All the pressure created by organizations and individual activists fighting for a $15 minimum wage, starting with the heroic fast food and Walmart workers demanding $15 and a union, has forced the City Council of Los Angeles to offer what is so far the largest increase in the minimum wage in the country.

However, the increase to $15 per hour, stretched out into segments of about $1 per year, starting at $10 in 2016 and ending in 2020 with $15, then remains stagnant until 2022, when cost of living increases begin. This falls far short of the immediate need to end poverty and starvation wages, long overdue for an increase.

For the past 35 years, real wages have gone down while profits have soared, leaving the greatest gap in history between rich and poor. Even as the Black Lives Matter movement has highlighted the unequal treatment of people of color regarding law enforcement, here in Los Angeles and around the country people of color have suffered most from the growing gap in incomes. According to a study commissioned by the city of Los Angeles last year, 83 percent of workers making less than $13.25 an hour in the city are people of color; the majority are women.

However, all workers would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage, since all wages are depressed by the low level of the minimum wage.

Which is why this fight is about more than gaining a dollar per year. It’s about continuing to build a movement that can win a real livable wage — so that working and poor people can live. What’s lost in the corporate media debates about the necessity for or against a minimum wage is the fact that this is about survival for the nearly half of the workforce in the country who receive low wages.

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Continued on page 4

Activists say ‘better, but not enough’

LA struggle wins wage increase

By John Parker
Los Angeles Workers Assembly

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Continued on page 4
Since 1959, Workers World has reported on and supported the struggles of the working class, with special attention to movements led by people of African descent, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Indigenous communities. This newspaper focuses on the fight for justice for immigrants, who face low wages, harassment, detentions and deportations.

Our pages promote the Fight for $15/hour minimum wage for immigrants, people with disabilities, youth and all low-wage workers, including women, the majority earners of $7.25 per hour or less.

Workers World reports on the growing Black Lives Matter Movement, which protests the epidemic of racist police and vigilante violence and mass incarceration throughout the U.S.

The newspaper presents anti-imperialist news and analysis, siding with workers and oppressed people abroad who face capitalist globalization’s low wages and austerity, as well as U.S./NATO drones, wars and occupations.

Workers World boldly states that socialism is the only way to guarantee jobs, food, housing and medical care for the majority of people — and end the rule of the super-rich 1% and their racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, the gouging of workers and war.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning our economy into a sweatshop of death for the majority of people — and end the rule of the super-rich 1% and their racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ bigotry, the gouging of workers and war.

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this week

In the U.S.

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Tens of thousands strike for school funding

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Detectors protect Chase banksters

Demand $15 and a union

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Washington State

Tens of thousands strike for school funding

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Some 6,000 Seattle school teachers held a one-day strike on May 19, defying the Washington State Legislature. Along with teachers, students, parents and community members they joined to demand adequate school funding.

After a noon rally, the Seattle Education Association, led by teachers from Issaquah and Mercer Island as they marched from Seattle Center to downtown and back again.

The rally was one of statewide “walkout walkouts.” Washington Education Association President Kim Mead said over half of its 85,000 members had walked out so far in April and May, with more scheduled.

Across the county, teachers’ unions and parents are fighting for funding for education as state politicians impose budget cuts while slashing taxes for the rich. With little to no participation of students, families and communities, public schools are now seen as society’s basic safety net.

The governor and legislative leaders have said all options are on the table to reduce costs, including cutting instructional time, reducing class sizes, additional fees to students and compensation for teachers.

The state Legislature, filled with lackeys for corporate and Wall Street interests, has seen little movement on the demand for adequate school funding.

By Kris Hamel
Milwaukee

The “Opportunity Schools Partnership Program” was introduced to the Wisconsin Senate’s Joint Finance Committee on May 19. With only an hour for committee members to read the plan, “debate” began at about 8:45 p.m., with an affirmative vote at 2 a.m. No public comment was allowed at the hearing. The plan has been sent to the Senate and Assembly, with the goal of being included in the 2015-17 state budget.

The Milwaukee Teacher Education Association said: “This motion is one of the most extreme collections of anti-public education legislation the state has seen.

It includes the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) takeover plan, special needs voucher, and statewide expansion of vouchers. ... Legislators intensified their war against Wisconsin’s public schools, ... using the budget to avoid a democratic process, dismantle public education and attack some of the most vulnerable students in our state.” (intea.wisc.org, May 20)

Modeled after similar austerity legis- lation and policies in cities with large communities of color, such as Detroit and Philadelphia, the Milwaukee plan would take over so-called “failing” schools in the Milwaukee Public School system and hand them over to capitalist corporations to “rehire.”

The OSPP would be run by a commis- sioner to be appointed by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, a leading capitalist in the Wisconsin Democra- tic Party. The commissioner would have parallel authority with the elected MPS School Board and would be accountable only to the county executive.

Racist attack on public education

The schools listed as potential targets — 35 public schools — have predominately Black or Latino student populations and are in parts of the city devastated by decades of deindustrialization and lack of social-safety nets. All MPS work- ers at schools taken over would be fired and forced to reapply for their jobs. They would have to waive their right to be represented by a union to be considered for rehire.

fightbacknews.org, May 20)

Gov. Scott Walker’s proposed 2015-17 budget, a thinly veiled attack on both public education, including the pro- posed elimination of Chapter 220, the only educational program in Milwaukee designed to reduce racial segregation in public schools and improve equal oppor- tunity for oppressed students.

This latest attack on MPS is part of a decade-long war by Wall Street on public education. In Milwaukee, the first major urban center in the United States used as a laboratory for “school choice.” In 1990 Milwaukee became the “first school voucher city” with the purpose of parents to use tuition at a private or religious school. The top Wisconsin county court gave its OK to this program.

Since their implementation in Mil- waukee, “voucher” schools have taken more than $1 billion in taxpayer money away from public schools with minimal public accountability.

The defund- ing of public schools has resulted in larger class sizes, less individual attention to students and less access to art, music, libraries and physical education in the city’s public schools.

Fightback emerging

Milwaukee Public School system has suffered the severest budget cuts in its history since Wall Street-servant Walker became governor in 2010. Not only has it lost funding of hundreds of millions of dollars, it’s been forced to lay off hundreds of teachers and close several schools.

Higher education in Wisconsin has suf- fered the most cuts in its history during this period as well.

A mass people’s fightback is emerging, centered in Milwaukee, that is demanding the OSPP be taken out of the state budget. The MTEA, Wisconsin Jobs Now and stu- dents groups like Youth Empowered in the Struggle, all members of the Schools and Communities United coalition, are lead- ing the fight against the latest austerity program with the help of workers in the city’s public schools.

A school defense rally will take place May 27 at Auer Avenue Elementary School. The event is called “Auer Community Is Not Your Colony.” Participants, including parents, students, community and union members, plan to physically surround the school in solidarity with each other.

In a statement about the action, organ- izations say this effort “will be the first in a series of citywide actions to raise public awareness of what our schools and commu- nities are facing, and how all of our communities can join in the fight to keep democratic control of our schools. OUR SCHOOLS! OUR SOLUTIONS! Join us!”

STOPmptakeover.com

YES is supporting the May 27 Auer action and mobilizing for it citywide. It reads statement: “Wealthy right-wing politicians want to take away our pub- lic schools. Join us to defend Auer Ave- nue School (4th Street, just north of Burleigh). We will fight the takeover school by school!” (YES Supporters on Face- book)

For more information, visit school- workers.org/mi.org and stopMPTakeover.org.

Detroiters protest Chase banksters

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Protesters greeted banksters arriving at the JP Morgan Chase annual meeting of directors meeting on the morning of May 19, 2012, by Psycho Book Cadillac Hotel, where the gathering of thieves was held.

Chase got bailed out! We got sold out! and other angry chants took aim at Chase Bank and all the banks involved in the home foreclosure megacrisis. These foreclosures and evictions devastated Detroit’s neighborhoods. The crisis was caused by the deliberately racist, sexist, usurious subprime mortgages sold here and across the United States by Chase and other big financial institutions.

Protesters also indicted Chase as the leading holder of interest rate swaps world- wide, including the swaps that bankrupt- ed the Detroit water department, causing the city’s mass water shutoffs.

City of Detroit retirees had their pen- sions cut when their city was taken over to pay debt service to the banks as part of Detroit’s municipal bankruptcy.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition, which called the demonstration, says Chase has made trillions of dollars world- wide, robbing cities and whole countries through its interest rate swap swindles. In Detroit, Chase and three other banks were given $5.37 million out of the water department’s $8.1 billion bond deal ear- marked for infrastructure repairs in 2011- 2012. Moratorium NOW! has continually called the banks the real culprit behind the mass water shutoffs as well as the city’s mortgage and tax foreclosure crises.

The tax foreclosure of 25,000 to 25,000 occupied homes is scheduled for June 8. These seizures have been postponed twice for community organization protests. An additional 25,000 water shutoffs are also slated.

Nasdaq, the second-largest stock ex- change in the U.S., was the only media outlet to report on the demonstration. This voice of finance capital even quoted a Moratorium NOW! activist in their cov- erage of the Chase board meeting. The ar- ticle was later reposted by the Wall Street Journal.

“The International Social Movements Gathering for Water and Affordable Hous- ing” will be held in Detroit from May 29 to 31. The event will be hosted by the Michi- gan Welfare Rights Organization and the Detroit People’s Water Board. See social- movementsgathering.info.

To get involved in the ongoing strug- gle against mass tax foreclosures and water shutoffs in Detroit, contact Mora- torium NOW! at 313-686-5508 or visit moratorium-mi.org.

MTR3C607A.jpg
McDonald’s workers push back on $15 wage

By G. Dunkel

Chanting “We work! We sweat! Put $15 in our check!” as they marched behind a banner reading “McDonald’s: $15 and union rights,” hundreds of food stamp recipi- ents of McDonald’s workers and their supporters marched on the fast-food chain’s corporate headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., on May 20.

They carried a petition signed by 1.4 million people supporting their de- mands, which was delivered to a McDon- ald’s representative.

A smaller demonstration took place the next day when McDonald’s had its annual meeting in Oak Brook, Ill., and Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, which has financed many of the protests against McDonald’s, called on it to bar- gain and give its workers a bigger share of its profits.

The National Labor Relations Board has also supported this pro- test. Many of the workers engaged in the struggle are Black.

“Even when we get $15 and a union, we will not be happy until we have a living wage,” Henry. “It doesn’t matter to us [what union the workers join]. What matters to us is that these workers win a union.” (Chicago Tribune, May 21)

McDonald’s, whose financial gains are lagging, has a new CEO, Steve Eas- terbrook, who wants to reinvigorate the company. He has announced a dollar-an-hour raise over the minimum wage — which varies from locality to locality — as well as benefit increases for the 60,000 workers the company directly employs.

But 80 percent of McDonald’s workers are employed by franchise owners, and they will not be getting this increase.

The SEIU is pursuing a legal strate- gy before the National Labor Relations Board to get around this issue by declar- ing McDonald’s a “joint” employer with the franchisees.

McDonald’s workers are applying di- rect pressure on the company with nu- merous nationwide strikes, protests and occupations. In retaliation, the company has accused the SEIU of spending mil- lions of dollars to injure its brand. (CNN Money, May 21)

McDonald’s wanted to use its wage hike to present itself as a progressive burger company, but the two days of mil- litant protests in Oak Brook exposed its pretenses.

Victory in struggle to save Berkeley P.O.

By Judy Greenspan

Berkeley, Calif.

The information booth is still standing. The occupation of the front of the Berke- ley Main Post Office by “First They Came for the Homeless” continued into May. But the main battle to save this historic building was won on April 14.

In an his- toric decision, a federal court dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Berkeley City Council and the National Trust for Historic Pres- ervation — because the plaintiffs had al- ready won.

Judge William Alsup ruled that the United States Postal Service “had to for- mally rescind its decision to relocate the post office.”

And to celebrate this victory, a large group of community activists, lawyers, postal workers and homeless advocates held a victory rally May 9 on the steps of the post office.

The struggle to save the Berkeley Main Post Office started the day that the USPS announced its plans to sell the building in the summer of 2012. The campaign took many forms, including rallies by Berkeley City Council, outreach to the postal workers’ union and the Bay Area labor council, writing up two encampments on the grounds of the building, filing a lawsuit, organizing rallies and posting YouTube sing-out videos.

According to Dave Walsh, a retired letter carrier who was very involved in the fight to save the post office, “Our victory is the result of nearly three years of intense political ac- tivity by the people of Berkeley, including two lengthy encampments. I think people have had enough of privatiza- tion. We all wanted to keep the post office as a public place. I hope this will be the beginning of many victories across the country.”

Susan Hammer, a shop steward of the American Postal Work- ers Union, thanked everyone for their hard work and talked about what this victory means for the Berkeley post office workers. Mike Zint, a leader of the SEIU and a supporter of Occupy Oakland observed at the victory rally, “It takes a great many people — with different skills and temperaments — to create resis- tance. From people willing to face arrest. From people willing to litigate to the great many people — with different skills and temperaments — to create resistance. From people willing to face arrest. From people willing to litigate to the victory for the rights of homeless people.

As J.P. Massar of Occupy Oakland observed at the victory rally, “It takes a great many people — with different skills and temperaments — to create resistance. From people willing to face arrest. From people willing to litigate to the victory for the rights of homeless people.

He continued, “Not everyone is going to agree all the time. But if everyone fighting for the same thing can hold it together, then sometimes we can make progress. And we’ve done just that here!”

For more information, check out the Save the Post Office Facebook page.

Activists say ‘better, but not enough’ - LA struggle wins wage increase

Continued from page 1

Electrical Workers union (UE), Local 1077, in addition to church groups includ- ing the Interfaith Communities for Peace and Justice, had already en- dorsed a $15 minimum wage ballot initia- tive introduced by the Los Angeles Work- ers Assembly and approved by the City Clerk last August. This is the campaign that forced the mayor to offer $13.25 back in September.

Unlike the County Federation of La- bor-led campaigns to compromise with the employers, the UE initiative is required to be on the ballot or be immediately ad- opted by the City Council, if 62,000 sig- natures are collected. If the union initia- tive had concentrated on getting those signatures collected last year, it would have already been on the ballot and up for a vote. But the actual decision for a $15 minimum wage would be decided by the people and not the politicians.

Given current inflation rates, $15 would amount to less than $14 per hour by 2020.

Why is it so important that a livable wage be implemented now, rather than years in the future? The $15 wage de- mand did not come out of thin air. It is ac- tually the minimum necessary for basic human needs in current dollars, accord- ing to a report sponsored by the AFL-CIO in 2013.

In the city government knows this. In fact, the city of Los Angeles’ own Charter and Administrative Code back in 2009 stated that a livable wage at that time would be $16.50 for airport workers not receiving health benefits.

Last September, out of a concern for business interests who threaten the loss of jobs, Mayor Eric Garcetti, responding to the ballot initiative, said that raising the wage to $15 immediately would not be “an appropriate” and that a much slower- approach was needed. He proposed $13.25 by 2017.

Why are concerns about job losses only raised when workers want a raise? The fear of job loss never gets raised when businesses are allowed tax incentives to ship jobs abroad. It’s never raised by the Chamber of Commerce or politicians when corporations execute massive lay- offs to maximize already swollen profits.

A report last year by the Economic Pol- icy Institute states that CEO compensa- tion at the largest corporations has bal- looned by 307 percent since 1978, when adjusted for inflation.

Appealing to the conscience of the mayor and City Council, the Raise the Wage Campaign and the County Federation of Labor got 100,000 signed petitions and on May 1 presented them to City Hall. Although these petitions helped force the City Council into action, this effort did not require any action by city officials. It just contained suggestions to the poli- cies, giving them the room to stretch out their proposal to 2020.

If the money and energy spent collect- ing those 100,000 suggestions had gone instead to getting the current ballot ini- tiative for a $15 minimum wage on the ballot, the headlines today would proba- bly be a little different and a little more exciting for working people.

This is why union rank-and-file mem- bers must continue to pressure their union leadership to support the $15 Min- imum Wage Ballot Initiative. It’s not too late; the initiative is still active and ready to win a livable wage. The United Teachers of Los Angeles and the Electro- nical Workers union have provided a great example for unions in Los Angeles. In fact, a UE Local 1077 resolution of May 16 ends with the statement: “Furthermore be it resolved, UE Local 1077 Executive Board encourages all members that live inside the city limits of Los Angeles to sign and circulate petitions to get $15/hr on the ballot.”

It’s good to see the city government responding to pressure from low-wage workers demanding $15 and a union. But five more years of severe poverty, to be followed by more poverty, is not acceptable.
The goal of U.S. and European capitalism is to destroy the state enterprises in China, privatize them, undermine the Chinese Communist Party and politically enfranchise the capitalist class.

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The core of the report is summarized as follows:

**Strengthen the U.S. military.** “Congress should authorize increases in defense caps and substantially increase the U.S. defense budget. … Washington should intensify a consistent U.S. naval and air presence in the South and East China Seas” and “accelerate the U.S. ballistic-missle-defense posture in the Pacific.”

**Expand Asian trade networks.** “U.S. grand strategy toward China will be seriously weakened without delivering on the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership trade trade) agreement.”

**Create a technology-control regime.** “Washington should pay increased attention to limiting China’s access to advanced weaponry and military critical technologies.”

**Strengthen the U.S. military.** “The United States should encourage its allies “to develop a coordinated approach to counter China’s access to all technologies, including dual-use.”

**Implement effective cyber policies.** “Washington should ‘impede China on that are in excess of the benefits it receives from its violations in cyber space … increase U.S. offensive cyber capabilities … and pass ‘relevant legislation in Congress, such as the Cyber Information Security Protection Act’.”

**Reinforce Indo-Pacific partnerships.** “The United States cannot defend its interests in Asia without support from its allies and partners in the region. … and ‘Darwinian strategists’ in the U.S. Congress, such as the Cyber Information Security Protection Act.”

The goal of U.S. and European capitalism is to destroy the state enterprises in China, privatize them, undermine the Chinese Communist Party and politically enfranchise the capitalist class.

The goal of U.S. and European capitalism is to destroy the state enterprises in China, privatize them, undermine the Chinese Communist Party and politically enfranchise the capitalist class.
Cleveland double murder

Killer cop walks free, scores of protesters arrested

By Susan Schnur
Cleveland

After the complete acquittal on May 23 of Cleveland killer cop Michael Brelo, the streets of Cleveland were thick with anger. Brelo was the main triggerman in the brutal police slaughter of unarmed African-Americans Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell on Nov. 29, 2012.

Police fired at least 137 bullets into the Chey that Russell was driving. Brelo fired 49 times, of all of 13 police officers — none of them African American — involved in the killings. None of the others has even been charged for anything serious and only five for dereliction of duty. During the police barrage, after firing 34 shots, Brelo reloaded his Glock 17 (a machine gun in pistol form), jumped on the hood of Russell’s car and fired 13 more bullets into the lifeless bodies. Russell was hit a total of 23 times and Williams 24.

The verdict was issued in a nonjury trial by Judge John P. O’Donnell. Although at least two bullet wounds were proven to be caused by Brelo’s gun, O’Donnell justified his ruling that Brelo was not guilty of voluntary manslaughter by saying it wasn’t proven that Brelo’s bullets killed the pair.

Brelo was even found not guilty of felonious assault, which he clearly committed. The judge claimed Brelo’s actions were “constitutionally reasonable.” The most infuriating of O’Donnell’s statements implied that Brelo was the victim, “sacrificed” because of the general outcry on police killings around the country.

It was an expected but still disgusting verdict. Hundreds of African-American youth and their anti-racist supporters demonstrated throughout the day. Fully equipped riot cops were deployed around downtown — which has been pretexted while the neighborhoods of Cleveland are falling apart.

A sit-down protest against the verdict also took place outside the Quicken Loans Arena, site of the Eastern Conference Finals game between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Atlanta Hawks, on May 23.

In a rally that followed, orders to break up the protests as angry demonstrators were getting too close to the playgrounds of the well-to-do. Seventy-one people were arrested and taken to an abandoned school building. The closed Aviation High School, once a popular magnet school where young people were trained for a responsible work force, is now a symbol of neglect of Cleveland’s youth.

Throughout the day, pictures of young Tamir Rice were displayed. Tamir was the 12-year-old African-American who was gunned down by a white cop outside a Cleveland recreation center in late November. It has been six months since Rice was fatally shot in cold blood, but his body has still not been released to the family for burial. The sheriff’s department, which is investigating Rice’s killing, claims they still can’t work to do before presenting evidence to the prosecutor.

How much can there be to investigate? The video shows the horror of the scene of his being shot two seconds after the police car approached him in social media for all to view.

No matter how long the investigation takes, the people of Cleveland are watching and waiting. They will not let go of their demands: Justice for Timothy and Malissa, justice for Tamir Rice and justice for Tanisha Anderson, killed by Cleveland police in front of her children.

Martha Grevatt contributed to this article.

By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

At the start of the Memorial Day weekend, established to honor veterans, Philadelphia police demonstrated their “respect” by arresting a Black homeless veteran who had just been thrown off a public bus for lacking the $2.25 fare.

Several anti-police-brutality activists, who happened to be walking near Temple University in North Philadelphia around 9:30 p.m. on May 21, stopped to question why police were arresting the man, who had already been put off the bus. The police responded by brutally attacking and beating members of the group.

Nearly 50 police rushed to the scene, accompanied by two police helicopters overhead. Two women were pushed to the ground, one suffering a broken wrist in the process. Five people, including the woman with the broken wrist, were arrested.

When activists gathered outside the 22nd Police District to show solidarity with those arrested, police responded by arresting three more people and seizing the names of hundreds of supporters from around the world contacted prison and government officials by phone and email.

In addition, a lawsuit was filed May 18 seeking an end to the violation of Abu-Jamal’s constitutional right to contact his lawyer and family.

Jamal ended her report with a plea to “Free Mumia before they kill him.” — Report and photo by Joe Piette

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Police riot in Philadelphia,

Wadiya Jamal was finally allowed to visit her spouse, Mumia Abu-Jamal, on May 21. “He was in a wheelchair; his legs are swollen; his hands are blistered and dried up and they hurt,” Jamal told sup
By Monica Moorehead

Malachi Williams, a 30-year-old wom-
an, tragically lost her life on Nov. 29, 2012, in a hail of bullets, along with her 43-year-old companion, Timothy Russell, at the hands of nine white Cleveland po-
ce officers.

One of those officers, Mark Brelo, was acqui-
sted on May 23 for his part in the shoot-
ing by a judge in a nonjury trial. Protesters 
and Black transwomen and transmen, who 
were present outside the precinct 
cluded the vigil and many headed home, 
es reported that more police were massed 
cops and the Klan work hand-in-hand.”

Nevertheless, people peacefully con-
ed with Black Women’s Lives Matter, initi-
ing a few. Transgender Interfaith Justice Project, 
broader social movements. The Transgender Interfaith Justice Project, 
first imposed when Black women and 
were incarcerated at a very 
build in San Francisco. “Transgender 
transwomen who have been killed or brutalized by po-
black men and women. The sentencingproject.org 
andalways likely than white women to 
men and women are being incarcerated at a very 
prison or on parole or probation.

While African Americans make up less 
the Black population of the United States, African-American women constitute 30 percent of the over-
all women’s population in state and fed-
eral prisons. The sentencingproject.org states that Black women are more than three times likelier than white women to be incarcerated in prison or jail.

The Black Lives Matter upsurge is uni-

eral prisons. The sentencingproject.org 

criminal justice system — that is, in pris-

The Black transgender women are also gaining 
relevance, thanks to the BLM 

attack peaceful protesters

chanted after the verdict, resulting in the 
rest of the marchers to the bus stop and the 
need to be present outside the precinct 
where the arrests were taken. De-
spite the late hour, nearly 60 people turned out, 
with many staying into the night.

In addition to the police assaults, wit-
esia that Black women’s lives mat-
too. Some of these actions took place in 
New York, the Bay Area (Calif.), Chicago, 
Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, Colum-
buses, Ohio, and Lexington, Ky. The day also 
recognized that the Black Lives Matter 
Movement was founded and led by Black 
women and Black transwomen.

Racist, trans-hating violence against 
Black transgender women is also gaining 
relevance, thanks to the BLM 

Black women and girls’ lives matter

By Judy Greenspan

Emeryville and Oakland, Calif.

A National Day of Solidarity with Black 
Women and Girls, including Black tran-
swomen, who were victimized or mur-
dered by the police or other state-sanc-
tioned violence, was commemorated with 
two actions in the Bay Area on May 21.

A late afternoon rally was held out-
side the Emeryville Home Depot in Emeryville, near San Francisco, to 
draw attention to the murder of Yvette 
Henderson, who was killed Feb. 3 by 
local police for allegedly “shoplifting.” 
Henderson, an Oakland mother of four 
and a grandmother, was assaulted by a 
Home Depot security guard and later 
killed by the Emeryville police. The rally 
was organized by the Anti-Police Terror 
Project.

Black men held a speak-out highlighting 
the cases of many Black women and 
girls who have been killed by the police. 
Speakers included Cat Brooks, of the 
Oakland Organizing Committee and APTF; 
Cadine Williams, the sister of O’Shaine 
Evans, who was killed by San Francisco 
police in 2014; and La Mesha Irizarry, 
the sister of O’Shaine Evans, who was killed by 
the police. The names of these victims 

Home Depot guilty of murder’ 
of Yvette Henderson

By Andrea Jamone and Cindy Miller after 23 hours in Philly jails.
cop cars suddenly stopped up and 
officers aggressively approached the peaceful 
gathering, demanding to know who 
was in charge. Demonstrators responded with 
chants of “Hands up, fight back” and “The 
cops and the Klan work hand-in-hand.”

While no arrests were made then, witness-
esia that Black women and girls were massed 
short distance away.

Nevertheless, people peacefully con-
ed the vigil and many headed home, 
only to get calls a short time later alerting them 
to the arrests at the bus stop and the 
need to be present outside the precinct 
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spite the late hour, nearly 60 people turned out, 
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apart peaceful protesters

Channanax Maxwell, Andrea Jamone and Cindy Miller after 23 hours in Philly jails.
Part 1: The ‘miracle’ of indebtedness

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

In the late 1940s, the United States baptized Puerto Rico the “Showcase of the Caribbean.” It was to be a role model for countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. This would supposedly be the outcome of the miracle of industrialization that the giant U.S. benefactor from the North carried out in a poor, colonized, underdeveloped small island. It was a false miracle.

Colonial economy

After destroying Puerto Rico’s agri-cultural economy with U.S. investment — that is, U.S. investment — which initiated a model that first set up light industries such as textiles, then im- posed on various foreign companies, and later biotechnology and electronic firms.

Besides creating enormous environmental destruction, this process contributed nothing at all to the real development of the island. It did generate increased revenue for one sector of the working class — those in industries based on foreign capital that are export-oriented. They do not pay taxes that is needed on the island. Nor do the products of their labor benefit the economy of Puerto Rico — only Wall Street.

With regard to technology, we should look at what Sam Marcy, founder of Work- ers World Party/Mundo Obrero, wrote in his book “Labor Union or Booty.” He showed that these industries neither improved the infrastructure nor introduced new knowledge necessary for Puerto Rico’s ability to compete internationally. What is needed would develop its own initiatives.

The broken island

That’s the true reality of the colonial state. Puerto Rico is now bankrupt, with a debt of over $73 billion — four times more than Detroit’s debt, which many cit- ycles declare bankruptcy two years ago. The debt is owed to the financial vultures of Wall Street as payment on municipal bonds, which come with a high interest rate.

However, because Puerto Rico is a colony, unlike Detroit, it cannot file for bankruptcy to renegotiate the debts. This became clear when the colonial admin- istrator in office, Gov. Alejandro García Padilla, signed a bankruptcy bill called “Creole” into law. This law was subse- quently rejected by the Federal Court in San Juan. The Puerto Rican government is now appealing that decision to the Court of Appeals in Boston.

Economic situation

The serious crisis underway has been brewing for some time, intensified by the worldwide economic crisis since 2008. A growing number of Puerto Ricans are forced to look at what Sam Marcy, founder of Work- ers World Party/Mundo Obrero, wrote in his book “Labor Union or Booty.” He showed that these industries neither improved the infrastruc- ture nor introduced new knowledge necessary for Puerto Rico’s ability to compete internationally. What is needed would develop its own initiatives.

The Carmen Yulín Cruz administration in the capital city declared bankruptcy two years ago. The debt is owed to the financial vultures of Wall Street as payment on municipal bonds, which come with a high interest rate.

However, because Puerto Rico is a colony, unlike Detroit, it cannot file for bankruptcy to renegotiate the debts. This became clear when the colonial admin- istrator in office, Gov. Alejandro García Padilla, signed a bankruptcy bill called “Creole” into law. This law was subse- quently rejected by the Federal Court in San Juan. The Puerto Rican government is now appealing that decision to the Court of Appeals in Boston.

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Irish reject homophobia and colonial oppression

By Sue Kelly

The people of the Republic of Ireland have standardized the world by making it the first country to say “Yes” to gay marriage by a popular, nationwide vote. Nineteen other nations have legalized same-sex marriage by a popular vote.

On May 22, over 62 percent of those vote casting balls favors in favor of changing the Irish Constitution to define marriage as a union between two people, regardless of their gender. Twenty-two years ago, Ireland decriminalized homosexuality.

Standing up to Church, colonialism

Why did so many Irish men and women turn out to say “Yes” to gay marriage?

Many people point to the extensive use of social media and the high turnout among young, many of them first-time, voters as the primary reason for the referendum’s success. Clearly, this was a factor, but, with support coming across age and rural-urban lines and in defiance of the Catholic Church, other factors were also in play.

Ireland is nominally one of the most Catholic countries in the world, with the Church claiming membership among 85 percent of the population. But today’s empty pews tell a different story. And so does the gay marriage referendum vote.

No surprise that the Church hierarchy opposed the referendum. The archbishops sent a letter to all 2,500 parish churches opposing a “Yes” vote. But the Church in Ireland today is widely discredited for its complicity with centuries of British rule, as well as the scandal involving widespread sexual abuse of children by priests. In rejecting the Church’s position, the Irish took a stand against the old colonial ideas of racism, sexism and homophobia.

“The Church is a foot soldier for colonialism,” said Ed Childs, a Workers World Party member in Boston who studies the Irish aspect of the penal system’s legacy.

Embracing the image of corrupt, capitalist Ukraine, the oligarchy and its dominant partner, the U.S., has wiped out the armed resistance in Donbass and the Russian Federation, Mozgovoi upheld the anti-fascist banner. He attracted many of the fighters most dedicated to serving the people and seeing the struggle through, from the liberation of historic Novorossiya all the way to Kiev, including international volunteers.

During an interview with a correspondent of Russian Planet, Mozgovoi joked that after the liberation of Kiev it might be necessary for Ghost to continue marching west to liberate Warsaw and “little hamburghs” like Berlin, Paris and London.

Mozgovoi was outspoken in his opposition to the oligarchy and fascist reaction in Ukraine. He was unafraid to criticize the Minsk ceasefire agreements, which he saw as an unnecessary and damaging concession to the Kiev junta and U.S. imperialism. He denounced what he saw as the encroachment of oligarchic forces that simply want to remake Donbass in the image of corrupt, capitalist Ukraine, as it existed before the U.S.-backed coup, not as truly liberated people’s republics.

Class conscious and internationalist

While Mozgovoi was an advocate of the Ghost Brigade, Mozgovoi displayed many of the qualities of revolutionaries like Che Guevara and Thomas Sankara, with a seemingly inexhaustible energy, uncompromising principles and ability to inspire and rally people to his cause.

Born and raised in Lugansk, and trained as a singer and a soldier, Mozgovoi emerged as a leader of the anti-fascist militia movement shortly after the junta in Kiev launched its bloody war on Donbass in 2014.

He enjoyed recounting how the Ghost Brigade earned its name. After repeated claims by the Ukrainian military that they had wiped out the armed resistance in Lugans, its fighters always re-emerged to strike back like phantoms.

Mozgovoi did not call himself a communist or even a Marxist, yet he displayed a deep class consciousness and openness to learning from political opponents. He joined the Volunteer Communist Detachment into the Ghost Brigade and worked closely with its commanders, Pyotr Biryukov and Alexei Markov, who also became deputy leaders of the Brigade.

Mozgovoi put Biryukov in charge of military operations during the successful campaign to liberate Debaltsevo, Donetsk, from Ukrainian occupation forces this February.

Afterinent Donetsk militia leader Igor Streletsk was forced out by conser-
Eyewitness: A crime against humanity

Saudi flag block rescue ship from reaching Yemen

By Caleb Maupin
Djibouti, on the Red Sea

May 23 — From the port of Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, it is with great sadness and burning outrage that I announce that the voyage of the Iran Shahed Rescue Ship has ended. We will not reach our destination at the Port of Hodeidah in Yemen to deliver humanitarian aid. I am also bound for the Port of Hodeidah with many of its citizens.

The unsuccessful conclusion of our mission is the result of only one thing: U.S.-backed Saudi terrorism.

Yesterday, as it appeared our arrival in Yemen was imminent, Saudi forces bombed the port of Hodeidah a total of eight times during the day.

The number of innocent dock workers, sailors, longshore workers and by-standers killed by these eight airstrikes is still being calculated.

Furthermore, the Yemeni revolutionaries arrested 15 people who were part of a conspiracy to attack our vessel. The plan was to attack the Iran Shahed when we arrived and kill everyone on board.

With its many criminal threats and actions, the Saudi regime was sending a message to the crew of doctors, medical technicains, anesthesiologists and other Red Crescent Society volunteers onboard the ship: “If you try to help the hungry children of Yemen, we will kill you.”

These actions, designed to terrorize and intimidate those seeking to deliver humanitarian aid, are a clear violation of international law. I can say, without any hesitation, that I have witnessed a crime against humanity.

The context of extreme Saudi threats and after lengthy negotiations taking place around the clock in Tehran, it has been determined that the Red Crescent Society cannot complete this mission.

The 2,900 tons of medical supplies, food and water are being unloaded and handed for the U.N. WFP. Another boat, the largest humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, which has agreed to distribute them on our behalf by June 5.

Djibouti and U.S. imperialism

Here in Djibouti, I can clearly see what the people of Yemen and Iran have been fighting against for so long. Unlike in Tehran, here in Djibouti I see masses of desperate, starving people. Impoverished Afghans, who are desperate for a day’s work, are lined up outside the port. They are joined by Yemeni refugees, who are living in tent cities.

There is a huge U.S. military base here in Djibouti, and this small country of only 3 million people is well under the control of Western neoliberalism. This country was basically carved into the maps of the world by the imperialists. As the European plunderers divided up the African continent so that naval bases could beconverted into a strategic location in the Red Sea.

The living conditions here are horrific in comparison to those in Iran. Iran has brought down prices of rice, wheat and oil since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

Since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, one million refugees, most of them employed, Iran’s oil resources have been utilized to create a new class of society.

One of the Red Crescent Society volunteers told me: “The Iranian government has a department to make sure that everyone in our country who wants to work can work.”

Iranian mothers are given a guaranteed stipend for each child. Education in Iranian universities is almost free, and the Ministry of Health provides free medical care to everyone in the country.

Compared to the millions of enslaved guest workers in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, or the impoverished peoples throughout the African continent, Iran has been able to guarantee its people a great deal of economic security by breaking from neoliberalism.

Message to Yemen: ‘We’re on your side’

If the resistance forces are successful in their fight against the Saudi onslaught, Yemen will join Iran in becoming an independent republic. The 100,000 people involved in the organization shows a hand holding a rifle to represent armed resistance. Perpendicular to the rifle is a stalk of wheat to represent “wheat develop our own natural resources.”

It’s no secret that Yemen has vast, untapped oil resources. If the resistance forces are victorious, they can seize these resources and start using them to build up Yemeni society. Yemen can then begin to do what the people of Venezuela have done — transform their country with public control of natural resources.

As the ship prepares to return to Tehran, I have become even more convinced of the need for the world to challenge the Western monopoly capitalism. I am reinvigorated in my belief that there must be a global alliance of forces that oppose imperialism. All progressive forces fighting the continued domination of the planet by Wall Street bankers must stand firmly together.

The people of Yemen, like the forces of resistance in so many other parts of the world, have refused to surrender. As they face a horrendous onslaught of U.S.-made Saudi bombs, I hope that news of our peaceful, humanitarian mission has reached them. I hope they are aware that in their struggle against the Saudi king and the Wall Street bankers, they are not alone. There are millions of people across the planet who are on their side.

Women’s peace walk crosses DMZ

Continued from page 5

since. Some 4 million Koreans died in the 1950-53 war, in which the U.S. sent almost a million troops to battle the Communist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the north. The war ended in a stalemate — the first time that U.S. imperialism had failed in a million-dollar war.

Since the war’s end, hundreds of thousands of soldiers from the north and south, as well as U.S. troops, have faced each other for a day’s work. It is therefore not surprising that the peace delegation for themselves, they created this tiny country so that naval bases could be converted into a strategic location in the Red Sea.

Freedom or free trade?

In the contemporary world struggle, the bourgeoisie still posture as the champion of free trade. But it is not the free trade of the old, competitive stage of capitalism. It is the free trade of giant imperialist monopolies.

Free trade as it existed before the middle of the 19th century has virtually disappeared. Its replacement by giant, marauding imperialist monopolies has meant an increasingly restricted role for the smaller nations of the world and increased domination by the most powerful imperialist monopolies throughout the globe.

Small-scale production, which had a more or less stable role in the epoch of the classical competitive stage of capitalism, has an altogether unstable and precarious existence in the epoch of monopoly capitalism.

Small-scale production, which had a more or less stable role in the epoch of the classical competitive stage of capitalism, has an altogether unstable and precarious existence in the epoch of monopoly capitalism. It is good that the AFL-CIO opposes NAFTA. But it’s on very narrow grounds — how NAFTA affects the particular unions.

In discussing relations among the U.S., Canada and Mexico, however, the unions are inevitably drawn into the vortex of world politics. They are obliged to take a position on the role U.S. imperialism plays in the contemporary world. ...

No chance of tranquil development

All the talk that NAFTA will inevitably create jobs in the U.S. and Mexico as a result of Mexico lifting restrictions against U.S. corporations is unwarranted. It entirely leaves out of consideration the nature of capitalist development, which is marked by inevitable crisis.

Capitalism not only moves upward; it can also decline to abysmal levels. That’s only half the story. Another part is that the capitalist class will abandon one market for its products, no matter how lucrative, in the interest of another more lucrative market where the rate of profit is even higher.

The objective of imperialist diplomacy, and of U.S. diplomacy in particular, is to aid the capitalist monopolies wherever they seek to broaden their influence. It’s in their nature to pull out of Australia and go to New Zealand, or go from New Zealand to Nicaragua or Mexico if the rate of profit is higher. This is the motive force of capitalist development.

It was good for the AFL-CIO and all its affiliated unions to at least oppose the agreement, even if only on narrow trade-union grounds. But that is inadequate, considering the agreement’s dimensions.

To go along is to become a silent partner to the devastating role of U.S. finance capital abroad — and at home.

Labor’s real objective should be to forge a solidarity agreement among the trade unions of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. It must take into consideration, first and foremost, that Mexico is an oppressed country and that the U.S. and Canada are imperialist countries, although Canada is a junior partner in the struggle...
By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Ten political parties claiming to uphold the political legacy of martyred Burkina Faso and Pan-Africanist revolution- ary Thomas Sankara have formed an alliance. The unity agreement came several months after a national uprising which ousted former coup-leader-turned-presi- dent Blaise Compaoré, who is now living in exile in neighboring Ivory Coast.

Compaoré was forced to flee after a peo- ple’s rebellion in late October and early November, when hundreds of thousands of people in Burkina Faso took to the streets demanding that he not stand for another term. When it appeared that the parlia- ment would allow Compaoré to run again, the building was attacked, occupied and set on fire.

Continuing unrest prompted two mili- tary coups over the following days. Many protesters demanded the immediate re- turn to civilian rule. A coalition of military and political leaders established an interim government mandated to hold elections on Oct. 11, 2015.

Between the years of 1987-89, Sankara had led a revolutionary movement that took power and sought to transform the postco- lonial agricultural state into a resource for the improvement of the living conditions of the people and a model for other nations in Africa. However, Sankara, known as the “Che Guevara of Africa,” was assassinated along with 12 other military and political officialst in a counterrevolutionary coup led by Compaoré, who remained in power for over 27 years.

Even the Associated Press noted in a re- port: “Sankara was a Marxist, anti-imperi- alist revolutionary who in four short years in power doubled the number of children in schools, reduced infant mortality, redistrib- uted land from feudal landlords to peasants and planted 10 million trees that still help shape the landscape of the country. His policies drew the ire of the govern- ment of neighboring Ivory Coast, a client state of the United States. They charged that he must re- gime has always been suspected of playing a role in the coup that removed Sankara from power.

When Sankara was murdered on Oct. 15, 1987, the country reverted to being an out- post of French and U.S. imperialist intrigue. During the tenure of Compaoré, Burkina Faso has moved to the right in order to align itself on the African continent. The neocolonial state served as a base for French military intervention in neighboring Mali.

The widow of Captain Sankara, Mariam Sankara, who often speaks out on various aspects of Burkina Faso politics, urged the people to remain calm in order to keep the country out of war.

A recent biography of Sankara published by a researcher and analyst of African affairs.

The book comes as mass discontent is growing among youth and workers throughout Africa. The uprising in Burki- na Faso reflected the failure of the neo- colonial African nation-states to address the people’s long-term needs and aspirations of the majority.

Sankara sought to rapidly advance Afri- can independence by breaking ties with im- perialism, which continues to hamper the forward progress of the continent. Over the last seven years, since the formal founding of AFRICOM (the U.S. Africa Command), the Pentagon and the CIA have escalated U.S. intervention in Africa, severely weak- ening the capacity of African states to re- solve their own national security impera- tives.

Eventually, the former Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Sudan, Somalia and other states demonstrate that, without unity and self-determination, there can be no genuine sovereignty for the formerly colonized nations. To organize the people of Africa on an anti-imperialist basis there has to be an identification of the conditions that restructure society in the interests of the workers, farmers and youth.

Hersh’s book chronicles Sankara’s jour- ney from anti-imperialist revolutionary into the military, rising political consciousness, and bargaining against the country’s — then called Upper Volta — poverty, un- developed and economic corruption. During his rise to power, Sankara utilized these conditions to organize the people for revolution. He defeated the anti- neocolonial system.

Sankara and his comrades instituted economic and social ideas that steered the state away from dependency on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. They relied instead on Burkina Faso’s re- sources to construct educational institu- tions, hospitals and state-directed projects aimed at improving the quality of life and the liberation of women.

For the upcoming elections, it is essential that a political program is developed that can appeal to young people, farmers and workers, people and farmers inside and outside the country. A breakthrough in Burkina Faso toward a revolutionary vision of the future would have a profound impact on Africa and the international scene.

By Gene Cency

On May 2, 2011, a team of U.S. Navy SEALs, acting under the direction of the U.S. government’s explanation. On close examination, the whole incoherent edi- tion would allow Compaoré to run again, of youth and workers took to the streets

in 2011, U.S officials insisted on it. The official story several times, U.S. authorities of...
Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hacia finales de los años cuarenta, Estados Unidos bautizó a Puerto Rico la “Vitrina del Caribe”, como ejemplo a seguir por todo el Caribe y Latinoamérica. Era supuestamente el milagro de industrialización que ejecutaba el benefactor gigante capitalista del norte en una isla islita, colonizada y subdesarrollada.

Luego de destruir la agricultura puertorriqueña, Washington fomentó la inversión extranjera, lésie estadounidense, iniciando un modelo de industrialización, al principio con industrias livianas como la textil, para luego imponer farmacéuticas, petroquímicas y más tarde firmas biotecnológicas y de electrónica.

Aparte de la gran destrucción del medio ambiente, la economía de Puerto Rico se ha ido vendiendo desde el 1980. Aparte de las ventas, el gobierno ha tomado medidas altamente regresivas y con consecuencias nefastas para los trabajadores: la incesante lucha de sus trabajadoras/es, la inmensa cantidad de sueldos impagados, el intento de privatizar la educación, la resistencia que se ha hecho para no pagar la deuda por encima de los servicios al pueblo, y el desempleo que se ha multiplicado a medida que se imponen nuevas cargas impositivas.

La isla quebrada

Esa es la verdadera “vitrina” que ex- pone la realidad del estado colonial. Ahora Puerto Rico está en bancarrota con una deuda de más de $73 mil millones, cuatro veces más que la deuda que hizo a Detroit declarar bancarrota hace 2 años. A su vez, el gobierno tiene que pagar mayores dividendos. Es como el pez que se ahoga mientras el gobierno a su vez tenga que pagar enormes alivios contributivos.

Se han perdido más del 20 por ciento de los puestos de trabajo desde el 2006. Actualmente se piensa en $75,8 mil millones de dólares. Irónicamente, este costo del benefactor de EUA que por los incentivos del colonialismo se convierte en $75,8 mil millones de dólares. Irónicamente, este costo del benefactor de EUA que por los incentivos del colonialismo se convierte en $75,8 mil millones de dólares. Proyectada para 2010, la Ley Jones costó a Puerto Rico 29 mil millones de dólares. Proyectada para 2010, la Ley Jones costó a Puerto Rico 29 mil millones de dólares. Por una parte, el gobierno ha renegociado la deuda. Esto quedó claramente evidente en el Caso Jones, cuando el año pasado calculamos que 361 médicos perdiendo sus hospitales y 361 médicos perdiendo sus hospitales. Las/os familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísimo costo de vida y la pérdida de ingresos. "Por primera vez en PR, el valor de las propiedades reposee- do ha superado los $800 millones". (El Nuevo Día, 23 de mayo, 2015) Las familias están perdiendo sus hogares por el altísime