



California cities weigh in against U.S. blockade of Cuba, page 11.

To battle anti-labor law Workers in France rise up

By G. Dunkel

Throughout France, 300,000 people poured into the streets on May 26 demanding withdrawal of a reactionary labor law recently rammed through the National Assembly. The law significantly weakens protections French workers have won through decades of struggle. This was the eighth day of nationally coordinated protests against the law within the last three months. The coalition of militant labor unions calling the demonstration included the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), Workers Force (FO), the Unitary Union Federation (FSU), Solidarity (Solidaire), the National Union of French Students (UNEF), the National High School Union (UNL) and the Independent and Democratic Federation of High Schools (FIDL).

The coalition has issued a call for a single, nationwide demonstration in Paris on June 14, the day the French Senate takes up the law. The second largest French union, the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT), has broken with most of the French labor movement, and is supporting the anti-worker law and the government.

Besides protests in the street on May 26, there were numerous strikes, blockades and occupations. One group of marchers in Paris chanted: “All together, general strike! Who are the real hooligans? The state and the bosses.” (Telegram, May 26)

In France, labor unions are permitted to strike over political issues. All eight French oil refineries were struck. Refinery workers, truck drivers, and dock and unemployed workers blockaded some fuel depots. Forty percent of France’s gas stations went dry, especially stations around Paris and those in the north and west.

Dockworkers went out and French television pointedly showed tankers waiting offshore because they couldn’t be unloaded.

Workers at France’s 19 nuclear power plants struck, which is their constitutional right. The workers did not shut down reactors or leave them unsafely attended. Instead, they dramatically reduced the power produced. The plants generate about 80 percent of French electricity.

Air traffic controllers also struck, shutting down flights at key Paris airports. About a third of French train operators went out, severely limiting train traffic. Solidarity, the main union of Paris Metro subway system workers, called for an unlimited strike to start June 10 — the first day of the Euro 2016 soccer competition.

Workers attract staunch support

Despite strikes, blockades, fuel shortages and protests disrupting the lives of millions, 65 to 72 percent of the French people support the protests and oppose the an-

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Thousands march on McDonald’s headquarters to demand \$15/hour and a union, May 26. See page 3.



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fighting for a socialist future

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Capitalism, in brief

By Gary Wilson

A short primer on capitalism:

- The current crisis is a crisis of capitalism.** It is not a crisis of socialism or any other economic system. Only capitalism has this kind of crisis that leads to people losing their jobs, their homes and even the food on their table.
- While greedy individuals and corporations are involved, their greed and corruption did not cause the crisis.** Capitalist crises are not caused by bad individuals or evil corporations. It is only during a crisis that these bad sorts are exposed, in the scramble to find blame. Why don't the media blame capitalism? They should, because it is capitalism that causes these economic crises. Crisis is built into the capitalist system.
- The driving force of capitalism is profits.** Profits rule and capitalists must constantly expand their profits or they fail. Everything is produced for profit, not for need. So a crisis is reached when profits fall below the rate demanded by the capitalists and the bankers (finance capitalists).
- A capitalist crisis is the result of an economic system.** This is not a natural force like a flood or a tornado. It can be controlled and even reversed. But not through capitalist measures. Only by replacing capitalism with socialism can this crisis be truly ended.
- That can be done, but not easily. Not overnight. **But throwing out capitalism is the only solution possible. Let's do it!** ☐



Who we are & what we're fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers' living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you're young, you know they're stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That's why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We've been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism's wars and aggressions. ☐

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On the picket line

By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

AT&T workers win grievance strike

Communications Workers Local 9509, representing some 1,700 AT&T workers in San Diego, walked off the job May 19. The union had requested information about how the company monitors employees after a civil court judge ordered AT&T to pay \$1 million to a wrongfully terminated call center worker. “The documents requested are necessary to protect our members from the constant abuse of the monitoring system by management,” explained CWA Executive Vice President Tosha Broadnax. “We have a contractual right to request and receive these reports.” (cbs8.com, May 20)

In response to AT&T’s repeated refusal to comply, the workers, who had been without a contract since April, called a grievance strike. They picketed call centers throughout San Diego, forcing AT&T to reroute incoming calls for six days. No doubt fearful of growing solidarity with the East Coast Verizon strike in its sixth week, AT&T caved, releasing reports May 25. (laborpress.org, May 29) CWA District 9 Vice President Thomas Runnion recognized, in an open letter, “the amazing show of solidarity that we have seen demonstrated by Local 9509. The six day strike was so strong — 1,700 members committed in taking a stand together and not wavering.” (local9509.net, May 25)

Tobacco workers demand changes by Reynolds suppliers

Ever since 2007, workers in North Carolina fields that grow tobacco for Reynolds American have confronted the company with reports of low wages and miserable working and living conditions on the company’s contract farms. But this year, the company’s 2015 audit report, issued the day before its annual shareholders’ meeting in Winston Salem, confirmed what the Farm Labor Organizing Committee has been saying all along. The audit found cases of children under 13 working in the fields, minors below 16 illegally performing hazardous work, serious safety violations in tobacco barns and inadequate reporting of workplace accidents. Interviews with workers also uncovered wage violations, documenting that 25 percent of growers did not provide legally required documentation about wage rates, transportation and housing.

While hundreds of workers and supporters picketed in the rain, 40 farmworkers and FLOC supporters went inside the meeting. For the first time, Reynolds executives and shareholders had to listen to testimonies of 10 child farmworkers, whom they had previously claimed did not exist. After one youth asked Reynolds to sign an agreement with FLOC guaranteeing a living wage so children don’t have to help support their families, his question was met with deadly silence. However, FLOC President Francisco Velasquez acknowledged that Reynolds’ audit and willingness to hear testimony showed FLOC’s persistent pressure. He said the report by Reynold’s CEO Susan Cameron “signaled a seismic shift in the company’s public response to our concerns.”

Following the meeting, the crowd marched in a sea of red FLOC flags to a park to hear farmworkers testify about such things as the need for a grievance procedure to remedy complaints. FLOC thanked supporters from many labor and faith-based organizations and university groups, including Black Workers for Justice, Fight for \$15 and the North Carolina AFL-CIO. (floc.com, May 5)

Domino’s Pizza accused of rampant wage theft

A May 24 lawsuit by New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman accused Domino’s Pizza of systematically underpaying workers statewide by hundreds of thousands of dollars. Domino’s franchise owners have increasingly come under fire in the state for wage violations, including a 2014 class action suit against one franchise that ended with a \$1.3 million payout to workers. Meanwhile, the Domino’s corporation denies involvement in franchises’ day-to-day operations. (NewYorkTimes.com, May 25)

The suit, however, alleges the corporation requires franchisees to use payroll software it knew would miscalculate workers’ hours, resulting in illegally low wages paid at 78 percent of its restaurants and overtime payment withheld at 86 percent of them. Schneiderman asserted, “We’ve discovered that Domino’s headquarters was intensely involved in store operations and even caused many of these violations.” (ag.ny.gov, May 24)

Over \$1 billion in stolen wages recovered nationwide by the U.S. Department of Labor since 2010 represents only a tiny fraction of the total amount bosses steal from workers every day. (NYTimes.com, May 25) If successful, this lawsuit may make it easier for more corporations to be held responsible for wage theft — though only the workers themselves, empowered through labor unions, can mount a decisive fight for fairness. □

Solitary confinement is ‘no touch’ torture and must be abolished

Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the heroic WikiLeaks whistleblower and transgender activist currently jailed in the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., after having been sentenced to 35 years in prison — really for exposing U.S. war crimes in Iraq — recently wrote an op-ed for the British Guardian explaining why solitary confinement is torture. Manning herself was held in solitary confinement in the Marine Corps Brig at Quantico, Va., where she was under 24-hour guard. Her op-ed follows:

By Chelsea Manning

Shortly after arriving at a make-shift military jail, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in May 2010, I was placed into the black hole of solitary confinement for the first time. Within two weeks, I was contemplating suicide.

After a month on suicide watch, I was transferred back to the U.S., to a tiny 6 x 8 foot (roughly 2 x 2.5 meter) cell in a place that will haunt me for the rest of my life: the U.S. Marine Corps Brig in Quantico, Va. I was held there for roughly nine months as a “prevention of injury” prisoner, a designation the Marine Corps and the Navy used to place me in highly restrictive solitary conditions without a psychiatrist’s approval.

For 17 hours a day, I sat directly in front of at least two Marine Corps guards seated behind a one-way mirror. I was not allowed to lay down. I was not allowed to lean my back against the cell wall. I was not allowed to exercise. Sometimes, to keep from going crazy, I would stand up, walk around, or dance, as “dancing” was not considered exercise by the Marine Corps.

To pass the time, I counted the hundreds of holes between the steel bars in a grid pattern at the front of my empty cell. My eyes traced the gaps between the bricks on the wall. I looked at the rough patterns and stains on the concrete floor — including one that looked like a caricature grey alien, with large black eyes and no mouth, that was popular in the 1990s. I could hear the “drip drip drip” of a leaky pipe somewhere down the hall. I listened to the faint buzz of the fluorescent lights.

For brief periods, every other day or so, I was escorted by a team of at least three guards to an empty basketball court-sized area. There, I was shackled and walked around in circles or figure eights for 20 minutes. I was not allowed to stand still, otherwise they would take me back to my cell.

I was only allowed a couple of hours of visitation each month to see my friends, family and lawyers, through a thick glass partition in a tiny 4 x 6 foot room. My hands and feet were shackled the entire time. Federal agents installed recording equipment specifically to monitor my conversations, except with my lawyers.

The United Nations special rapporteur on torture, Juan Méndez, condemned my treatment as



“cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment,” describing “the excessive and prolonged isolation” I was placed under for that period of time. However, he didn’t stop there. In a preface to the 2014 Spanish edition of the “Sourcebook on Solitary Confinement,” written by Méndez, he strongly recommends against any use of solitary confinement beyond 15 days.

As Méndez explains:

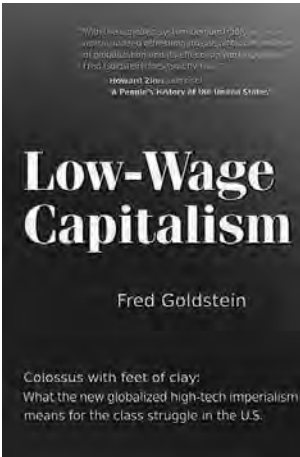
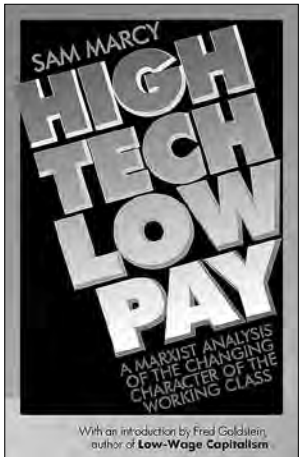
“Prolonged solitary confinement raises special concerns, because the risk of grave and irreparable harm to the detained person increases with the length of isolation and the uncertainty regarding its duration. In my public declarations on this theme, I have defined prolonged solitary confinement as any period in excess of 15 days. This definition reflects the fact that most of the scientific literature shows that, after 15 days, certain changes in brain functions occur and the harmful psychological effects of isolation can become irreversible.”

Unfortunately, conditions similar to the ones I experienced in 2010-2011 are hardly unusual for the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 inmates held in these conditions across the U.S. every day. In the time since my confinement at Quantico, public awareness of solitary confinement has improved by orders of magnitude. People all across the political spectrum — including some who have never been in solitary or known anyone who has — are now beginning to question whether this practice is a moral and ethical one.

In June 2015, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy called the prison system “overlooked” and “misunderstood,” stating that he welcomes a case that would allow the court to review whether or not solitary confinement is cruel and unusual under the U.S. Constitution.

The evidence is overwhelming that it should be deemed as such: Solitary confinement in the U.S. is arbitrary, abused and unnecessary in many situations. It is cruel, degrading and inhumane, and is effectively a “no touch” torture. We should end the practice quickly and completely.

May 2, 2016



Books are available at major online book sellers.

High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an introduction by Fred Goldstein author of *Low Wage Capitalism*.

Low-Wage Capitalism

describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval. www.lowwagecapitalism.com

New York state farmworkers fight for right to organize

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Farmworkers are bravely and tenaciously fighting for the right to organize in New York state. Currently there is no statewide legal protection to prevent employers from firing workers for collective action to improve conditions at their jobs.

On May 10, worker Crispin Hernández and two New York workers' centers — the Workers' Center of CNY (WCCNY) and the Worker Justice Center (WJC) of Rochester — filed a lawsuit against the state of New York, demanding this right. The 1936 New York State Employment Relations Act (SERA) specifically excluded farmworkers from collective bargaining. Even though the state's 1938 Constitution granted that right to all workers without exception, New York farmworkers had never been legally granted the right to organize because of the SERA exclusion.

Hernández and the workers' centers demanded through the lawsuit that the right to organize be acknowledged as applying to farmworkers.

At a May 10 press conference in Albany, Hernández said: "Without farmworkers there would not be milk, fruits or vegetables, but we are treated like slaves and worse than the cows. We want to be able to improve our working conditions without fear or intimidation. We believe our lives are important and that all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

The lawsuit is based on the blatant suppression of lead plaintiff Crispin Hernández' right to freely meet with other workers and WCCNY to talk over concerns about working conditions.

Cuomo concedes to farmworkers

On May 11, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the state would not oppose the lawsuit. This promising development gives hope that there will be a successful ruling in the case and a historic win for the farmworkers. The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) is representing Hernández, the Workers' Center-CNY and the WJC.

WCCNY lead organizer Rebecca Fuentes told Workers World that the farmworkers are advancing through their own leadership and through the Center's commitment to "educate, agitate, organize" with embattled workers at remote farms over many years. (New York Times, May 5)

Since 2012, when he was still a teenager, Hernández had been working 12-hour days, six days a week at Marks Farm in Lowville, N.Y. — under so much pressure that sometimes he had no time to eat or go to the bathroom all day. He was the sole support of his extended family of nearly a dozen people.

Marks Farm, a leading milk producer in New York, has 10,000 animals and sixty workers. There are 60,000 workers on state dairy farms, which had sales of \$6.36 billion in 2014.

In 2015, Hernández and other workers were having conversations with Fuentes about safety at work and setting up English classes. As they met one evening after work hours in a small apartment that one worker had rented from the farm owner, the owner's son showed up to order Fuentes off "his property." Fuentes cited a New York state attorney general's ruling that farmworkers can have invited guests in their living space and refused to go unless the workers asked her to do so.

The workers persisted, saying Fuentes was their guest. That's when the owner

called in both county and state cops, who interrogated Fuentes, Hernández and the other workers. Threatened with arrest, Fuentes again cited the ruling, the workers defied the owner and the police by insisting she stay, and the authorities left.

A week later, Hernández and Saúl Pinto, along with Fuentes and other WCCNY volunteers, were walking trailer-to-trailer to tell workers about their rights when they were observed by the owner's son. The next day, both Hernández and Pinto were fired.

Fuentes told WW that if Cuomo's concession is confirmed by a positive ruling, then legal protection will be guaranteed to all New York farmworkers for what Hernández and others were doing when they were fired. Known as "concerted activity," this covers worker actions like forming committees to discuss work problems or representing co-workers before management to demand better working conditions.

"Concerted activity" might include requesting a guaranteed day off each week, repairing faulty machinery or management providing protective gear. Owners usually make dairy workers pay for shoulder-length gloves to protect their arms against infection and animal waste. Fuentes added that "concerted activity" is the tactic being used so effectively by nonunionized low-wage workers like those at McDonald's or WalMart.

Fuentes said the winning of the legal complaint would gain workers "a tool to resist" — and she stated firmly: "We are resisting!"

A powerful tool

A win would mean that Hernández and other farmworkers have a powerful tool to challenge the wide range of horrendous working conditions.

Narratives from Hernández and farmworker José García, posted by the NYCLU, tell of 12-hour days at low pay with no overtime; work-related injuries without medical care and lack of equipment to protect or prevent injuries; extreme rural isolation and lack of transport to connect to resources; and racism, verbal intimidation and physical assault by supervisors and owners.

New York farmworkers have a fatality rate 20 times that of the average worker



PHOTO: GUISELA MARROQUIN

Members of Workers Center of CNY and striking Verizon workers unite in solidarity.



Crispin Hernandez (right photo), the Workers Center of CNY and the Worker Justice Center of Rochester announce a historic lawsuit for the right of farmworkers to organize.



PHOTO: K. DEWITT

in the state. Some work 90 to 95 hours a week, operating dangerous equipment under grueling conditions. (nyclu.org, May 10)

For women farmworkers, a win would offer a way to fight back against rape and sexual harassment. Women farmworker are targets of these crimes at a very high rate, according to a 2013 Center for Investigative Reporting study. The women are particularly vulnerable because of documentation status, rural or social isolation or as the primary breadwinner for their children.

The win would give farmworkers a tool to oppose the increasing speedups and demand for more labor at poverty wages that is assembly-line farming, especially in dairy. In the U.S., technology and specialization have increased dairy farm herd size nine-fold in the last 20 years. In the Northeast, farms with at least 700 cows generated almost 50 percent of the milk produced in 2014.

Farmworkers are typically subjected to threat and intimidation if they demand improved work conditions from bosses. In New York state many are Mexican and Central American, and they face possible deportation or loss of a continuing work visa if they confront farm owners.

Extending the right to organize to New York farmworkers would also shatter an 80-year stretch of racist injustice begun

in 1935 when the Wagner Act established the National Labor Relations Board. That act specifically excluded farmworkers from the right to organize and collectively bargain throughout the U.S.

The exclusion came from pressure from white ruling-class landowners in the segregated U.S. South, determined to keep African-American farmworkers from unionizing. Effective and powerful farmworker and sharecropper organizing campaigns, like the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, were sweeping the region during the 1930s, often under socialist and communist leadership.

But even with a historic win in the lawsuit, Hernández and other farmworkers still would not have the right to overtime, unemployment insurance or workers' compensation, denied under existing New York laws.

Carly Fox, advocate with the Workers Justice Center of Rochester, said the WJC has been fighting for almost 15 years for passage of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act, which would guarantee additional rights. On May 15, a 200-mile march in support of the bill began in Long Island and will rally on June 1 in Albany demanding a "yes" for the legislation.

In an email to WW, Fox said, "Farmworkers feed all of us, and it's time for New York to treat them with dignity and respect." □

Free Rev. Edward Pinkney!

Activists from around Michigan converged in Benton Harbor in the southwest portion of the state on May 28 for a demonstration demanding the release of political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney, who is currently incarcerated at the Marquette Branch prison in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Supporters of Pinkney rallied at City Hall and marched through the downtown area, ending up at the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. There, several speakers discussed the plight of people across the state.

The demonstration coincided with the Senior PGA Championship at Lake Michigan, where land previously owned by the public is now used as a playground for the affluent. Benton Harbor is one of the most oppressed cities in Michigan.

— Report by Abayomi Azikiwe, Pan-African News Wire



PHOTO: TIJUANA MORRIS OF THE MORATORIUM NOW! COALITION IN DETROIT

African American Museum of History and Culture to open in D.C.

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A center designed for the preservation and exhibition of the contributions of people of African descent in the United States is scheduled to open later this year. Known as the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the building represents efforts to construct such a project that extend back over 100 years.

This will be the largest of such institutions in the country, surpassing the Dr. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. The NMAAHC, a 400,000-square-foot edifice, will be the 19th division of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. President Barack Obama is scheduled to cut the ribbons at the building opening on Sept. 24.

During the second week of May, journalists were allowed to preview what is in store for the public. The structure will feature numerous galleries with displays on slavery, segregation and the Civil Rights Movement, also music, entertainment, sports and politics.

Much work remains to be done before the official opening. Electrical equipment, artifacts and artistic treasures will be moved in and fitted for public viewing. There are exhibits on cultural figures, including Bo Diddley, Little Richard and the Jackson Five.

The May 15 New Observer says: “After years of false starts, a bill from Democratic Rep. John Lewis of Georgia to create the museum passed Congress in 2003 and became law with the pen of President George W. Bush. Three years later, the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents approved the five-acre site on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the National Museum of American History. Lead designers Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup were selected in 2009 and construction began in 2012.”

The article continues, “The \$540 million project was funded through a partnership with Congress, which provided half the money, or \$270 million. The

other half is being raised through private contributions; officials are within a few million dollars of that goal.”

There are 3,000 artifacts with videos, photos and wall text which will be on view in 11 inaugural exhibitions. Dozens of staff must be accommodated in offices, and the 400-seat cafeteria has to be set up. For security purposes, metal detectors will be installed at the two entrances.

The museum’s official website reads: “In many ways, there are few things as powerful and as important as a people, as a nation that is steeped in its history. Often America is celebrated as a place that forgets. This museum seeks to help all Americans remember, and by remembering, this institution will stimulate a dialogue about race and help to foster a spirit of reconciliation and healing.” (nmaahc.si.edu)

The website stresses: “There are four legs upon which this museum will stand: The first is to create an opportunity for those that care about African American culture to explore and revel in this history. Equally important is the opportunity to help all Americans see just how central African American history is for all of us. The museum will use African American history and culture as a lens into what it means to be an American.”

The website also emphasizes: “Additionally, the museum will use African American culture as a means to help all Americans see how their stories, their histories, and their cultures are shaped and informed by international considerations and how the struggle of African Americans has impacted freedom struggles around the world. Finally, as a 21st century institution, the museum must be a place of collaboration. We must be a truly national museum that reaches beyond Washington to engage new audiences and to collaborate with the myriad of museums and educational institutions, both nationally and internationally.”

African-American oppression continues

NMAAHC is steps away from the Washington Monument, the towering obelisk built in commemoration of the

nation’s first president who owned slaves. Even though the official narrative of U.S. history suggests that the so-called “Revolutionary War” was fought to gain independence from British colonialism, Africans remained enslaved in the U.S. until the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865.

That contradiction is startling in light of the racist system’s failure to guarantee a decent life, genuine equality and self-determination to the African-American people, even in the 21st century. African Americans have achieved enormous gains over the last century-and-a-half since the end of slavery. Nonetheless, they remain an extremely exploited and repressed people.

Today African Americans are incarcerated at rates far exceeding those of whites, who continue to represent the overwhelming authority within the state and economic structures of the country. Rates of joblessness and poverty disproportionately affect African Americans, while the world economic recession of the last decade appropriated much of the limited household wealth accumulated since the rise of industrialization in the 20th century.

In foreign policy, people of African descent in the U.S. have only made a progressive impact through their own propaganda, petitioning and mass demonstrations. For decades, successive administrations maintained close and fraternal relations with European colonial powers that carried out genocidal policies against territories in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

In 2016, the Pentagon and CIA still install counterinsurgency programs across Africa amid broadening mistrust of U.S. intentions among the masses of workers, youth and farmers in the continent. Meanwhile, the volume of trade between the U.S. and emerging African states has declined in the last several years despite the country’s first self-identified president of African descent.



Detroit Museum: community-oriented model

At present the largest existing African-American museum is in Detroit, a majority African-American city. This center was founded through the decades-long visionary work of the late Dr. Charles H. Wright. He started the museum in a residential house in 1965 at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Wright was an admirer of the African-American artist, actor, activist and social scientist Paul Robeson.

In the 1980s, Wright campaigned for the release of African National Congress leader and then-political prisoner Nelson Mandela, as well as other South African political prisoners. Under the administration of Mayor Coleman A. Young, the first African-American mayor in Detroit, construction was initiated of a city-administered museum in the late 1980s.

Several years later an even larger museum was built in the area — now known as Midtown — near Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center.

Under its present administration, the Wright Museum hosts numerous lectures, panels and conferences on African world history and culture. Just this year, the museum featured former Black Panther Party leader Kathleen Cleaver; Ramona Africa, of MOVE; Saladin Muhammad, of Black Workers for Justice; and other luminaries.

A Liberation Film Series screens documentaries on a myriad of issues impacting African people worldwide and examining the lives of such historical figures as Malcolm X, Thomas Sankara, Frantz Fanon, to name a few. Every August the Wright Museum sponsors the African World Festival founded by Dr. Wright in 1983 on the Detroit Riverfront at Hart Plaza.

These institutions are important in their role of providing historical memory and assessments. They will only maintain relevance if they are linked to the overall struggle for the complete liberation of African-American people. □

Families unite against police abuse

San Diego

By **Gloria Verdieu**
San Diego

Families from San Diego’s African-American and Latino/a communities met at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on May 21, the sixth anniversary of the murder of Anastasio Hernández Rojas. They held a panel discussion titled “Black and Brown Families Unite: Demanding Law Enforcement Accountability.”

The panelists were María De La Cruz, mother of Hernández Rojas; Jack Bryson, the father of a friend of Oscar Grant who was with Grant when he was killed; Brandon Duncan, hip-hop artist and activist; and DeWayne Harvey, the father of Aaron Harvey.

The panelists each told their stories, beginning with Dwayne Harvey, whose son is one of 33 young Black men jailed and charged with associating with gangs that the authorities link to nine shootings around the area. San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis had these young men charged under California Penal Code

182.5, a racist statute used to arrest Black youth for having done nothing more than supposedly associate with supposed gang members who have been accused of crimes. Aaron Harvey had no criminal record before his arrest but could face 25 years in prison.

Brandon Duncan, a rapper and another one of the San Diego 33 jailed under the racist statute, told of the events leading to his arrest and of his imprisonment. “I spent seven months in jail, literally fighting for my life,” Brandon said.

Jack Bryson told the story of Oscar Grant, who, on Jan. 1, 2009, on his way home from a New Year’s Eve party, was shot and killed by Bay Area Rapid Transit police in Oakland, Calif. Bryson told how the Black and Brown people in the Bay Area are organizing and coming together. Black and Brown people are becoming so strong together that the politicians are nervous. Black and Brown people have been so oppressed they did not have the strength to fight back, but now are coming together and fighting as one — one of



Panel on ‘Black and Brown Families Unite.’

WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

the cops’ worst fears.

María De La Cruz spoke of her son, Anastasio Hernández Rojas, who was brutally tortured and murdered by over a dozen Customs and Border Patrol thugs at the San Ysidro border crossing into Tijuana, Mexico, on May 28, 2010. This brutal incident was caught on video by a passing pedestrian, but six years later there is still no justice.

Spanish-to-English and English-to-Spanish translation via headphones was available at the meeting. Following the presentations, the floor was opened for

discussion, questions and comments on what we can do together to stop police terror in our communities.

The program concluded with cultural performances by Mujeres en Resistencia and a powerful spoken word performance by Mi-Ocean Rice.

“Black and Brown Families Unite: Demanding Law Enforcement Accountability” was organized by the American Friends Service Committee, Alliance San Diego, Revitalize Not Militarize and Faith That Does Justice.

In the more than 90-year history of the



Black Lives Matter, the elections and self-determination

WW COMMENTARY

By Lamont Lilly

Let's be honest, Bernie Sanders and his campaign of "democratic socialism" have struck a chord with young people and the millennials. To deny that would not only be inaccurate; it would be a lie, because it's true. His primary base is among the youth, who are looking and ready right now for something new. They're not afraid of socialism. They weren't indoctrinated by Ronald Reagan's propaganda against communism.

For millennials, just to have a bourgeois presidential candidate actually utter the words "racism, poverty, inequality and police brutality" is enough to offer a glimmer of hope, which is why there are a few factions of the Black Lives Matter movement who do indeed support Bernie Sanders. Mind you, this is the same "hope" that Barack Obama spoke of, but never delivered, and had never planned to deliver. The numbers among young people certainly reflect this "loss of hope."

Voters aged 18 to 29 who cast ballots in 2008 were a record high at 48 percent. (Washington Post, May 14) By 2012, that number had fallen to 41 percent. Young people began to realize that just because Barack Obama looked Black didn't mean that he was going to speak to the issues of Black bodies, not only here in the U.S. but internationally.

In 2008, dark nations from all over the world were absolutely thrilled with the Obama win! People of color were celebrating all over the world: Brazil, Haiti, India, Kenya, Puerto Rico. Everyone was excited; that is, until this same face became a facelift of U.S. imperialism.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Libya, Somalia, etc., all became targets of this same facelift. And as more and more of the working class right here at home —

Border Patrol, never has an agent been successfully prosecuted under federal law for the killing of border residents. Over the last decade, police brutality in communities of color has become a largely overlooked epidemic. Whether the law enforcement agency is U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the local police force, Black and Brown communities must unite to combat abuse.

People at the meeting were encouraged to vote, get involved, join an organization, stay informed and share what they learn with others.

The Southern Border Communities Coalition recorded the discussion and posted a video on their Facebook website.

It happened that the same day as the meeting, Democratic presidential nominee Bernie Sanders was in San Diego for several events. Sanders found time to visit the ugly scar of the border wall that separates San Ysidro and Tijuana with María Puga, the widow of Hernández Rojas, and supporters. Sanders expressed his solidarity with their struggle for justice and with the struggle of a group of U.S. military veterans who, because they are undocumented, have been deported to Tijuana. □

white, Black, Latino/a — suffered the brunt of ruling-class priorities and corporate thuggery, with a continuation of the status quo, school closings and the construction of private prisons, the covers began to be pulled back.

Young people saw all this for themselves firsthand! You wonder why the youth are taking over streets and highways? That's why! You wonder why young people are sitting in, dying in and shutting stuff down? That's why!

Yet people are wondering why the students at Missouri, UCLA, Duke, Harvard, even The Citadel are raising their voices and making some serious demands. That's why! We lived the false promises. We saw what happened to Oscar Grant. We saw what happened to Trayvon Martin, Renisha McBride, Sandra Bland. We saw the truth of this ugly system! And it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out just how messed up it really is.

It hurt the old and the young — something that really lit a fire within this generation, particularly among Black women.

We watched a Black president, married to a Black woman, who fathered two beautiful Black girls, have the nerve to support a \$2 million bounty on the head of an exiled Black woman freedom fighter, Assata Shakur, who has given her life to the pursuit of Black Liberation, who has had no choice but to live separated from her family and kinfolk.

When the U.S. government waged a new war on Assata, President Obama and this racist, capitalist system truly revealed itself to a new generation. It was a new war on all of us, a new war on the same people who actually believed in 2008. After Mike Brown's body lay in the street for four hours, dangling in the streets of Ferguson like strange fruit, all bets were off!

#JusticeForEricHarrisNOLA

By Quest Riggs
New Orleans

Eric Harris, only 22 years old, was killed here last Feb. 8 by a hail of bullets from the guns of two Jefferson Parish Sheriff's deputies. Calling for justice for their loved one and an end to the horrendous murders of Black youth by police, Harris's family has bravely demonstrated near Orleans Parish Courthouse every Tuesday for five weeks. They've been joined week after week by organizers, activists, youth and community supporters — Black and white.

The deputies are still patrolling the streets of Jefferson Parish today. The family of Eric Harris and their supporters demand the killer cops be fired, arrested, in-

So here we are, a year and half later. Black Lives Matter and a host of others are shutting these candidates down, Republicans and the Democrats.

"To hell with 'em! To hell with the whole damn system, and everything it stands for!" That's the sentiment now, the raw and unfiltered emotion that neither Hillary or Bernie nor the Democratic Party had prepared for.

The Black, Brown and poor vote has always been taken for granted. Black youth have always been written off as "Well, they don't vote anyway, so who cares."

But, thankfully, the effectiveness of this movement isn't leaning on the vote because it's rooted in the streets. It is fueled not only by our constant state of mental and physical oppression, but by direct action and radical resistance — by any means necessary.

If that means interrupting Bill Clinton, so be it. If that means shutting Trump down, so be it. If that means boycotting Christmas sales, so be it. If that means holding officials of color like [Cook County State's Attorney] Anita Alvarez accountable, so be it. And if that means that Black youth need the space and time to organize ourselves, as in the Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, Ohio, last year, so be it.

As a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Party, we have to support that, respect that and get behind it.

Defending a political right

As Workers World Party's founder, Sam Marcy, declared in a 1971 document entitled "Political and Organizational Problems Facing Our Party," "Our Party has consistently advocated self-determination under difficult circumstances and has given the liberation struggle its utmost support as much as circumstances possibly permit."

dicted and convicted. The partner of Eric Harris, Tyshara Blouin, was in the car that night and, against the odds, survived the barrage of bullets.

Blouin publicly contradicted the account of the shooting given by the deputies. She was subsequently arrested and charged as accessory to Harris's supposed "assault" on the cops. Family and supporters see this outrageous charge as an act of retaliation.

Keep up with this story, support the

Marcy continued, "The tendency of white radicals has been to try to explain the 'liberation struggle' to Black people while neglecting their main task of fighting racism and defending the Black liberation struggle."

What we see today from several socialist tendencies is so whitewashed, academic and judgmental. What we're seeing from this new surge of Black and Brown millennials is an internal struggle being played out publicly of what self-determination is going to look like for them in the U.S.

The job of revolutionaries is to try to understand them, not to silence them.

Marcy so eloquently stated: "The right to self-determination is a political right which oppressed nations may use in whatever form they may ultimately decide as a nation. We must advocate and support that right. But we do not advocate separation, secession, federation or amalgamation. That is for the oppressed nation to decide. Our continuing propaganda for self-determination is aimed at helping the oppressed nations in whatever decision they make. The building of a workers' party is not to be confused with the exercise of self-determination. And foremost of the tasks of the Party is the struggle against racism, repression and for self-determination."

The struggle will continue in the streets, on the picket lines, in the classrooms of college campuses. Revolutionaries should be on the right side and ready to fight with every weapon at our disposal.

Marcy would agree that Black lives will only matter when self-determination matters.

All power to the people!

Lilly is the 2016 vice presidential candidate of Workers World Party.



WW PHOTO: GAVRIELLE GEMMA

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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Interview with the GDR's Margot Honecker -- 'The past was brought back'

Margot Honecker, born in 1927, former minister of education of the German Democratic Republic and widow of longtime Socialist Unity Party (SED) Secretary General and GDR State Chairperson Erich Honecker (1912-1994), died on May 6 in Santiago, Chile. The German daily newspaper Junge Welt published the complete interview in the German language in November 2015. Workers World thanks both Junge Welt and the Greek journalists who conducted the interview for permission to publish it in full at workers.org last December. The corporate media, in their obituaries, were unanimous in condemning Margot Honecker for her continued defense of communism and of the GDR. This interview makes clear her attitude and analysis. WW now publishes excerpts here. The translation from German was done by contributing editor Greg Butterfield and managing editor John Catalinotto.

Antonis Polychronakis: How did the events of 1989 come about?

Margot Honecker: If you mean by "the events of 1989," those of the fall of that year, and particularly the events in the GDR, which I describe as a counterrevolution, one would have to write books about it. Perhaps only this: There was an objective link between foreign and internal political factors. The arms race the United States in the Reagan era forced upon the Soviet Union reached its desired objective: that the Soviet Union armed itself to death. The consequent economic burden for the USSR led to serious social dislocations in the country, which meant that the leading power of the socialist camp could hardly do justice to its domestic and foreign policy responsibilities.

The Soviet Union tried to regain mastery of its situation through reforms, and these were initially well intended. But soon the so-called reformers grabbed hold of the central foundations of politics and economics and steered a course toward economic disaster and the destabilization of society. The end result was the surrender of all Soviet achievements.

The GDR was involved in this global conflict. In the end, it was part of the socialist community. And in the 1980s, the GDR was also faced with the need to

develop or correct its economic policies. There were shortcomings in supply, deficits in social life, which led to dissatisfaction. We have not always done our homework properly — partly from our own inability, partly we were blocked.

Obviously, we were unable to convince people and make them conscious of the actual social progress we made compared with a capitalist society dependent on exploitation, oppression and war. So many in the GDR believed they could join together the glittering world of commodities under capitalism and the social security of socialism. But, as Erich Honecker said in various speeches, capitalism and socialism are as hard to unite as fire and water.

AP: How do you explain the "uprising" of the East Germans, as it is called in the West?

MH: It was not an "uprising." There were demonstrations, but the workers were working on their jobs, the children went to school, social life continued. Most people who went into the streets in the fall of 1989 were expressing their dissatisfaction. They wanted to make changes and improvements. They wanted a better GDR. They were not demonstrating for its abolition. Not even the opposition wanted that.

We, that is, all the progressive forces of Germany [in the post-World War II period] wanted the entire Germany to be a democratic, anti-fascist state. We never surrendered this goal, but were unable to reach it. The founding of the GDR was the result. Resurgent German imperialism fought by all means against it, and in 1989, it saw its opportunity to eliminate the GDR, the other Germany. For forty years it had failed to do this. It was only when the Soviet Union, which had allied with us, then dropped the GDR, that the Federal Republic was successful.

What ignited the fuse on the powder keg in 1989 was the increasing exodus of citizens of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany. The West used all means available to fuel this. Of course, the appeal of consumerism and free travel played a major role. West German propaganda never tired of claiming that those who left the GDR were voting with their feet against

socialism. From 1990 until today, however, there are three million people who moved there from Eastern Germany, although now the same political conditions exist in the East as in the West. Why?

In the GDR there was no bloodshed, no civil war, no poverty or misery, all these reasons why today hundreds of thousands of people are leaving their homes in the Middle East or in Africa to flee to Europe.

AP: In the West it was referred to as a "peaceful revolution," but how could a "revolution" have been possible at all in a socialist state?

MH: A revolution, as I understand it, is a profound social upheaval aimed at the radical transformation of social relations and the liberation of the masses from exploitation and oppression. In this respect, overcoming the reactionary imperialist relations in Russia in 1917, or the creation of an anti-fascist democratic order in 1945 in the Soviet occupation zone in Germany, were revolutions. Capital was deprived of its power to continue to rule over the people. If a reversal is carried out of the social and production relations that had been overcome earlier, and that's what happened, that cannot be considered a revolution. It is, on the contrary, a counterrevolution.

Let me remind you that the socialist GDR was a guarantee of peace in Europe. It never sent its sons and daughters to war. The Federal Republic of Germany, however, participates in bloody wars that the U.S. and NATO instigate throughout the world. In 1990, the GDR was absorbed into this society, which has caused so much harm in German history. The past was brought back. No one can name that "revolution."

AP: On Nov. 9, 1989, the "anti-fascist protective wall," the Berlin Wall, as the border was called in the West, fell. Was the wall's construction in 1961 necessary or was it a mistake?

MH: The construction of the "wall" was necessary; otherwise, there would have been war. This was no arbitrary measure by the GDR. This border was a result of World War II, which German imperialism had instigated.

This was not simply a state border, however, let alone an internal German border, as it was always called in the West. It was the western border of the Warsaw Pact, the Eastern defense alliance, and the eastern border of NATO. Those were the two most powerful military blocs in the world, which were carrying out a Cold War.

The Political Advisory Committee, which was the governing body of the Warsaw Treaty states, decided in the summer of 1961 to close the border in Berlin and the western state border after they decided a military confrontation could no longer be ruled out. I do not think that one can call the prevention of a possible third world war a mistake.

AP: What was good in the GDR, and what should the socialist government have done better in order to save the "first socialist state on German soil"?

MH: In this state, each person had a place. All children could attend school free of charge. They received vocational training or studied and were guaranteed a job after training. Work was more than just a means to earn money. Men and women received equal pay for equal work and performance. Equality for women



PHOTO: GABRIELE SENFT

Margot Honecker, GDR minister of education, visiting a children's facility in Berlin, September 1989.

was not just on paper. Care for children and the elderly was the law. Medical care was free, cultural and leisure activities affordable. Social security was a matter of course. We knew no beggars or homelessness. There was a sense of solidarity. People felt responsible not only for themselves, but worked in various democratic bodies on the basis of common interests.

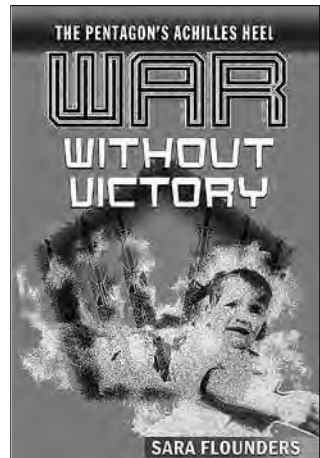
The GDR was not a paradise. There were defects that complicated daily life, shortcomings in supply and deficiencies in everyday political life. There were decisions made at various levels in which the people concerned were not always included. However, compared with the conditions now prevailing in most capitalist countries, it was close to heaven.

AP: Do you remain loyal to Marxism-Leninism and still call yourself a communist, and, if so, why?

MH: I not only consider myself one — I am a communist. Loyalty is probably not the appropriate term. Marxism-Leninism is an ideology, a method of investigation to understand the world, the laws according to which it moves, so you can orient yourself in the world. Some believe in a divine will, others in a predetermined fate. We communists are materialists. We follow a scientific outlook, which assumes that the society and everything that arises in it are the work of human beings. Exploitation and oppression are neither divinely ordained, nor are these evils acceptable.

We have to fight for a humane, fair, peaceful world, and today that is more urgent than ever. We must refuse to allow that people perish from war, hunger and disease, and that natural resources and the livelihood of the people be depleted or destroyed by ruthless capitalist exploitation, solely for profit. If humanity is to have a future, the power of the banks and corporations must be broken. They will not give up their power voluntarily.

Source:
www.jungewelt.de/2015/11-11/059.php



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

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PentagonAchillesHeel.com

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African liberation struggles drove Portugal’s April 1974 revolution

By John Catalinotto

It was April of 1974. A popular folk song serving as a secret signal to the captains in Portugal’s Armed Forces Movement (MFA) played on Lisbon’s Radio Renascença. Units of the army in and near Lisbon had been scheduled to go out for ordinary maneuvers. Now everything changed.

Spurred on by the growing war weariness of their troops, the growing weakness of the police-state regime, the inability of Portugal to win the war against the liberation movements in its African colonies and the growing international isolation of Portugal, the captains acted.

They had kept their plans secret from the soldiers they commanded. With troops already in their trucks, they read the new orders: Seize the capital, arrest the government and throw out the fascist gang ruling Portugal. The rank-and-file soldiers, surprised but ecstatic, carried out the new orders, hoping this action might end the wars in Portugal’s African colonies.

Each blow struck by the liberation fighters in Africa had weakened the fascist regime in Lisbon. Each strike by Portuguese workers or desertion by Portuguese soldiers boosted the revolutions in the colonies.

In Portugal itself, a revolt in the armed forces facilitated overturning the regime. On April 25, 1974, the MFA quickly ended the 48-year-old fascist police state. Still influenced by old habits of respect for power, however, the Portuguese captains politely arrested President Marcelo Caetano and the rest of the top government leaders and later exiled them to Brazil.

They replaced the Caetano gang with a military junta led by Gen. António de Spínola. This officer differed with other fascist generals only because he believed the war was unwinnable. Spínola urged Portugal’s rulers to instead work out a neocolonial relationship with the African colonies, much as French imperialism had done in West Africa.

Despite this deceptively mild beginning, April 25 was no simple replacement of the palace guard. Emboldened by the coup, masses of workers took over the streets, cheered the soldiers and for the next 18 months pressed the revolution forward.

Television news in the days following April 25 showed groups of workers surrounding and roughing up some individuals. Workers and revolutionaries recognized their former torturers from the notorious PIDE, the Portuguese political police, and dispensed justice.

Defying Spínola’s commands to leave the prisoners in the jails, the crowds, with the support of the troops, emptied the prisons of revolutionaries and anti-fascists while putting the PIDE thugs behind bars. By May Day — six days later — hundreds of members of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and other revolutionary groups were out of prison or back from exile to organize and agitate in the factories, farms and streets of Portugal.

African liberation movement

The armed struggles in Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau/Cape Verde and Angola seeking liberation from Portuguese colonialism had undermined the army and made the April 25 Revolution possible. The African battles had opened on Feb. 4, 1961, when Angolan freedom fighters stormed a prison to free their comrades.

As the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola sang in its hymn, “The heroes broke the chains.”

One of the great African Marxists, Amílcar Cabral, was the leader of the liberation struggle in Guinea-Bissau/Cape Verde, Portugal’s smallest African colony. Cabral organized a popular army to fight for the freedom of a million people; in a dozen years of people’s war, this army had liberated large parts of the small territory and set up a new government.

Despite his other priorities organizing a people’s war, Cabral knew how important it was to reach out to the soldiers in the colonial army. His organization, the African People’s Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde, even as they fought the Portuguese, arms in hand, also made an appeal to draftees. In a 1963 leaflet, Cabral made it clear the liberation forces would win, and those opposing liberation might well die, but he added:

“Be courageous, refuse to fight our people! Follow the example of your courageous comrades who refused to fight on our land, who revolted against the criminal orders of your leaders, who cooperate with our party or who abandoned the colonial army and found in our midst the best reception and fraternal aid.”*

In a blow that robbed the world’s oppressed peoples and workers of a great leader, PIDE agents assassinated Cabral in Conakry, Guinea, in 1973. But even this setback failed to stop the liberation struggle. From tiny Guinea-Bissau/Cape Verde, as well as in much larger Angola and Mozambique, the liberation struggles left their mark on Portugal’s army. And the Armed Forces Movement brought the war home.

Soldier resistance develops

In a report to the PCP Central Committee in April 1964, PCP Secretary Gen. Álvaro Cunhal described how the liberation war of the colonial people interacted with the struggle against fascism inside Portugal:

“The resistance of the soldiers against the colonial war is not only one of the most brilliant examples of solidarity of the Portuguese people with the colonial peoples. It is also a new element in the struggle against the fascist dictatorship, an index of the weakened state of the fascist state apparatus, of the radicalization of the politics of the popular masses and the combat readiness of the youth. ...

“The Angola war gave new reasons for the development and generalization of the struggle of the soldiers. Given the fascist discipline and the political spying that existed in the armed forces, even if only a half dozen mass actions had taken place against the fascist policies, this would have been enough to represent a strong sign of resistance of the people and the youth to the fascist policies and the colonial war. But it wasn’t only a half dozen. In the last three years [before 1964], hundreds of struggles of the soldiers have taken place.

“There was also resistance to being sent to the colonies, including work stoppages in the military quarters and barracks, on ships and military hospitals. ... Desertions reached a significant volume.

“Sometimes the insubordinations were accompanied by small acts of violence. The soldiers burned their cots or broke windows in their barracks or destroyed the furniture.

“The struggle of the Portuguese people against the colonial war reached the colonies themselves. Risking their lives,

many soldiers refused to leave for the front or to participate in atrocities. Pilots refused to carry out bombings with napalm or did them off-target. Officers and soldiers organized resistance. Others deserted right on the field of battle.”

The long war forced small Portugal to triple the size of its armed forces to 210,000 troops and finally provoked the Armed Forces Movement to turn the guns around. This in turn unleashed a countrywide class struggle of workers against their exploiters inside Portugal.

Counterrevolution drives revolution

In the year following April 1974, two major confrontations between the revolutionary workers and the Spínola grouping took place, first in September 1974, when masses of workers mobilized to stop a reactionary demonstration, and then the following March. They both took the form of defense of the revolution from counterrevolutionary actions.

On March 11, 1975, Spínola, working with reactionary forces inside and outside Portugal, attempted a military coup. But again there was a rebellion of the rank-and-file troops. The coup failed when the paratroopers sent to punish revolutionary soldiers instead fraternized with and joined them.

Spínola fled Portugal for Spain. The MFA purged the most reactionary officers. The biggest advances for the workers were written into law in the months after this failed coup.

Overseas, the liberation movements continued their struggles. By Sept. 15, 1974, Guinea-Bissau/Cape Verde was independent. The following year Angola and Mozambique won their freedom from Portugal. Even East Timor, half of an island in the Indian Ocean, won short-lived independence in November 1975, but was soon occupied by Indonesia.

In Portugal, there was reinstatement of rights to unions and nationalization of factories, banks and much of the media, plus a wide-reaching agricultural reform that gave legal rights to land seizures by agricultural workers and established collective farms. Begun by actions of workers and other collectives, nearly all these steps were codified under the governments headed by Prime Minister Vasco Gonçalves, himself a colonel and leader of the MFA. Gonçalves was promoted to general in 1975.

Faced with homegrown reaction and U.S.-NATO intervention, the Portuguese movement fell short of completing a workers’ revolution, such as had taken place in Russia in 1917. By the fall of 1975, a more rightist grouping of officers gained control of the MFA and removed progressive elements from the government. The rightists began eroding the revolutionary gains, a process that has con-

People cheer troops who turned their guns around after refusing to fight for the Portuguese fascist dictatorship against the liberation struggles in Africa.



tinued until today, when the Portuguese working class faces a new crisis.

Comparison with GI resistance

Despite differences with the political situation in the United States, the Portuguese revolutionaries’ experience of organizing in the military during a colonial war had many similarities with that of the American Servicemen’s Union and among dissident GIs in general during the war against Vietnam.

In an analogous way to the Portuguese experience, the Vietnamese liberation fighters sparked revolutionary feelings among some U.S. GIs, as did the Black Liberation Movement at home. U.S. troops’ resistance during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1973 mirrored the early forms of resistance among the Portuguese troops during the colonial wars that Cunhal described.

Also, in the 1960s and early 1970s, the Portuguese Communists had a conscious and worked-out approach to the soldiers, with the goal of winning the troops to the revolutionary struggle both to sabotage the colonial war and to overthrow the fascist dictatorship.

In the U.S., Workers World Party’s goal, shared by the leading ASU organizers, was to break the chain of command in the U.S. Armed Forces so that the U.S. could neither wage imperialist war abroad nor repress workers’ struggles or rebellions in oppressed communities at home.

In 1969, some top U.S. generals requested that the U.S. raise the troop level from 540,000 to 1 million. Instead, the U.S. administration chose to begin withdrawing troops, relying on airpower and on building a puppet army. This strategy could not prevent an eventual Vietnamese victory, but it did decrease tensions inside the U.S. military. Lisbon’s rulers, by trying to win the wars in Africa with Portuguese troops, instead provoked the April Revolution.

**Quoted from “Collected Works of Amílcar Cabral (vol. II)/Unity and Struggle/Revolutionary Practice,” Seara Nova, Lisbon, 1977. This and the Cunhal quote, which is from “Path to Victory,” pages 191-193, are reproduced at greater length in Catalinotto’s forthcoming book, “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.”*



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Three levels of capitalist hell

Since the capitalist economic crisis struck in 2007-08, hundreds of millions of people around the world have had their lives go “to hell in a handbasket.” There were three news events in Europe the last week in May that exposed three levels of misery in capitalist inferno.

The worst misery is taking place in the once-colonial countries that are still dependent economically on the imperialist centers in the U.S., Europe and Japan. In particular, the imperialists have imposed starvation on Africa and waged war in West Asia. Since May 23, as thousands of people fled a life where there are no jobs, food or security, seeking only the outside chance of finding bread and hope in the imperialist centers that scorn them, 700 people died in three shipwrecks.

The next level is in Greece, a country geographically in the Balkans, militarily in NATO, politically in the European Union and economically in hell. Up until a few years ago, workers in Greece were called “hard-working fellow Europeans.” Now the European bankers call them lazy, guilty of 25 percent long-term unemployment and worthy only of being squeezed further by austerity.

The European bankers approved an austerity bailout for Greece’s \$333 billion debt on May 25 with terms so onerous that the normally anti-worker New York Times wrote an editorial five days later chiding the bankers for squeezing Greece when “Greece can’t be squeezed any harder.” It was these same European, mainly German, bankers who, searching for guaranteed profits, pushed the loans on Greek governments during the first decade of this century.

What the European (and U.S.) bankers and bosses do to labor in Africa, Asia and Greece, you can be sure they’ll eventually try at home, as their need to keep increasing capitalist profits drives them to squeeze the working class ever tighter. (See article, page 2.)

And now, France

Now we reach the third level. France is a relatively prosperous capitalist country

with a long past as a colonial power and continued economic dominance in much of West Africa. Its workers’ struggles have, however, wrested many concessions from its imperialist ruling class. Now the capitalist class wants to take it **all** back — all the wealth the workers create.

The French government is currently in the hands of a party that calls itself Socialist. This is a gross misnomer, as this party has served French imperialism faithfully for over 80 years. Currently it has taken on the task of forcing a new “labor reform” law down the throats of the workers. Under this new law, France will be hell for the workers. The regime and the capitalist state are moving to restrict and ultimately take away the rights of the unions — to break unions and jail their leaders.

The workers in France are in turn giving the bosses hell, shutting down factories, railroads and gas stations. The class battle is on. (See article, page 1.) These workers have roots from all over Europe, Africa, West Asia and the Caribbean — wherever French colonialism conquered — as well as from within its borders.

A look at FaceBook pages of unions in the United States shows that workers here are watching what’s happening across the Atlantic. They are cheering on their class sisters and brothers. Those who know some history are hoping that this battle, like the historic class struggles fought in France in 1789, 1848, 1871 and 1968, will help spark a fightback that inspires the world.

Revolutionaries want to take on the ruling class whenever hell is being imposed on the workers. And right now in France there is a chance our side can win. What workers and revolutionaries in the U.S. can do is act in solidarity with the French working class. The next “day of action” across the ocean is on June 14, and any act of solidarity from here will surely encourage the French working class. When you’re fighting in hell, such solidarity might help lift and turn the battle in favor of our global class. □

Vote for a revolutionary socialist future —



John Parker, on right, at May Day rally in Los Angeles.

VOTE JOHN PARKER!

Based on a website message from the Parker campaign

The U.S. presidential campaign is being deluged by racist backwash from the Republican Party’s presumptive nominee Donald Trump. But in California one congressional candidate, John Thompson Parker, is countering those vile tactics with revolutionary emphasis on the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement, the need to end police brutality against Black and Brown people, and a fightback against environmental racism.

Parker, a member of Workers World Party, is on the California ballot as the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for U.S. Senate. People registered to vote in California who are against racism and for working people can vote for Parker. His revolutionary socialist campaign can be reached at socialist4senate.org.

Parker’s campaign spotlights ongoing police violence against people of color, including anti-immigrant deportations and murders by the U.S. Border Patrol and racist vigilantes. He points out that almost

every other day in California a person is shot by the police — often people of color — yet not one cop has been charged. Proposed legislation that would have taken police brutality cases out of the unwilling hands of prosecutors was killed with the complicity of Attorney General Kamala Harris, California’s top cop. Harris is also running for U.S. Senate as a Democrat.

Parker points out the crimes against children because of environmental racism, like the lead contamination left in the soil of 10,000 homes by Exide Technologies in the predominantly Latina/o community of Vernon, Calif. The children there have been permanently and irreversibly affected by lead poisoning, like the children of Flint, Mich. No serious action — neither sufficient money for cleanup or evacuation nor prosecution of corporate executives in charge — has been taken by California Democratic or Republican politicians, from the governor to the attorney general.

As a revolutionary socialist, Parker presents an analysis that exposes how this inaction can continue in the face of obvious injustice: Both Democratic and Republican parties are tied to the big banks and corporate interests that actually run the U.S. The big-money bosses require that politicians serve as virtual puppets of capital and take no action to significantly cut into the profits and private ownership of industries.

Parker’s proposal? Put the ownership of the banks and major industry into the hands of the people, so that the vast majority of the workers and oppressed can determine their future, not the less-than-1%.

Since that revolutionary goal cannot be achieved by the ballot alone, why is Parker running? In campaign literature, he points out he has extensive experience in building peoples’ movements — the force required to create a revolutionary future.

A vote for John Parker is a vote of confidence toward building an independent revolutionary socialist movement to free working-class and oppressed people from the bondage of the two parties of capitalism. California voters can be registered in any party or as an independent and vote for Parker in the open primary for the U.S. Senate on June 7.

To learn more about John Parker’s revolutionary socialist campaign or make a donation, go to socialist4senate.org. To talk to a person, call 323-899-2003 or 323-304-1185. □

Are you a WW Supporter?

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The paper is produced entirely with volunteer labor donated by contributing writers, managing editors and production staff, but the cost of printing and mailing WW 51 weeks a year is a huge expense. Not to mention the monthly overhead for our easily accessible Manhattan office!

That’s why we’re asking you to join the



Workers World in New Orleans after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

WW Supporter Program to help us deliver the Marxist-based, worker-oriented, revolutionary class truth that you’ve come to depend upon. We urge you to sign up today!

We invite you — sign up today! Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate/. And thanks for helping to grow the revolutionary media in the U.S. □

Trump rally, cops and protest

San Diego

By Zola Rices-Muhammad
San Diego

May 27 — Thirty-five anti-Trump protesters were arrested at a Trump rally here this evening, including Bryan Pease, a candidate running for city attorney. Pease later told the Times of San Diego: “I was tackled by several police officers for filming their riot (Friday) following the Trump protest, when they forced all protesters all the way to Barrio Logan ... Message: go back to Barrio Logan. ... I was then held for 10 hours in a cramped, filthy jail cell with 20 other individuals similarly falsely arrested until our bail of \$500 each was processed.”

At the protest was the largest presence of police and sheriffs this writer has seen at a San Diego rally. A wall of police wore riot gear; a local news station reported that some 50 undercover police also mingled with protesters.

What the news report didn’t state was if those 50 undercover officers were positioned only among our protest crowd, if they were dispersed evenly on both sides of the so-called “free speech area” or if they were the Trump supporters whom I witnessed throwing water bottles, hitting us with their signs and encouraging and riling up the police, antagonizing them into attacking the anti-Trump protesters. Sheriff’s personnel stood by with rubber bullets and pepper spray.

San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman swore that law enforcement would not tolerate any violence, disruptive behavior or unlawful acts at the Trump event in her city.

“We took very quick and decisive action and we issued an unlawful assembly order,” Zimmerman said. “We did this to control the crowd, secure the area and also to maintain the safety of all of our public.” (timesofsandiego.com, May 28) This statement seemed to be directed only at the anti-Trump protesters. None of the Trump supporters were arrested, even though they were throwing objects at us right in front of the police.

The largest contingent of protesters was organized by Unión del Barrio, who marched from Chicano Park all the way across the Harbor Drive Bridge and to the convention center. The crowd included many immigrants carrying flags of several different Latin American countries. Aztec Sun Dancers led them into the demonstration’s “free speech area.”



WW PHOTO: ZOLA RICES-MUHAMMAD

Anti-Trump protesters stream across Harbor Drive Bridge, San Diego.

Arriving at the rally from a different direction was the Service Employees Union contingent, featuring the Janitors for Justice campaign. They marched through the Gaslamp area of downtown San Diego. Their contingent was made up of working-class Latino/a women and men, as well as some striking Metropolitan Transit System employees.

“I am opposed to the hateful, bigoted, racist language of Donald Trump and his arrogance and intolerance. I’m for all of our people — all races, sexes, genders, military veterans — and he’s divisive,” protester Martha McPhail of La Mesa told City News Service on May 27. Like many others, she held a “Dump Trump” sign.

Later that evening Trump tweeted his approval of the San Diego Police Department: “Fantastic job on handling the thugs who tried to disrupt our very peaceful and well attended rally. Greatly appreciated!” (twitter.com, May 27)

We all understand that the word “thug” is a racist codeword for Black males. The pro-Trump people were carrying the “Dixie” flag and large wooden crosses, while verbally assaulting the crowd with racist slurs. It was made clear that Trump’s followers are extremely racist, misogynist, anti-LGBTQ and xenophobic.

It was also made clear to Trump that the people will be there to fight him and his ideology at every stop he makes. □

Workers rise up to battle anti-labor law in France

Continued from page 1

ti-worker law, according to the CGT.

The government had pushed the law through the National Assembly without a vote, using an obscure procedure in the French Constitution. Had there been a vote, the law would most likely have lost, since the Socialist Party now running the French state is split, and many of its own members might have voted against it. Though this party calls itself “socialist,” it firmly defends the interests of the French capitalists and is actively intervening in the Middle East and Africa in tandem with U.S. imperialism.

Jean Lassalle, from the small centrist party called MoDem, is a National Assembly member who did not get to vote on the new labor law because of the government’s no-vote maneuver. From the floor, Lassalle said: “I want to compliment the CGT for the actions which it has led. It takes a lot of courage to try to wake up a country which is asleep and living such a nightmare.” (Le Point, May 26)

In a May 23 statement, the World Federation of Trade Unions said: “The WFTU expresses ... its full solidarity with all workers in France, who are fighting

against the ‘labor’ law of the Social-Democratic government of François Hollande.

“The WFTU expresses its full and fraternal support to its affiliate, the FNIC-CGT, which strengthens the struggle of workers until the withdrawal of this unacceptable draft law.”

In the U.S., the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, issued an April 28 statement: “We send our warmest internationalist greetings to the rising working class of France. We hail the upsurge of public and private sector unions, of unemployed, pensioners, students and immigrants, and of everyone who is under siege by the capitalist exploiters.”

The largest group of Local 8751 members are originally from Haiti, home of a slave revolt in 1804 that drove out the French Empire.

The workers and youth of France, led by the CGT, are waging a stubborn, up-or-down struggle against the French ruling class, which is a vicious, determined enemy that so far has refused to concede. Nevertheless, the workers have a real chance to win. Every act of solidarity is important. □

Oakland, Calif., City Council says ‘End Cuba embargo’

By Cheryl LaBash

On May 27, the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity announced that Oakland, Calif., is the latest U.S. city government to take a stand against the U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba.

Since Dec. 17, 2014, when U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro announced efforts to normalize relations between the two countries, steps have been taken in that direction. The recent closing of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign’s longstanding and legal bank accounts in Britain, however, show international financial institutions are still unwilling to risk U.S. government fines against them. More popular protest will be needed in the U.S. to impel normalization.

The following is a release from the International Committee For Peace, Justice and Dignity: “On May 17, in a unanimous decision, the City Council of Oakland California passed a resolution calling for an end to the embargo of Cuba. Along with citing the long standing injustice that the embargo represents, the resolution specifically gives the Council’s official support to current bills in Congress, including H.R. 664: the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015; H.R. 3238: the Cuba Trade Act of 2015; S. 299: the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015; and S. 491: the Freedom to Export to Cuba Act.

“The resolution was initially introduced to the Rules and Legislation Committee of the City Council on May 12 by

Council members Rebecca Kaplan and Abel Guillen. At that meeting, public comment was heard urging the passing of the resolution. According to Oakland resident Helene Maxwell, ‘Oakland’s passage of the resolution can serve as a model for local governments around the country to send a clear message to Washington that the embargo must be lifted. It is long past time to make amends for the destructive effects of this policy on the Cuban people for over fifty years.’

“Oakland, a city of over 400,000 residents, now joins other Bay Area cities Richmond and Berkeley, which also recently passed resolutions calling for the long overdue ending to the embargo of Cuba.

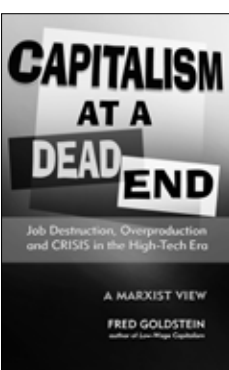
“The significance of these city resolutions is that they are one more public expression of sentiment against the embargo. This position is not just the opinion of the majority of people in the Bay Area but the majority of the people in the country as a whole. Hopefully, other cities around the U.S. can keep this momentum going by adopting similar resolutions.

Cuba has never threatened the U.S. in any way and has made it clear that they want a normalization of relations as long as that includes respect for their sovereignty and their right to build their society without the damage and interference of the embargo.”

(Theinternationalcommittee.org)

A 22-minute, 2015 YouTube, “Blockade against Cuba: The longest genocide in history,” explains more. View it at tinyurl.com/z7cwavl.

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Emergencia en Venezuela

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Desde el Salón Ayacucho del Palacio de Miraflores, el presidente de Venezuela Nicolás Maduro condujo una rueda de prensa el 17 de mayo para informar sobre la situación de emergencia y los peligros que confronta ese país suramericano.

Por primera vez el gobierno de Venezuela realiza una convocatoria como esta a nivel verdaderamente internacional. El personal de embajadas y consulados venezolanos alrededor del mundo, en todas las zonas horarias, estuvieron presente junto a activistas de sus respectivos países por medio de satélite, internet y diferentes plataformas de medios sociales como Skype, Tweet e Instagram. A través de éstos enviaban fotos y hacían preguntas al mandatario.

Durante las 3 horas y media que duró la conferencia, se explicó y discutió en detalle la urgente situación. “Venezuela en este momento está siendo el centro de una agresión sistemática, política, mediática, de carácter diplomático, que rompe los parámetros regulares de lo que hemos conocido en 17 años de Revolución Bolivariana”, dijo Maduro, haciendo un llamado a “la solidaridad mundial de líderes, de lideresas, de movimientos sociales, de presidentes, presidentas, primeros ministros, de gobiernos del mundo entero. En Venezuela se está jugando la paz de esta América y se está jugando el futuro de nuestra propia independencia en este siglo XXI”. (avn.info.ve, 18 de mayo)

Campaña mediática internacional

Sobre todo en los medios de EUA y España, se viene llevando una campaña de satanización contra Maduro a quien acusan de tirano y el causante de un caos en la economía del país que llevará a situaciones de extrema violencia.

En EUA, basta con ver los titulares más recientes de los periódicos más influyentes en los sectores económico, político y militar como son el NYT, el Washington Post y el WSJ. Estos periódicos le sirven de portavoz a la derecha opositora de Venezuela, sobre todo a la Asamblea Nacional (AN), ahora dominada por la MUD (Mesa de Unidad Democrática), que aunque divididos entre ellos, tienen en común la prisa por derrocar a Maduro este mismo año, para imponer un programa neoliberal y así destruir los logros del proceso bolivariano.

Un ejemplo ilustra esto, cuando la AN declaró que la salud era una emergencia nacional - desde luego con el propósito de privatizar los servicios - el NYT publicó el alarmante artículo “Infantes que mueren y no hay medicina: Dentro de los fracasados hospitales de Venezuela”. (nytimes.com, May 15)

Agresión imperialista

Pero la agresión no solo es mediática. Oficiales del gobierno estadounidense se han pronunciado en contra de Venezuela recientemente, pero hay que destacar la acción del presidente Obama quien acaba de renovar por un año más la orden ejecutiva impuesta en marzo del 2015 declarando a Venezuela “un peligro para la seguridad nacional de los Estados Unidos”. Esto es una seria y peligrosa declaración, no solo en términos diplomáticos. La injerencia de EUA acusando a Venezuela de atentar contra los derechos humanos al tener en prisión a Leopoldo López, al cual califican de opositor político pacífico, ignorando su culpabilidad en la muerte de decenas de venezolanas/os, es un espaldarazo a las acciones de la derecha de ese país que busca la desestabilización por métodos violentos.

Por su parte, el secretario general de la OEA al servicio de los intereses de EUA, Luis Almagro, anunció el 13 de mayo desde Miami que se debía aplicar la Carta Democrática de la OEA contra Venezuela. Para decidirlo, le pidió a la mismísima AN de Venezuela un informe sobre la situ-

ación política. Es interesante mencionar el lugar desde donde Almagro hizo el anuncio. La conferencia de dos días era la “Cumbre Concordia”. En ella, 200 representantes de sectores públicos y privados de derecha se reunían para analizar la situación del continente. Basta con ver los nombres de algunos para adivinar su agenda: Luis Alberto Moreno, presidente del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID), y los expresidentes Luis Alberto Lacalle (Uruguay), Sebastián Piñera (Chile), Jorge Quiroga (Bolivia), Álvaro Uribe (Colombia) y José María Aznar (España).

Por cierto, fue en esta cumbre donde Uribe llamó a una intervención militar extranjera para ayudar a la oposición venezolana.

Realidad venezolana

El imperialismo siempre se aprovecha de las situaciones adversas de su víctima para ampliar diferencias y problemas hacia una conflagración que ayude a sus intereses de explotación.

En Venezuela de hecho, hay una terrible situación económica fruto mayormente de la caída en los precios del petróleo, una sequía pertinaz que ha ocasionado falta de agua potable y apagones por el descenso en el nivel de las represas y las consecuencias del ataque de la derecha oligarca productora e importadora quien acapara productos básicos creando escasez en los mercados de abasto.

Esto y las prácticas de reventa de productos en el mercado negro, la fuga de productos, sobre todos los básicos subsidiados por el gobierno, hacia Colombia donde se venden a precios mayores, la fuga de divisas, etc., ha creado una gran crisis de falta de productos de primera necesidad.

Medidas del gobierno

Junto a la necesidad, y aprovechándose del agobio de la población, la AN está instigando movilizaciones violentas en las calles para avanzar su agenda de celebrar un referendo revocatorio contra Maduro antes de enero del 2017. Esta prisa se debe a que si se remueve el presidente de la nación - Maduro - este año, lo sucedería el presidente de la AN, el opositor Henry Ramos Allup. Pero si transcorre el período como está designado en la constitución, se necesita un largo proceso luego del pedido del proceso, para la recogida de firmas y su validación, etc., lo que según expertos en la materia, no podría ocurrir antes de la 3ra semana de enero del 2017. (telesur, 16 de mayo) En caso de ser en el 2017, sucedería a Maduro su vicepresidente, Diosdado Cabello, firme defensor de la Revolución Bolivariana.

Para defender el proceso bolivariano y las conquistas alcanzadas, el gobierno del presidente Maduro ha declarado un Estado de Excepción por 60 días y la movilización por dos días de las Fuerzas Armadas Bolivarianas junto a las milicias del pueblo para hacer ejercicios de prácticas de defensa alrededor de la nación.

Varias son las razones para estas medidas. Entre estas están las protestas violentas de grupos de derecha que agreden a la Guardia Nacional y edificios estatales; la declaración del derechista Henrique Capriles quien le dijo a la BBC Mundo que “un levantamiento militar está en el ambiente”, haciendo de paso un llamado a las fuerzas militares para que se opongan a Maduro y “la incursión en el espacio aéreo venezolano de una aeronave de espionaje norteamericana el pasado 11 de mayo. Se trata de un Boeing 707 E-3 Sentry, equipado con cámaras y radares de alta precisión, así como dispositivos de alta tecnología para espionaje electrónico”. (avn.info.ve, 18 de mayo)

El movimiento progresista en los Estados Unidos y en el mundo, debe aumentar sus esfuerzos solidarios en defensa de la Revolución Bolivariana y exigir que no haya una intervención militar de EUA ni ninguna otra intervención contra Venezuela. □

EDITORIAL 26 DE MAYO

Congreso paralizado mientras Zika azota

Mientras el Congreso estadounidense dota cientos de miles de millones de dólares a la expansión militar, reduce programas de salud vitales para el pueblo. La reacción del Congreso a la amenaza de la epidemia del Zika muestra cuan mortal es el modelo de atención de salud capitalista.

En respuesta al Zika, el gobierno de Obama pidió en febrero que el Congreso adjudicara \$1,9 mil millones en medidas de emergencia para evitar su propagación en EUA. Los fondos se utilizarían para desarrollar una vacuna, pagar por pruebas y tratamiento, y descubrir métodos para erradicar el mosquito portador Aedes aegypti.

El Senado votó para asignar \$1,1 millones en nuevos fondos. Pero los reaccionarios de la Cámara de Representantes los redujeron a \$622 millones e insistieron en que el dinero se desviara de los fondos destinados a una posible recurrencia de la epidemia de Ébola en África occidental, en la que murieron más de 28.000 personas. La Casa Blanca califica esta cantidad de “lamentablemente inadecuada” y amenaza con vetarla. Hasta algunos políticos derechistas del sur quieren más fondos, ya que sus estados son vulnerables al Zika.

Si bien no producen enfermedad aguda en la mayoría de las/os enfermos, el Zika representa un peligro para el feto en desarrollo. El virus puede causar microcefalia, caracterizada por cerebro pequeño y daño cerebral, e incluso la muerte del feto. También se asocia al síndrome de Guillain-Barré, una enfermedad neurológica potencialmente paralizante e incluso mortal. El virus puede ser transmitido por contacto sexual.

Brotos de Zika se han producido en América Latina y el Caribe. Puerto Rico reporta 1.100 casos, 129 de los cuales en mujeres embarazadas. (U.S. News & World Report, 20 de mayo) Para el 18 de mayo, el Centro para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC por las siglas en inglés) dijo que 544 residentes de EUA ya se han infectado, entre ellas/os 157 mujeres embarazadas.

Mientras el Congreso debate sobre las asignaciones de Zika, otros programas de salud se han visto afectados. El Instituto Nacional de Salud recortó sus programas contra la malaria, la tuberculosis y la influenza, para financiar la investigación de una vacuna contra el Zika. El CDC transfirió \$44 millones de fondos de emergencia de salud pública para los estados y ciudades, hacia la financiación del Zika. Este dinero es parte de los \$589 millones que la Casa Blanca ha transferido de otros programas (mayormente de los fondos para el Ébola) para luchar contra el Zika mientras espera la resolución del Congreso.

Medicina para personas, no para ganancias

Este robo de los programas vitales de salud oculta que hay suficiente dinero para pagar por la lucha contra el Zika y otros brotes de enfermedades, así como una recurrencia del Ébola. Estas son algunas de las partidas presupuestarias cuya financiación no ayuda en nada a las/os trabajadoras y oprimidos de este país:

En primer lugar, está el presupuesto del Pentágono de más de \$600 mil millones al año - y eso es sólo lo que se informa públicamente. Miles de millones más son canalizados secretamente a las agencias militares y de inteligencia. También, elimine el billón de dólares asignado para desarrollar armas nucleares “más inteligentes” en los próximos 30 años.

En segundo lugar, están los \$300 miles de millones de dólares que el gobierno paga anualmente a los grandes bancos por intereses de los préstamos federales.

En tercer lugar, elimine todas las lagunas y trucos fiscales. Penalice a todas las empresas que no pagan impuesto sobre los ingresos. El año pasado, 27 empresas rentables no pagaron ni un centavo de este impuesto. (7 de marzo, USA Today) Sólo el 10,6 por ciento de los ingresos federales proviene de los impuestos sobre ingresos corporativos, informó el Centro de Investigación Pew, el 13 de abril.

Los incentivos fiscales para los súper ricos y los grandes negocios reducen los ingresos del gobierno por miles de millones, incluso billones de dólares - dinero que podría ser utilizado para el cuidado de salud y otras necesidades humanas. Podría financiar programas de investigación, prevención y tratamiento del Zika y cualquier otra enfermedad - y aún pagar por Medicare y/o Medicaid ampliado para todas/os.

Pero aquí está la realidad: Esta es una crisis médica en un país capitalista. Multimillonarios reaccionarios se oponen al gasto gubernamental en salud pública y sus representantes políticos luchan contra las asignaciones para ello.

Lo que las masas del pueblo realmente necesitan, es un sistema de salud socializado en una sociedad socialista, donde el papel del gobierno es organizar, priorizar y proporcionar todo lo que se necesita para combatir los brotes epidémicos y las emergencias médicas - y proporcionar atención médica gratuita - sin ninguna resistencia política.

Cuba ofrece un ejemplo estelar de cómo la crisis del Zika se puede manejar con una serie de medidas preventivas de salud pública. Tenemos que luchar por un sistema socialista que pone las necesidades de las personas primero y relega a la máquina de guerra y los bancos y las corporaciones hambrientas de ganancias y sus políticos al basurero de la historia. □