



From Texas to Ireland defend Women's lives & liberation!

U.S. accelerates war on migrants



Claudia Patricia Gómez González, a Maya-Mam woman from Guatemala, killed by the U.S. Customs Border Police in Rio Bravo, Texas, on May 23.

By Chris Fry

Claudia Patricia Gómez González, an unarmed woman from Guatemala, was shot in the head and killed on May 23 by Customs Border Police in Rio Bravo, Texas. She was 20 years old.

Al Jazeera news noted: "González was an Indigenous Maya-Mam woman who had graduated from a forensic accounting program in 2016. Her family said she was going to the U.S. to find work as they did not have enough money for her to continue her studies." (May 26)

Karina Alvarez, the founder of Laredo Immigrant Alliance, told Al Jazeera that Trump's rhetoric on migrants had emboldened agents in border towns: "He was describing us the other day as animals and look now, they shoot us like animals."

The U.S. has stepped up a campaign of terror against im/migrant workers and refugees fleeing the U.S.-spawned violence in their home countries.

The current campaign is spearheaded by President Trump, his arch-racist Attorney General Jeff Sessions, his Chief of Staff John Kelly and his bigoted presidential coterie. The new policies are designed, by intimidation and terror, to prevent those facing repression and murder in their homelands from traveling to the U.S. to

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Ireland: Women win landslide vote for reproductive justice

By Kathleen Durkin

Joyous celebrations are taking place throughout Ireland as women cheer a historic victory in the 35-year struggle for their basic human rights and reproductive choice. A long, hard fight by the women's movement won a landslide vote on the May 25 referendum that repealed the anti-abortion Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution.

Orla O'Connor, co-director of Together for Yes, the umbrella group comprising over 70 organizations and communities that carried out this struggle, called it "a monumental day for women in Ireland." She said the vote was "a rejection of an Ireland that treats women as second-class citizens," reported the May 26 Guardian newspaper.

Linda Kavanaugh, organizer of the Abortion Rights Campaign, a co-leader of Together for Yes, said the votes for this "definitive mandate" outnumbered the votes for inserting the amendment in 1983. Grassroots, community-led organizing was key to the long-awaited victory, she stressed.



Dr. Savita Halappanavar, a member of the Indian community in Ireland, died after being denied an abortion in a medical emergency in 2012.

She especially acknowledged the work of "migrants who did not have a vote and who were disproportionately affected by the Eighth [Amendment], as well as the many trans and non-binary people affected." (abortionrightscampaign.ie)

The migrant groups that joined this movement included Migrants and Ethnic Minorities for Reproductive Justice, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the Irish

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MARX@200

Introductory remarks given at the event "Marx@200: Class Struggle in the Age of Trump," hosted by Workers World Party, on May 6 in New York City.

Karl Marx & the working-class struggle today

By Greg Butterfield

Welcome to this very special celebration of the 200th birthday of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, who was not only a brilliant thinker, but a revolutionary communist.

Twenty years ago, the ruling class cheered for the "end of history." They said Marxism was finally dead and buried. Their long nightmare was over. It would all be smooth sailing and big profits from now on.

But here we are in 2018, on the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth. In the U.S. and much of the world, interest in Marxism is greater than it has been in decades! Capitalism's temporary stabilization, based on the destruction of the Soviet Union and the scientific-technological revolution, is coming to an end.

Today the world working class is bigger than ever before. Imperialist globalization has destroyed the stable, high-paying jobs that gave the Western powers a degree of social peace. Capitalism offers no security, no future, for youth in the Western countries or anywhere else. As a result, the revolutionary left (and the broader left) is growing rapidly, giving new life to Marx's ideas.

The working class is a dynamic class that is constantly changing. It's different today than it was in Marx's time, in Lenin's time or during the great class battles of the 1930s. It's different than it was 20 years ago or last year. It's becoming more international, more diverse, driven by poverty and war across borders in search of work and safety, driven by environmental catastrophe and mass incarceration in the fight for its very survival.

Yet today's working class faces the same fundamental problem of capitalism that Marx exposed long ago: the contradiction between social labor and private ownership for profit.

Workers World Party has been working for decades to orient the movement to the changing character of the working class: more oppressed nationalities, more women, more LBGTQ people, migrants, prisoners. We put forward the need for new tactics and new strategies for organizing and fighting back.



Greg Butterfield

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

In 1986 we published the groundbreaking book "High Tech, Low Pay" by Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy, and 10 years ago a further development of this analysis for the Internet age, "Low-Wage Capitalism" by Fred Goldstein. Both books have been read by Marxists around the world.

In that spirit, today we want to open up a discussion among the new generation of young activists and veteran fighters about who the working class is today, what its biggest problems are, and what is the best way to reach it with a Marxist-Leninist perspective.

As communists in the U.S., where imperialism grew up on the labor of enslaved African people and the theft of Indigenous lands, we try to keep this statement by Marx, from the first volume of "Capital," always in mind: "Labor in the white skin can never free itself as long as labor in the Black skin is branded."

In the era of Donald Trump's undisguised white supremacy and the resurgence of neo-fascist movements in the U.S. and Western Europe, the struggle against racism and for solidarity among all workers is key to advancing the struggle for socialism.

So we say thank you, Comrade Karl, for your contributions to human liberation, which have stood the test of time. The struggle is long, but victory is certain! □



Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 60, No. 22 • May 31, 2018
Closing date: May 29, 2018

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.



Minneapolis

Another city votes for Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

Minneapolis is now the eighth U.S. city to call for ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba. The City Council unanimously voted on May 25 to build “a new cooperative relationship between the U.S. and Cuba and to immediately end all aspects of the U.S. economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba including all restrictions on travel to Cuba.”

The Minnesota Cuba Committee organized support for this resolution. Its primary author was City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins. According to her city biography, Jenkins is “a writer, performance artist, poet and transgender activist. She is the first African American openly trans woman to be elected to office in the United States.”

Minneapolis also called on the Trump administration to “reestablish the diplomatic staff withdrawn from the U.S. Em-



bassy in Havana” and restore the diplomatic staff expelled from the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Although the U.S. formally maintains an embassy in Havana, which was reestablished in 2015, staff reductions made permanent on March 2 have turned the building into a shell, unable to process visas for Cubans wanting to visit or migrate to the U.S. At the same time, the U.S. ordered 17 Cuban diplomats to leave the U.S., targeting staff who work to develop the blockade-limited commercial relations between U.S. entities and Cuba.

An essential part of regime change plots hatched in the U.S. State Department is to block the truth about Cuba’s socialist revolution from reaching the general U.S. population. But polls show that the Trump administration’s hostile Cuba policy is out of step with popular sentiment in the U.S. as well as across the globe. The United Nations General As-

sembly annually votes against the unilateral U.S. economic strangulation, most recently by 191 to 2 with only the U.S. and Israel defending the blockade.

From May 8-20, Cuban artists participated in the two-week “Artes de Cuba: From the Island to the World” festival held in Washington, D.C. This celebration of Cuban music, film, visual art, culture and dance has been extended through June 3. How will other such artists now be able to wow U.S. audiences without visas?

In Cuba, art and sports are human rights along with health care and education. The Trump administration is trying to administratively choke off people-to-people “points of contact” between Cuba and the U.S. Recently inaugurated Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said that the two countries can still build bridges. He told the artists: “I don’t believe that the current position will be eternal, and things like what you have accomplished in Washington ... can open the way.” (tinyurl.com/yckoqoz7)

The Minnesota Cuba Committee also sponsors an annual Cuban film festival and has developed long-standing col-



Andrea Jenkins

laboration with Cuban universities, including exchange programs. It recently welcomed the Rev. Joel Ortega Dopico, executive director of the Cuban Council of Churches, who also visited Detroit and Washington, D.C. Dopico met with City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins during his visit to Minneapolis.

The following cities have also passed resolutions calling for ending the cruel U.S. blockade of Cuba, its much smaller island neighbor: in California, Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland and Sacramento; Brookline, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; and Helena, Mont. In 2016 the California Federation of Labor passed a strong resolution against the blockade.

Read the Minnesota resolution at tinyurl.com/y8uptypd.

Poor People’s Campaign: ‘We shall not be moved’

By Anne Pruden
Albany, N.Y.

The second week of the Poor People’s Campaign found several hundreds gathered here on May 21 in the capital of New York state for protest and civil disobedience.

Launched on May 14, the campaign is holding themed protests on Mondays throughout the U.S. against systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and environmental devastation. These protests will end on June 23. The campaign is inspired by the original Poor People’s Campaign called by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in December 1967, a few months before his assassination.

This week’s theme was “Against systemic racism and poverty: voting rights, ending mass incarceration and justice for immigrants.”

Organizing out of a bilingual working-class church here, this multinational PPC gathering included ministers, rab-

bis and Muslim leaders, along with an organized group of unemployed Brooklyn workers, students, retirees, anti-war vets, members of Jewish Voice for Peace, parents with kids and revolutionaries.

The contingent marched silently for a mile to the Capitol building. During the march, Puerto Rican PPC volunteer Taina Asili gave a passionate speech on the struggles of her island and the U.S. government’s continuing oppression. She connected this to the campaign’s themes of fighting systemic racism and poverty and winning justice for immigrants.

When the march reached the Capitol, PPC volunteers proceeded with a sit-in at the doors of the building to dramatize their demand that legislators take immediate steps to confront racism, poverty, war and ecological devastation. Others in the contingent sang the Civil Rights Movement song, “We Will Not Be Moved,” in solidarity.

The campaign’s call for a “moral revival” intensified with the arrests of 27 sit-



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

in volunteers. Later protesters learned of police brutality against the Rev. Peter Heltzel who was framed on charges of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct while suffering a head injury after being attacked by a cop. As buses rolled pro-

testers toward home, including back to a Harlem church, PPC attorneys remained at the ready to defend arrestees.

The day spoke eloquently of the need for a nationwide united movement and struggle for justice on these crucial issues. □

‘Palestine will be free!’

Buffalo



Chanting “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!” and “Israel, Israel, you shall learn, by the millions we’ll return!” a strong and determined march by Palestinian youth came to downtown Buffalo on Friday evening, May 25, in

solidarity with Palestinian protesters in Gaza. They brought the demand that the U.S. end all money to the racist, terrorist state of Israel and that all “border” walls must be torn down.

— Report and photo by Ellie Dorritie

Support for Palestine



New York City

PHOTO: JOE CATRON

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied in New York City’s Times Square on May 18. They marched to the Consulate General of Israel to protest the 70th anniversary

of al-Nakba, the genocidal attack on Palestinians by Israel in 1948 and to support the Great March of Return by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. □

Workers challenge Walt Disney's evil kingdom

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

May 27 — The Walt Disney Company is an entertainment conglomerate with famous amusement parks and resorts, including Disneyland (Anaheim, Calif.) and Disney World (Bay Lake and Lake Buena Vista, Fla.). While these locations are touted by the company as “the happiest place on earth,” this slogan is challenged by workers struggling to make ends meet.

As reported in the “Corporate Rap Sheet” compiled by the Corporate Research Project, Disney “has a history of anti-union animus going back to its early years, has also faced criticism over its U.S. labor practices and has recently emerged as one of the leading corporate opponents of the campaign to enact paid sick days laws.” (www.corp-research.org/disney)

A survey published in February titled “Working for the Mouse” (referring to the company’s iconic mascot Mickey Mouse) describes the daily struggles facing roughly 30,000 Disneyland workers. According to the survey, 85 percent of Disneyland’s hourly employees do not make a living wage of \$15 an hour. Many workers cannot afford such basic needs as food, shelter and affordable health care.

Another disturbing finding is that 11 percent of Disneyland workers are either homeless or have been homeless in the last few years. In addition, 56 percent of employees “are worried about being evicted from their homes or apartments.”

The survey was underwritten by the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions, com-



Anaheim, Calif.

prised of 11 unions in various stages of negotiating contracts on behalf of Disneyland workers. One of the largest unions in this coalition is UNITE HERE Local 11, which represents nearly 5,000 food service and hotel workers, with 2,700 currently in bargaining.

Local 11 Press Secretary Andrew Cohen was a hotel worker during the last labor dispute with Disney, which involved negotiations from 2008 to 2012. He joined the union in 2009 and two years later helped organize union drives at restaurants and hotels in Hollywood. He joined the Disneyland campaign last October.

Cohen told Workers World: “The company is making record profits, but conditions for Disneyland’s workers have never

been worse. Like so many places, workers are being squeezed by a rich company, and the entire city of Anaheim reflects it.”

A similar fight has been raging at Disney World, which has over 62,000 employees. The company agreed to a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for union workers by 2021 and to \$1,000 bonuses that had been withheld by the company from Service Trades Council Union workers during contract negotiations. But Disney’s proposal includes the dropping of “key union protections” involving grievance procedures, holiday pay, overtime and scheduling.

Food and Commercial Workers Local 1625 President Ed Chambers told the Orlando Weekly: “Almost every one of those proposals was taking back benefits or

conditions on employment we had bargained for over the last 45 years. They’re basically wiping out 45 years of progress.” (May 2)

According to Cohen, both Disneyland and Disney World have “seen a similar coalition formed between most of the unions at the respective resorts, and we have been working closely together. Many of our issues are nearly the same. The goal in both resorts is to stop the poverty at Disneyland and Disney World. Wages need to go up. Disney can afford to pay all its workers a living wage.”

Disney CEO and Chairman Robert Iger has continued to apply the anti-worker convictions of company founder Walt Disney. “Uncle Walt,” as he is known in company lore, had a history of anti-Semitism, racism and labor abuse. He was also an enemy of unions. According to Marc Eliot, author of “Walt Disney: Hollywood’s Dark Prince,” “Disney discovered how the passions and power of political activism could be used as weapons for personal gain.”

In addition to continuing to organize and push for a fair contract, Disney unions also will be advocating for the Anaheim Living Wage initiative that may be on the ballot in November. As reported by the Orange County Register, “The measure proposes to raise the minimum wage for those businesses to \$15 an hour next year, then rising in \$1 increments annually, reaching \$18 an hour by 2022.” (May 1)

“It’s ongoing,” Cohen said. “There is hope and workers are still asking Disney to do the right thing.” □

WW Commentary:

Revolt in education

By Christian Noakes

Labor organizing has been explosive in the U.S. in 2018. Much of the militancy and organized rank-and-file opposition to ever-increasing austerity have come from education workers — public school teachers in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and #RedForEd Colorado; school bus drivers in California, New York and Georgia; striking workers throughout the University of California system; graduate students on strike at Columbia University; and worker-student solidarity at the occupied New School cafeteria.

At the same time, teachers and students in Puerto Rico have been battling in the streets against U.S. economic colonization of public education on their island.

Such developments are particularly significant because labor organizing has been so consistently attacked through legislation and widespread demonization of unions. Organized labor has also been internally undermined due to divisions that have historically enabled racism, sexism, gender-baiting, scapegoating and pitting of groups against one another by the ruling class.

The massive wave of unrest and revolt in education does not come out of nowhere. Workers are responding to neoliberal policies and practices that stuff the pockets of the wealthy while attacking both workers and students with cutbacks in wages and programs for the common good. This is misery for the masses and opulence for the ruling elite.

Corporate media language implies cutbacks are a shared burden of increased austerity and privatization. But this is

simply not true. Public education budgets remain constricted below 2008 levels. Teachers and other education workers are some of the lowest paid workers in the U.S. High tuition makes education an increasingly inaccessible realm for working-class college students. At the same time, military spending increases and tax cuts are put in place to benefit the wealthy.

The struggle of education workers arises from necessity — as it does for all working and oppressed people — in the face of stagnant wages and relentless attacks on benefits and the right to organize.

Meanwhile, students are not limiting themselves to their own immediate interests. In New York City, students at the New School occupied the university cafeteria in solidarity with workers threatened with job loss. Expressing unity and mutual recognition for human dignity, the students marched on May 1, chanting, “All of us or none of us.”

The students embodied the power that stems from awareness that they cannot fully liberate themselves while others are held in bondage. This is what Marx and Engels had in mind when they proclaimed that “the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all.”

In 1968 a similar fervor gripped students in universities around the world. From the strike to demand an Ethnic Studies program at San Francisco State University to the upsurge of May-June in France, students were central to a revolutionary shift in consciousness. These and other student rebellions were grounded in both immediate conditions and the in-



Student protest in Mexico, 1968.

ternational student revolt against imperialism and oppression.

On Feb. 8, 1968, at South Carolina State University, a group of 200 Black students and community members protesting segregation were fired on by the state’s Highway Patrol. The state’s killing of three people and injuring of 27 at this historically Black college (HBCU) became known as the Orangeburg Massacre. On Oct. 2 in Mexico City, the repressive Díaz Ordaz regime carried out a horrendous assault on student demonstrations, the Tlatelolco Massacre, with conservative estimates of the death toll in the hundreds. Two years later came state murders of students at Jackson State University in Mississippi, also an HBCU, and Kent State University in Ohio.

These massacres highlight the ruling classes’ extreme fear of both organized revolt and the uncompromising resolve of students to participate in creating a better world.

The violently repressive nature of capitalism makes both unity and selfless

commitment necessary.

Today’s struggles are taking place at some of the same crossroads as 50 years ago. The question remains whether education will continue to reinforce the relations of power or instead be transformed into a means of liberation.

The victory of the people, as was the case in 1968, requires that we overcome the divisions that facilitate exploitation.

The recent battles to defend public schools and universities are perhaps most inspiring because they bridge divisions between intellectual and physical labor, as well as between students and workers. The collective resolve of the education workers, students, parents and communities is a testament to the potential power of the working class.

The question remains whether workers in more industries and locations will follow their lead and help impel labor organizing to come back stronger and with a better understanding and commitment to solidarity forged through mutual struggle. □

Supreme Court 'justice' is theft from workers

By G. Dunkel

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that allows companies to replace collective lawsuits with individual arbitration is going to make wage and time theft from workers more likely. The May 21 decision involved three cases, Epic Systems Corp. v. Lewis, Ernst & Young LLP v. Morris and National Labor Relations Board v. Murphy Oil USA.

Under the combined decision, non-unionized workers will find it much harder to recover the wages they have earned but have not been paid.

Wage and time thefts are big problems costing workers billions of dollars.

Wage theft occurs when time you have worked "on the clock" is not paid. Often this happens when a worker quits or gets fired in the middle of a pay period, and management just "forgets" to send you your last paycheck. Or the bosses have a policy of not paying for time spent cleaning up your workstation, or not paying for your travel time when you start working at one store and then are asked to go to another which is short-staffed. And so on and so on.

This kind of chiseling affects all workers but is particularly hard on low-wage workers. A 2014 study by the Economic Policy Institute established that "the average [wage] loss per worker over the course of a year was \$2,634, out of total earnings of \$17,616. The total annual wage theft from front-line workers in low-wage industries in the three cities approached \$3 billion." The survey covered workers in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Extrapolating from these results supports the estimate that wage theft costs low-wage workers in the U.S. \$50 billion

a year.

Can you imagine the outcry in the bourgeois press if low-wage workers each regularly stole \$2,500 from their employers?

There is another way of looking at wage theft. You can compare it to crimes generally lumped under the category of "theft" by the U.S. so-called "justice" system. In 2012, according to statistics maintained by the FBI, there were 292,074 robberies of all kinds, including bank, residential, convenience store, gas station and street robberies. The total value of the property taken was \$340,850,358 — an amount vastly less than the yearly wage theft from workers!

Stealing time

There's another way workers don't get what they're due, called time theft. Here's an example based on this writer's own work experience.

In a print shop producing long-run jobs, once the presses started rolling workers were expected to keep them running, skipping lunch or dinner or breakfast, depending what shift you were on.

But the computer software used by management still assigned every worker a half-an-hour meal break, even if they worked through it.

So the 100 workers in this print shop involuntarily "contributed" 300 unpaid hours to their boss every week. (They generally worked 6 days a week.) When

they complained to the wage-and-hours office in New Jersey, they were told that, for such a small claim (around \$100,000 a year), they were better off getting their own lawyer. This reporter quit before a lawyer was found.

But after the recent Supreme Court ruling, workers like the ones in the print shop won't be able to band together to get a lawyer. Legally, they would have to have 100 individual arbitrations of their claims. Practically, they would probably never ask for arbitration because the legal fees would be too much for them to bear.

Unions helpful but no panacea

At the City University of New York, one of the largest universities in the country with nearly 280,000 students, a large proportion of its technical staff is in the same union, the Professional Staff Congress.

The PSC also represents the faculty, both full-time and adjunct.

For decades, even though the contract between the PSC and CUNY called for a work week of 35 hours, the technical staff, especially at registration time, worked tens of hours of noncompensated overtime.

Then in 2002-03, the union filed and won a grievance about this practice.

CUNY management didn't give in but came up with a compensation scheme so complicated that it is not adhered to. The scheme doesn't protect staff from being obliged to work through lunch or put in

extra time at the end of the day. But it does keep staff from being called in over the weekend without compensation and it is a positive step in protecting the staff.

Even though union representation may not fully solve worker grievances, union struggle, especially with worker militancy, can and does win concessions from management that improve workers' lives.

Now unions, and especially those for public employees, are under a sustained and powerful attack, both by the Supreme Court and by the Trump administration.

The Supreme Court has a case, the so-called Janus case, that has the potential of being a major financial blow to public sector unions in 20 states. The Trump administration published a series of three executive orders the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend designed to severely limit the rights of federal workers.

"It's basically an attempt to make federal employees at-will employees, so you can make them political employees, so you can hire anyone who had a bumper sticker for you in the last election," said J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, the largest union representing federal employees.

These attacks are a call to all workers to follow the militant example of the education workers in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Puerto Rico. These public employees marched, rallied, walked out and struck, most of them in "right-to-work" (for less) states. They acted for themselves, their students and their communities. They have shown the way to unite to push back against the capitalists' theft of our wages, time and lives. □



Anti-war GIs relive their resistance at Midwest conference

By John Catalinotto

A three-day conference celebrating the history of the movement of active-duty U.S. Armed Forces members who opposed U.S. wars against Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan ended May 24 at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

While the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies provided an academic setting, the nearly 100 participants went beyond scholarly discussion. Many were themselves veterans from the front lines of the struggle, and plenty served time in stockades, brigades and military prisons for their resistance to war, racism and officers' bullying. Civilian supporters also took their share of arrests. The racist cops in base towns of the rural South who served the interests of the Pentagon were able to arrest without regard for the law or the rights of the people involved.

Along with civilian supporters, the military veterans produced dozens of memoirs, histories and novels and at least three documentary films, including one opera, chronicling these struggles. These focused on the period beginning in 1965, when the U.S. began to send as many as 543,000 troops to occupy Vietnam, to 1975, when the last U.S. officials were driven out by the victorious Vietnamese liberation fighters.

That so many veteran political activists are still committed to preserving the history of their struggles and battling future wars can be credited to the historic struggle of the Vietnamese people.



From left: Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, Susan Schnall, Jon Hutto, Norman Smith, David Cortright at Voices of Conscience conference, University of Notre Dame, May 22.

The liberation struggle's presence permeated the mood of the conference. Talks by Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, director of the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) and Madame Ton-Nu-Thi Ninh, president of the Ho Chi Minh City Peace and Development Foundation and former vice chair of Vietnam's National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, reminded the participants of the patient diplomacy of the Vietnamese as they worked with all political currents to help win their independence.

Learning from the Vietnamese

Robert Chenoweth, a helicopter mechanic and sergeant captured during the 1968 Tet Offensive, talked about being

held for five years; during that time he helped form a "peace committee" among the prisoners of war who taped anti-war statements. Chenoweth described how the Vietnamese treated them with more than humanity. "Indoctrination? They simply taught us thousands of years of Vietnamese history as a nation."

Then, barely able to speak through his tears, he said, "What they gave us to eat was more than twice as much as what the Vietnamese guards ate." At that point Chenoweth wasn't the only one in the room crying.

Film presentations featured Connie Field and her new film, "The Whistleblower of My Lai," the story of Sgt. Hugh Thompson and his helicopter

crew who stopped at least some of the killing when they turned their guns around (workers.org/2016/12/20/war-hero-dies); Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple and her films, "Winter Soldier" and "Shelter"; and David Zeiger and his film, "Sir! No Sir!"

Zeiger and Josh Gould, organizers at the Oleo Strut coffee house near Fort Hood, Texas, told their stories at the conference. (The "coffee-house movement" gave dissident or just unhappy GIs a place to meet near military bases.) Skip Delano, who returned from a tour in Vietnam, told of publishing the dissident newspaper, Left Face.

American Servicemen's Union key organizer Johnnie Lewis, now transgender (male to female), told of publishing anti-war and anti-racist GI newspapers in and out of the Fort Dix and other stockades, where she organized mess-hall actions and refusals of service, along with Black GI Henry Mills during much of 1969.

"Within the concertina wire of the Fort Dix Stockade," Lewis told one workshop, "the ASU, in alliance with GI members of the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords, and others, organized among the more than 2,000 prisoners, distributing copies of The Bond [ASU newspaper] and other anti-war/anti-racism literature, organizing mess hall strikes, speaking out

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IN DEFENSE OF WOMEN'

Trump administration attacks low-income women and workers

By Sue Davis

Between May 18 and 21, two arms of the Trump administration delivered a one-two punch. One knocked down poor women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care and the other assaulted justice on the job.

Trump's overwhelmingly anti-abortion-stacked Department of Health and Human Services announced May 18 that it intended to institute a so-called "domestic gag rule" prohibiting health care providers offering abortions from receiving federal Title X funding. That prohibition includes abortion-related counseling or referrals to patients who are seeking an abortion.

The Supreme Court issued a viciously anti-worker 5-4 decision on May 21, written by Trump appointee Neil Gorsuch, giving the conservative stamp of approval to corporate arbitration agreements that deny individual workers the right to join together in class action suits. This ruling, while bad for all workers, will have a particularly vicious effect on people of color and women who need to band together to demand an end to such practices as pay discrimination, racism at work and sexual harassment on the job.

Negating poor women's human rights

The Trump administration is targeting Title X, which since 1970 has successfully provided free, comprehensive, scientifically effective reproductive health care for low-income women, predominantly women of color. It is the only such federal program, so Trump is exerting his execu-

tive power to destroy it and restrict poor women's rights in the process.

This blatantly ideological attack on the Title X network would affect about 4,000 health centers that nationally serve about 4 million clients. According to the latest Guttmacher Institute statistics, two-thirds of patients have incomes at or below the federal poverty level, nearly half are uninsured and another 35 percent are covered by Medicaid. The federal poverty level was \$20,090 for a family of three in 2015.

The effectiveness of Title X is undisputed: In 2015 Title X-funded providers helped women avoid 822,000 unintended pregnancies, which could have led to 387,000 unplanned births and 278,000 abortions. Without such care, U.S. rates of unintended pregnancies would have been 31 percent higher, with the teen rate 44 percent higher.

Rewire.News points out that the new rule would force "an unnatural split between contraception and abortion services," while forcing already vulnerable women, including im/migrants, youth, rural residents, disabled women and survivors of domestic violence "to take unnecessary risks to end unwanted pregnancies." (May 22)

The restrictive rule was first introduced during the reactionary Reagan administration, and though upheld by a Supreme Court ruling in 1991, it was never implemented. Clinton dumped it in 1993.

But anti-abortion zealots have resurged it and plan to use it aggressively to defund Planned Parenthood, a long-time goal. They claim that the 40 percent of Title X patients who current rely

on Planned Parenthood for basic medical care could be served by other federal health care clinics. However, a Guttmacher study shows that other current Title X sites would need to increase client caseloads by about 70 percent to accommodate Planned Parenthood patients — forcing many to go without care, with predictably negative consequences.

Guttmacher calls the Trump anti-abortion agenda "coercive," noting that coercion, either through laws or policies, is often used by conservatives to withhold, ban or outlaw information women need for informed consent. While reactionary bigots claim to defend fetal life by limiting Title X's effectiveness, they totally restrict poor women's right to informed consent about health care — which is a direct attack on their human rights. Meanwhile, the rule has long been opposed by two national medical groups that denounce its interference with medical ethics and practice.

At the same time that DHHS has launched this attack on women's constitutional right to abortion, it has beefed up funding for harmful abstinence-only-until-marriage programs for teens.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus, Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Barbara Lee (D-CA), stated in a May 22 release: "The White House has no business censoring doctors or limiting the health information available to patients. This rule is unconstitutional, dangerous and insulting to women." Some 212



New York City demonstration in support of Planned Parenthood

members of Congress signed letters to the DHHS on May 15: "We strongly oppose efforts to undermine the integrity of the Title X program and harm the millions of people who rely on it for care. Federal health policy should be evidence-based and produced with the best interests of patients in mind."

Women's health advocates, legal groups like the National Women's Law Center and women's rights activists are planning to fight this bluntly hostile attack on women's right to life.

'Epic' blow to workers

In the May 21 opinion in the case of Epic Systems Corporation v. Lewis, Justice Gorsuch malevolently misinterpreted or ignored two New Deal rulings that established workers' rights. Those landmark

U.S. accelerates war on im/migrants

Continued from page 1

find jobs or seek shelter. The violent policies are rooted in white supremacy and clearly violate U.S. and international law.

The administration's racism was rampant in Sessions' May 7 speech at the U.S. border in San Diego: "Today, we're here to send a message to the world that we're not going to let our country be overwhelmed." Sessions announced that every person stopped crossing into the U.S. "illegally" will be arrested and reviewed by the Department of Justice for prosecution. As for families, children will be taken from parents and turned over to government agencies. (San Diego Tribune)

The San Diego Tribune commented: "The decision to prosecute asylum seekers who cross illegally into the U.S. goes against the [U.N.] Refugee Convention of 1951." The convention states that countries signing the agreement, as the U.S. did, will not penalize asylum seekers for illegal entry if they go immediately to authorities and show "good cause" for their presence. (May 7)

Both U.S. and international laws declare that asylum seekers who cross the border are not violating any law and dictate that U.S. officials must allow refugees to have a legal hearing to rule on their application for asylum. Trump and his



Family members and neighbors in the Indigenous community of Claudia Patricia Gómez Gonzáles, dead in Texas, grieve in her home in Los Alonzo, near San Juan Ostuncalco, department of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

henchmen are openly defying those laws.

Settler-colonial borders

Beyond legality, many migrants from Central America are Indigenous, like Gonzáles herself, or have Indigenous heritage. The borders they are crossing exist only as a result of the genocide and land theft carried out by Spanish and English settlers. The extreme force being used by the U.S. to police its border comes from a racist settler-colonial mindset.

The new DOJ policy authorizes border agents from the CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to strip all children, even infants in arms, from parents seek-

ing work or asylum in the U.S. and to place the children in military bases in Texas and Arkansas. (tinyurl.com/ycynjtje)

An April 20 New York Times article reported: "On Feb. 20, a young woman named Mirian arrived at the Texas border carrying her 18-month-old son. They had fled their home in Honduras through a cloud of tear gas, she told border agents, and needed protection from the political violence there. She had hoped she and her son would find refuge together. Instead, the agents ordered her to place her son in the back seat of a government vehicle, she said later in a sworn declaration to a federal court." The boy was driven away.

In just a 13-day span after Sessions' speech, 658 children were separated from their parents and placed in detention centers. This represents a huge increase, as 700 children were separated from their parents from October 2017 through April 2018. (immigrationimpact.com, May 25)

"What are we becoming? Totalitarian regimes take children away from parents to punish dissidents," tweeted Frank Sharry, executive director of the immigration advocacy group America's Voice. "America is taking children away from parents to punish refugees."

In fact, U.S. law and policy for hundreds of years has legalized the inhuman separation of parents and children — both

through breaking up families in "property sales" of enslaved Black parents and children and through the "legal" kidnapping of Indigenous children from parents and placing them in "boarding schools" structured to sever them from their culture and people.

At the end of March, the Trump regime announced that they would not release pregnant migrant women from detention centers, notorious for their poor medical care. "This new policy further exposes the cruelty of Trump's detention and deportation force by endangering the lives of pregnant immigrant women," said Victoria Lopez, senior staff counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union. (ACLU release, March 29)

On May 25, Trump nominated Ronald Mortensen, founder of the Utah Coalition on Illegal Immigration, which the Southern Poverty Law Center has called a hate group, to be the new secretary of state for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. "He has accused undocumented immigrants of 'destroying the lives of American men, women, and children.' And now Trump wants him to lead the federal agency whose mission is to 'provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world.'" (New York Magazine, May 25)

Outrage over Trump's atrocities must be converted to militant mass action and solidarity with im/migrants. This is the only way to stop this racist demagogue and his administration in their tracks.

Open the borders and #ShutDownICE!

S LIVES AND LIBERATION



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

od on May 24.

Women win landslide vote for reproductive justice

Continued from page 1

Refugee Council, Doris Luimni, and the Migrant and Refugee Rights Center. Due to legal restrictions on travel for immigrants, its exorbitant costs and document requirements, many migrants could not access abortions. Access is particularly difficult for asylum-seekers, refugees, undocumented individuals and trafficking victims.

Among other organizations that supported the amendment's repeal were the Communist Party of Ireland; Sein Fein, the Irish nationalist party; the Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment; and the Artists Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment. Members of Britain's Labor Party flew to Ireland to assist the mobilization.

Women make history

There was a higher than usual voter turnout countrywide; 66 percent of the electorate opted to eliminate the Eighth Amendment, one of the strictest anti-abortion laws in Europe. Enthusiastic young women were the majority of voters in many polling places. Thousands of Irish people living abroad returned to their homeland to vote, some traveling huge distances, as happened with the same-sex marriage vote in 2015. The repeal referendum won in every county, except one.

Although abortion had been illegal in Ireland since 1861, this cruel amendment, which bestowed a fetus with rights equal to those of a woman, was added to the constitution in 1983. The law banned abortions, even where pregnancies resulted from rape or incest or would endanger a pregnant woman's health or in cases of severe fetal abnormalities. It only allowed an abortion if a woman's life was at stake. Even so, some seriously ill women died after being denied the procedure when they needed it, as doctors quibbled over whether an abortion would be legal in each case.

Today, 3,000 to 4,000 women leave Ireland annually to obtain abortions. Many women illegally use imported abortion-causing pills — secretly and without medical supervision. Under current law, those who seek or provide abortions risk up to 14 years imprisonment.

The referendum did not establish a new law setting forth women's right to abortion, but will substitute this language: "Provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy."



Together for Yes Trade Union Campaign celebrates victory at Dublin castle, May 26.

IRELAND



Together for Yes coalition members.

rulings were the 1932 Norris-LaGuardia Act that established "concerted activity" and the 1935 National Labor Relations Act that defined "mutual aid or protection."

Instead Gorsuch used a ruling-class fabrication that individual employees have equal bargaining power with employers.

The lawsuit was brought by a junior accountant at Ernst & Young (one of three parties in the case) who alleged that the company had misclassified that job category so it didn't have to pay overtime. In the suit he described the conditions of underpaid junior accountants and asserted his right to pursue a class claim with others similarly employed. But because he had been forced to sign an arbitration agreement as a condition of employment, Gorsuch's majority opinion barred him from banding together with other workers to assert a class claim.

In a "blistering dissent," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted that individual arbitration is prohibitively expensive; an Ernst & Young employee would have to pay \$200,000 to recover \$1,867.02 in overtime pay. Given that wage theft is rampant in all low-wage industries, as is sexual harassment in all workplaces, she asserted that the ruling was "egregiously wrong" because individual workers can't afford expensive litigation, risk retaliation from employers or compel companies to enforce anti-harassment rules.

Ginsburg concluded: "The inevitable result of today's decision will be the underenforcement of federal and state statutes designed to advance the well-being of vulnerable workers."

But empowering employers to require employees, as a condition of employment, to sign an agreement to forego joint legal remedy for unlawful abuse is exactly why arch-reactionary Trump nominated Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Racist, misogynist, anti-worker Trump is intent on pandering to his fellow billionaires on Wall Street, whether with tax reforms or Supreme Court rulings.

"This is an incredible blow to workers and sets workers' rights back literally 100 years," concluded Rewire.News on May 22.

Working people, especially those in public sector unions, are bracing for the court's decision in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31* due the end of June. If the Epic decision is "a canary in a coal mine," all workers, but particularly the most oppressed, will need to unite and fight because their very lives will depend upon it. □

The majority vote gives the government the green light to legalize abortions up to the 12th week of pregnancy and to allow the procedure later in pregnancies under certain circumstances. The public health care system will provide abortions. Women will gain the right to make their own medical decisions while pregnant, not be forced into or denied care.

Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar stated that "the culmination of a quiet revolution in Ireland" resulted in voters giving the government a clear mandate to enact legislation legalizing abortions. He has pledged to enact new laws by year's end. (Guardian, May 26)

1983-2018: 35 years of struggle

Some 1.43 million people voted to repeal the ban, while 723,632 opted to retain it. The number of pro-choice votes demonstrates the changes in Ireland since 1983. That year, when divorce was still illegal, and the Catholic Church hierarchy's grip on the population was still strong, 841,000 people, the majority of voters, approved the Eighth Amendment.

The Irish women's movement fought back then and continued to fight for a woman's right to choose free, safe, legal abortions. During the recent campaign, organizers, many young women wearing "Repeal" T-shirts, met with residents of every county and held rallies and meetings throughout the country.

Two stunning events strengthened support for the pro-choice movement. In 1992, the government tried to prevent a suicidal 14-year-old pregnant rape victim from traveling to England to obtain an abortion. After international condemnation, Ireland's Supreme Court allowed her to go to England for the procedure. Subsequently, the law was changed to permit women to leave the country to access abortions.

Twenty years later, on Oct. 28, 2012, Dr. Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year-old dentist, and member of the Indian community, died of septicemia after the three-day miscarriage of a nonviable fetus in University Hospital Galway. She had repeatedly requested, and been denied, an abortion. Her needless, excruciating death became global news.

Outrage grew in Ireland against the inhumane abortion ban. Organizing against it intensified with mass protests around the country. Thousands marched in Dublin and other Irish cities, and in London, following Halappanavar's death.

In recent years, as more women have joined the workforce, the women's movement — and pro-choice sentiment — have grown. Irish emigrants have brought back news of progressive reproductive rights laws abroad. Women have publicly told their heart-breaking abortion stories and related their horrifying experiences about being denied critical medical care while pregnant. International human rights groups and women's organizations have increasingly pressured the Irish government to overturn the law. These factors have elevated consciousness and increased reproductive rights activism inside the country.

Revolt against church and state

The landslide victory by the Irish people was the latest revolt against the Catholic Church's conservative, patriarchal dogma. The exposés of priests' sexual and other physical abuse of children as well as the Magdalene laundries' exploitation of women and forcible adoption, often involving the sale, of their babies, had weakened the Church's influence over the population.

Susan McKay, a writer in Ireland, said the church tried to influence this vote, but "the church does not have the moral authority it did in '83 ... [with] revelations of

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The opioid crisis

Part 2

By Harmony
Philadelphia

One would think that those in charge of public health might go all in to defeat the “opioid crisis,” yet that isn’t what’s happened.

Goldman Sachs recently put out a report saying that having the medical industry curing people wasn’t good for business. This is no less true with treatments for addicts. The relapse rate in addiction is between 50 percent and 90 percent, and rehab executives use addicts to line their pockets with money from desperate families trying to save their children or a government trying to respond to an epidemic it partially caused.

As Marxists, it’s our duty to criticize the existing order of things, and addiction treatment is no exception. Capitalists big and small are making money off of this epidemic, and so we must look at who is making money and how.

Though the roots of this particular epidemic can be traced to the 1990s, to Purdue Pharma’s deception — they lied to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and downplayed the addictive nature of oxycodone, marketed as OxyContin — the roots of addiction treatment go much further back, all the way to 1935 with the opening of the United States Narcotic Farm, a project of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Part jail, part hospital, the Narcotic Farm housed addicts seeking to get clean — from unknown addicted criminals to famous musicians. It also acted as a site where the CIA tested drugs on patients as part of the “mind control” MK-Ultra program.

The Narcotic Farm was eventually closed and turned into an ordinary prison hospital because of the fallout from the scandal, exposed in the 1970s. As the granddaddy of all modern addiction treatment centers, the Farm even hosted its own — now defunct — 12-step group called Addicts Anonymous.

Most modern-day rehabs aren’t too different in that regard, and many have programming that consists mostly of the 12-step recovery groups of Alcoholics Anonymous. That was this writer’s per-

sonal experience in recovery. In fact, 74 percent of all treatment centers are based on the 12 steps. (americanaddictcenters.org)

But how effective are the 12 steps? AA’s self-reported numbers — in 1955 — can be found in the second foreword to its guidebook, “Alcoholics Anonymous”: 50 percent got sober on their first attempt through the 12 steps, 25 percent got sober after a few attempts, and the last 25 percent didn’t get sober at all.

Other sources, such as Dr. Drew Pinsky and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, place recovery rates between 8 percent and 12 percent. An examination of multiple studies called the Cochrane Review couldn’t determine conclusively whether or not the 12 steps were effective at treating alcoholism or addiction. (tinyurl.com/y92pocbg)

Compare that to other programs like SMART Recovery, LifeRing and Women For Sobriety, often ignored because of the virtual monopoly that 12-Step treatment methods have, despite these programs being as good as, or better than, AA. Studies show that non-12-Step programs, when accounting for the varying goals of each individual, are just as effective at helping a drug addict or an alcoholic recover. (tinyurl.com/ybdkpe4)

Additionally, methadone- and buprenorphine-based programs are shown to have the best outcomes for patients, increasing their quality of life, allowing them to remain sober and decreasing negative drug abuse outcomes. (tinyurl.com/y94wxmp7)

With programs that are more successful and that allow the person in recovery to set definite goals for themselves, why do rehabs rely on a 12-Step, total abstinence model that doesn’t allow for variation based on the needs of the individual?

Treatment industry profits

Because it’s good for business. The treatment industry — the CEOs and their lackeys in the boardrooms — is less interested in helping people recover and far more interested in securing the payments that a patient makes. With a chronic relapsing brain disease like addiction, the usage of a recovery model that has not

been conclusively proven to be successful essentially sets patients up for failure.

If an addict survives a post-rehab relapse and wishes to get back on the road to recovery, they often return to rehab. This cycle of going in and out of rehabs is called “revolving door syndrome.” The rehab industry makes their money through these repeat-visit patients. (tinyurl.com/ycajasjy)

The rehab industry is large and its largest players, such as Acadia Healthcare, are standard medical corporations. Much of their rehabs use the 12-step philosophy and overcharge for that experience. Then there are others that, at their best, act as a front for Medicaid fraud. At their worst, they act as a site for sex trafficking, drug abuse and predation. People seeking recovery enter only to discover that what should be their refuge from the storm of addiction is just either a flop-house or a shooting gallery.

That was the case with the McKees Rocks-based Next Step Foundation in Pennsylvania. Its CEO David Francis wasn’t just turning a blind eye to drug abuse in his rehab. He was doing the drug dealing. After an informant reported that they had received heroin from him, they busted Francis and shut down the Next Step Foundation. (tinyurl.com/y8lkrfmz)

If it’s not the patients being drugged by the staff, it’s the staff doing drugs. In Chester County, Penn., the unlicensed recovery house Freedom Ridge Recovery Lodge had two licensed drug counselors overdose, showing that the opioid crisis has started to overtake the very infrastructure funded to fight it. (tinyurl.com/yjqlq4tk)

But the worst of the worst was Kenneth Chatman, the scam artist owner of Reflections Treatment Center in Margate, Fla. Chatman pimped out women at his recovery houses. He also placed people trying to get recovery on his payroll and sent them to other rehabs to lure vulnerable addicts to his treatment center and recovery houses. (tinyurl.com/y9qesfcr)

While Francis and Chatman both represent the extremes of corruption in the rehab industry, the most common schemes that treatment-center/

recovery-house owners use is a Medicaid kickback scheme. The recovery facility houses addicts on Medicaid, sending residents to treatment centers that later give reimbursements to the house owner (and vice versa). In 2017, Philadelphia City Council members and the media called out specific recovery-house networks and treatment centers for this behavior. Many recovery-home businesses there, such as Women Walking in Victory/Empowered Men, run this scheme. The writer experienced this first hand, though that place went one step further and sought control over my food stamps. (tinyurl.com/yagwl86z)

Hope for recovery in socialism

Although there is no miracle cure to addiction as a personal medical condition or as a societal ill, the condition is beatable. It can be put into remission. Science-based treatment methods can succeed.

However, as long as the criminals in the boardrooms and offices of the treatment industry continue to see addicts as paychecks rather than people, we can’t wipe out addiction.

By working to build socialism, we work to aid addicts. In China, the police stopped arresting addicts for having drugs on them; they were encouraged to come forward and get help. Both China and Vietnam have fully funded, evidence-based treatment centers, using medication to assist the addict in going through the nightmare of withdrawal. (tinyurl.com/y9yz7ldu)

In Cuba, doctors use psychotherapy and medications to address both addiction and underlying mental health conditions. (tinyurl.com/yajuz4tl)

Through socialism, the stigma of addiction is dissipated and the underlying causes of addiction are treated. We can learn from the models of China, Vietnam and Cuba, while also integrating the current evidence-based treatments we have today. Under socialism, the capitalist approach to addiction treatment would be eliminated. Along with lifting the spirit-killing demands of capitalism, the result would be healthy, recovered people who don’t need to turn to drugs to be happy. □

Anti-war GIs relive their resistance at Midwest conference

Continued from page 5

in pro-imperialist indoctrination sessions, taking actions against cruel guards — dropping heavy footlockers on them from second-story stairwells — and organizing a prisoner-based justice system to take care of snitches. ASU member Terry Klug organized and led a rebellion of 200 prisoners in June 1969, burning down half the stockade.”

The ASU, said Lewis, showed clearly that the single most important focus of its organizing work among working-class GIs and rank-and-file GIs of color was where the GIs worked, were imprisoned, and fought and died.

Other heroes and sheroes of the Vietnam GI movement were present, including Pfc. J.J. Johnson, one of the Fort Hood 3 — the first publicized GIs who refused to fight in Vietnam in 1966 and who were sentenced to three years in prison. Also present was Lt. Susan Schnall, a Navy nurse who hired a small plane in

1969 and dropped anti-war leaflets on ships and military bases in California. Schnall currently organizes for Veterans For Peace and works to relieve Agent Orange poisoning in Vietnam and among U.S. veterans.

Resisting the war on Iraq

Members of the subsequent generation of anti-war GIs from the new professional U.S. military were also present. While GI resistance during the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan never reached the breadth it did in the conscript military of the Vietnam period, individual troops voiced their moral outrage and noted that at moments their organizing created problems for the Pentagon.

Army enlistee Camilo Mejia, author of “Road from Ar Ramadi,” whose family was from Nicaragua, was stationed in Iraq in 2003 following the U.S.-British invasion. He refused to return to the war after a furlough, was charged with

desertion and was sentenced to a year in prison. Working in the Miami area, Mejia fights against new imperialist wars and for the rights of immigrants in the U.S.

Jonathan Hutto, author of “Anti-war Soldier: How to Dissent Within the Ranks of the Military,” was a communications specialist in the Navy aboard the USS Roosevelt in the Persian Gulf in 2006. Hutto co-founded the Appeal for Redress, a statement against the Iraq War signed eventually by 2,000 service members. Hutto works against war and for African-American rights in Maryland.

Angie Hines was stationed on the guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens, which fired the first ordinance that opened the Iraq War. She speaks of harassment of women in the Armed Forces as she counters military recruiters in the Portland, Ore., area.

The three Iraq War veterans — who were themselves caught up in what could

be called the economic draft — showed that the class struggle still exists in the professional military and that veterans can continue to play an important role in the struggle against imperialist war. Many do so today as part of Veterans For Peace or similar organizations.

Dozens of others contributed to the discussion, including Professor David Cortright, author of “Soldiers in Revolt” and the organizer, with his Kroc Institute staff, of this effective conference; Harry Haines, one of the few out gay anti-war draftees; and James Lewes, creator of the GI Press Project that contains images and searchable text from thousands of documents (tinyurl.com/ygcjcwqe). For more information on the conference, see tinyurl.com/y9ftga4g.

Catalinotto is author of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.” He spoke at a conference workshop on “Issues of class, race and gender in resistance movements.”

Oakland, Calif.

Radical Black woman activist runs for mayor

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

May 22 — *Workers World* interviewed Cat Brooks, co-founder of the Anti Police-Terror Project and executive director of the California Justice Teams Network, who just announced her candidacy for mayor of Oakland. This is the first time a Black radical leader has run for this post since Bobby Seale of the Black Panther Party did in 1973.

Workers World: What is it about the political scene in Oakland that makes it the right time for Cat Brooks to run for mayor?

Cat Brooks: I think it's the political scene in Oakland, but also the political scene nationally. We have said as an organization collectively since Trump got elected that there's a blessing in Trump. It woke people up, it reinvigorated people who are already working, but it also woke up your mainstream, "I work 9 to 5, I'm not a racist, but I don't do any actual work in the movement, but I consider myself a good person, and I believe in what this country says it's supposed to be."

[With the election of Trump] that group of people was yanked out of the sleepy reality of America being a democracy for all people. And they want — no, our goals are not the same — things the way they used to be pre-Trump, where



they thought everything was okay because Obama was in office. That said, that shifts the conditions because people want to do something, and so what you're seeing is across the country more left-leaning organizers and activists running and being elected to office.

Secondarily, we've had four years here, almost, under a neo-liberal mayor, where the unhoused population has exploded. The city says there are 3,000 homeless people, and that's really closer to 6,000. Massive amounts of Black people have been displaced.

You can't drive down the street without running into a crane because there's so much development, and I hate the word development, because that sounds like it's a positive thing. And none of those

buildings are targeted to house the folks that need housing the most.

Oakland has spent the last however many years giving the city away. And so there are no checks and balances for developers. And the artists who flock here because of cultural diversity, they are being pushed out.

There are so many things that are happening that require someone to be inside of that seat, who is going to dramatically shift the city's priorities and force some very different conversation. We don't think it should be polite conversation about people sleeping outside, we want to talk about the gross reality about what's happened in this city and really hold the current mayor accountable for what she's done.

WW: You lead the Anti Police-Terror Project. How does that fit with a mayor who would be in charge of the police?

CB: Of course, I'm an abolitionist, I don't believe that policing can be fixed in this country. I do believe in radical reform on the way to abolition, though. We have to be radically shifting the way we talk about community safety and security while enacting reforms that enforce transparency and accountability, and dramatically decreasing the number of Black and Brown bodies that are falling at the hands of law enforcement.

We've spent a lot of time saying Defund OPD [Oakland Police Department] by 50 percent. Here in Oakland the police department gets close to 43 percent of the general fund, plus millions in overtime. That's ludicrous. So what the team is working on right now is figuring out legally what can we do? How much can we divest from law enforcement? What are the resolutions that would have to be passed to be able to divest even more?

Where would funding streams come from where we can beta test community safety teams and utilize neighborhoods as testing ground for what it would look like to not call the police in X, Y and Z situations and train people up. What does it look like to invest in prevention rather than criminalization, so all of these after-school programs, and things like "Take Back Our Streets" in East Oakland that are really working with the youth ... and the D boys, what does it look like to invest in them?

How do we build up the cannabis equity program that we have here so that

we can give more licenses to people who have been criminalized for being Black and criminalized for engaging in the sale of marijuana? So it looks like divesting as much as we possibly can within the limits of the law and pushing that limit every single year that I'm in office.

WW: You're talking about doing people's assemblies around the city. Is that from the Jackson, Miss., model?

CB: Yes, I'm in conversation with Kali Akuno (Cooperation Jackson). He'll support and advise the campaign. That said, Oakland and Jackson are two very different places. They're different in terms of population, of how many Black folks are there, and of what types of industry are there. The plan is to talk to Kali and figure out what is extractable from Jackson into Oakland.

WW: What else do you want to tell people about this campaign?

CB: We need to, as a movement, be throwing our dollars behind all the grassroots campaigns that are taking place around the country. Whether these people live in your city or not, for those who can, we need to be making donations to the Stacey Abrams [first Black woman to win the Georgia Democratic gubernatorial primary] campaign, and to John Parker's campaign [Workers World Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket].

We need to be supporting these campaigns whether they directly impact us or not, because they do. Because the more of us that are in office, the more of us there are for us to bang from both sides of the system. The second thing is that this campaign is different in that we are truly building our platform in partnership with the community. □



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- Claim our right to freedom from oppression and exploitation
- Say that capitalist greed, austerity and misery must be banished forever, along with the racism, sexism and anti-LGBTQ bigotry that the bosses use to divide us
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TURN THE GUNS AROUND Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

"If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto's 'Turn The Guns Around' would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans' movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup."

— Pvt. Larry Holmes GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen's Union 1972-74.

Available at online booksellers



¡Pablo vive! ¡Muerte a la economía 'gig'!

Continúa de página 12

se pague a sus trabajadoras/es un salario digno, comenzando en \$20 por hora con beneficios de salud, pago de riesgo y reembolso de reparación y mantenimiento de bicicletas; y que se respete el derecho de las/os trabajadoras/es a organizar un sindicato.

La compañera de Avendano, Anna Marie Drolet, dijo a las/os congregados: "Pablo se preocupaba por lo que estaba sucediendo en el mundo. Murió porque traía comida a personas con dinero que eran demasiado vagas para salir a comprar la suya".

El activista local George Ciccarillo-Maher dijo, "Pablo era un esclavo asalariado que murió porque los ricos ganan más dinero al no pagar salarios y beneficios más altos. Él no era nada para ellos". Sus amigas/os han organizado una re-

caudación de fondos para ayudar a pagar sus gastos de funeral en gofundme.com/all-out-for-pablito.

Un comunicado de prensa firmado por "Camaradas y amigas/os de Pablo Avendano" termina diciendo: "Pablo era un amante de la vida y un luchador apasionado por los derechos de las/os trabajadoras/es, así como por la igualdad racial y económica. Honramos su memoria al mantener su compromiso de hacer del mundo un lugar mejor al tomar su lucha como la nuestra".

Nota de traducción: La economía "gig" se refiere a los contratos de trabajo temporales e inciertos que no le ofrecen garantías a sus trabajadoras/es, a quienes se les considera "contratistas" y por lo tanto, no tienen ningún o muy pocos beneficios.

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Why we defend Korea

Ever since its establishment in 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been under the threat — at times open, at times implied — of nuclear annihilation at the hands of the U.S.

Especially tense was the period of the Korean War, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur actually proposed laying down a radioactive cobalt belt along the border with People's China. This threat came even as U.S. Air Force planes were destroying — with “conventional” bombs — every building in North Korea over one story and millions of Korean people were dying in the war.

The real reason for that war was the great anti-colonial, pro-socialist revolution that had triumphed in the North, in which the political rule of Korean landlords and bosses — collaborators with Japanese colonial rule since 1910 — was pulled down and the masses liberated. It is no accident that the years of the Korean war were also a time of the most virulent attacks on progressive forces in the U.S. — the era of McCarthyism.

Since then, the Pentagon has organized, at great expense, semi-annual war “games” by the U.S. and South Korea that simulate an attack on the DPRK by nuclear-capable ships and planes. They have quite openly been described as exercises in “decapitating” the North's leadership and, in recent years, have included military forces from Japan, the hated former colonial power.

Now, some 70 years since the division of the Korean nation was formalized by the U.S. setting up a puppet regime in the South, there is a glimmer of hope that discussions among both Koreas and the U.S. could bring an end to the state of war declared in 1950 that persists to this day. The enthusiasm of Koreans in the South, as well as the North, for such a discussion was made clear to the world at the time of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, when both Koreas marched together under one flag.

The nuclear weapons question

What has made it possible for such a discussion to even take place? The truth is that a new situation exists precisely because the DPRK now possesses nuclear weapons and the ability to use them if attacked.

We in the United States, of course, do not want another war. So how should we regard the nuclear capability of the DPRK?

It is a deterrent to a U.S. attack and therefore is an anti-war measure. The Koreans need such a powerful defense as long as they have no other guarantees against another U.S. war. They are the aggrieved party, and it is up to them to decide if and when their safety would be guaranteed without such weapons.

The DPRK has never attacked the U.S. They have only defended themselves from U.S. aggression, which took on monstrous proportions during the 1950-53 war.

The U.S. military has occupied South Korea since 1945. It sponsored a long line of military dictatorships in the South that carried out bloody repression there against anyone who even whispered sympathy for the North. The people's movement in the South finally defeated the generals and ushered in civilian rule. However, despite decades of a popular

movement against the military occupation, it has not yet been able to rid the country of U.S. troops and bases.

We have seen remarkable strides toward a rapprochement between North and South in recent months. And it looked as though the Trump administration was ready to sit down with the DPRK's Kim Jong Un and South Korea's Moon Jae-in to discuss concrete measures to defuse military tensions.

Now these expectations are up in the air. Trump has appointed as his national security adviser one of the most anti-DPRK figures possible — John Bolton, who in February wrote a column for the Wall Street Journal advocating a “preemptive” military strike against the DPRK. As of this writing, Trump, who at first was for the summit meeting but then rejected it, is now supposedly reconsidering.

These are life-and-death issues for all the peoples involved. They cannot be left to the whims of this extremely reactionary and unpredictable U.S. administration, which tells the world one thing today and another tomorrow.

People who understand the dangers need to make their voices heard. We need more demonstrations and other public statements opposing the current dangerous trend toward war coming from the U.S.

U.S. hands off Korea! Sign a peace treaty now! □

Ireland: Women win landslide vote for reproductive justice

Continued from page 7

child abuse and cruelty toward pregnant women — scandals the church did its best to cover up.” (nytimes.com, May 5) Activist Bernie Linnane told McKay the anti-choice forces have “lost on divorce, gay marriage, contraception and sex education. Once the Catholic church loses on this campaign, it has lost everything.”

Cat Inglis, activist with Eirigi, a pro-socialist organization in Ireland, champions the right to abortion there and in the northern six counties. She explained: “Since the inception of the state the church has had a firm grip on every aspect of Irish life,” but it has lost many battles. “Revelations concerning the church[s] abuses in the last 20 years” have changed public perception of the church. (RedLine, May 22)

And Gail McElroy, politics professor at Trinity College Dublin, stressed, “This [vote] is devastating to the Roman Catholic hierarchy. It is the final nail in the coffin for them. ... [T]heir hopes of re-establishing themselves are gone.” (NY Times, May 26)

Clearly, there has been a progressive shift within Ireland's population on many social issues due to economic and social changes and the Church's waning influence. The Repeal vote demonstrates that most people support women's right to make decisions about their lives, instead of being dictated to by the Church or the state.

A May 23 Irish Times editorial said the “Yes” vote would reject the “worldview that relegates a woman's bodily autonomy

Philly Orchestra reaches Europe Protests demand ‘Cancel tour to apartheid Israel!’

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

Palestine solidarity activists have held weekly demonstrations since April 6 outside the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts here. They called on the Philadelphia Orchestra to cancel its planned visit to Israel. Despite clear and growing opposition, including from orchestra patrons, the group departed on May 21 for Europe, telling the Philadelphia Inquirer that it was “resolute” in its decision to go forward with the visit to Israel.

Yet, on the first concert date of the tour, it became clear that the Philly Don't Orchestrate Apartheid campaign had gone on an international tour of its own.

In Brussels on May 24, demonstrators disrupted the orchestra's performance with chants of “Free, Free Palestine!” and unfurled a banner in the front row demanding cancellation of the tour. Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin left the stage, followed by the rest of the orchestra. The concert was delayed for 25 minutes as demonstrators were removed from the hall.

Two days later, over two dozen demonstrators gathered outside the Paris Philharmonic and urged patrons not to cross the international Boycott Divestment Sanctions picket line. Several patrons



Paris protest of Philadelphia Orchestra apartheid Israeli tour, May 26.

expressed disgust at the Philadelphia Orchestra's decision to tour Israel and said they would not have purchased tickets if they had known. In an act of solidarity with Palestinians, at least one ticket holder refused to go into the concert hall after learning about the tour.

Back in Philadelphia, in an op-ed published May 24 in the Inquirer, Philip Gentry, a musicologist at the University of Delaware, called out how “out of touch” the orchestra has shown itself to be, referring to the trip as “a right-wing fantasy tour of Israel.”

Gentry noted that the orchestra's itinerary included “meetings with right-wing politicians, military leaders, and corporate tycoons. In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, donors accompanying the tour could even make a special VIP visit to an Israeli Defense Force base, where one doubts their recent killing of 62 protesters in Gaza will come up. In response to the protests, the orchestra now claims it ‘intends to spend as much time as possible interacting with Arab communities to deepen our understanding of life in the region, and how we can continue to engage in conflict resolution through music.’ The orchestra will pardon us if this is a little bit hard to imagine.” (Philly.com, May 24)

Berlin-based viol player and musicologist Laurence Dreyfus also spoke out against the tour on May 27. He is a signer to a petition, circulated in March, calling for the orchestra to honor the cultural boycott of Israel. His father, George Dreyfus, was a violinist with the Philadelphia Orchestra for nearly 50 years. Dreyfus said his solidarity lies “entirely with the protesters outside the halls.”

Dreyfus, who is Jewish, asked: “Is the orchestra happy to have taken such a partisan side in this case, despite their disavowals to the contrary? I suspect Matias Tarnopolsky [the orchestra's incoming CEO, who starts in August] will have some damage to undo when he arrives on the Delaware.” (Philly.com, May 27)

The Philadelphia Orchestra told the Inquirer that it is now bracing for the fact that these demonstrations will follow it across Europe. No matter how “resolute” the orchestra management claims to be, its stubbornness does not compare to the growing international solidarity with the Palestinian people, especially as Israel steps up its brutal occupation of their homeland.

The orchestra can't claim it was not forewarned. In a recorded message that reverberated through the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall during the last Philadelphia concert on May 19, Palestinian author and activist Susan Abulhawa said: “If you think your collaboration with that murderous gangster state will blow over, then you sorely underestimate our pain; you underestimate our love for each other and our anger and resolve.” □

below the right of the State to tell her it knows best.” The referendum's mass approval shows society's growing respect for women, and it is a step forward for women's equality — not just in Ireland, but the victory will resonate around the world.

Una Mullaly, pro-choice campaigner, views the vote as not solely about abortion, but concerns the historical oppression of women — which was rejected at the ballot box.

The struggle will continue to prevent a right-wing rollback of what was won and to legalize abortion in the British-controlled north of Ireland, where women are demanding this right. In solidarity with “our comrades” there who “supported us unwaveringly,” Abortion Rights Campaign organizer Kavanaugh pledged to “support them in their separate but similar fight to gain abortion access.” □

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France

Energy workers take 'Robin Hood' actions

By Rémy Herrera
Paris, France

May 27 — In numerous corners of France, workers and students' struggles continue as May draws to an end. This prolonged duration has hardened the lines of conflict. The fundamental challenge to neoliberal policies implemented by President Emmanuel Macron's government over a year ago has not wavered. This is true, even though it is hard for many striking families to see their reduced pay slips or to find enough strength to attend the many demonstrations called by general assemblies and trade unions.

In the transport sector — at SNCF (the French abbreviation for its railroad system) and sporadically at Air France — strikes have continued for two months on a regular basis. The strike pattern is two days on strike, three days at work. At the SNCF on May 23, the coalition of striking unions announced that 95 percent of the railroad workers consulted were against the neoliberal "reform" of the rail transport sector that the government intends to impose.

At countless rallies held periodically in the country's major cities, civil servants joined contingents of militant railway workers, who were at the forefront of protest movements, and enlarged the common struggle.

In early May, Air France's CEO was forced to resign following the results of an internal referendum that rejected his salary increase proposals, which the workers considered inadequate.

Workers in the energy sectors have been at the heart of the struggle since the very beginning — since December 2017, even before the beginning of the railway



A march by some divisions of the General Confederation of Labor in France, May 22.

PHOTO: CONFÉDÉRATION GÉNÉRALE DU TRAVAIL

strike. On Dec. 7 workers in the electricity and gas industries went on strike to weigh in during wage negotiations. A policy of austerity had imposed a freeze on basic national wages in 2017.

The electricians and gas workers have long experience in the struggle. The energy sector has been largely privatized in recent years, under pressure from European Union policies of privatization, and opened up to competition. Recent French governments have gone along with the EU's demands.

Imposition of these destructive strategies, aimed at dismantling public energy service — which has an excellent reputation in France — has increased the risk of supply disruptions and caused recurrent restrictions and outages. It has also allowed for different prices to be charged to users in different regions. There have been frequent increases in energy prices borne by individual households. These policies have inflated the profits of private producers that have entered the market to capture the most profitable niches.

More often than not, the multiplication of privatized and competing local gas and electricity suppliers is irrational. With so many private operators, there is no mechanism for setting environmental targets in relation to climate commitments for reducing carbon emissions.

'Robin Hood' actions

Striking electric and gas workers decided to carry out creative approaches to struggle — "Robin Hood" shock operations. They involve cutting power to large companies that lay off employees while making huge profits for shareholders.

Another tactic is, conversely, to restore electricity and gas to families in financial difficulty who are unable to pay their energy bills. Often entire working-class districts, or even parts of regions identified

as disadvantaged, see their bills reduced thanks to these "Robin Hood" operations.

Sometimes, these actions are carried out during demonstrations: Comrades hide their faces, then form a huddle called a "turtle," somewhat resembling a rugby scrum. They huddle above a manhole cover leading to underground lines. One worker, chosen beforehand and unknown even to fellow workers, goes down the opening to carry out the mission.

Once this militant comes out, the "turtle," fists raised, shouts: "Energy is not private property, it belongs to us!"

The demand for renationalization of the energy sector is a priority. "Yes to the public production of electricity and gas!" is one of the workers' slogans. Energy security and equality for all are the objectives, along with energy independence and a guarantee of meeting the environmental objectives and ecological targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy, essential to all aspects of life, is not a commodity but a common good. And as a common good, resulting from an enormous national investment of equipment created by French workers, it must belong to all. The struggle for public electricity and gas service is today one of the key dimensions of French workers' struggles.

Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre National Recherche Scientifique, who works at the Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris. WW staff translated.

Against the continued occupation of Iraq

The International Anti-Occupation Network in Tunis issued this statement on May 13.

Fifteen years have passed since the U.S.-led invasion. For the Iraqi people, it has been fifteen years of destruction, death, violations and hardships.

Under the present circumstances in Iraq, holding fraudulent elections does not offer any solution. It is the continued foreign intervention, the political disenfranchisement and the corruption that are the root causes of the continued violence and the suffering of the Iraqi people. Anti-war forces must continue to oppose the sectarian system, established by the U.S. occupation. It should come as no surprise that a majority of the Iraqi people refused to participate in this electoral farce. The results of such an election are not credible.

The right of the Iraqi people to make their own constitution and laws must be fully respected and not be dictated by an occupation administration, in violation of international law.

Members of the International Anti-Occupation Network (IAON) from Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and {Britain}, meeting in Tunis, agreed that the occupation has destroyed all sectors of Iraqi society, and that the installed regime is

incapable of solving any of the enormous problems that Iraq faces.

Under the pretext of fighting ISIS [the Islamic State group], eight major cities have been destroyed and left in ruins and many residents are unable to return to their homes. The Iraqi security forces and various militias have committed numerous war crimes.

The criminal justice system, which lacks an independent judiciary and perpetuates injustice, has failed to respond to arbitrary arrests, torture and summary executions.

The current state of impunity must be brought to an end. All those responsible for the destruction caused by the invasion and occupation, as well as the widespread violations of human rights must be held accountable and the victims compensated.

The IAON is a network of solidarity organisations that share information about developments in Iraq and mobilize support for resistance against all forms of the continued occupation and foreign domination of Iraq. We reaffirm the principles of our declaration in Le Feyt in August 2008. This offered a way forward from the disasters the invasion and occupation have created. We will continue our efforts until Iraq has regained its full national sovereignty. □



INDIA

Anti-imperialists support Palestine

Manik Mukherjee, Vice President of the All India Anti-imperialist Forum, issued the following statement on May 15.

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum strongly condemns the shifting of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem which finally puts a seal to Donald Trump's earlier announcement of U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

This is a clear violation of international law. To add insult to the injury, this blatant act was perpetrated a day before the 70th anniversary of what the Palestinians observe as Naqba (catastrophe), when millions of Palestinians were driven out of their homes during the violent birth of the state of Israel in 1948, which fell in the proposed territory of Palestine. The UN resolution of 1947 clearly stipulated an international status for Jerusalem. Trump's earlier announcement was criticized by the majority of the nations and was condemned in a motion adopted in the General Assembly with overwhelming support. In the Security Council the condemnation motion was vetoed by the United States after a 14 to 1 vote.

The birth of Israel in 1948 was marked by a war with the Arab states through which Israel illegally annexed West Jerusalem. After the 1967 war it annexed East Jerusalem too, and in 1980 it proclaimed "unified and complete" Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which was a clear vio-

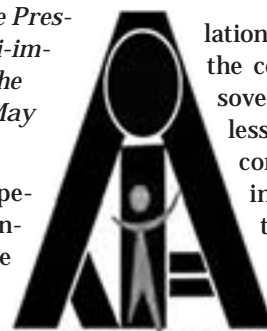
lation of international law. But most of the countries did not recognize Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, and countless resolutions were passed in the UN condemning Israel as the violator of international law. But Israel paid little heed to these because of the support of U.S.A. and other imperialist powers.

The latest act of President Trump is a clear negation of the mandated international

status of Jerusalem and will block any settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict through dialogues and discussions. The Palestinians of West Bank responded to the U.S. act with anger and demonstrations. In response Israel brutally attacked the demonstrators with warplanes, tanks and guns. Already more than 55 people were killed in Gaza border in one day and thousands were injured. But this has not dampened their resolve to fight for their rights, and whole families have come out to participate.

The All India Anti-imperialist Forum stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people fighting to realize their just demands and strongly condemns the aggression of Israel and its barbaric attack on the demonstrating Palestinians, including women and children demanding their legitimate rights.

We call upon all the freedom-loving people of the world to rise up in protest against Israeli attacks on Palestinian people, abetted by U.S.A. in league with other imperialist powers. Israel must desist from annexing Jerusalem as its capital. □





Claudia Patricia Gómez González.

Mujeres en peligro Campaña de terror contra trabajadoras/es in/migrantes

Por Chris Fry

Claudia Patricia Gómez González, una mujer de Guatemala- quien estaba desarmada- fue asesinada por un disparo a la cabeza el 23 de mayo a manos de la policía fronteriza (CBP por siglas en inglés) en Río Bravo, Texas. Tenía 20 años.

Las noticias de Al Jazeera reseñaron que “González era una mujer indígena Maya Mam que se había graduado de un programa de contabilidad forense en 2016. Su familia dijo que se iba a EUA para buscar trabajo, porque no tenían suficiente dinero para continuar sus estudios”.

Karina Álvarez, fundadora del ‘Laredo Immigrant Alliance’, contó a Al Jazeera que la retórica de Trump sobre migrantes había envalentonado a los agentes en pueblos fronterizos: “Él nos estaba describiendo como si fuéramos animales el otro día y mira ahora, nos disparan como animales”.

Estados Unidos ha intensificado una campaña de terror contra las/os trabajadoras/es in/migrantes y refugiados que huyen de la violencia causada por EUA en sus países de origen.

La actual campaña está encabezada por el presidente Trump, su fiscal general, el famosamente racista Jeff Sessions, su jefe de gabinete John Kelly y una pandilla presidencial de intolerantes. Las nuevas normas están diseñadas para impedir por medio de intimidación y terror a quienes por enfrentar represión y muerte en sus países, viajen a EUA para buscar trabajo o refugio. Estas violentas normas están ancladas en la supremacía blanca y violan claramente leyes tanto de EUA como internacionales.

El racismo de la administración no tuvo frenos en un discurso de Sessions el 7 de mayo en la frontera en San Diego. Dijo: “Hoy estamos aquí para enviar un mensaje al mundo que no vamos a permitir que nuestro país sea abrumado.” Sessions anunció que cada persona que se encuentre entrando “ilegalmente” a EUA será detenida e investigada por el Departamento de Justicia. Si son una familia, las/os hijos serán separados de sus progenitores y puestos con agencias del gobierno. (San Diego Tribune)

El Tribune reseñó: “La decisión de enjuiciar a los solicitantes de asilo que entran ilegalmente a EUA va en contra de la Convención sobre los Refugiados de las Naciones Unidas de 1951”. La convención declara que los países que firmaron el acuerdo, como hizo EUA, no

penalizarán a solicitantes de asilo por entrada ilegal si se presentan inmediatamente a las autoridades y demuestran “causa justa” para su presencia.

Tanto la ley de EUA como la internacional declaran que las/os solicitantes de asilo que cruzan la frontera no están violando ninguna ley, y dictan que los oficiales de EUA están obligados a permitir que las/os refugiados tengan una audiencia legal para juzgar su aplicación de asilo. Trump y sus secuaces están desafiando abiertamente esas leyes.

Fronteras coloniales

Por encima de la legalidad, muchas/os migrantes de Centroamérica son indígenas, como la misma González, o tienen antepasados indígenas. Las fronteras que cruzan sólo existen como resultado del genocidio y el robo de tierra por parte de los colonizadores españoles e ingleses. La fuerza extrema que está usando EUA para vigilar su frontera es producto de una mentalidad de colonizador.

La nueva norma del Departamento de Justicia autoriza a los agentes fronterizos del CBP y del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE por siglas en inglés) a separar a todas/os los niños, incluso a los bebés en brazos, de sus padres que buscan empleo o asilo en EUA y poner estas/os los niños en bases militares en Texas y Arkansas. (tinyurl.com/ya2fqos)

Un artículo del New York Time del 20 de abril reportó: “El 20 de febrero, una mujer joven llamada Mirian llegó a la frontera de Texas cargando a su hijo de 18 meses. Habían huido de su hogar en Honduras en medio de una nube de gases lacrimógenos, le dijo a los agentes fronterizos, y necesitaban protección de la violencia política de allá. Esperaba encontrar refugio para ella y su hijo juntos. En su lugar, los agentes le ordenaron poner a su hijo en un vehículo del gobierno, dijo después en una declaración a la corte federal”. Al niño lo llevaron a otro lugar.

En solamente 13 días luego del discurso de Session, seiscientos cincuenta y ocho niñas/os fueron separados de sus progenitores y puestos en centros de detención. Esto representa un aumento enorme, ya que 700 niñas/os fueron separados de sus padres desde octubre 2017 hasta abril 2018 (immigrationimpact.com, 25 de mayo)

¿En qué nos estamos convirtiendo? Regímenes totalitarios quitan a los niños de sus padres para castigar a los disidentes,” tuiteó Frank Sharry, director ejecutivo



Familiares y vecinos de Claudia Patricia Gómez González fallecida en Texas, se encuentran consternados en su vivienda en el caserío Los Alonzo, en San Juan Ostuncalco, Quetzaltenango.

del grupo de defensores de inmigrantes America's Voice. “América está quitando a los hijos de sus padres para castigar a los refugiados”.

En realidad, las leyes y prácticas de EUA durante cientos de años han legalizado la separación inhumana de padres e hijas/os —tanto por la separación mediante “ventas de propiedad” de padres e hijos negros, hasta el secuestro “legal” de niñas/os indígenas y su colocación en “internados” creados para desconectarles de su cultura y de su pueblo.

A finales de marzo, el régimen de Trump anunció que no liberaría a mujeres embarazadas de los centros de detención, notorios por su falta de tratamiento médico adecuado. “Esta nueva política expone aún más la crueldad de las fuerzas de detención y deportación de Trump, poniendo en peligro las vidas de mujeres inmigrantes embarazadas”, dijo Victoria López, abogada de la Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles (ACLU en inglés). (US News, 29 de marzo)

El 25 de mayo, Trump nominó a Ronald Mortensen, fundador del Utah Coalition on Illegal Immigration (Coalición de Utah sobre la Inmigración Ilegal), que ha sido clasificada como grupo de odio por el Southern Poverty Law Center, para ser el nuevo Secretario de Estado para la Oficina de Población, Refugiados, y Migración. “Él ha acusado a inmigrantes indocumentados de ‘destruir las vidas de los hombres, mujeres, y niños americanos.’ Y ahora Trump quiere que maneje la agencia federal cuya misión es la de ‘ofrecer protección, aliviar el sufrimiento, y resolver los problemas de la gente perseguida y desarraigada del mundo’”. (New York Magazine, 25 de mayo)

La indignación sobre las atrocidades de Trump tiene que ser convertida en acciones populares militantes en solidaridad con las/os in/migrantes. Ésta es la única forma de detener a este demagogo racista y su administración.

¡Abrir las fronteras! y #ShutDownIce! (Cerrar ICE) □

¡Pablo vive! ¡Muerte a la economía ‘gig’!

Por Joseph Piette
Filadelfia

23 de mayo - Unos doscientos amigas/os, compañeras/os de trabajo y familiares se reunieron aquí el 19 de mayo para celebrar la vida de Pablo Avendano. A pesar de la persistente lluvia, las/os oradores subieron a una camioneta estacionada cerca del sitio donde lo mataron en la calle 10 y Spring Garden. Hablaron de por qué era tan amado en la comunidad activista progresista de Filadelfia.

Avendano, de 34 años, montaba una bicicleta para el servicio de entrega de alimentos Caviar el 12 de mayo cuando fue atropellado por un automóvil y luego otro automóvil le pasó por encima durante una fuerte tormenta nocturna. Pablo trabajaba a tiempo completo para Sparrow, un servicio de mensajería, pero también estaba trabajando un turno de noche en Caviar para equilibrar sus ingresos hasta llegar a fin de mes.

Mientras que algunos medios y artículos de prensa han convertido esta tragedia en un problema sobre la necesidad de carriles protegidos para bicicletas en la ciudad con más ciclismo en los Estados Unidos, otros han planteado que la economía ‘gig’ fue la causa real de la muerte del inmigrante argentino.



WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Memorial para Pablo Avendano, atropellado en su bicicleta mientras reparte comida.

Avendano era uno de los millones de trabajadoras/es que obtienen un ingreso insuficiente con el empleo precario. Atrapados en un círculo vicioso, se ven obligadas/os a trabajar extra con Uber, alquilando sus casas a través de Airbnb o entregando alimentos y otros productos básicos utilizando sus propios automóviles, bicicletas o casas para poder llegar a fin de mes.

La mayoría de los nuevos trabajos de los que presume

ha creado el presidente Trump son trabajos “gig”, precarios o “compartidos”, que no proporcionan salarios dignos. A pesar de que las compañías podrían emplear a miles de estas/os trabajadores, no tienen derecho a salarios y beneficios semanales ni están cubiertas/os por seguridad laboral ni otras regulaciones. En los libros de contadores y reguladores del gobierno, son tratados como “contratistas independientes” y se ven obligados a aceptar trabajo a destajo, bajos salarios y pocos beneficios en condiciones a menudo peligrosas, mientras que los ejecutivos y propietarios adinerados obtienen grandes ganancias.

Cuando llueve, nieva o es demasiado peligroso estar en las carreteras es cuando muchas personas piden alimentos por entregas. Debido a que menos ciclistas están dispuestas/os a hacer entregas bajo esas circunstancias, Caviar ofrece incentivos salariales. Avendano trabajó en condiciones oscuras y lluviosas ese 12 de mayo, con la esperanza de aprovechar una mayor paga por entrega.

Las/os compañeros de Avendano están exigiendo que Caviar pague todos los gastos del funeral y el viaje de su familia; que se reclasifique a las/os mensajeros como empleados, no como contratistas independientes; que

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