Victory for all workers

By Martha Grevatt

June 6 — After 45 days on the picket line, 39,000 striking Verizon workers went back to work on June 4. Members of the Communications Workers and International Electrical Workers are voting, starting now, on a new four-year contract. Voting will be completed June 17.

“Verizon knows that they got their ass kicked and they know it’s time for us to celebrate,” said CWA President Chris Shelton. “This was the best strike I’ve ever seen in my lifetime.”

A IBEW System Council T-6 report to members stated, “We have emerged from an ideological war with a corporation that believed that this was their opportunity to break the union. The exact opposite happened.” The union bargaining council was chaired by IBEW Local 2222 Business Agent Myles CaHevy, who was called a “rock star” of the Boston labor movement by a Verizon union steward.

This was the longest strike in recent years and the biggest since the previous Verizon strike in 2011. Then the IBEW and CWA combined had 45,000 members at Verizon. With a loss of 6,000 jobs since 2011, jobs and job security were a major issue in this strike. The job protection language that the unions fought for in the past, which Verizon sought to gut, is mostly intact.

A company proposal to make workers transfer out of state, away from their families and communities — just to keep their jobs — was forced off the table. A major concern of the workers was the outsourcing of call center positions. In the end, Verizon agreed to hire an additional 1,300 call center workers as well as create new technician jobs.

Current workers’ base pay will rise almost 11 percent by 2019. Monthly pension payments to retired workers were also increased.

Strike pushed Verizon back

Verizon made other demands for concessions from the workers, but the strike pushed them back. These included a scheme to freeze pensions after 30 years of service. Under the old contract, pension credits continue to accrue for as long as a worker keeps working. The company also wanted to take away the union’s right to bargain on behalf of retirees.

Verizon’s threat to eliminate the cost-of-living allowance was also blocked. The company lost its bid to make Sunday a regular, straight-time work day. Also, management wanted to pay overtime only when the worker put in more than 40 hours during a week — which is the minimum requirement under the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act. That means workers would lose overtime pay.

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Pitched battle in Detroit

SOLIDARITÉ, SOLIDARITY
With French workers, students

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Black Lives Matter political prisoner

THE CHAMP
3 perspectives on Muhammad Ali


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

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is in the workers’ class interest, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning the proletariat into a slave-class while supporting the war machine. They are putting all human life on the market for profits. The super-rich will be safe as they plunge the world into war, just as they always have.

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Defying landlords and bankers
Detroit activists fight to stop evictions
By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

Jeanette Shannon was evicted from her Detroit home on June 3 after a protracted fight with fraudulent real estate interests and local courts that favor predatory lenders and banks.

This was a test case for the Detroit Eviction Defense (DED) coalition and other anti-foreclosure activists in the city. In similar attempted evictions during 2012 in another section of northwest Detroit, police had either withdrawn, saying it was a civil matter, or stayed away, allowing the situation to be resolved by activists through political pressure and negotiations with the courts and banks.

This time the eviction was viewed by 100 people, who turned back the dreaded dumpsters twice in two days. But the struggle to save Shannon’s home revealed further the political character of the administration of corporate-imposed Mayor Mike Duggan.

Duggan’s police officials provided protection for the bailiff and the contract laborers hired to break into the home, trash the property and dispose of Shannon’s household belongings in a dumpster parked in an alleyway next to the house. On June 2, the court bailiff appeared at the Shannon home after 5 p.m., intending to evict the homeowners and her 17-year-old son and remove all door leading into the house was pulled off the hinge.

Several activists who had been keeping vigil in an effort to block the eviction were arrested. The home bailiff then told those outside the home that Shannon had to be out by the next day.

Early the next morning, when the dreaded dumpster was delivered, anti-foreclosure activists keeping watch over the home responded. Then a driver of the vehicle delivering the dumpster attacked, choked and punched activists, resulting in a leading member of DED, Bob Day, having his leg broken in two places.

As is frequently the situation among the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, Martha Grevatt, was unjustly issued a civil infractions for ostensibly refusing to move her automobile from in front of the Shannon home. Her vehicle was not breaking any parking laws; these orders were motivated by enforcement of the landlords.

Others at the scene were threatened with felony arrests. Columns of police cars returned after noon that day and attempted to break down the front door.

Having failed to enter through the front, they walked around to the back and barged the door open. They refused access to the homeowners and could not retrieve her cats. She was later allowed to enter the home to rescue her pets from the back door and her beloved dogs, who went about hauling possessions to the dumpster and boarding up the house.

Mobilization to defend Shannon home
DED, along with other social justice and labor activists, rallied to the defense of the Shannon home that is a symbolizing character of the case. Similar scenarios have proliferated across the city stemming from the real estate industry and the collapse of 2007-08 that left tens of thousands of vacant homes, many of which have been turned over to unscrupulous “developers” and the notorious Detroit Land Bank Authority.

A number of these so-called real estate developers are given preference in purchasing the properties through auctions conducted by Wayne County and the UAW Local 600 second Vice-President A.J. Freer escorts Jeanette Shannon into her besieged home to retrieve belongings. Bailiff seen wearing badge following behind.

The bailiff is standing between the two uniformed officers.

DETROIT — The MSHDA held its monthly board meeting on May 25 in Lansing. The proceedings were streamed to its offices at the state office building at Cadillac Place in the New Center area of Detroit.

A delegation from the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and supporters attended the meeting. During the public comment section they blasted the board for not redirecting these limited resources to pay delinquent property taxes and water bills for residents of Detroit and Wayne County.

Another action is being planned for the Treasury Department, which by turning over hundreds of millions to MSHDA and the DLBA is facilitating the forced removal of people from Detroit. These efforts will continue over the next several months through various forms of protests and agitation, according to Moratorium NOW! Coalition organizers.

Macy’s workers vote to strike
By Anne Pruden
New York

Workers in service jobs continue to rise up as 5,000 union members at New York-area Macy’s department stores voted unanimously to go on strike on June 15 when their contract extension expires. The main issues are health care, pay and work schedules. The workers are represented by Local 1-S of the Department Store Union.

Local 1-S held a spirited rally here on June 2 at the company’s historic Herald Square store. That’s the site of the perennial Christmas fantasy, “Miracle on 34th Street.”

But these workers weren’t asking for a miracle. Instead, the local’s informal band bared out Areta Franklin’s anthem, demanding: “R-E-S-P-E-C-T.”

They handed out fliers explaining: “Macy’s has been making demands that would limit workers’ pay and weaken benefits. It’s time to stand up to corporate greed... They shouldn’t take from the workers who make this company run.”

Workers at the rally revealed that pay starts at $9 an hour, while the bosses are now trying to block new city and state laws raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour. The company offers new workers fewer benefits, such as sick time, and tries to keep most workers part-time.

One worker told this reporter that the company has made working on holidays mandatory.

Supporters at the rally included members of the Laundry Workers Center and Make the Road, as well as members of the Communications Workers and International Electrical Workers unions, recently victorious in their struggle against corporate giant Verizon.

They want decent pay and R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

DETROIT — High-ranking Detroit police stand guard over the eviction of Jeanette Shannon. The bailiff is standing between the two uniformed officers. The County of Wayne is designated to collect not only its portion of taxes on properties but also those delinquent payments assessed by the Finance Division of the city of Detroit. Late fees and charges accumulate at the rate of 18 percent per annum.

These inevitable burdens placed on homeowners are compounded by the fact that actual appraisals of Detroit homes have not been effectively carried out in two decades, since the 1990s, when banks engaged in predatory lending, in part, by overinflating the worth. Residents would then borrow money against these arbitrarily designated values.

Typically the courts in Wayne County side with the real estate firms and the banks. Only public pressure from activists has won residents’ rights to remain in their homes.

Federal funds misdirected to corporate interests
All this is taking place even as the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) on June 1 received $881 million in federal funds, ostensively aimed at foreclosure prevention and blight removal.

A struggle is now being waged by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Evictions, Evictions & Utility Shut-offs to release the federal funds to those who need them. Other organizations are also endorsing the effort, which is targeting not only the Treasurer of Wayne County for not vigorously pursuing the utilization of the federal monies to assist homeowners to remain in these properties, but also the MSHDA and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The Treasury Department issues the funds and is allowing them to be funneled into the Detroit Land Bank Authority, where massive fraud by administrators and functionaries is currently under investigation by the Department of Justice.

So-called “blight removal” efforts are the source of the corruption, as well as the process of emptying the city of its African-American and working class population.

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Verizon strike wins victory for all workers

Continued from page 1

rates when they worked weekends, holidays and after eight hours on a given day, unless it added up to more than 40 hours a week.

(The United Auto Workers lost similar overtime pay during the 2009 GM and Chrysler bankruptcies, and it has yet to be restored.)

For the first time, low-wage wireless retail workers at two stores — in Everett, Mass., and Brooklyn, N.Y. — broke a union contract. This means they are not "employees at will." They have a grievance procedure and a union to defend them from wrongful discharge by this anti-worker company. Before this contract, workers had to jump through hoops to get bonuses for achieving "performance" targets; now these are paid without conditions.

This tremendous breakthrough opens the door for a mass-organizing movement in Verizon's wireless retail sector. A successful union drive in this sector would be a major boost to the struggle for a living wage and a union to defend workers from wrongful discharge by anti-worker companies.

Support from Boston school bus drivers.

A sense of power at the point of production

The militancy was highly effective. The poor service being provided by strikebreakers was driving customers away. Company stock was falling. Beyond that, the potential for a breakdown of telecommunications — now essential to the basic function of the capitalist economy — was a threat the capitalist state recognized.

Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez called Verizon and the CWA and IBEW together and pushed them to reach an agreement. It would be simplistic to analyze this or any strike's impact only by using a base calculation of the gains and losses on either side. Even those who have to be weighted; the gains must be divided into the context and time in which the terms of a contract — really the terms and conditions that mitigate class exploitation — are fought out.

At one time, the word "concessions" was used to define what the boss could do to "concede" to the union to maintain class peace and avoid disruptions to production. But now, since the Reagan administration broke the air traffic controllers' strike in 1981, that word is used to mean what workers have been forced to give up — that is, the class opposite.

Every union in the country made this strike their strike through material aid, picketing with their strike and adopting stores that they picketed on their own. Philippine unions, who know the super-exploitation of call center workers there, as well as the killings, released a statement April 28: "We send our warmest internationalist greetings to the rising working class of France. We hail the upsurge of public and private union sectors, of unemployed, pensioners, students and immigrants, and of everyone under siege by the capitalist exploiters." A majority of members of this local are originally from Haiti.

An ad hoc coalition in the United States is using social media to organize coordinated protests at French consulates on June 14, the date of the next national protest in Paris. Some initiators of this campaign, members of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, were in France on May 1 to celebrate with the CGT the 30th anniversary of the naming of the street, "Rue Mumia," in St. Denis, a suburb of Paris.

When the Free Mumia Coalition memberphone workers matched with the CGT in the May Day protest in Paris, their contingent was attacked by the cops with tear gas and stun grenades.

The U.S. coalition statement states: "We, the undersigned, express our support for the ongoing mobilization of France's workers in a coalition led by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), and call on you, our sister movement, to drive down the standard of living for current and future generations. The multinational French working class is using many forms of strikes, occupations and street protest, all of which illustrate who has the real power in society." The statement concludes: "We call on unions and other workers' organizations, community groups and youth groups to exchange information with the French CGT and student leaders via satellite, radio, and written interviews with reliable translators. We further urge everyone to support the June 14 general strike in France via resolutions, educational meetings, and rallies at the nearest French consulate." (June 6)

In New York City, supporters of the French workers will gather near the French Consulate at 395 5th Ave., on June 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. to show solidarity.
lost their jobs for speaking out against AIDS Education Initiative) and other GALAEI (the Gay and Lesbian Latino Alliance for Queer Rights) members are rounded up! Get your fucking hands up! Drop it!

“AIDS was a new epidemic on the radar in 1987, but it hit the Black and Brown communities particularly hard,” says Victoria Lopez, who worked at FIGHT as an AIDS worker, as a journalist, and as an organizer of the Philadelphia Department of Health, one of the FIGHT funders. BBWC demonstrators delivered a list of demands that included the firing of Shull. The BBWC “Call to Action” enumerates specific instances of racial discrimination and harassment at FIGHT that adversely affect Black and Brown workers, particularly those who identify as transgender. Demands included immediate compensation for on-time labor of Black and Brown workers; an immediate stop to the FIGHT medical history of Black and Brown employees with other medical conditions; and the possibility of bilingual workers for translation services they provide, which are currently not compensated. Other demands include evaluation of FIGHT’s hiring and firing practices to more equally represent communities most impacted by the current HIV/AIDS epidemic; termination of specific staff whose policies were cited as particularly racist and offensive; and funded equal access to ongoing professional development for Black and Brown workers. Black and Brown workers have been targeted and even fired for speaking out against FIGHT’s operations, such as BBWC demonstrators.

Racist mobs murdered Black people with impunity for centuries, while lynching them alive and shooting them. Many attempts at a federal anti-lynching law were defeated, but pressure and publicity led many states, counties and cities to enact some form of anti-lynching law. Even after many of the laws were in place, lynchings occurred with alarming frequency. Yet it all the years since anti-lynching laws have existed, only one white person has been convicted of lynching. The prosecution of Richards was dishonest and should have fallen apart.

The anti-lynching law is supposed to be one of the few laws that made race a determinative factor. Shull was informed that BBWC organizers have put its main office in lockdown status due to threats. The BBWC “Call to Action” demand demanded that the Philadelphia City Council pass a resolution saying the chamber of commerce is a monopoly. A BMI, BLM’s rallies protesting the killing of McAdoo. The cops claim that on Aug. 29, as Richards was walking on a sidewalk, an off-duty police officer, Edward Raja, shot and killed her with his gun, unfired and on his person. At no time during the investigation did Raja identify himself as a cop.

There is no question that Jones ran away from his car. His gun, unfired and on his person, was found near his car where he had thrown it, far away from his body. There is no question that Jones ran away from his car. His gun, unfired and on his person, was found near his car where he had thrown it, far away from his body. A BMI, BLM’s rallies protesting the killing of McAdoo. The cops claim that on Aug. 29, as Richards was walking on a sidewalk, an off-duty police officer, Edward Raja, shot and killed her with his gun, unfired and on his person. At no time during the investigation did Raja identify himself as a cop.

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The People's Champ, beautiful, brilliant and great

By Larry Hales

The champ has passed. "The Greatest" has gone. Muhammad Ali is dead. It was a foregone conclusion that this day would come. After all, everything a person has been ends with one final exhalation. It comes for everyone.

When it was announced that Muhammad Ali, the man who had prophesied yet again, this time with a respiratory illness, it seemed, sadly, that it was only a matter of time. And it was. Surrounded by family, he passed away peacefully on June 3, 2016.

Since his death, Muhammad Ali has been lauded in major bourgeois media, in minor sources, in print and in every form of media around the world. He is remembered by people too young to have seen him box and by revolutionaries and reactionaries alike. Everyone has something to say and about Muhammad Ali.

Who was Muhammad Ali? This can be confusing. People are complex. History, the ideas and beliefs of an individual, like society as a whole, are affected by the real world around them and change due to objective and subjective factors.

A simpler way to say it is that the political tumult of the 1960s era that produced the idea of the Black liberation struggle and the Black Power movement that championed had been violently repressed by the police, the FBI and by the establishment's pick, a powerful fighter supported Ronald Reagan was a different world, and the soul of soulless capitalism.

Years of reaction followed, with the destruction of the industrial heartland due to high technology, and the capitalists’ drive to find higher rates of exploitation in the Third World, coupled with an assault on workers and oppressed people in the United States.

Even then, one cannot say that Muhammad Ali’s unfortunate support for Reagan or other right-wing politicians defined his post-boxing existence. The establishment that embraces today portrays him as just an icon, a person with nebulous politics, who was loved and respected by all, who could shake hands with Fidel Castro or Nelson Mandela and then sit down with Bill Clinton in the White House.

The image of Muhammad Ali today would lament the Ali who we hold close. They wanted to silence him. They wanted to make him we hold close. This part of what made Ali great. That part will never be extinguished.

The greatest fighter of all the time, and the greatest boxer of all the time, is Muhammad Ali. He is the People’s Champ. By Larry Hales

The People’s Champ is part of the champ, just a piece of what made Ali great. That part can’t be separated from the whole, without it he would not have had the world’s stage or drawn such ire from bourgeois politicians and their media mouthpieces.

The people’s Champ, greater and even than his in-ring exploits is what Ali did with his fame and allure. When he joined the Nation of Islam in 1964, it made more of a political statement than it would today, though it remains.

Ali said then: “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my only get used to me.” His statement symbolized the period of revolution against Western imperialism and white supremacy, as well as the Black Liberation struggle.

Ali stood to lose everything he fought for, but that threat did now cow him. He said what the Black masses felt. At a time of American apartheid, when Civil Rights leaders were being jailed, beaten and assassinated, he stood up as a Black national- alist and taunted the dominant national- ility unceasingly. He couldn’t be controlled or ignored.

The Civil Rights Movement was still the preelection wing of the Black political movement. But Ali’s presence was an important component of what would become the People’s Champ, the Black Struggle — the Black Liberation movement.

When Ali was drafted into the Army, he could have stated that he was a conscientious objector solely on religious grounds. He could have refused to take the test and facing the dominant national- ility unceasingly. He couldn’t be controlled or ignored.

The Civil Rights Movement was still the preelection wing of the Black political movement. But Ali’s presence was an important component of what would become the People’s Champ, the Black Struggle — the Black Liberation movement.

Who was Muhammad Ali? In three words, he was beautiful, brilliant and great. He was our Blackness, our expres- sion through and through — and yet, still more. He was a symbol for the oppressed and oppressed people who yearn and struggle for more. He was our “religion” — what Karl Marx called “the sigh of the oppressed world, and the soul of soulless condi- tions.” He was everything that we were and are — outward and defiant for all to see and who were afraid and brave we are and must continue to be.

The dialogue will continue about Ali’s political affiliations. This is something that made him the Greatest must be reclaimed.

It was not only boxing that made Ali great and the champ. His skill as a boxer is not in question, but the greatest thing he did was to question everything a person has been ends with one final exhalation. It comes for everyone.

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Even then, one cannot say that Muham- mad Ali’s unfortunate support for Reagan or other right-wing politicians defined his post-boxing existence. The establishment that embraces today portrays him as just an icon, a person with nebulous politics, who was loved and respected by all, who could shake hands with Fidel Castro or Nelson Mandela and then sit down with Bill Clinton in the White House.

The image of Muhammad Ali today would lament the Ali who we hold close. They wanted to silence him. They wanted to make him we hold close. This part of what made Ali great. That part will never be extinguished.

The greatest fighter of all the time, and the greatest boxer of all the time, is Muhammad Ali. He is the People’s Champ. By Larry Hales

The People’s Champ is part of the champ, just a piece of what made Ali great. That part can’t be separated from the whole, without it he would not have had the world’s stage or drawn such ire from bourgeois politicians and their media mouthpieces.

The people’s Champ, greater and even than his in-ring exploits is what Ali did with his fame and allure. When he joined the Nation of Islam in 1964, it made more of a political statement than it would today, though it remains.

Ali said then: “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my only get used to me.” His statement symbolized the period of revolution against Western imperialism and white supremacy, as well as the Black Liberation struggle.

Ali stood to lose everything he fought for, but that threat did now cow him. He said what the Black masses felt. At a time of American apartheid, when Civil Rights leaders were being jailed, beaten and assassinated, he stood up as a Black national- alist and taunted the dominant national- ility unceasingly. He couldn’t be controlled or ignored.

The Civil Rights Movement was still the preelection wing of the Black political movement. But Ali’s presence was an important component of what would become the People’s Champ, the Black Struggle — the Black Liberation movement.

When Ali was drafted into the Army, he could have stated that he was a conscientious objector solely on religious grounds. He could have refused to take the test and facing the dominant national- ility unceasingly. He couldn’t be controlled or ignored.

The Civil Rights Movement was still the preelection wing of the Black political movement. But Ali’s presence was an important component of what would become the People’s Champ, the Black Struggle — the Black Liberation movement.

Who was Muhammad Ali? In three words, he was beautiful, brilliant and great. He was our Blackness, our expres- sion through and through — and yet, still more. He was a symbol for the oppressed and oppressed people who yearn and struggle for more. He was our “religion” — what Karl Marx called “the sigh of the oppressed world, and the soul of soulless condi- tions.” He was everything that we were and are — outward and defiant for all to see and who were afraid and brave we are and must continue to be.

The dialogue will continue about Ali’s political affiliations. This is something that made him the Greatest must be reclaimed.

It was not only boxing that made Ali great and the champ. His skill as a boxer is not in question, but the greatest thing he did was to question
Muhammad Ali’s legacy: He ‘shook the world’

By Monica Moorhead

Like millions of people around the world, the Moorehead/Lilly 206 election campaign mourns the profound loss of “The Greatest,” Muhammad Ali. The three-time heavyweight boxing champion suffered from Parkinson’s disease for over 30 years before succumbing to septic shock due to respiratory failure. When Ali was named the “greatest sportsman of the 20th century” by Sports Illustrated in 1999, very few could deny it.

When he became champion in 1964 after beating Sonny Liston, a brash 22-year-old, Ali, known then as Cassius Marcellus Clay, stated boldly that he “had shook up the world.” Little did he know how prophetic those words would become.

Ali’s prominence as a great fighter would eventually extend beyond the boxing ring. He evolved into the most popular symbol worldwide for racial pride and against the U.S. genocidal war in Vietnam. What gets lost in all the accolades for Ali since his death — including from those who once despised him — was that Ali did not take his heroic stances in a social vacuum. He was influenced by political and economic conditions, especially the oppression of the Black masses and their massive resistance during that historic era.

Like many idealistic young African-American athletes, Ali had hoped that winning a gold medal at the 1960 Olympic games in Rome would help him strike a blow against racial segregation in his hometown of Louisville, Ky. It did not.

In reaction to being denied the right to protest at an all-white lunch-counter, a justified, enraged Clay stated publicly that he would throw his gold medal in the river. This occurred before the massive upsurge led by students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities against segregated lunch-counters throughout the South.

When Clay embraced Black Nationalism by joining the Muslim faith, joining the Nation of Islam and changing his name in 1964, the demand for Black Liberation at home and abroad — in the form of the Black Panther Movement here and the anti-colonial struggles for national independence on the African continent — were terrifyingly opressed peoples, including Ali.

When Ali refused to be drafted into the U.S. military in 1967 due to his faith, he defiantly stated that “they were the Vietnamese people ever called him the N-word and therefore he had no quarrel with the Vietnamese people. Ali took on this breaking simultaneous with a powerful anti-war movement — a movement that embraced him after the racist U.S. government stripped him of his heavyweight title.

Tower of figure of resistance

For almost four years before the U.S. Supreme Court overruled his draft conviction, Ali was denied the right to defend his title during the prime years of his career. Once his title was stolen from him, Ali was invited to speak at many college campuses to explain his anti-war position. He became the most recognizable Black activist who stood up to the U.S. machine’s genocidal war in Vietnam. Ali was viewed as both a victim of and a resistance against the U.S. government.

To this day, the government has offered no formal apology to Ali and his family for its vindictive ruling.

Resistance to the draft

Ali was drafted into the U.S. military in 1966 and refused to report for induction early in 1967, saying he had no quarrels with the Vietnamese people. The boxing establishment begged Ali to return to the ring, while the courts convicted him of violating the Selective Service Act and sentenced the champion to five years in prison. He remained free on bond, while appealing the sentence and speaking out across the country.

Ali’s stance was shared by thousands of African Americans, whites and others who objected to serving in a war of genocide against the Vietnamese people. The NOI and organizations in the struggle, such as SNCC and the Black Panther Party, opposed the war and pledged their solidarity with the National Liberation Front of Vietnam.

Ali won back his title to participate in professional boxing in 1970 when a ruling allowed him to fight again for the first time in over three years. By March 1971, he lost his title to Joe Frazier at New York’s Madison Square Garden.

Ali’s rebellion against white supremacism and the status quo endeared him to millions of people worldwide, including today’s younger generation. Black Lives Matter activists are seeking to know more about what Ali stood for. How many seasoned activists even know that decades ago Ali supported the right of the Palestinian people and visited refugee camps in southern Lebanon?

The lasting legacy of Muhammad Ali should be examined and understood: how he played a historic role in a particular epoch of the class struggle and how that struggle impacted him as an individual. One cannot be separated from the other. This is important, as bourgeois historians refuse to bring down to show the supremacy and U.S. imperialism on his own rebellious, powerful terms. Workers World Party joins millions of people around the world in declaring that Ali will always hold a special place, inspiring millions to shape the world collectively for a social revolution.

Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

Muhammad Ali was born May 17, 1942, in Louisville, Ky. He was a fighter against war and racism.
By Joe Piette
Camden, N.J.

Brothers Eljvir, Dritan and Shain Duka were convicted eight years ago of participating in a plot they had literally never heard of, in an atmosphere of Islamophobia fueled by ambitious politicians attempting in a plot they had literally never heard of, in an atmosphere of Islamophobia fueled by ambitious politicians attempting to attack Fort Dix, a U.S. military base in New Jersey.

On May 31, U.S. District Judge Robert Kugler, the same judge who sentenced the brothers originally, denied their appeal for relief post-conviction because the government-manufactured “conspiracy” against them was based on attorneys’ impropriety: “Judge for the Ft. Dix 5. Islamophobia convicted the Duka brothers. Freedom now.”

The Free the Fort Dix 5 Support Committee organized the press conference in less than 24 hours. Muhammed Malik of the FPDeC told the dozen participants: “Continue to come out and oppose Islamophobia, which is attempting to entrap people, which is attempting to reduce Muslims to animals. We want to make sure we continue to stand up and fight back.”

Justice denied once again

The brothers’ appeal hearing, held in January, was limited to a narrow point of law: whether the men’s not testifying purposely or unattenuatedly affected the outcome of the case. District Judge Kugler’s denial of their appeal came down to his belief in the credibility of the original, lawyers rather than the word of the men he put in jail for life. Those lawyers said they offered to let the men testify. The men said they were denied the opportunity to speak to the jury in any capacity.

A statement by The National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms emphasized: “This decision further illustrates the injustice that Muslims have faced at the hand of the courts and makes it impossible to envision a legal system where Muslims have a legitimate chance at gaining justice. The NCPCF ardently believes in the innocence of these men and will continue to campaign on their behalf until they are exonerated.”

Attorney Boyle, in a statement declaring Shain Duka’s intention to appeal again, said, “Those of us who are not Muslim must join with our Muslim brothers and sisters and others of good will to secure justice for the Dukas and other victims of government misconduc- t.”

Cuomo tries to quash BDS movement

By Joe Catron
New York

Before marching in the annual “Celebrate Israel” parade in Manhattan on June 5, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order requiring public agencies controlled by his executive branch to divest from companies and institutions that “participate in boycott, divestment, or sanctions activity targeting Israel.”

The order, announced to a beaming crowd of Zionist leaders and business executives at the elite Harvard Club, also requires the commissioner of the Office of General Services to compile and maintain a list of targeted entities.

“Cuomo’s action has the ugliest attributes of McCarthyism: identifying organizations that engage in speech we disapprove of and ‘blacklist them,’” Jaber Azmy, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, told the Associated Press. “This is a well-orchestrated, well-funded, organized strategy to disproportionate punishment U.S.-based activists. Really ugly.” (AP, June 5)

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, launched by Palestinian organizations in 2005, continues to expand in its tenth year, driving corporate giants like Veolia, Orange, CHF Interna- tional and G4S from the Israeli market; pushing Israeli enterprises, including SodaStream and Ahava, out of the occupied West Bank; and winning campaign victories.

The BDS movement demands that Israel end its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle the “Apartheid Wall” in the West Bank, extend full equality to its own minority of Palestinian citizens and allow the return of Palestinian refugees ethnically cleansed from their homes.

Annoncing his broadside, Cuomo peppered his speech with predictive bluster: “If you boycott against Israel, New York will boycott you. If you divest revenues from Israel, New York will divest revenues from you. If you sanction Israel, New York will sanction you.”

But it is not immediately clear who his order, which mentions only public in- stitutions in settings that support BDS, might actually affect. None of the com- panies that have changed their policies following massive campaigns have ac- knowledged the role of BDS, much less endorsed it.

Gital Erdan, Israeli public security minister, railed that “BDS was a factor in the decision of security company G4S to sell their operations in Israel.” However, the British-Danish security conglomerate, a contractor with Israeli prisons and occupation forces, de- murred, preferring to cite “strategic and commercial grounds” for its decision.

The company’s claim has an element of truth. BDS has always sought to impact the lives of women and their families. Zika to use “both old and new approaches to mosquito control as the most immedi- ate line of defense.” (theguardian, Feb. 16)

Zika is a women’s issue

This month a New York woman gave birth to the third baby in the U.S. with Zika-related microcephaly. She acquired Zika while visiting Honduras.

Over 13,000 pregnant women in the U.S. have reported Zika-like symptoms, and another 129-plus are in U.S. colonies, mainly Puerto Rico. (CDC, Muy) Women are increasingly seeking more information about Zika, a looming crisis that can affect the lives of women and their families.

A new report shows women of reproductive age (from 15 to 44) are 99 per- cent more likely than men to be infected with Zika through sexual transmission. This means more babies may be born with virus-caused microcephaly due to sexual transmission than was previously thought, making the need for access to contraception even more important as Zika spreads. (Cold Spring Harbor Labora- tory, May 26)

Zika reaches a fetus by crossing cells into the placenta. The virus kills develop- ing nerve cells in fetal brain tissue. (Lan-
By Cheryl LaBash

A campaign against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela by Secretary General Luis Almagro of the Organization of American States was pushed back on June 1, 2016 by the OAS Permanent Council, which declared its “respect for the nonintervention principle in the domestic affairs of the States; and that every State has the right to choose, without external interference, its political, economic, and social system and to organize itself in the best way suited to it; and “support for the Unitary State, the non-interventionist principles and the constitutional procedures.”

This last point supports the initiative for dialogue facilitated by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), although it does not mention the organization by name. More importantly, it recognizes the legitimacy of the Bolivarian Constitution, a target of the anti-Chavista right wing.

The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations in a June 2 statement supported Venezuela’s “dictator” but victorious diplomatic battle against the interventionist governments preparing for public health emergencies. (NPR, May 24)

Secretary General of the Organization of American States has formally rescinded the suspension of revolutionary Cuba. Yet Venezuela was finally invited to attend the OAS-sponsored April 2015 summit of the Americas in Panama only after the countries of Latin America refused to have a summit without Cuba.

In 2011, 23 of the 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere united in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, omitting imperialist U.S. and Canada.

This development followed the defeat of the U.S.-inspired Free Trade Area of the Americas and the birth of the Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — People’s Trade Treaty, as well as other continental self-governing bodies like UNASUR and PetroCaribe.


crisis of the poor

Due to poverty, Southerners have a higher incidence of chronic illnesses and other poor health outcomes. More people live without health coverage or Medicare. The gender-wage gap is higher in the South, with the biggest discrepancy in Louisiana, where women make 65.9 cents for every $1 man makes. (U.S. News, September 2014)

Extreme poverty makes it unrealistic for people to follow recommendations for prevention of Zika: use of insect repellent, protective clothing, air conditioning, drainage pipes, clean up standing water, get regular medical check-ups. “Another thing Southern states have in common is Republican political leaders that have spent the past decade shrinking the social safety net.” (Highland Business, July 2014)

The poorest counties will continue to have the worst mosquito control programs, because there is no central planning between the U.S. and Cuba. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut $44 million in April from its mosquito control funding to states and governments prepare for public health emergencies. (NPR, May 10)

Money for vaccines and Zika research

There are five possible vaccines that may be ready to test by September. However, “A top health researcher said he is worried a lack of funding may dramatize the search for a cure.” (Science, May 19)

The signers said they were “deeply concerned by your strong support for the MUD’s efforts to pressure the OAS into invoking the Inter-American Democratic Charter in order to sanction the government.” (workers.org June 16, 2016)

The signers said they were “deeply concerned by your intervention in Venezuela on behalf of the opposition United Democratic Roundtable (MUD) and its allies in Washington as well as your relentless attacks on the administration of President Nicolás Maduro.”

“Far from helping Venezuela move toward a peaceful and cooperative resolution of its political crisis, your actions over the past year have served to exacerbate the conflict. We urge you to avoid further partisan play and to move toward a constructive and impartial role in promoting peace and dialogue. For an example of such an approach one only needs to look to the Inter-American Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), which has the backing of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

We are particularly concerned about your strong support for the MUD’s efforts to pressure the OAS into invoking the Inter-American Democratic Charter in order to sanction the government.” (workers.org June 16, 2016)
Queer solidarity kicks cops out of Pride

By Matty Stardust
Philadelphia

Members of Philadelphia’s multi-racial LGBTQ community came together to oppose the nomination of CeCe McDonald as police Gay Officers Action League as grand marshals of the 2016 Philly Pride Parade. McDonald, formerly known as “Gay Pride,” is a yearly celebration of the June 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, where queer and trans people fought back against state-sanctioned police violence in New York City’s Greenwich Village. Armed with rocks and bottles, the multinational grouping of LGBTQ people at The Stonewall Inn held the cops under siege for four days. The rebellion is widely considered a turning point in the struggle for queer and trans liberation.

The nomination of cops to lead this year’s parade in Philadelphia not only represents a gross revision of Pride’s evolutionary history. It’s also a racist attack on the members of the community who continue to be plagued by police abuse, most significantly transgender people of color.

Organizers published an open letter signed by dozens of community members and groups opposing the choice, explaining: “The midst of the BlackLivesMatter movement, which affirms the value of Black life and fights anti-Black racism and police violence, choosing GOAL as the grand marshals for 2016 is a move that is at best privileged and isolated, and at worst directly undermines this critical work.” (Trentonannt.com, May 23)

A petition opposing the selection picked up more than 350 signatures in less than a week.

Despite this outpouring of grassroots opposition to the disgusting pro-cop spectacle, Philly Pride staff remained unresponsive, except to call an emergency meeting where they shamelessly defended their corrupt actions. A group of anti-racist LGBTQ individuals, including survivors of police terror, attended the meeting. They promised civil disobedience, in the true spirit of Stonewall, if the cops were allowed to lead the parade.

Finally, amid growing public pressure and mobilizations for militant anti-cop demonstrations, the cops themselves caved under the pressure. In a May 26 press release posted to GOAL’s Facebook page, the group announced that “after calls from concerned members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) communities, the great Philadelphia chapter of the Gay Officers Action League (GOAL) respectfully declined the honor of appearing as Grand Marshals in the Philadelphia Pride Parade.” (Facebook.com/phillygoal)

Organizers will continue to meet to plan how to further defend the anti-racist, revolutionary history and future of the queer liberation movement.

Buffalo Anti-racist solidarity in Pride parade

On June 5, a youth contingent of Workers World Party and the International Action Center marched in the Buffalo Pride parade in anti-racist solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and against transphobic violence. This militant contingent was unique given many corporate entries in the parade and drew a tremendous response from the crowd. Everywhere people raised fists and loudly cheered on the contingent, whose demands included an end to racist police brutality and anti-trans violence.

— Report and photo by Garrett Dicembre

Free Jasmine Richards!

Jasmine Richards, a courageous woman, a skilled and determined young organizer, is the first African American to ever be convicted of so-called “felony lynching.” Black Lives Matter organizers are calling on supporters to pack the courtroom and are pushing for an outcome that will mean no more jail time.

We are now working to save Jasmine from prison and to free her from the chains of the state. We are calling on all our friends to join us in this battle to free Jasmine and help her become a restorative justice organizer who can turn her experience into a powerful tool for change.

Jasmine Richards is a member of the Black Lives Matter Action League, an organization that organizes for racial justice and to create a world free of violence and freedoms.

If you want to fight for a better way of life based on economic planning, equitable distribution of wealth and justice for all

If you’re lucky enough to still have a job

If reading WW has convinced you that the racist establishment — from killer cops to the court system — has got to go

If you find the biggest anti-trans law passed in North Carolina an outrageous attack on the rights of all queer communities

If you hate the class system that keeps mostly white and people of color in low-wage jobs

If you’re sick and tired of bankers and bosses making workers pay for the crisis they didn’t create

If you worry that the capitalist crisis isn’t going away anytime soon

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The WW Supporter Program was founded in 1977 so our subscribers and friends could help build the newspaper. We’ve determined to keep issuing a print edition to send to prisoners, hand out at demonstrations, plant gardens and street corners across the country every week. We’re looking for real answers to today’s most pressing national and international issues. The paper is produced entirely with volunteer labor and is distributed to contributing writers, managing editors and production staff, but the cost of printing and mailing WW 51 weeks a year is a huge expense.

To help support this important work, write to the WW Supporter Program at 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. And thanks for helping to grow the revolutionary media in the U.S. for workers.org
LESSONS OF 1976 SOWETO REBELLION

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

On June 16, 1976, students in the Southwest Townships (Soweto) outside of Johannesburg, South Africa, stayed home from school in protest against the racist educational system enacted by the apartheid regime in the early 1950s. The Bantu Education Act of 1953, drafted by I.F. Verwoerd, who became prime minister in the 1960s, was also protested by the African population. These 1950s demonstrations were eventually crushed by the colonial settler regime's security forces.

Nevertheless, the struggle that began in June played a major role in the overall battle that eliminated the apartheid system from South Africa. Both the ANC and its breakaway Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania experienced a boost in membership and affiliation. By 1980, the armed struggle escalated: Fuel production refineries were bombed by the ANC on June 1. The attacks on refineries coincided with the apartheid Republic Day.

A new generation of resistance took hold, leading to the mass upsurge of the 1980s involving the formation of unions, civic organizations, a cultural revival and more consistent armed struggle, which led to the racist system's demise by 1994. The apartheid regime attempted to ruthlessly suppress the national liberation struggle through mass incarceration, targeted assassinations and massacres of protesters and strikers. It also conducted cross-border raids into neighboring Frontline States accused of harboring guerrillas from Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the ANC's military wing. ANC offices and training camps in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Botswana were raided and bombed by the South African Defense Forces.

More than 1 million died in the struggle to free South Africa and Namibia, including during efforts to drive out the SAADF from southern Angola in the 1970s and 1980s.

Socialist Cuba provided hundreds of thousands of volunteers in the fight to defeat the SAADF in Angola. The South West Africa People's Organization in Namibia also waged a heroic campaign from 1960 to 1989, which led to that country's independence in 1990.

Lessons of the liberation movement

Today, 22 years since the ANC's ascendancy to power in South Africa, the struggle is by no means over. Advances have been made in acquiring power, construction of homes, provision of water to township and rural residents, and the expansion of educational opportunities and medical care. However, South Africa's national wealth has not been transferred to the African majority.

Legitimate grievances remain, which are reflected in the ongoing unrest among the African working class and urban residents. Yet the U.S. government — which reaped tremendous benefits from corporate investments in the apartheid system — is still seeking to undermine the ANC government.

The ANC is facing formidable challenges in local governmental elections in August. The rand, the national currency, has declined in value. That and rising unemployment rates fueled by capital flight by mining firms and financial institutions have worsened the country's economic crisis.

What lessons can youth in the U.S. and other Western countries learn today from these struggles? Like the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, South Africa's revolution was based on national and class oppression.

In the U.S., African Americans and Latinos/as face high rates of joblessness, poverty, police repression and mass incarceration. Linking the plight of the youth to that of the working class was fundamental to Southern Africa's liberation movement as a whole.

The U.S. 2016 presidential campaign, focused entirely on the two major capitalist parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, is not seriously discussing issues related to oppressed peoples' social conditions. This reality suggests the need for independent self-organization within a framework such as the ANC, along with its allies in the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Lessons from the Soweto uprising and the struggle that followed — which included the working class and peasantry — should be considered as a way forward to realize self-determination and social emancipation in the U.S. The capitalist relations of production in South Africa and the U.S. must be overturned to obtain genuine liberation and social justice.
Trabajadores agrícolas de Nueva York luchan por derecho a organizarse

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

Trabajadores agrícolas luchan valientemente y tenazmente por el derecho a organizar y juzgarse a sí mismos en Nueva York. Actualmente, no hay una protección jurídica en el estado para impedir que los patronos despidan a las/os trabajadoras/os por intentar organizar colectiva. A pesar de que la Constitución estatal de 1938 concedía tal derecho a todas/os los trabajadores sin excepción, a los trabajadores agrícolas de Nueva York jamás se les ha otorgado totalmente el derecho a organizar debido a la exclusión del SERA. (nyclu.org, 10 de mayo)

A través de la demanda, Hernández y los otros trabajadores exigieron que el derecho a organizarse se aplique a los trabajadores agrícolas.

El 11 de mayo, en una conferencia de prensa en Albany Hernández dijo: “Sin trabajadores del campo, no habría leche, no habría frutas o verduras, pero nosotros trabajamos, esclavos, por que a las vacas. Queremos poder mejorar las condiciones de trabajo sin miedo o intimidación. Queremos que nuestras voces sean importantes, y que todos los seres humanos merecen ser tratados con dignidad y respeto.”

La demanda se basa en la flagrante supresión del derecho del demandante principal Crispín Hernández a reunirse libremente con otros trabajadores y con el Centro de Trabajadores para hablar sobre preocupaciones por las condiciones en el trabajo.

Cuomo cede ante trabajadores

El 11 de mayo, el gobernador Andrew Cuomo anunció que el estado no se opondría a la demanda. Este promete una herramienta poderosa para oponerse a la aceleración del trabajo y la exigencia de más trabajo con salarios de hambre como es la línea de producción agrícola, especialmente en el área de productos lácteos. En los EUA, la tecnología y la especialización han incrementado en nueve los rebaños de las granjas lecheras en los últimos veinte años. En el Noreste, granjas con lo menos 700 vacas generaron casi el 50 por ciento de la leche producida en 2014. (D.P. Blayney, “Changing Landscape of Milk Production,” 2002)

Las/os trabajadores agrícolas típicamente enfrentan amenaza e intimidación si exigen mejores condiciones de trabajo a sus patronos. En el estado de Nueva York, muchas/os trabajadores son mecanizados y centroamericanos y se enfrentan a las propietarias de las granjas, enfrentan una posible deportación o la perdienda de una vista de trabajo continuo.

La extensión del derecho a organizar para las/os trabajadores del campo de Nueva York rompería el tramo de 80 hasta 90 horas por semana, operando maquinarias peligrosas bajo condiciones extenuantes. (nyclu.org, 10 de mayo)

Las/os trabajadores agrícolas por su propiedad. Ella citó la decisión del Tribunal de Nueva York que decidió que las/os trabajadoras agrícolas pueden ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

La extensión del derecho a organizar para las/os trabajadoras del campo de Nueva York, tiene 10.000 animales y 60 trabajadores. Hay 60.000 trabajadores en las lecherías del estado, las cuales alcanzaron los $6.54 millón en ventas en el último año.

En el 2015, Hernández y otros trabajadores estaban conversaciones con trabajadores en el trabajo y para organizar clases de inglés. Una noche, después de las horas de trabajo, mientras se reunían en un apartamien- to pequeño que un trabajador alquilaba al dueño de la granja, el hijo del dueño llegó y ordenó a Fuentes que se fuera de “su propiedad.” Ella citó la decisión del Tribunal de Nueva York que decidió que las/os trabajadoras agrícolas pueden tener invitados en sus habitaciones y re-husó ize a menos que los trabajadores se lo pidieran.

Los trabajadores insistieron, diciendo que ella era su invitada. Ahí fue cuando el dueño notificó a la policía del com- cuado como a la del estado, quienes interro- garon a Fuentes, a Hernández, y a otros trabajadores. A ser amenazada con acu- saciones por parte de otras/os trabajadores. Hernández y Pinto fueron despedidos.

Fuentes dijo a WW-MO que si la con- cesión de Cuomo se confirma con una de- cisión positiva, la protección legal se ga- rantizará para todas/os los trabajadores agrícolas de Nueva York por hacer lo que hicieron Hernández y los otros cuando fueron despedidos. La acción llamada “actividad concertada,” incluye acciones de las/os trabajadores agrícolas como la formación de comités para hablar sobre problemas en el trabajo o para representar a compañeros de trabajo ante el pa- trono para exigir mejores condiciones de trabajo.

Actividad concertada puede incluir el pedido de un día libre cada semana, que el patrono repare maquinaria defectuo- sa, o que provea equipos de protección. Generalmente, los conflictos hacen que los empleados de vaquerías compren sus propios guantes largos para protegerse de la humareda, los infecciones, y de las heridas. La demanda de Fuentes añadió que la “actividad concertada” es la tácti- ca usada eficazmente por las/os traba- jadoras agrícolas. Fuentes afirmaba que “Hammer and Hoe,” 1990).

Carly Fox, abogada del Centro de Ju- sticia para Trabajadores de Rochester, dijo que su organización ha estado luchando durante casi quince años por la aproba- ción del Acta de Normas Justas para Tra- bajadores Agrícolas, la que garantizaría los derechos adicionales.

El 15 de mayo, comenzó en Long Is- land una marcha de 200 millas en apoyo al proyecto de ley y se manifestarán el 1 de junio en Albany exigiendo un “sí” para el Acta.

En un email a WW-MO, Carly Fox de WJC dijo que “Las/os trabajadores agrícolas nos alimentan, es ya es hora que Nueva York los trate con dignidad y respeto.”

Mientras tanto, los trabajadores agrícolas y los centros de trabajadores seguirán reuniéndose en granjas lejanas en Nueva York para educar, organizar y reunir. Hay una canción que fue famosa en la década de los 70s, durante la huelga de Trabajadores Agrícolas y de la lucha por el reconocimiento sindical en Califórnia. Todavía está siendo cantada frente a Marks Farm en Lowville Nueva York.

El picket sign, el picket sign

Conmigo toda la vida

En un email a WW-MO, Carly Fox de WJC dijo que “Las/os trabajadores agrícolas nos alimentan, es ya es hora que Nueva York los trate con dignidad y respeto.”

Mientras tanto, los trabajadores agrícolas y los centros de trabajadores seguirán reuniéndose en granjas lejanas en Nueva York para educar, organizar y reunir. Hay una canción que fue famosa en la década de los 70s, durante la huelga de Trabajadores Agrícolas y de la lucha por el reconocimiento sindical en Califórnia. Todavía está siendo cantada frente a Marks Farm en Lowville Nueva York.

El picket sign, el picket sign

I carry it all day with me

El picket sign, el picket sign

With me throughout my life.

La extensión del derecho a organizar se aplique a los trabajadores agrícolas afroamericanos de la clase dominante blanca del segretado Sur estadouni- dense, decididos a excluir a los traba- jadores agrícolas afroamericanos de la posibilidad de sindicalizarse. Campañas organizativas efectivas por parte de traba- jadores agrícolas y aparecieron, como el Sindicato de Trabajadores Campesinos del Sur, se extendió por la región durante la década de 1930, a menudo bajo el lider- ezgo socialista y comunista. (R. Kelley, “Hammer and Hoe,” 1990).

La extensión se aprobó por el tránsito del Estado de Nueva York, exi- diendo el derecho a organizar “a trabajadoras/es que viven en áreas rurales apartadas. (New York (NYCLU) representa a Hernández, histórica para los trabajadores agrícolas. Hernández, junto con dos centros de tra- bajadores, defendió a su numerosa fa- milia extendida de aproximadamente doce personas. Hernández y del trabajador agrícola José García, expuestos por NYS- CU, cuentan de días trabajando doce horas con sueldo bajo y sin pago de horas extras; lesiones en el trabajo sin atención médica y falta de equipo de protección para preve- nir lesiones; aislamiento rural extremo y falta de transporte para ir a obtener recur- sos; racismo, intimidación verbal, y aislamiento por superiores y dueños.

Los trabajadores agrícolas en Nueva York tienen una tasa de mortalidad veinte veces más alta que la del trabajador pro- medio en el estado. Algunos trabajan de 90 hasta 90 horas por semana, operando maquinarias peligrosas bajo condiciones extenuantes. (nyclu.org, 10 de mayo)

Para las/os trabajadoras mujeres, una victoria ofrecería una manera de luchar en contra de la violación y el acoso sexual. Las/os trabajadoras agrícolas mujeres enfrentan una tasa altísima de estos defi- tos, de acuerdo a un estudio del Centro de Investigación Periodística del 2013. Las mujeres son particularmente vulnerables debido a su estado de documentación, aislamiento rual o social, o por ser el sostén primario para sus hijas/os.

Esta victoria también dará una per- misión a las/os trabajadoras agrícolas para oponerse a la aceleración del traba- jo y la exigencia de más trabajo con salarios de hambre como es la línea de producción agrícola, especialmente en el área de productos lácteos. En los EUA, la tecnología y la especialización han incrementado en nueve las/os trabajadoras agrícolas en los últimos veinte años. En el Noreste, granjas con por lo menos 700 vacas generaron casi el 50 por ciento de la leche producida en 2014. (D.P. Blayney, “Changing Landscape of Milk Production,” 2002)

Las/os trabajadores agrícolas típicamente enfrentan amenaza e intimidación si exigen mejores condiciones de trabajo a sus patronos. En el estado de Nueva York, muchas/os trabajadores son mecanizados y centroamericanos y se enfrentan a las propietarias de las granjas, enfrentan una posible deportación o la perdienda de una vida de trabajo continuo.

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La extensión del derecho a organizar para las/os trabajadores del campo de Nueva York rompería el tramo de 80 hasta 90 horas por semana, operando maquinarias peligrosas bajo condiciones extenuantes. (nyclu.org, 10 de mayo)