policies of sheriffs in both Sono-ma, where Yazmín was turned over to ICE, and Contra Costa [County, Calif.], which maintains a lucrative con-tract to detain people for ICE. Both sheriffs met with an at-tenant Immigration Attorney General Jeff Sessions prior to his confirmation [as U.S. Attorney General], causing signifi-cant controversy."

The California Sheriff's Association actually wrote a letter in support of Sessions' nomination. It was signed by Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern, who has also faced numerous community protests for his cooperation with ICE.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Le-ninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multi- national, multicultural and multigender organization that not only resists to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and 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.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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From Alton Sterling to Jordan Edwards, no justice, no peace!

Listening to West Virginia Public Radio on the way to work yesterday morning, I heard a piece about the “neo-Nazi” rally in Pikeville, Ky. A coalition of fascist and white supremacist organizations calling themselves “Nationalist Front” descended on downtown Pikeville for a rally outside the courthouse. Organizations included the so-called Traditionalist Worker Party, the National Socialist Movement and the League of the South, among others. The TWP’s head is Matt Heimbach, who gained infamous notoriety for a 2016 assault on a Black woman, a college student, at a Trump rally in Louisville, Ky.

Much of the radio story involved interviews with locals who did not appreciate the day’s event, and rightfully so. All of downtown Pikeville was shut down for an entire day. Stores and restaurants were closed, and many residents avoided the downtown area out of fear and concerns for safety. It makes sense to report that, when a rally in Pikeville, Ky., was closed, and many residents avoided the area out of fear and concerns for safety. This was a bunch of out-of-state Nazis who were closed, and many residents avoided the area out of fear and concerns for safety.

There seems to be no argument that the Nazis were not from Pikeville and, judging by their pronouncement of “Appalachia,” that many of them were from anywhere even remotely nearby. This is the part that Public Radio got right. These were a bunch of out-of-state Nazis who made up Pikeville for a few hours before moving on to the next town 45 minutes away.

So, regarding the immediate senti- ment of Pikeville residents, Public Radio was pretty accurate. The problems were with the greater narrative—that the participants were fascists and anti-fascists, both from out-of-state.

Also in attendance were many members of the Transgenerational Theater Project. On April 23, at 10 p.m., Bostick was walking past a hamburger joint at 29th Street and 7th Avenue, two blocks from the Pennsylvania Station/Madison Square Garden complex, when Bostick was attacked, Bostick sustained severe head injuries and died six days later, on May 1. Only then were the community and the media notified.

And I saw on one side of Main Street, what “the opposition.” On the other side, fascists and anti-fascists, both from out-of-state. So, who was there? Well, I was there. And I saw on one side of Main Street, barricaded in front of the County Court- house, the aforementioned “Nationalist Front,” hereafter to be referred to as “Na- zis” all white and nearly all male, who brandished firearms, carried shields and gave “Sieg Heil” salutes. There were closed, and many residents avoided the area out of fear and concerns for safety. This was a bunch of out-of-state Nazis who were closed, and many residents avoided the area out of fear and concerns for safety.

By Monica Moorehead

There are many progressive struggles under capitalism, many connected to each other due to systemic inequality. In- side the U.S. — aptly described as the hol- ogy of the beast — the struggle against rac- ism or white supremacy is the heart and soul of many issues every minute of every day. Probably the most glaring example is the ongoing police war against Black and Brown people, especially youth.

In 99.9 percent of cases, white police officers who fatally kill Black people either get a slap on the wrist, by being put on a paid leave, or they are not indicted, charged, or convicted of murder. The cop, Roy Oliver, turned himself in. The charges of Oliver being convicted are next to none, according to data collected by criminologist Philip Stinson since 2005.

Stinson states, “About 1,000 times a year, an on-duty police officer shoots and kills somebody — and yet only about a handful of times is he charged. Only 29 of the 81 cases — or 26% — have ended with a murder conviction, while 52 have been dropped or dismissed. Twenty-two have been acquitted by jury trial and other half by guilty plea. Thirty-one of the cases (38%) wound up with a non-conviction, and the other 21 (26%) remain pending.”

And these are general statistics that do not go into consideration when the killer cop is white and the victim is Black. No doubt the capitalist courts and laws will somehow find convenient loopholes to protect the actions of police like Oliver, while demonizing and dehumanizing their victims. When any police officer is charged with murder or even manslaughter, that reflects the strength of shut-it-down-pro- test in the streets, especially carried out under the banner of Black Lives Matter. And Black Lives Matter is fighting not only police terror but its presence reflects resistance to other forms of white sup- remacy, like the recent incident where Baltimore Orioles baseball player, Adam Jones, was forced to endure racist epithets from red Sox fans. Jones is among a tiny minority of 62 African-American Major League Baseball players who still have to endure racist taunts from majori- ty white baseball fans.

There is no question that many different corporations made in the struggle against racism from state repression to sports, ultimately it will take a revolutionary transformation of the workers and oppressed to uproot white sup- remacy from all sectors of U.S. society.
Black graduates disrupt Betsy DeVos

By Christa Rivers
Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Student Union, one of a handful of youth-organizing groups in the city, led a protest on the steps of the Philadelphia School District head-quarters on May 11. Students, parents, teachers, community members and City Council member Helen Gym spoke about police violence experienced by Black and Brown public school students here.

In 2016, a student at Benjamin Frank lin High School was assaulted by police officer Jeffrey Maciocha in a third-floor hallway as the student was trying to find a bathroom. The hallways on the other floors were all locked — a practice that is evidence of the criminalization of Black youth, who are not even trusted or permitted to freely use bathrooms.

There is a graphic 13-second video of the student on the ground in what appears to be a chokehold, reminiscent of Eric Garner’s murder by New York police officers in July 2014. In response to the 2016 assault, the school district agreed to create a system so that complaints can be filed against school police officers, a demand set forth by PSU.

However, the district’s complaint system is sorely lacking and does not address the demands made by PSU. The school district has failed to identify exactly how and where students can make complaints. Plus the system is only online, making it largely inaccessible to students without computer access.

The school district, not an independent entity, will handle oversight of the complaint system. Already unaccountable to students, this system cannot exist.

What is the purpose of policing in schools? To protect students? It is clear that marginalized and oppressed students need to be protected from police officers, as they all serve to keep oppressed peoples in their “place.” It is not enough to be anti-police brutality. We must be completely anti-police.

The struggle against police harassment and occupation of our schools is directly linked to the struggle against police harassment and occupation at Standing Rock; against Immigration, Customs and Enforcement harassment and deportation faced by immigrants; against the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land; against the political repres-

Close to half of the approximately 400 African-American graduates at the historically Black Mary Bethune-Cook man University in Daytona Beach, Fla., held a protest against the college’s commencement speaker, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy Devos, during their graduation exercises on May 10. The students and some faculty members made it clear to the school administration before the event that they were opposed to the Trump appointee speaking there and also her receiving an honorary degree.

DeVos, who is thoroughly anti-public education, has described historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) as “real pioneers when it comes to school choice,” disguising the fact that these schools were established for the education of Black people in response to legalized racial segregation. (guardian.com, May 10)

As soon as DeVos started speaking at the podium, a rising chorus of boos could be heard during the program, and then graduates rose up and turned their backs on her. She was forced to cut her scheduled one-hour speech to only 20 minutes.

There were so many interruptions that Edison Jackson, the university’s president, attempted to quiet the students but to no avail.

A protest was also held outside the graduation with signs that read “Fire DeVos; Save Public Education” and “No justice — no peace.”

— Story by Monica Moorehead

Student Union protests police violence

By Diva T. Williams
Boston

An intergenerational gathering of Workers World Party members, local ac tivists and members of the community arrived for an evening of education and celebration on May 12.

Jonathan Roberts, a Harvard University graduate and member of the Student Labor Action Movement, described the victories won at Harvard recently through student-worker solidarity. More than 700 food service workers, mostly people of color and immigrants, went on strike in response to slashed health care benefits.

Roberts and other student organizers united 400 students to occupy an admin istration building until the decision was reversed. “The fight was about health care, dignity and rights,” said Roberts. “I tell students, if Harvard doesn’t respect the workers, they will not respect the students.”

The students refused to be moved, neither physically nor ideologically, “until we got confirmation that we won.” Roberts concluded, “Clearly we have the power to move things and change things. Without workers, this system cannot exist.”

Trump confronted at school commencement

Protesters from Virginia and beyond confronted President Donald Trump and all he represents on May 13 at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. Beginning in the early morning hours, thousands set up a picket line directly from across the university where Trump was the commencement speaker.

Sponsored by the Seven Hills Progressive Society and supported by organizations such as the Roanoke Power Network, protesters of all ages, nationalities, genders and sexualities held a strong line for more than three hours. Chants included “No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA,” and a rainbow of placards and banners denounced racism, sexism, bigotry and U.S. wars.

— WW Bureau

Defiant graduates turn their backs on DeVos.

Philadelphia


Workers World Forum in Boston

By Dina T. Williams
Boston

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Commuters confront govt-created decay at Penn Station

By G. Dunkel
New York

Every workday, more than 600,000 people pass through New York's Pennsylvania Station, which now is in a state of advanced and dangerous dilapidation. Almost all of them are either going to their jobs or home.

Built more than 100 years ago and designed for 300,000 users at most, Penn Station is used and owned by the Amtrak national railroad system, which rents out tracks and facilities to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) and New Jersey Transit (NJT), two of the largest commuter railroads in the country. New York subways run through its longest level. In 1967, the railroad sold air rights to a developer who put a major sports complex, Madison Square Garden, and a multi-story office building above the station.

In the past few months there have been two derailments due to rotten wooden ties that connect the rails. The injuries to the passengers involved were minor, since the trains were moving slowly, but the disruptions were major. Service was so messed up that trips that normally take an hour were taking three to four hours.

Amtrak announced May 11 that it will take tracks out of service for most of July and August. This will reduce capacity for the LIRR and NJT by a quarter, knocking out of service approximately 40 of the 100 trains that the lines run each morning and evening. It will also impose major service cuts next year.

Maintenance on the tracks, safety and service are not the only problems. In April, Amtrak cops used a stun gun in a dispute with a passenger waiting for a train. That day, some 1,200 passengers had been stuck on a train, which had lost power in the tunnel for a few hours.

When they heard the sound of the stun gun, the passengers thought it was gunfire and began stampeding through the station. They abandoned their luggage and raced for the exits. People were knocked down, but nobody was seriously injured. Even though Penn Station occupies two whole city blocks, it only has five exits for the 600,000 people who use it.

The lack of exits and the dark, twisty, badly signed and narrow corridors, with low ceilings and no decent public address system, would make fighting even a small fire problematic. Smoke rises, and if the ceiling is high it is possible to escape under it. But for the past 50 years, the trend at Penn Station has been to offer less and less space. When an event at Madison Square Gardens lets out, it is tricky to walk through the crowds in the station.

On May 3 around 9 a.m., sewage began leaking into the LIRR ticket area from the office tower above the station, according to NBC news. Amtrak and the LIRR made a point in their announcements that service was not interrupted, even though many passengers complained about the smell. As late as 5 p.m. there was still a trickle of sewage running down the wall.

A couple of days later, on May 5, heavy, intense rain overwhelmed drainage and forced the temporary closure of the main entrance. Other entrances were passable and service continued, but many passengers couldn't get to their trains.

The problems of Pennsylvania Station are striking and replicated throughout the United States. Private institutions, no longer profitable but essential to the economy of an area — in this instance, Penn Station is an essential transportation link in the Northeast — are “rescued” by state institutions. The state of New Jersey controls NJT, the state of New York controls the LIRR, and the federal government controls Amtrak. Vornado-De Realty Trust — controlled by Steven Roth, Vornado Realty Trust — controlled by Steven Roth, a personal friend of Donald Trump — is the largest property owner surrounding the rail hub. The mechanism to coordinate and adjust the efforts of these four entities is just as dilapidated as the station.

Jailed women freed

Continued from page 1
ries were shared. One of the most compelling was that of a 71-year-old woman who, having no food at home, went to a nearby store. She was arrested for allegedly stealing a can of peanuts and had been in jail since April, unable to pay the bail money.

Young mothers with small babies in their arms stood before the crowd, speechless in their happiness to be with their children again. Mary Hooks, co-director of SONG, was interviewed by media outlets as diverse as Democracy Now! and CNN. It was a sign of the political significance of the campaign in this time of harsher criminal measures coming from the Trump administration, and the growing consciousness of the corporate profiteering that underlies mass incarceration in the U.S.

A similar effort for Father’s Day is being discussed.
Behind the firing of Comey

A struggle within the U.S. ruling class

By Fred Goldstein

The firing of FBI head James Comey by President Donald Trump is part of the ongoing struggle within the U.S. ruling class. It is taking place at the highest levels of the capitalist state. There are no progressive sides in this struggle.

The workers, the oppressed and the radical movement must expose the role of the movement of the working class is to mount an independent struggle against the attacks coming down on the masses on all fronts — labor, immigrants, women, the environment, Muslims, homosexuals, police terror, new draconian drug law enforcement, etc.

These threats can only be thwarted by the fullest mass mobilization, radical militancy and united action.

There is justifiable hatred of the racist, reactionary, militarist, authoritarian, bigot Trump. And Trump is the target of an FBI investigation. This can cause confusion because Trump is so hated that some people might be driven to the “lesser evil” of siding with the racist, repressive, anti-labor, anti-communist, witch-hunting FBI — the U.S. secret police — because of its investigation of Trump.

Behind the anti-Russia campaign

A further cause for confusion is that Trump and his admirers, or those being investigated for collusion with the Russians, the U.S. ruling class has been pushing back against Trump since the 2016 election campaign when he made open and repeated appeals for a rapprochement with Russia.

The campaign against Trump’s orientation for rapprochement with Russia began as a struggle over foreign policy, but it has been expanded to a range of domestic issues, including deepening the war in Syria to ward off imperialist aggression.

The anti-Russia campaign has also been fueled by the Hillary Clinton camp and the Democratic Party leadership. They want to blame Comey and Russia for their electoral loss. Instead of calling for an investigation into racist police, his attacks on job safety and labor standards, etc. The bosses would much prefer to make Trump the “lesser evil” of siding with the racist, repressive, authoritarian, bigot Trump. And Trump is the target of an FBI investigation. This can cause confusion because Trump is so hated that some people might be driven to the “lesser evil” of siding with the racist, repressive, anti-labor, anti-communist, witch-hunting FBI — the U.S. secret police — because of its investigation of Trump.

Timing of the Comey firing

At the time of his firing Comey was preparing to step up the investigation of the Trump campaign. Days before his firing, he met with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to ask for more personnel and money to pursue the investigation. (latimes.com, May 14)

Trump decided to fire Comey at about the same time. He had a meeting with his Chief of Staff, Reince Priebus; his son-in-law, Jared Kushner; Vice President Mike Pence; and White House Counsel Don McGahn. After the meeting Trump told Rosenstein to draw up a statement supporting the firing of Comey. The statement condemned Comey’s conduct as a sucker punch prospecting of Russia after the release of the Clinto...

Of course, there is no one in Washington or anywhere else who could possibly believe Trump’s initial reasoning. It was patently obvious that Comey wanted to advance the investigation of Trump and his group. And Trump wanted to shut down the operation.

Trump also fired Assistant Attorney General Sally Yates after she told him that National Security Adviser Gen. Mike Flynn was dealing with the Russians. She also refused to support the Muslim ban. Trump maneuvered with Kevin McCarthy, who heads the House Intelligence Committee, who was in charge of leading the investigation into the Trump campaign. The investigation stalled and Nunes had to recuse himself.

In other words, Trump is clearly afraid of the investigation. The ruling class is not quite sure whether Trump’s fear is based on political relations with Russian officials or financial relations with the Russian oligarchy, or both. In either case, they do not trust him.

The ruling class is also suspicious because the only big bank that has lent money to Trump in recent years is Singapore’s Overseas Chinese Bank, which was recently fined 640 million dollars for laundering $10 billion worth of Russian money. (cnn.com, Jan. 31, 2017) The big New York Wall Street banks won’t lend to him because he has gone bankrupt six times, and he has been investigated by prosecutors and auditors. (Washington Post, Sept. 26, 2016; wsj.com, March 20, 2016)

Obama tried to stabilize the system

When Barack Obama was elected president over John McCain in 2008, he had major support in the ruling class because he was known as a moderate who could reach across the aisle and work out compromises. He was solidly pro-imperialist and pro-capitalist, but compromise was his strong point.

At the end of the George W. Bush administration, U.S. capitalism was suffering from multiple crises that were threatening the stability of the system. Tens of millions of people were without health care and had no prospect of getting any. The Bush administration’s war with Afghanistan had cost $1 trillion.

There were 12 million undocumented workers who needed a way to stabilize their situation. Big business was fiercely blocking any attempt to reduce carbon emissions with the Paris accord or to reverse the rate of environmental degradation. And as Obama took office, the worst economic crisis in 70 years broke out.

During his tenure Obama tried to work on these issues while maintaining the capitalist system and the profits of the bosses. He got the Affordable Care Act passed, which kept the insurance companies enriched but managed to cover an additional 20 million people. He dragged the bosses kicking and screaming into the global environment talks and finally got the Paris Accord on climate change. He announced the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan and withdrew from Iraq. While Obama severely escalated drone attacks, he imposed strict White House control over military operations.

While Obama deported hundreds of thousands of immigrants early in his administration, and got called the “deporter in chief,” he eventually got the Dream Act and other limited protections passed. He issued executive order to stop deporting Customs and Enforcement to deport only those who committed “serious crimes” and said those whose only offense was to cross the border could remain. This was done by executive guideline.

Finally, he presided over the bailout of Wall Street and promoted the passage of the Dodd-Frank bill, which placed restrictions on the Wall Street financiers and set up some protections for investors.

Fear of Trump destabilizing the system

The bosses and the bankers are kicking their chaps over Trump’s trade wars and new environmental rules, tariff protection and other pro-cap...
What is driving Sessions' new war on drugs?

By Monica Moorehead

U.S. attorney general Jeff Sessions announced on May 12 that the U.S. Department of “In-Justice” plans to overturn a 2013 policy upheld by President Barack Obama’s former U.S. attorney general, Eric Holder, that instituted minimum prison sentences for those convicted of engaging in large-scale drug trafficking, including marijuana.

Sessions, who is openly pro-cop and a die-hard white segregationist from Alabama, is giving local prosecutors around the U.S. the green light to once again unleash the harshest criminal sentences against those charged and convicted as drug dealers and users, especially if they are Black, Brown and working-class youth, for even insignificant amounts of drugs.

In essence, Sessions and his cohorts in the Justice Department are intensifying the so-called “war on drugs” that began in the 1980s under President Reagan, followed by the 1990s by the Clinton administration and the George W. Bush administration in the 2000s. Clinton was the main orchestrator of the preemptive “three strikes” law passed in 1994. Under that policy, if you were convicted of three felonies you were automatically sent to prison for life, with no hope of parole.

Due to the over-crowding of prisons and outcry over the number of prison drug sentences, President Obama reduced thousands of federal prisoners, many of whom were convicted of nonviolent drug possession, before he left office. The U.S. still has the highest prison rate in the world, with 25 percent of the world’s prison population, at a cost of $80 billion annually. The rapid rate of mass incarceration has led to the growth of private prisons for profit, fueled by Wall Street U.S. private equity firms (formerly the Corrections Corporation of America).

According to the Washington Post, the U.S. prison and jail population has grown from 275,000 in 1980 to 2.2 million in 2013. U.S. prisons are filled dis-proportionately with Black men saddled with lengthy prison sentences — 10 or 20 years and sometimes life without parole for a first drug offense. (May 12)


Prisons expose capitalism at a dead end

The economic basis for Sessions intensifying these draconian drug laws is rooted in the current global economic crisis, which began in 2007 and was given a Marxist analysis by Fred Goldstein in his 2012 book, “Capitalism at a Dead End.”

The first three paragraphs in Goldstein’s introduction sum up the current crisis this way: “Capitalism, the system of production for profit, has reached a dead end. The plague of mass unemployment, underemployment, low wages, destruction of benefits, social service cuts, poverty overwhelming the system and bringing unrelieved disaster to the multinational working class and the oppressed peoples of the world. In addition to the threat to the working class, the life-sustaining character of the environment of the planet is in dire danger.”

“An entire generation of workers is facing a dismal future. For a generation the United States has been producing massive amounts of drugs. Unemployment, marginal work and unskilled, low-paid jobs as the system incorporates more and more skills into software and machinery. Technology and the worldwide technological revolution orchestrated by the employers continue to drive wages down.”

“Among the most poisonous political and social consequences of the crisis are the intensification of racism, the growth of the prison-industrial complex, the rise in the persecution of immigrants and undocumented workers, and the war on women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people. The war on the drug war against the masses in order to divert attention from the failure of the economic system and the growth of ob-scene inequality.”

The increase in the murders of Black and Latinx youth by the police, along with other arms of the repressive state, including legislatures that pass biased, anti-worker laws, the Justice Department, the FBI, the courts, prisons, and private prison companies, that the Times of the nineteenth century was a real threat to the stability of the capitalist system.

Sessions has already made it clear that he wants to give the cops carte blanche — protected by biased laws — to carry out their savagery on youth with impunity, including those police departments that were singled out during the Obama administration as being “excessive” in their policing.

Disproportionate numbers of youth of color, along with growing numbers of once privileged youth, are becoming more and more expendable under a capitalist system. This will provide a future with jobs at a living wage and full benefits.

The various stages of the “war on drugs” reflect the various stages of the cyclical crises of capitalism. But the current stage is now permanent, with no way to go but downward due to, according to Goldstein, “job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high tech age.”

Sessions and the Justice Department have not only declared open season on the oppressed masses, especially marginalized youth, but also on the progressive movement that has become more radicalized following the 2016 election. The FBI has spied on people who were indiscriminately arrested on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C., while protesting the Trump inauguration, are facing 75 years on excessively harsh felony charges.

These charges are meant to have a chilling impact on the movement and on resistance.

The best way to counter this latest attack by Sessions and his ilk is to build an independent, united movement of revolutionaries and progressives to say, “Stop the attacks on oppressed peoples and our movement.”

The writer was the 2016 Workers World Party presidential candidate.

The FBI is a racist sewer

By Stephen Millies

Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover hated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and wanted him dead. Hoover called Dr. King “the most notorious liar in the country” at a Nov. 18, 1964, news conference. Hoover was furious when the Black leader had just won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In essence, Sessions and his cohorts in the Justice Department are intensifying the so-called “war on drugs” that began in the 1980s under President Reagan, followed by the 1990s by the Clinton administration and the George W. Bush administration in the 2000s. Clinton was the main orchestrator of the preemptive “three strikes” law passed in 1994. Under that policy, if you were convicted of three felonies you were automatically sent to prison for life, with no hope of parole.

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According to the Washington Post, the U.S. prison and jail population has grown from 275,000 in 1980 to 2.2 million in 2013. U.S. prisons are filled dis-proportionately with Black men saddled with lengthy prison sentences — 10 or 20 years and sometimes life without parole for a first drug offense. (May 12)


Prisons expose capitalism at a dead end

The economic basis for Sessions intensifying these draconian drug laws is rooted in the current global economic crisis, which began in 2007 and was given a Marxist analysis by Fred Goldstein in his 2012 book, “Capitalism at a Dead End.”

The first three paragraphs in Goldstein’s introduction sum up the current crisis this way: “Capitalism, the system of production for profit, has reached a dead end. The plague of mass unemployment, underemployment, low wages, destruction of benefits, social service cuts, poverty overwhelming the system and bringing unrelieved disaster to the multinational working class and the oppressed peoples of the world. In addition to the threat to the working class, the life-sustaining character of the environment of the planet is in dire danger.”

“An entire generation of workers is facing a dismal future. For a generation the United States has been producing massive amounts of drugs. Unemployment, marginal work and unskilled, low-paid jobs as the system incorporates more and more skills into software and machinery. Technology and the worldwide technological revolution orchestrated by the employers continue to drive wages down.”

“Among the most poisonous political and social consequences of the crisis are the intensification of racism, the growth of the prison-industrial complex, the rise in the persecution of immigrants and undocumented workers, and the war on women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people. The war on the drug war against the masses in order to divert attention from the failure of the economic system and the growth of ob-scene inequality.”

The increase in the murders of Black and Latinx youth by the police, along with other arms of the repressive state, including legislatures that pass biased, anti-worker laws, the Justice Department, the FBI, the courts, prisons, and private prison companies, that the Times of the nineteenth century was a real threat to the stability of the capitalist system.

Sessions has already made it clear that he wants to give the cops carte blanche — protected by biased laws — to carry out their savagery on youth with impunity, including those police departments that were singled out during the Obama administration as being “excessive” in their policing.

Disproportionate numbers of youth of color, along with growing numbers of once privileged youth, are becoming more and more expendable under a capitalist system. This will provide a future with jobs at a living wage and full benefits.

The various stages of the “war on drugs” reflect the various stages of the cyclical crises of capitalism. But the current stage is now permanent, with no way to go but downward due to, according to Goldstein, “job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high tech age.”

Sessions and the Justice Department have not only declared open season on the oppressed masses, especially marginalized youth, but also on the progressive movement that has become more radicalized following the 2016 election. The FBI has spied on people who were indiscriminately arrested on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C., while protesting the Trump inauguration, are facing 75 years on excessively harsh felony charges.

These charges are meant to have a chilling impact on the movement and on resistance.

The best way to counter this latest attack by Sessions and his ilk is to build an independent, united movement of revolutionaries and progressives to say, “Stop the attacks on oppressed peoples and our movement.”

The writer was the 2016 Workers World Party presidential candidate.

The FBI is a racist sewer

By Stephen Millies

Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover hated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and wanted him dead. Hoover called Dr. King “the most notorious liar in the country” at a Nov. 18, 1964, news conference. Hoover was furious when the Black leader had just won the Nobel Peace Prize.

In essence, Sessions and his cohorts in the Justice Department are intensifying the so-called “war on drugs” that began in the 1980s under President Reagan, followed by the 1990s by the Clinton administration and the George W. Bush administration in the 2000s. Clinton was the main orchestrator of the preemptive “three strikes” law passed in 1994. Under that policy, if you were convicted of three felonies you were automatically sent to prison for life, with no hope of parole.

Due to the over-crowding of prisons and outcry over the number of prison drug sentences, President Obama reduced thousands of federal prisoners, many of whom were convicted of nonviolent drug possession, before he left office. The U.S. still has the highest prison rate in the world, with 25 percent of the world’s prison population, at a cost of $80 billion annually. The rapid rate of mass incarceration has led to the growth of private prisons for profit, fueled by Wall Street U.S. private equity firms (formerly the Corrections Corporation of America).

According to the Washington Post, the U.S. prison and jail population has grown from 275,000 in 1980 to 2.2 million in 2013. U.S. prisons are filled dis-proportionately with Black men saddled with lengthy prison sentences — 10 or 20 years and sometimes life without parole for a first drug offense. (May 12)
Anti-pipeline occupiers shut down banks

By Jim McHahan

Seattle

Scores of activists from 350Seattle shut down 13 Chase banks in Seattle on May 8 in alliance with Indigenous people. The action was a confrontation with JP Morgan Chase and other banks to stop their lending for the Keystone XL pipeline, which would extend from Alberta, Canada, into the U.S., carrying oil extracted from Canadian tar sands.

Indigenous leaders have pointed out that tar sands oil uses three times more energy to extract than regular oil, thus being a cause for global warming. The 1,170-mile Keystone would run along the water-rich Ogala aquifer to southern Nebraska.

Demonstrators fanned out around noon around banks that compose the city. At some banks, protesters did skits in the bank in hazmat suits. Other banks were occupied by singing Native drummers. Protesters, holding signs and banners, locked themselves down and made statements at other branches. They chanted, "No oil! No pipelines! No money for war! We want our money back!"

It has taken this long for the right-wing legislature to approve sending $100 million in federal funds to fix Flint's pipes. The city of 28,000 residents has been suffering from a whole generation of children, the emergency manager's decisions led to 12 deaths from Legionnaires' disease.

Emergency managers can be appointed over a city or school district under Michigan's Public Act 36. This racist, union-busting, pay-the-bankers-first law was passed by the legislature as a slight variation on Public Act 4, which voters defeated in 2012. Some 90 percent of Black Michiganders have been under emergency management at some time, compared to only two percent of white residents.

Although Flint has switched back to Detroit water, the water is still not considered safe to drink without a faucet filter. Nor is lead the only toxin that water consumers have been exposed to. Showering and bathing continue to cause skin rash-es, hair loss and breathing issues, and the state has done nothing to address these concerns. To complicate matters further, researchers have recently determined that while filters block toxic metals such as lead and copper, they are breeding grounds for bacteria.

Science marchers demand ‘harm reduction’

By Steven Gillis

Boston

Thousands of nurses, doctors, lab technicians, environmental professionals, computer programmers and teachers rallied for Science on Boston Common April 22. They were responding to the gangster president’s witch-hunt of climate scientists and other threatened budgetary and military attacks.

While this was happening, a smaller contingent of revolutionary-minded sci- entists gained wide attention marching, handing out flyers and chanting through the crowd, demanding “Supervised Injection Contingent.”

Activists with the SIFMA NOW! Coalition were joined in the march by the Boston Area Drug Users Union, New England ACT-UP Boston and Workers World Party-Boston as the “Harm Reduction Contingent.”

Spurred to action by the alarming opio- oid epidemic, the Harm Reduction Contingent included doctors, treatment pro-

Continued on the next page

We live on a planet beset by droughts, forced migration, displaced populations, and rising seas. The Donald Trump administra-

Camp Promise, May 12

“We fight for the climate,” according to NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Director James Hansen, if the Keystone is built to haul the tar sands oil. (New York Times, May 9)

Without the support of the big banks, oil companies couldn’t afford to build tar sands pipelines. The Keystone. And Chase is connected to the oil industry as much as any of them.

Three years later

Flint still resists water crisis

By Martha Grevatt

April 25 marked the third anniversary of the ongoing Flint, Mich., water crisis. Incumbency on bottled water has become a way of life. Celebrity and charity endorsements gained wide attention marching, fundraising and raising awareness. But the frontline is now occupied by grassroots. The harm reduction model is entirely contrary to the lock-em-up “War on Drugs” which has filled U.S. jails and especially targeted Black, Latino, Indigenous, trans, leftist and poor workers since the time J. Edgar Hoover ran the FBI to today’s big-time Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ war on civil rights and marijuana.

Harm reduction also conflicts with the general “mandatory abstinence” school of thought that is mostly based on stigmatization, punishment, confinement and judgmental shaming. Every arm of the capitalist state apparatus, from corporate treasuries to lawless “shelters” and social service agencies exclusively pushes “mandatory abstinence,” says the harm reduction activists.

“The reason we are out here fighting,” Burnham told Workers World, “is to uplift the voices and tend to the needs of a universal marginalized group. People who

‘Money for health care and harm reduction, not for weapons of mass destruction’

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The May Day Union Square Coalition held a press conference on the east side of New York City on May 6 to denounce the New York Police Department’s racist targeting of protesters at the May 1 protest in Union Square. They demanded the resignation of Police Commissioner James O’Neill, that all charges against those arrested on May Day be dropped immediately, and that

The following remarks were given by Heather Morris at a Workers World Party meeting in New York City on May 6. To go to hollerby.org/DNGA-5qOVQ to view the talk.

This May Day 2017 was the first May Day that I attended as a young comrade, and it definitely won’t be my last. As I rallied with and marched with my comrades to view the talk.

As soon as I go back home or back to school from the Workers World office or after hanging out with other comrades, I am once again reminded that my life as a queer Afro-Latina, but as a young revolutionary I can often feel very frustrated and lonely. As a young woman of color, I sometimes feel as if my voice is insignificant. Not only am I often ridiculed by other youth my age for being a radical, as I am often told that I am too “angry,” shamed for “supporting a comrade who has killed millions” and accused of “hating men,” but I am also told by reactionary adults that I’m too young to know what I am talking about, and that my beliefs are “just a phase.”

Not only is it important for us to have to deal with all of that stress within my personal life, but as a young person living in the United States in 2017 under the Trump regime, I am uniquely affected by capitalism in many ways that previous generations weren’t. As the rich only continue to become rich, and the racist, dollared off the backs of workers, while the cost of living continues to rise and tuition continues to increase; as the military budget increases while the budget for education continues to be cut; as the racial police continue to target us and kill us and as fewer people are able to access affordable health care; as more luxury condos continue to be built while people are pushed out of their communities that they can no longer afford to live in; and as there are still homeless people in the street, I often feel as if I am trapped and have very few opportunities.

I wonder how I could possibly find a job that pays a living wage and be able to afford housing, food and health care. On top of that, it is extremely difficult to be able to handle school while I struggle with mental health problems. Yet, if I don’t make it through college somehow, I worry that I will have to spend the rest of my life working two or three minimum-wage jobs.

As someone who is extremely stressed out from selling my labor to exploitative bosses who barely pay us enough to survive, and who is overburdened with exams to study for and essays to write just to have a shot at a career when I get older, saying “Fuck it!” on May 1 and skipping class and a shot at a career when I get older, saying “Fuck it!” on May 1 and skipping class and having to spend the rest of my life working two or three minimum-wage jobs.

Not only is it important for us comrades to fight back against capitalism, but it is also important for us to check on other comrades and support each other, as nobody could fight this unfair, fascist, racist, sexist system alone.

As one of my peers who are really powerful,” Heather Morris, chanting on the mic, at May Day march, NYC. By Christian Cobb

May Day commemorates workers, workers’ movements and their political leadership denounce this.

Dr. Barbara Herbert, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, many of whose members were visible and vocal at the April 22 rally, took an unprecedented, landslide vote to organizationally support the opening of clinics in Massachusetts where drug users may legally inject under medical supervision (SIF). Williams called the vote “a victory for the clinic and its political leadership denounced this. Dr. Barbara Herbert, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, defended it: “It’s counterintuitive that you would let people do something that is illegal and dangerous and then say ‘It’s safer ... but in fact, there’s good scientific and epidemiologic evidence that it saves lives, and we’re in such a terrible epidemic that anything that saves lives, we want to embrace.’” (Boston Globe, April 30)
We celebrate on May 19 the birthdays of two world-bending revolutionaries, Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X.

Born in 1890 in colonial Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh was the Marxist-Leninist communist who forged and led a people’s movement and army that defeated the invading imperialist might of both France and the United States and ultimately liberated Vietnam from colonialism.

Born in 1925 in the U.S., Malcolm X was the African-American leader who raised to global stature the concepts of Black nationalism, Black self-defense and the right of self-determination of Black peoples. Malcolm X also made a major contribution to the global movement for Pan-Africanism.

Neither met the other, yet their deeds and words interwove, and together they continue to inspire us toward revolution.

At this moment, as the U.S. ruling class fans the deadly fires of racist hatred, Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh unite to give a profound lesson in building international solidarity with oppressed people and nations.

In 1924 — the year before Malcolm X was born — at the Fifth Congress of the Communist International in Moscow, Ho Chi Minh made a presentation during a session on the “National and colonial question.” He emphasized the importance of the oppressed against the oppressor, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (tinyurl.com/n5nlck6)

Malcolm X Speaks

And he acknowledged the centrality of the international liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, saying: “Viet Nam is the struggle of all third-world nations — the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama, tinyurl.com/k03e0eq)

“|

The voices of both these revolutionary-aries ring out with the clarion call of SOLIDARITY as the path to a future of justice and liberation. They call on us to build the multinational, multigendered, global working class with a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism. We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred. We can — and must — rise up in resistance:”

By Noel Sanders

Brockton, Mass.

A mobilizer’s meeting was held here on May 13 to kick off the Campaign to Save Saint Martin de Porres Catholic Church of the Americas, the Peoples Church.

A statement by Bishop T, in three lan-
guages, states: “On April 19, 2017, after a nearly decade-long legal battle. Brockton Housing court ORDERED the demolition of our religious sanctuary within 60 days for the false, politically motivated, rac-

| Churchill |

ist charge of failure to meet the building code/permit and safety issues. Brock-
ton is seeking to silence an outspoken religious leader ... [and] a well-known self-declared sanctuary congregation that is a pillar of support to Brockton’s immi-
grant community. 

“Our wonderful people’s lawyer, John Park, is now exploring all legal tactics. It was the people that built our church; we have faith that it will be the people, our congregation, with solidarity from all of our supporters, who will defend our church now!”

The Bishop has been a friend of Work-
er’s World Party for decades. The alliance has been a two-way street; members of WW helped build his church from the ground up. WW’s Boston branch held a significant presence at the meeting. Vet-
eran party members, young candidates, and friends of the party came in full force to support further action.

He has been a strong ally to every op-
pressed population he encounters. As a person of faith, Bishop T believes that having a moral compass means that it is wrong to be silent in the face of injust-
tice. He sees his vocation as a compelling force. He has marched against expres-
sions of racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ big-
yot, xenophobia, and the exploitation of workers on local and international levels.

As someone who has been physically and emotionally attacked by systemic forces for decades, he is an example of courage in his handling of the latest bar-
rage of state forces: an attempted closure and demolition of his church.

The city’s mayor has expressed hos-
tility toward the Bishop’s bold, public decision to protect undocumented immi-
gants in his church. He is non-negotiably in solidarity with Brockton’s immigrant communities.

Brockton is not a sanctuary city. The survival of this sanctuary church is critical.

Speakers at the meeting reflected the broad base of Bishop T’s support and al-
lowers born of struggle. Andre Francois, President of USW 8751, Boston’s School Bus Drivers’ Union, lead a delegation of leaders that brought solidarity and pledged the resources of his majority-mi-

grant union for the fight. Rey Loy-Wild, of Cosecha and an organizer of May 1st, gave a struggle history of Saint Martin and vowed support. Teresa Gutierrez, representing the WWP Secretariat of WW gave a moving tribute to Bishop T and promised 100 percent solidarity in action. Solidarity was strong as people bonded, ate, and listened to the Bishop and his congregants.

Bishop T was clearly strengthened by the support he received, including a recent national call-in day to demand the city keep its hands off the church. The event concluded with activists orches-
trating a citywide canvass at local busi-
tesses. The supporters vowed to fight until the city retracts its push for dem-
olition, and to not stop until Bishop T is exonerated and the church is saved!

To join this battle, follow Bishop T on Facebook or contact him via email at bishoppteixeiraofsjc@gmail.com.

WW newspaper censored by ICE

By Terri Kay
San Francisco

This reporter attended a rally on May 11 in support of former Newsday reporter Yasmine Elias at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center on S民生街。A number of Yasmine’s supporters lined up in front of the build-

|ing waiting to be attended to attend the hearing. This reporter handed many of them a copy of Workers World newspaper.

An ICE security guard who witnessed this came out of the building and told each of those holding the paper that they would not be allowed inside with the paper. Most felt compelled to return the paper so they could go into the hearing, although one person tucked it inside his jacket. Workers World then placed an ad to be applied to all newspapers or just to Workers World. He claimed it applied to all newspapers.

In fact, when people entered the build-
ing, they were subjected only to a typical security check — putting their things in a plastic bin and then walking through metal detectors. No one was questioned about whether they were carrying any newspapers, and no one was searched for newspaper or other literature.

Workers World is taking steps to chal-

enge this censorship by the state. The ICE incident comes immediately after Workers World received a request from the state for a month from entering the Pennsylvania prison system. The reason given was that there was a problem with the papers contained articles in support of May Day general strikes.
LA protest for Palestinian hunger strikers

John Parker of the International Action Center spoke at a May 13 protest in solidarity with 1,500 Palestinian hunger strikers who were on the 27th day of a salt water diet. The protest was held at the Westwood Federal Building in Los Angeles. It was organized by the Arab-American Committee for Support of the Palestinian Prisoners Hunger Strike. The rally was emceed by Amani Al-Hindi Barakat.

On the far right in the picture is Aarab Marwan Barghouthi (in a blue shirt with his name written on the back), who joined the demonstration. Aarab is the son of Marwan Barghouthi, a Palestinian political prisoner and leader of the current hunger strike.

Parker spoke at the protest and participated in the salt water challenge, now popular on social media, to show solidarity with hunger strikers on the same diet.

In March 2015, Washington declared Venezuela to be a “national security threat” and issued sanctions against prominent leaders of the country.

Citibank closed down its operations in Venezuela in July last year. President Maduro called this an economic “blockade.” He announced, “No one stops Venezuela!” (reuters.com, July 12)

In March of this year the main leader of the Venezuelan right-wing “opposition,” ignoring the fact that President Maduro’s term of office does not expire until next year, repeated his call for the Venezuelan military to conduct a coup d’etat against the government, while also mobilizing armed gangs to attack government institutions and security forces.

Wall Street think tanks like the Council on Foreign Relations and the Center for Strategic and International Studies falsely proclaimed that Venezuela is undergoing a “humanitarian crisis,” complete with medicine shortages and mass starvation. Their solution? “The current U.S. administration should lead a regional coalition to halt the implosion in Venezuela.” (cbs.org, April 11)

And most importantly, a powerful mass movement has created among the poor called Bolivarianism, named after Simon Bolivar, the 19th-century revolutionary who led the independence movement in Latin America against Spain. Time and again the poor have poured into the streets to back their leaders facing relentless attacks from the right.

This has earned the Venezuelan government the wrath not only of the rich in Venezuela but also of U.S. imperialism, which engineered a failed coup attempt against Chavez in 2002. The collapse of oil prices in 2015 has caused Washington to step up its campaign to create a counterrevolution in Venezuela to let the wealthy take back “their” oil from the Venezuelan people.

The poverty rate fell from 50 percent to 7 percent in a decade of war later, it is largely privatized and closed to Western oil companies.

Water, food, fuel, and basic medicines are becoming scarce because of Big Oil’s greed.

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He challenged so-called progressives who continue to support the U.S. military and find it acceptable if that allows Israel’s apartheid, occupation and torture in government prisons, to also take the challenge.

Hands off Venezuela!

“Anti-fascism is a duty” An interview with Eleonora Forenza

By Greg Butterfield

Eleanora Forenza is a member of the European Parliament and the Communist Refoundation Party of Italy. She is accompanying the 3rd Antifascist Caravan to Donbass, organized by the cultural group Bandu Bizzarri. The Europe-wide caravan promotes solidarity with the people of the Donetsk and Lugansk Republics, which broke away from Ukraine after a U.S.-backed, far-right coup in 2014. Since then Ukraine’s war against the republics has continued.

Workers World: Tell me about your background. How did you become involved in leftist politics?

Eleanora Forenza: I think I became a feminist as a very young girl. I was brought up to play in a soccer tournament in my neighborhood in my hometown, Bari, because only boys were allowed. So I started studying feminism. Then I got involved in politics during high school, getting close to leftist ideas and communism. I’ve been a militant of the Communist Refoundation Party since 1993, when I was 18, and I’m still active.

WW: As a member of the European Parliament, what initiatives have you taken to represent workers and anti-fascist forces?

EF: My main commitment has been to work in the international trade commissions of the European Parliament, which I’ve been representing with my colleagues of the United European Left group. I’m fighting against the free trade treaties that the European Union is negotiating with the U.S. and Canada (TTIP and CETA). It’s a key battle against the extension of neoliberal policies that are eroding the rights of the workers and the welfare state throughout Europe.

E: I’m also deeply involved in the struggle to prevent any inequality in every policy of the EU.

WW: Is it difficult to present an alternative view on the situation in Ukraine and Donbass to the European Parliament and the media?

EF: It certainly is. Most mainstream media are delivering a totally rigged story about what happened and what’s still happening in Ukraine. I hope that being the first European Parliament member to be in Donbass will help to break through this media blockade and start a discussion about the huge political problem that Ukraine is today, especially for the EU.

In Kiev, there’s plenty of fascist members of the government, and fascist militiamen are fighting on the ground. That is yet acceptable. The extension of NATO toward the Russian border is certainly not helping out.

WW: What made you decide to participate in the caravan?

EF: I decided to join the caravan because what is happening in Donbass is too often forgotten. In my mind I still see images of the Odessa massacre [when neo-Nazis murdered more than 40 anti-fascists on May 2, 2014]. And above all because anti-fascism is a duty for every leftist militant. We’re experiencing war near the very heart of Europe.

WW: What will you investigate on your trip?

EF: We will have a very busy schedule of meetings with leftist parties, unions and institutions of the independent republics of Donbass. We will ask about the political situation in Donbass today, how the population is facing the conflict and what people need. Our caravan will also bring material aid for the people, especially for children.

WW: You were the European United Left’s candidate for the next European Parliament election. What will you do now with your party’s political leadership in the future?

EF: We were the European United Left’s candidate for the next European Parliament election. Unfortunately, a member of the Popular Party, a conservative group, won the election. I will nevertheless continue my commitment to the Donbass cause in every possible way.
Las falsas noticias sobre desempleo

Por Jerry Goldberg
10 de mayo

Más de 8.000 familias de Flint, Michi- gan, están enfrentando la pérdida de sus casas debido a facturas impagas que no fueron contestadas como desempleadas porque no habían trabajado en las cuatro semanas anteriores a la encuesta, según la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales. Muchas personas con discapacidades no están incluidas entre las desempleadas. Los 2,2 millones de miembros de la clase obrera encarcelados ni siquiera son considerados/os. Tampoco las miles que recogen latas y botellas por una pequeña cuota de depósito en Nueva York y algunos otros estados. Mientras que la tasa de desempleo más reciente para las/os blancos es de 3,8 por ciento, la cifra de trabajadores/es negros es más del doble, con un 7,9 por ciento. “Empleado último, despedido primero” sigue siendo el estándar racista para las/os afroamericanos.

En el apogeo de la “prosperidad” capitalista, las/os trabajadores/negros y sus familias sufren el encasuchamiento de una recuperación. Es una depresión para las/os ad- olescentes negros, cuya última tasa de desempleo es de 29,3 por ciento. Por lo tanto, una cuarta del caudal del desempleo se acompaña de un aumento de los sala- rios. Las/os trabajadores/n se sienten más expuestos en los desfiles de trabajos mejor remunerados o exiguos aumentan.

Pero esta vez no. El aumento promedio del salario de 2,3 por ciento en los últimos 12 meses fue casi eliminado por la inflación, que aumentó un 2,4 por ciento. Para las/os trabajadores que reciben el miserable sal- ario mínimo federal de $7,25 por hora, la inflación significó un recorte salarial. Los gobiernos locales, incluso en Detroit, trabajaron para desviar el efecto de la inflación a sus trabajadores. Mientras que los negocios necesitan un trabajo, miles de trabajadores/es están obligados a trabajar dos proyectos o más de trabajo con el fin de pagar su vivienda. “La condena de una parte de la clase obrera a la ociosidad forzada por el exceso de trabajo de la otra parte, y la inversa, se convierte en un medio de en- riquecer a los capitalistas individuales”, escribió Marx en “El Capital”. El movimiento obrero necesita luchar por una semana laboral de 30 horas sin recorte de salario.

El primer plan quinquenal de la Unión Soviética abolió el desempleo en 1928. La planificación económica socialista hizo que el empleo fuera un derecho de todas/os los trabajadores.

Tenemos que luchar por una revolu- ción socialista que abolirá el desempleo y la pobreza por siempre.