Puerto Rican deaths exposed
Anger spurs resistance

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The plaza in front of the Capitol in San Juan, Puerto Rico, has given the most truthful account so far of how many deaths occurred as a result of last fall’s Hurricane Maria. Relatives and friends of the dead have placed their loved ones’ shoes there as evidence of their demise. Over three days, close to 3,000 shoes, marked with their owners’ names and moving stories, claimed their place in history.

This time they will be counted. No longer can the deaths of so many be ignored by both the Puerto Rican and U.S. authorities, who still insist on a mere 64 killed by the storm.

A revealing Harvard study titled “Mortality in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria,” published on May 29 in the New England Journal of Medicine, has shredded the official figure. Based on more than 3,000 surveys of households throughout the archipelago, it concluded that between Sept. 20 and Dec. 31 of last year, at least 4,645 people died, either directly because of the hurricane or indirectly because of delayed or interrupted health care. That number could easily double, since people continue to die from lack of electricity to run life-support machines, as well as from suicides, lack of appropriate health care services and other storm-related causes.

Immediately after publication of the Harvard report, Puerto Rican activists formed Project 4645. Through social media, it called on people to bring to the Capitol shoes of those they knew had died as a result of Maria, in order to validate the study’s numbers. It was a strong rebuttal to the Ricky Roselló government’s refusal to...

Continued on page 3

Razan al-Najjar, Palestinian nurse

Google workers & the Pentagon

Trump’s trade war

NFL bans anti-racism protests

Marxist view of working class

Editorial  Korea and imperialist liberalism

Rallies in U.S. defend Bolivarian Venezuela

ITALY  GREECE  FRANCE

---

Puerto Rican deaths exposed
Solidarity for LGBTQ Pride Month

“IT’s only a cake.” Some people say that about the June 4 U.S. Supreme Court decision ruling in favor of a Christian baker who refused to make a wedding cake for two gay men.

But it was no accident that the decision, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, was delivered on the first Monday in June, LGBTQ Pride Month. Delivered like a fist in the face of LGBTQ people everywhere.

Some commentators are trying to minimize the blow by noting the ruling was “narrow,” based on a minor “procedural” point. Others point to how justices also solemnly affirmed the “need to protect” LGBTQ rights. For instance, Justice Anthony Kennedy said “that these disputes must be resolved with tolerance, without undue disrespect to sincere religious beliefs, and without subjecting gay persons to indignities.”

Those dangerous, sanctimonious words hide the murderous violence that’s historically been done to LGBTQ people under patriarchal class society.

The words whitewash the raw, brutal history of “sincere religious belief,” i.e., Christian belief, used in the U.S. alone to justify unremitting massacres of indigenous peoples, kidnapping of their children, theft and desecration of their lands. This Christian “sincere belief” justified the kidnapping, enslavement, torture and theft of the labor of millions of African peoples and the murderous colonization of more billions in their homelands around the globe.

Within living memory, the “sincere religious belief” of Christianity made rape within marriage legal — “the duty of the wife to submit.” To this day, this “belief” is used to create barbed-wire laws to keep women from making decisions about their own bodies and reproductive lives.

In 1987 an infamous SCOTUS decision re-asserted that lesbian and gay people were felons because their sexual lives were a crime — against Judeo-Christian tradition. The Supreme Court upheld “sodomy laws” that justified LGBTQ people being evicted from their homes, fired from their jobs, denied medical assistance and public accommodations, having their children taken away and being forbidden to ever see them again — and more.

Historically, the use of reactionary Christianity has always been to uphold the ruling class — and 21st century U.S. is no exception.

The presence of extreme right-wing Christian forces in the Trump administration is no secret. Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and other administration figures are linked to Christian nationalism and aligned with the billionaire Koch brothers, the Bradley Foundation and other capitalists. Their agenda is to reconfigure the U.S. as a “Christian nation,” one...
Border Patrol murder denounced in the streets

Claudia Patricia Gómez González was en route from Guatemala to rejoin her life partner in Alexandria, Virginia. She was killed by Border Patrol and Border Patrol agents shot her on May 23. The Alexandria community responded on May 30, one week after her killing, with a protest at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of Customs and Border Patrol and a community vigil that evening. According to the Alexandria Post, the community and immigrant rights activists demanded justice and a transparent investiga-
tion into her death, as well as ending the separation of migrant children from their families. At the evening vigil, organizers announced that the crowd had swelled to 200 in the parking lot behind Ten-
ants and Workers United. The vigil honored the young woman, who would have been part of their community. They said she was “shot dead by a brutal inhuman, un-
just system.” Donations for her burial expenses were ac-
cepted. — Cheryl LaBash
Migrant organizers, activists, activ-
ists and allies gathered in Ja-
maica Plain, Mass., on June 2 to mourn the death of Clau-
dia Patricia Gómez González. The vigil was called by the migrant rights organization Cosecha and attended by a
delegation from Workers World Party-Boston. Between chants and songs, attendees shared stories of how they
and their families migrated to the U.S. Speakers high-
lighted the continued lack of economic opportunity, espe-
cially for Indigenous women in Central America, and the role of U.S. foreign policy in creating this situation. — Workers World Boston bureau

Mundo obrero

Workers World is a revolutionary Marxist-
Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigen-
dered organization that not only aims to abolish capital-
ism, 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 un-
just 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.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

In Seattle 300 people demonstrated June 1 at the U.S. Courthouse to denounce the Trump/Sessions’ racist sep-

deration of migrant families. The local protest, a Day of Action for Children, was part of a national day of such actions held all over the country.

The family separation policy, announced by Attorney General Jeff Sessions on May 7, is an attack against peo-
ples and families seeking asylum and protection at the U.S./Mexico border. Rally speakers said that 658 children had been ripped from their families by U.S. border forces during the first 13 days of this policy. As a result of Trump’s ter-
roristic policies, families have lost track of their chil-
dren, and do not know how to find them.

Organizers at the rally announced that more actions and marches would be held around the country in the days and weeks ahead.

Participants groups included Moms Rising, Refugee Women’s Alliance, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Seattle rally for migrant children and families

Mundo obrero

Workers World is a revolutionary Marxist-
Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigen-
dered organization that not only aims to abolish capital-
ism, 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 un-
just 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.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

In Seattle 300 people demonstrated June 1 at the U.S. Courthouse to denounce the Trump/Sessions’ racist sep-

deration of migrant families. The local protest, a Day of Action for Children, was part of a national day of such actions held all over the country.

The family separation policy, announced by Attorney General Jeff Sessions on May 7, is an attack against peo-
ples and families seeking asylum and protection at the U.S./Mexico border. Rally speakers said that 658 children had been ripped from their families by U.S. border forces during the first 13 days of this policy. As a result of Trump’s ter-
roristic policies, families have lost track of their chil-
dren, and do not know how to find them.

Organizers at the rally announced that more actions and marches would be held around the country in the days and weeks ahead.

Participants groups included Moms Rising, Refugee Women’s Alliance, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and the American Civil Liberties Union.


Join us in the fight for socialism!

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. WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should re-
main in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital-
ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially
owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guar-
antee 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 WWF branch near you.

workers.org/wwp

In the U.S.

Border Patrol murder denounced in the streets

Seattle rally for migrant children and families

Police pressure makes Goodwin of U. Iowa

June is Pride month

Baltimore Pride Parade

Around the world

Anger spurs resistance in Puerto Rico

• 1 Italian: Racism government unstable
• 8 Greece: General strike against austerity, demands benefits...
• 8 Rightist Bannon urges Italian ‘sovereignty’ from EU
• 8 Protests greet Washington’s attack on Venezuela
• 9 Nurses: ‘Speak out for Razan al-Najjar’
• 10 Israelis: ‘Sniper murders medic in Gaza’
• 10 France: ‘Act your age and shut up!’
• 11 British: Imperialism laid ground for Israeli apartheid

Editorial

Imperialist liberalism and Korea

Solidarity for LGBTI Pride Month

Noticias en Español

Indignación boricua, camino a la resistencia

Worlds Work

147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
Fax: 212.627.0185
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 66, No. 23 July 6, 2018
Closing date: June 5, 2018
Editors: Deirdre Grissol
Managing Editors: John Catalino, LeLani Dowell, Kris Baldaras Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Web Editor Gary Wilson
Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash
Copiediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin, Jeff Sorel
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, John Catalino, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Greve, Tatiana Gutierrez, Berta Juarez-Critelli, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfiefer, Betsy Piette, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Critelli; Andrea Baithofer, Alberto Garcia, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas
Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis
Copyright © 2018 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.
Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly without royalty provided this notice is preserved.
Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly without royalty provided this notice is preserved.
Transgender activist wins asylum

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Estrella Sánchez, a Mexican transgender woman, emerged on May 22 from immigration court in the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga., with her asylum papers in one hand and her other hand raised in a fist. Despite a long, hard-fought battle that took 6 years, multiple denials of her asylum petition, months in detention, physical attacks and psychological trauma, Sánchez had prevailed.

The victories of her story are brutally painful to recount, but not so unusual for those fleeing violence in their home countries, and her fight against anti-LGBTQ gender, drug cartels or political repression.

In her asylum petition, Sánchez recounted 7 years of sexual abuse and rape while growing up in Mexico, beginning when she was 8 years old. Family members, as well as local authorities, directed her anti-trans actions at her, leaving her isolated and fearful. At 19, she fled for her life and crossed into the U.S.

Youth from Queers for Racial Justice and Workers World Party marched in the Pride Parade in Buffalo, N.Y., on June 3 in a fightback contingent that challenged the towering presence of the otherwise heavily corporate celebration and became a magnet for militant resistance.

As of May 21, in time for a Pride Month celebration, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ people in Michigan from discrimination in employment, housing, education, public services and public accommodation. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) voted 5-1, with one abstention, to adopt amendments to the law and is vowing to overturn the decision based on sexual orientation and gender identity as forms of sex discrimination.

Continued from page 1

By Leslie Feinberg


This groundbreaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of persecution and exploitation of homosexuality. Rainbow Solidarity answers the demonstration of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

LGBTQ communities win legal protection in Michigan

By Martha Grevatt

As of May 21, in time for a Pride Month celebration, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ people in Michigan from discrimination in employment, housing, education, public services and public accommodation. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) voted 5-1, with one abstention, to adopt amendments to the law and is vowing to overturn the decision based on sexual orientation and gender identity as forms of sex discrimination.

Michigan is the first state in the country to reterritorilize longstanding legislation to the benefit of LGBTQ communities, following similar action at the federal level under the Obama administration. The Elliott-Larsen Act was originally passed in Michigan in 1976.

Only 18 states have the words “sexual orientation” written into their civil rights laws. Civil rights groups launched the Michigan campaign for legal protection in 2017. The commission heard from dozens of witnesses at public hearings about their experiences with discrimination and read hundreds of pages of public comment. In September, after Attorney General Bill Schuette weighed in against the LGBTQ community with his Tea Party politics, the commission voted not to adopt any changes. However, the one commissioner who voted in favor of the status quo, Ira Combs, was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder in February over the objections of LGBTQ organizations. Combs is a right-winger who has campaigned against local human rights ordinances that protect LGBTQ people.

Attorney General Schuette is claiming that only the state Legislature can make changes to the law and is vowing to overturn this recent victory. The MCRC has countered that legislators cannot pass laws; it’s up to the agencies that enforce them to interpret them.

The time being, after decades of struggle, the movement against patriarchal oppression under capitalism can claim a win. In Defense of Cuba

Health and Human Services recently announced it would “more vigorously protect religious freedom.” These code words would allow medical providers to deny treatment to LGBTQ people and families.

Right now, right-wing attacks at the federal level are not only visibly worsened by the Trump administration, but their advances are scaring organ-izers for economic justice and affordable health care as well as economic justice.”

With the pretext of “austerity,” the government has waged attacks on workers and on secular public education for a decade.

This Pride Month offers a chance to strengthen solidarity and build power with all those under attack by hateful right-wing forces. Let’s use this month to build that solidarity. Let all the ban-ners of people fighting back against right-wing oppression fly together. That would indeed be an LGBTQ liberation march to be proud of!
Google’s parent company, Alphabet, made an internal announcement on June 1 stating that it was ending its project with the Pentagon. The company terminated its contract with the Pentagon. The statement noted that it was ending the contract because the U.S. military-industrial complex was not in line with Google’s values.

However, this growing movement has been relatively silent on the fact that the U.S. is in its second decade of an unending “war on terror,” conducting drone strikes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and other countries. The U.S. military has faced criticism for its involvement in drone warfare, including reports of civilian casualties.

Recent civil unrest has resulted in the resignation of people in key positions within the company. Google’s decision to yield to worker demands is a victory for worker power and a blow to the future stability of the U.S. military-industrial complex and its war agenda.

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida
Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

50,000 Las Vegas workers win with strike threat
Some 98 percent of Culinary Workers Local 226 and Bartenders Local 365 members voted May 22 to strike if they didn’t get a decent contract by the May 31 expiration date of their current contract with the two biggest Las Vegas casino operators. The Culinary Workers International and Caesars Entertainment folded over the weekend and reached an agreement with the union.

Workers at the jam of settlement were not published as of June 4, the 50,000 workers — bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and other kitchen staff, the majority immigrants and female — demanded wage increases of 4 percent over the next six months. The contract, which will run through 2023, is the first for worker power and a blow to the future stability of the U.S. military-industrial complex and its war agenda.

High Tech, Low Pay
A Marxist Analysis of the Capitalist Character of the Working Class
By Sam Marcy and a updated introduction by Fred Goldstein
Available at all major online booksellers.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

Capitálismo a la muerte
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era
By Sven Ferrari

Available at all major online booksellers.
Trump unleashes steel and aluminum tariffs

By Chris Fry

“Your can get a lot farther with a smile and a gun than you can with just a smile.”

— Al Capone, 1920s-1930s Chicago gangster

The Trump regime announced on May 31 that it will impose a worldwide 25 percent tariff on imported steel and a 10 percent tariff on imported aluminum. President Donald Trump had announced these tariffs back in March, but had held off implementing them supposedly to negotiate “more favorable” trade terms with other capitalist countries.

This regime has already imposed sep- arate tariffs against China. But now the U.S. president has gone ahead and im- posed new taxes on these imported prod- ucts worldwide.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress, not the executive, the power to impose tariffs. Trump is hereby calling these tariffs “national security” measures to cover his illegal actions.

U.S. imperialism’s “junior partners” — that is, its less powerful imperialist allies — immediately voiced outrage and threat- ened retaliatory tariffs of their own. A May 31 Guardian article quoted European Union head Jean-Claude Juncker: “The EU had no choice but to hit back with tar- iffs on U.S. goods and a case at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.”

The Guardian article continues: “The French president, Emmanuel Macron, called the U.S. tariffs illegal and a mistake, while his German counterpart, Olaf Scholz, immediately announced that the EU would open an investigation under WTO rules into the Trump administration’s actions or defense spending — whatever it takes to return to business as usual.”

Trump’s demands on the defense spending front are not some new red line. They actually echo those of previous ad- ministrations, with the difference being that he is willing to force the issue with his linkage tactics.

The U.S. war industry stands ready to reap billions in profits if Europe is forced to purchase high-priced, tunnels, tanks and drones driven by budgetary cuts. of course, U.S. Big Oil favors Trump’s sanctions against Iran, which help prop up global oil prices and force workers to pay more at the pump.

Since taking office, Trump has become the number one salesperson for the U.S. weapons industry, openly boasting of selling missiles, aircraft, and other arms to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and dozens of other countries.

The April 2 Nation noted: “The Trump administration is poised to release a new policy directive on global arms transfers.” A report by Politico, based on interviews with sources at the State Department and the National Security Council (NSC) official, suggests that it will seek to fur- ther streamline the process of approving arms sales, in part by increasing the al- ready over-ambitious role of U.S. government personnel in promoting such exports. …

“In keeping with that priority, accord- ing to the NSC official, the administra- tion is intent on ensuring that U.S. in- dustry has every advantage in the global marketplace.”

The war industry reaps huge profits from these sales for products, whose only purpose is to kill and destroy. But they provide fewer jobs overall than civilian industries. As a May 27 report by Brown University’s Watson Institute indi- cates: “Military spending creates few- er jobs than the same amount of money would if invested in other sectors. Clean energy and health care spending create 90 percent more jobs than the equivalent amount of spending on the military. Education spending creates more than twice as many jobs.

“If over the years 2001-2014 the U.S. had not been at war but instead had channeled resources into expanding the clean energy industry, broadening health care coverage, and increasing education- al opportunities, between 1 and 3 million more jobs would have been created, re- ducing unemployment significantly.”

Five-state strike hits AT&T

June 4 in Wauwatosa, Wis.

By Martha Grevatt

About 14,000 AT&T phone service technicians and call center workers in five states have walked off the job in an unfair labor practice strike. These members of the Communication Workers of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin began picketing May 31 after the company engaged in an illegal “unfair labor prac- tice” known as “direct dealing.” Bypassing the union’s bargaining committee, AT&T sent emails directly to workers to try to get them to accept a final contract offer.

AT&T’s action exposes how compa- nies try to undermine and bust unions. But an advantage for workers in a ULP strike is that it is illegal for companies to fire workers or permanently replace them during the strike. Companies cannot use replacement “scabs,” and striking work- ers can collect unemployment benefits.

The current contract expired in April. The biggest issue is the outsourcing of call center jobs. The company prom- ised to hire thousands of workers with the windfall in profits that came from Trump’s corporate tax break. Instead, thousands of workers have been laid off as call center jobs are outsourced to low- wage countries.

After the federal tax bill was passed, AT&T got a billion-dollar gift from the U.S. corporate tax cut. Now the U.S. Big Oil is spending the windfall in profits that came from Trump’s corporate tax break. Instead, thousands of workers have been laid off as call center jobs are outsourced to low- wage countries.

By Patrick McVey

Syracuse

Tenants on rent strike

By Michael Kelly

Syracuse Tenants United held a march, rally and press conference June 1 to an- nounce that a group of Syracuse Quality Living tenants will continue their rent strike into June.

The SQL is a major landlord in the Syr- acuse University area. The 10 SQL ten- ants withholding rent have experienced infestation, mold, lack of heat in the win- ter and maintenance personnel entering their apartments without notice.

Tenants marched to the company of- fice, handed the press and supporters an SQL employee called police on the lawfull gathering, and three police cars arrived shortly after. It is evident that SQL is care- with the well-being of its properties, maintenance staff, or especially its ten- ants,” said Isaiah Nius, a rent-striking tenant, following the event.

The tenants plan to withhold rent until management meets their dire habitability needs or voids their leases. 

Tenants marched to the company of- fice, handed the press and supporters an SQL employee called police on the lawfull gathering, and three police cars arrived shortly after. It is evident that SQL is care- with the well-being of its properties, maintenance staff, or especially its ten- ants,” said Isaiah Nius, a rent-striking tenant, following the event.
NFL owners ban players from protesting

By Monica Moorehead

An overwhelming majority of the Na-
tional Football League’s 32 CEOs voted on May 23 to ban peaceful protests by players in the form of kneeling during the playing of the national anthem in the upcoming 2018-19 season. Only Jed York, owner of the San Francisco 49ers, abstained.

Since former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began to sit and then kneel at the beginning of every game during the 2016-17 season to protest racial police brutality, his actions became, and con-
tinue to be, a source of national debate that have transcended the sports world. Kaepernick has remained a vocal protester during the 2016-2017 season immediate-
ly following the police murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philan-
dro Castile in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., both captured on video.

Once other African-American players joined the protests from other teams, bigger questions about the vs. workforce’s right to protest during the 2015-2016 season to protest racist police brutality, his actions became, and con-
tinue to be, a source of national debate that have transcended the sports world. Kaepernick has remained a vocal protester during the 2016-2017 season immediate-
ly following the police murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philan-
dro Castile in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., both captured on video.

Once other African-American players joined the protests from other teams, bigger questions about the vs. workforce’s right to protest during the 2015-2016 season to protest racist police brutality, his actions became, and con-
tinue to be, a source of national debate that have transcended the sports world. Kaepernick has remained a vocal protester during the 2016-2017 season immediate-
ly following the police murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philan-
dro Castile in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., both captured on video.

Once other African-American players joined the protests from other teams, bigger questions about the vs. workforce’s right to protest during the 2015-2016 season to protest racist police brutality, his actions became, and con-
tinue to be, a source of national debate that have transcended the sports world. Kaepernick has remained a vocal protester during the 2016-2017 season immediate-
ly following the police murders of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, La., and Philan-
dro Castile in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., both captured on video.
The city of Philadelphia acted on its threat to evict the Kensington Avenue and Tulip Street tent cities, as Workers World newspaper reported on May 24. (tinyurl/yt64437hv) However, this removal didn’t occur without a fight. For the first time, encampment residents fought back against the anti-poor, pro-gentrification program.

On the night of May 29, former and current members of the camp told their stories of addiction, recovery and being rebuffed by the city’s Crisis Response Centers after seeking help. Some of the supporters came forward to provide food, water and care packages to the city’s most marginalized people.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

Workers World Party-Philadelphia was at the scene and stood alongside those struggling against this oppressive, anti-poor program.

Vanessa Baker, organizer of the protest, promised encampment residents that the protesters wouldn’t leave them. This remained true: On May 30, they returned to march down the streets, making their demands and anger known to the city’s gentrifiers, whose arrival prompted the evictions.

WWP-Philadelphia will stay true to Baker’s promise and pledge to support the rights of former encampment members to adequate treatment, health care and housing, and of current residents at the remaining homeless camps in the city.

Homeless camp residents battle evictions

By Princess Harmony

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.

The next day, dozens more residents publicly made demands on the city for respect when people reach out for help. The protesters argued that the city’s behavioral health and addiction treatment systems didn’t exist to help those struggling with addiction. They called for more access to methadone and buprenorphine programs and for additional treatment beds and better shelters.
Racist government unstable

By G. Dunkel

After nearly three months of political maneuvering, two political parties in Italy formed a government on June 1. The League and the Five Star Movement (M5S) oppose the eurozone, which they call a tool for sucking out Italy’s wealth to increase German prosperity. The two parties formed an alliance that desires so-called “illegal” immigration and virulently opposes the establishment parties, especially the Democratic Party, which had controlled the government.

The ultraright, racist League started out its existence as the Northern League agitating for the independence of northern Italy, Italy’s most prosperous and developed region. Its propaganda scorned southern Italians. Party leaders changed its name to the League when they decided to drop separatist goals in order to compete for office across all of Italy.

Matteo Salvini, the League’s leader, focused his party’s campaign on hostility to “illegal” migration, pushing for the immediate expulsion from the country of refugees in Italy. Salvini, who will remain the party’s leader, is currently minister of the interior and one of two vice presidents in the government.

Luigi Di Maio is the political leader of the Five Star Movement, which proclaims it is a party left real-ly called “populist.” The M5S’s main base of support is in southern Italy, which is relatively less developed. In some areas there, unemployment is as high as 50 percent. Di Maio’s main campaign plank called for major income tax cuts for work-ers with corresponding tax hikes for the wealthy, along with a guaranteed monthly income of €942 for the unemployed.

Italy is facing major financial diffi-culties. The ratio of its public debt to its gross domestic product is 130 percent, and it owes about $2.77 trillion to bond-holders. (nationaldebtclocks.org, June 4)

‘Salvini Go home!’

The anti-immigrant rhetoric has been contested. When he made a cam-paign-style tour on June 3 of southern Sicilian ports, all of which have seen large landings of refugees from Libya, left-wing and other opponents protested his presence.

Some residents of Sicily denounced him during his stop in Pozzallo, where many ships carrying migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Sea dock and many refu-gees begin the asylum-seeking process. Demonstrators held a banner reading, “Refugees welcome!” and shouted, “Sal-vini! Go home!” and “Salvini! Shame on you!” (Associated Press, June 4)

On the same day that Salvini traveled to Sicily, 50 migrants died in the Medi-terranean Sea off the Tunisian coast. The newly formed government criticized Salvini’s crass attacks on migrants from their country.

Rightist Bannon urges Italian ‘sovereignty’ from EU, not U.S.

By Manlio Dinnuci

Bannon — the former strategist of Don-ald Trump, theorist of national populism — expressed his enthusiastic support for the alliance of the League with the 5 Star Movement for “the government of change.” In an interview he stated: “The fundamental question, in Italy in March, was the question of sovereignty. The re-sult of the elections was to put in office those Italians who want to regain sove-reignty and control over their country. Put an end to these rules coming from Brus-sels.” (Sky TG2, May 26)

However, it does not say, “Put an end to the rules coming from Washington.” It is not only the European Union that is exerting pressure on Italy to guide its po-llitical choices, dominated by powerful eco-nomic and financial circles, especially in Germany and France, which fear a break in the “rules” that serve their interests. Strong pressure is exerted on Italy, in

Greece

General strike hits austerity, demands benefits

By G. Dunkel

The 49th general strike called in Greece since its financial crisis hit in 2008 shut down the country for a day on May 30. Although some local bus- es and trains were running, most other government services, like the ferries to the Greek islands were not. Schools were closed. Flights were delayed or canceled and railways were shut down.

The General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) and its ally Civil Servants’ Confederation (ADEDY) initiated the call for the general strike to protest “austerity, unemployment and overtaxa-tion.” The other major Greek labor con-federation, the All-Workers Militant Force (PAME), issued a separate call for a general strike on the same day to demand “increases in wages, pensions, and social benefits” and raising the monthly mini-mum wage to 889. It’s currently €800 a month, and it hasn’t been raised in a year to reflect inflation.

Thousands of workers participated in each of the separate demonstrations organized by GSEE and PAME in Athens during the strike. PAME held a big demonstration in Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest city, and organized strike gatherings in a total of 67 Greek cities.

The PAME demonstration in Athens was militant. The main slogan was “Your growth is crushing our lives! Struggle, organization and counterattack is our choice!” In all the PAME demonstrations, speakers condemned the participation of the Greek government in imperialist in-terventions and wars.

The Syriza government, despite the major protest on May 30, still intends to cut pensions again in January 2019 and to raise taxes to new levels in 2020. While the bailouts facilitated by the “troika” — the European Commission, the European Central Bank and International Mon-etary Fund — are scheduled to end this year, financial controls will continue for the foreseeable future. The attacks on Greek workers will continue. But so will their protests.

March of PAME workers in Athens.

‘Salvini! Go home!’

The anti-immigrant rhetoric has been contested. When he made a cam-paign-style tour on June 3 of southern Sicilian ports, all of which have seen large landings of refugees from Libya, left-wing and other opponents protested his presence.

Some residents of Sicily denounced him during his stop in Pozzallo, where many ships carrying migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Sea dock and many refu-gees begin the asylum-seeking process. Demonstrators held a banner reading, “Refugees welcome!” and shouted, “Sal-vini! Go home!” and “Salvini! Shame on you!” (Associated Press, June 4)

On the same day that Salvini traveled to Sicily, 50 migrants died in the Medi-terranean Sea off the Tunisian coast. The newly formed government criticized Salvini’s crass attacks on migrants from their country.
Protests greet Washington’s attack on Venezuela

By Workers World staff

Protests in the U.S. confronted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in front of the Bolivarian Revolutionary government in Venezuela. The Trump administration’s most recent assault on the May ‘91 Organization of American States meeting in Washington, D.C. was to bring its counter attack dogs, the U.S. is trying to line up members of the OAS against the government of Nicolás Maduro.

Secretary General Luis Almagro is head of a U.S.-backed bloc in the OAS, the Lima Group. This bloc, consisting of more reactionary and pro-imperialist governments, promotes U.S. interventions. That bloc failed last June to get a resolution passed condemning the Venezue-lan Constituent Assembly. The organization of Caribbean states, CARICOM, backed by pro-Veneze- ulan governments, including Nicaragua, Panama, Ecuador and El Salvador, put forward a resolution against intervention ac-tions. Though that resolution also failed to pass, this coalition of countries was a powerful voice on behalf of noninterven-tion in Venezuela.

Pompeo only demanded on June 4 that Venezuela be expelled from the OAS and that sanctions be imposed on the country by the OAS. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza issued a strong response that the U.S. was attempting to lead a coup d’etat against Venezuela’s democratically elected government. By now, the entire bloc was isolated.

“[The bloc] has no government that has the moral author-ity to recognize or not our government,” said Arreaza. (New York Times, June 4)

Washington, D.C.: ‘Chávez presente, Maduro president!’

In D.C., supporters of the Bolivarian revolution occupied in front of the OAS building and held a rally there on June 4. After the rally, supporters marched with signs and banners nearly two miles to the Bolivarian Hall of the Embassy of Venezuela. There a panel of Venezuelan speakers discussed the effect of U.S. sanctions, the achievements of the Bolivian Revolu-tion, and the work of their country’s social programs, including ini-tiatives for gender equality and housing.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arreaza, who had come from a day of rebuffing attacks on his country at the OAS, stressed the importance of solidarity for people in the U.S. and also linked Ven-ezuelan struggles against oppression to those of people in the U.S. Endorsers of the protest included: All African People’s Revolutionary Party; Answer Coalition; Black Alliance for Peace; Code Pink, D.C.; Women in the struggle for Peace and Human Rights; Latino Awakening; Peasants: Answer Coalition; Trabajador. Speaker and committed to defend the social conditions in Venezuela are the social organizations and students who have defended the social gains in Venezuela in the face of Washington’s constant attack. Har-vesting that dead end, capitalism tries to suppress the working class’ quest for ever higher profits. Because PR is a col-o ny of the U.S., the capitalists think they can abolish workers’ rights there.

But history has not ended. The commun-ities in PR are organizing, now certain that they cannot count on the govern-ment to defend them. This awareness is happening while many organizations and unions file suits against the PROMESA law that restructured Puerto Rico’s debt in violation of the U.S. and Puerto Rican constitutions. Several of these suits chal-lenge PR’s colonial status which, since the 2016 ruling in the Sanchez Valle case, is being questioned as never before.

Karl Marx said that it is not the con-sciousness of people that determines their being but their social being that de-termines their consciousness. In Puerto Rico, the social conditions are bringing this more and more to mind. The real problem of Puerto Rican consciousness is being felt in many ways.

The struggle, both in the streets and in the courts, promises that this summer’s将是 the first one such blow. This law has protected private sector workers from unjustified firing. After much posturing by the governor, who said he would nev-er allow such an attack on Puerto Rican workers, Roselló finally gave in when the FCB offered to increase the budget for Fortaleza, the governor’s residence, from $135 million to $434 million.

What is happening to workers in Puer-to Rico is just the latest chapter in the capitalist system’s criminal attack. Hav-ing reached a dead end, capitalism tries to suppress the working class’ quest for ever higher profits. Because PR is a colony of the U.S., the capitalists think they can abolish workers’ rights there.

But history has not ended. The commun-ities in PR are organizing, now certain that they cannot count on the govern-ment to defend them. This awareness is happening while many organizations and unions file suits against the PROMESA law that restructured Puerto Rico’s debt in violation of the U.S. and Puerto Rican constitutions. Several of these suits chal-lenge PR’s colonial status which, since the 2016 ruling in the Sanchez Valle case, is being questioned as never before.

Karl Marx said that it is not the con-sciousness of people that determines their being but their social being that de-termines their consciousness. In Puerto Rico, the social conditions are bringing this more and more to mind. The real problem of Puerto Rican consciousness is being felt in many ways.

The struggle, both in the streets and in the courts, promises that this summer’s will be a very hot one in the archipelago. Victory to the Puerto Rican workers! Free Puerto Rico!

WW PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arreaza, who had come from a day of rebuffing attacks on his country at the OAS, stressed the importance of solidarity for people in the U.S. and also linked Venezuelan struggles against oppression to those of people in the U.S. Endorsers of the protest included: All African People’s Revolutionary Party; Answer Coalition; Black Alliance for Peace; Code Pink, D.C.; Women in the struggle for Peace and Human Rights; Latino Awakening; Peasants: Answer Coalition; Trabajador. Speaker and committed to defend the social conditions in Venezuela are the social organizations and students who have defended the social gains in Venezuela in the face of Washington’s constant attack.

What is happening to workers in Puerto Rico is just the latest chapter in the capitalist system’s criminal attack. Having reached a dead end, capitalism tries to suppress the working class’ quest for ever higher profits. Because PR is a colony of the U.S., the capitalists think they can abolish workers’ rights there. A speaker holding a Guatemalan flag describes the parallels between historical U.S. intervention in that country and the imperialist threats against Venezuela.

Puerto Rican deaths exposed Anger spurs resistance

Continued from page 2

publish the death statistics.

Since February, local organizations have been trying to get information about the hurricane casualties. The Puerto Rico Center for Investigative Journalism filed a suit charging the PR government’s Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Health Department with concealing the statis-tics. The suit alleged that neither the government nor the Health Department has released a report on the number of deaths.

These government agencies also refused to give any data to the Harvard study. This neglect of a people by both San Juan and Washington is not accidental. We now know that Hurricane Maria was even more deadly than Hurricane Ka-u-juan and Washington is not accidental. Pedro Roselló, who was governor from 2006 to 2017, is known for his support for capital-ism. He does not want PR to be a model for Puerto Rican children, while reducing pensions, plus other measures to defend them. This awareness is being felt in many ways. The struggle, both in the streets and in the courts, promises that this summer’s will be a very hot one in the archipelago. Victory to the Puerto Rican workers! Free Puerto Rico!
**Razan al-Najjar: Israeli sniper murders medic in Gaza**

By Christian Noakes

An Israeli soldier murdered Razan al-Najjar on June 1. The sniper shot her in the chest while she was selflessly tending to victims of ongoing Zionist violence in Gaza. The 21-year-old volunteer medic was trying to rescue an elderly injured woman from Gaza’s border fence, when Israeli troops opened fire to keep the elderly man’s feet to the fire with sanctions unless he complies with demands to demilitarize the area. When the Trump administration violates international law by launching missile attacks on Syria or drone strikes on Afghanistan and Libya, do these analysts – or the newspapers they work for – demand sanctions on the U.S. as a “rogue country” or call it a “brutal, aggressive and unpredictable regime”? Meanwhile, the U.S. continues to threaten the DPRK every day, as the Pentagon has done since the 1953 end of the Korean War, with nuclear weapons and a global delivery system, aircraft carriers, strategic bombers, nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers. The U.S. is also present in South Korea. The last includes the massive Base Humphreys, the largest U.S. overseas military base in the world, located close to the demarcation line. There are plenty of things Trump has done that merit much stronger language than these opinion pieces on opinion. What about the murderous treatment of migrants and building that obscene border wall? What about his appointment of nuclear clear warmer John Bolton to his cabinet? Recently, in the Wall Street Journal that the U.S. should launch a “preventive” strike against the DPRK? What about his condoning of fascist violence in Charlottesville, Va.? But these two newspapers of big business are much more focused on maintaining the “sanctions regime” that at best imperils the lives of millions and starve the people into submission. That won’t happen. The people of the DPRK have shown the greatest ingenuity in developing their country despite everything the U.S. has done. The lesson of this is that it is folly to expect the imperialist liberals to oppose Trump on any progressive basis. They don’t like him, but not for the right reasons. They’re afraid his egomaniacal and unpredictable politi-cal architecture created over the years to assure that the U.S. ruling class can dictate to the world. So where does this leave the progressive, anti-war and workers’ movements here? We must be independent of imperialist world war leaders in order to support the right of the Korean people to determine their own destiny, free of U.S. threats.

Razan al-Najjar approached the victim with her hands up to show members of the Israeli Defense Forces that she was not a threat. Wearing a uniform, she was clearly identified as a rescue worker. The following day, thousands attended al-Najjar’s funeral. Her body was wrapped in a Palestinian flag and the bloodstained uniform she was wearing when she was killed. Mourners carried her body along the funeral procession, which stretched for blocks. Hundreds of medical workers and the victim’s father, Ashraf al-Najjar, were among those in the procession. In this fashion the second medical worker killed by the IDF in Gaza since the start of the demonstrations in late March. During that period, these soldiers injured 223 paramedics and, on May 15, fatally shot medic Souad Abu Hassanin.

**Nurses: Speak out for Razan al-Najjar**

by Susan Abulhawa

The last photo taken of 21-year-old Pal-estinian nurse Razan al-Najjar shows her with other medics in white coats and latex gloves, their hands high in the air as if they are about to confront a pro-people, pro-refugee, pro-human rights, pro-peace people in pushing for an end to the cruel division of the Korean nation. When does the U.S.? One might expect that those on the right would be very opposed to such a meeting, since Korea-bashing and anti-communism are their standard fare. But Trump invokes with the Republican right, and criticism from his supporters is muted so far. In fact, some of the strongest sticks on the planned Kim-Trump talks are coming from the anti-Trump analysts of the Washington Post and the New York Times, who endorse by Trump “has already weakened the planned Kim-Trump talks are coming from the anti-Trump analysts of the New York Times, which calls the DPRK “one of the world’s most brutal, aggressive and unpredictable regimes” and worries that Trump might eventually be “willing to sign a peace treaty with the only country to veto the resolution, which could not be passed into law.”

The lesson of this is that it is folly to expect the imperialist liberals to oppose Trump on any progressive basis. They don’t like him, but not for the right reasons. They’re afraid his egomaniacal and unpredictable politi-cal architecture created over the years to assure that the U.S. ruling class can dictate to the world.

Where does this leave the progressive, anti-war and workers’ movements here? We must be independent of imperialist world war leaders in order to support the right of the Korean people to determine their own destiny, free of U.S. threats.

An Israeli soldier murdered Razan al-Najjar on June 1. The sniper shot her in the chest while she was selflessly tending to victims of ongoing Zionist violence in Gaza. The 21-year-old volunteer medic was trying to rescue an elderly injured woman from Gaza’s border fence, when Israeli troops opened fire to keep the elderly man’s feet to the fire with sanctions unless he complies with demands to demilitarize the area.

When the Trump administration violates international law by launching missile attacks on Syria or drone strikes on Afghanistan and Libya, do these analysts – or the newspapers they work for – demand sanctions on the U.S. as a “rogue country” or call it a “brutal, aggressive and unpredictable regime?” Meanwhile, the U.S. continues to threaten the DPRK every day, as the Pentagon has done since the 1953 end of the Korean War, with nuclear weapons and a global delivery system, aircraft carriers, strategic bombers, nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers. The U.S. is also present in South Korea. The last includes the massive Base Humphreys, the largest U.S. overseas military base in the world, located close to the demarcation line.

There are plenty of things Trump has done that merit much stronger language than these opinion pieces on opinion. What about the murderous treatment of migrants and building that obscene border wall? What about his appointment of nuclear clear warmer John Bolton to his cabinet? Recently, in the Wall Street Journal that the U.S. should launch a “preventive” strike against the DPRK? What about his condoning of fascist violence in Charlottesville, Va.? But these two newspapers of big business are much more focused on maintaining the “sanctions regime” that at best imperils the lives of millions and starve the people into submission. That won’t happen. The people of the DPRK have shown the greatest ingenuity in developing their country despite everything the U.S. has done.

The lesson of this is that it is folly to expect the imperialist liberals to oppose Trump on any progressive basis. They don’t like him, but not for the right reasons. They’re afraid his egomaniacal and unpredictable politi-cal architecture created over the years to assure that the U.S. ruling class can dictate to the world.

So where does this leave the progressive, anti-war and workers’ movements here? We must be independent of imperialist world war leaders in order to support the right of the Korean people to determine their own destiny, free of U.S. threats.
France

‘Act your age and shut up!’

By Rémy Herrera
Paris, France

After government employees, joined by railway workers and students, demon-
strated here on May 22, police arrest-
ed nearly 100 young people, including
minors as young as 14. The protesting
youngsters were occupying the Arago High
School (lycée) in Paris.

Before being taken into custody, some 60
of them were packed like cattle in a
police van for more than four hours. They
were not allowed to notify their relatives,
drink or use the toilet. These arrests, which
lasted for two days, were traumat-
ic for the adolescents and distressing for
their families.

After that ordeal, several of these
young people, handcuffed as if they were
die threats to society, went before a
judicial court.

What crime had these young rebels
committed? They had decided — and had
the courage — to oppose the neoliberal
‘government’ and the education sector that
French President Emmanuel Macron
wants to impose. They had done no dam-
age other than break one window.

One of the students said: “I was afraid
by the brutality of the police and the condi-
tions of detention. They wanted to make
us an example to stop young people from
mobilizing, but I will continue to orga-
nize even more.”

For months, left-wing student unions
have been mobilizing, asserting their refusal
to see education turn into a commodity.

While the French educational system has
been predominantly public and higher
education fees have been almost free of
charge until recently, tuition fees have
been increasing. Until a recent change in
the law, university admission was guar-
anteed to everyone who passed the bac-
alaureat [a test given at the end of high
school].

The students say no to the fact that
more and more young people from poor
families are barred by lack of money from
attending university. University admission
is now dependent on high school grades.

What you think of President Ma-
tron, whatever adjective you apply to a
government that acts like this, a regime
that attacks its youth by acting so badly
that no other country in control of its
fate is doing, is as the situation. Not a day goes by in
France without the government’s repres-
sion of social anger.

Should you get used to seeing the CRS [specialized police units for suppressing
crowds] invade university campuses, which are boiling with indignation, and bludgeon resisting students? Must we pas-
ively sit by as an authoritarian hier-
archy at the ministerial level overturns
the decisions of teacher assemblies and
administrative personnel in struggle? If
we do that, we might as well give up the
democratic space that capitalist so-
ciety conceded.

Again and again, the only thing toler-
ated is the comedy of bourgeois democra-
icy — with its own limitations however. In
the Odéon Theater in Paris (famous for
having been occupied by students during
the May 1968 general strike), a show
took place on May 7 to commemorate the
events 50 years ago.

Everything went according to plan ...
until the true (today’s) students sudden-
ly burst into the auditorium and took the
initiative to speak up and explain to the
audience the reasons for their ongoing
protests. The theater management pan-
icd and called the police, who, in an
unprecedented move, went on strike to
make the young “troublemakers” leave the theater.

Something is going wrong in the king-
dom of Macron. Perhaps that something
is a people that refuses the fate he plans
for them. A people who are slowly becom-
ing aware that the dismantling of public
utilities is not progress, that the “re-
forms” promoted by the media on behalf
of big finance are entirely destructive. A
people who are painfully learning how to
get back on their feet to walk again.

All this will take time. But it is clear
that many of us will no longer go along with
his plans.

“The success of the Interior Gérard Cor-
lomb has no doubt understood this. He
announced on May 27: “If we want to keep
the right to demonstrate tomorrow, which is a fundamental right, people who
wish to express their opinion must also
oppose the ‘breakers.’ They cannot by
their passivity allow themselves to be
come accomplices to what is happening
[the resulting harm].”

He must consider it a beautiful social
project to make the right to demonstration
in France conditional on transforming all
the “ordinary demonstrators,” as he
calls them, into police officers!

Herrera is a Marxist economist, a re-
searcher at the Centre National Recher-
che Scientifique, who works at the Cen-
tre d’Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris.

WW staff translated this article.

British imperialism laid
ground for Israeli apartheid

By Christian Noakes

British imperialism laid the ground-
work and set the precedent for Israeli
settlement of the Occupied Territories
before the official establishment of the
Israel state in 1948.

British forces, acting in the name of the
Zionist cause, early on created the con-
don of the Jewish people and ethnic cleansing.

British forces, many of whom saw Arabs as subhuman, ruthlessly suppressed re-\ndemands and killed thousands of Palestinian
men, women and children; and intention-
nally cleared land for colonization.

During the 1967–1973 Arab rebellion against British rule, many Palestinians
were subjected to detention without charge or trial in the Sajaraa confis-
cation camp and other labor camps. The
gross sense of injustice drove many de-
tainees to go on hunger strike.

Between the two world wars, Zionist
forces continued the practice of eth-
nic cleansing, received material support
from the British; many worked for Brit-
ish police forces. The fundings of a national
trade unions also contributed to the
human treatment of Palestinians via
discrimination in employment and gross
disparities in wages.

Contrary to the claim by one of Brit-
ain’s high commissioners for Palestine
that rebellions were an irrational or intel-
lectual reaction “to different manners and
customs” of the colonizers, Palestinian
revolt was and is based in the oppressive
conditions of settler colonialism imposed
by the British and Zionists.

On April 9, 1948, news of a massacre
of men, women and children in the village
of Deir Yassin by Zionist paramilitary
forces spread quickly, causing thousands
of Palestinians to flee their homes as Zi-
on forces advanced elsewhere. This
gridy event became known as the Naka-
ba (Catastrophe).

But even before the Nakba and the es-
tablishment of the state of Israel, the Pal-
estinians had already become acquainted
with settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing.

The British government issued the De-
claration with a gala dinner for Benja-


Indignación boricua, camino a la resistencia

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

La explanada del Capitolio en San Juan sirvió como la exposición de la cuenta más verdadera de las muertes ocurridas después del huracán María. Familiares y amigos de las/os víctimas que murieron como consecuencia de la tormenta, tra- jeron el par de zapatos de su ser querido para los testigos de la Trinidad. En tres días, cerca de 3,000 zapatos con los nombres y las historias comavadoras de sus dueños/os reclamaron su lugar en la historia. Esta vez serán contados. Ya las autoridades puertorriqueñas y estadoun- idenses no podrán ignorar la muerte de tantas personas, ya no podrán insistir en que apenas fueron 64 muertes.

El Proyecto 4645 surgió casi inme- diatamente después del lanzamiento del ahora famoso “Estudio de Harvard”. Mor- talidad en Puerto Rico después del huracán María” publicado el 29 de mayo en el ‘New England Journal of Medicine’. En base a más de 3,000 encuestas de hogares en todo el archipiélago, concluyó que al menos 4,645 personas murieron víctimas de los efectos del huracán directo o indi- recto, incluido el agravamiento o interrupción de la atención médica, del 20 de septiembre al 31 de diciembre de 2017. El estudio podría duplicarse fácil- mente, ya que han seguido muriendo per- sonas por varias razones debido a María: por falta de electricidad para mantener sus medicamentos, enfermos, embarazadas; en lugares donde la luz aún no ha regresado, por suicidios y por la falta de servicios de atención médica adecuados, entre otros.

El Proyecto 4645, organizado por ac- tivistas puertorriqueños/os, hizo un llamado a las personas a través de las redes sociales para que traigan los zapatos de aquellos que sabían que habían muerto a causa de María, para validar los número- es en el estudio. Esto se hizo en una re- fustación a la negativa del gobierno de Ricky Roselló a publicar las estadísticas de muertes. Incluso desde febrero, or- ganizaciones puertorriqueñas buscaron esfuerzos para obtener información sobre las víctimas de los huracanes. El Centro Puertorriqueño de Periodismo Investigati- vo había entablado una demanda en febrero pasado contra el Registro De- mográfico del gobierno y el Departamen- to de Salud por ocultar las estadísticas, sin embargo, hasta el momento no se ha dado respuesta. Estas agencias guberna- mentales también negaron datos al estu- dio de Harvard.

Esta negligencia hacia un pueblo por parte de ambos gobiernos no es acciden- tal. El hecho de que hubo más muertes por poca atención médica que por el huracán Katrina, y sin embargo sus muertes no son contadas, muestra no solo insensi- bilidad, sino también los planes del poder que consigue mantener el sentido del poder (o poder del sentido) de las/os aborígenes, colonos, colonizadores y colonizadas. En el territorio que “pertenece a, pero no es de” los Estados Unidos, como lo recordó claramente en 2016 la Corte Su- prema de los Estados Unidos en el caso Sánchez Valle.

Pero más aún que el número concre- to de víctimas, este evento comienza a descubrir las cortinas de mentiras, el verdadero engaño que se ha impues- to al pueblo boricua: las falsas razones dadas para la privatización de servicios esenciales, el cierre de escuelas, la elim- inación de los derechos de las/os traba- jadores. La panamericanización planeada y la esclavización de un pueblo, mientras que una élite creíta y extranjera se enriquec- e y chupan salarios multimillonarios con sus ejércitos de firmas de abogados y consultores. Un esquema de los capital-istas imperialistas y sus aliados en la isla que pretende hacer que los productos de un pueblo se conviertan en una mercancía que tenga un valor de mercado, lo que resulta en la exclusión de las/os trabajadores que habitan en el territorio.

Uno de estos maniobras engañosas fue el contrato que el gobernador otorgó a la Universidad George Washington en febrero pasado. Después de que varios medios estadounidenses informaron que María había ocasionado más de 1000 muertes, el gobernador se vio obligado a lidiar con el número de víctimas. En lugar de utilizar expertos bien versados en el tema de las universidades locales puertorriqueñas, tanto públicas como privadas, prefirió pagar $90,000 de dinero público (que podría llegar hasta $1 millón) al Instituto Milken de Salud Pública de la GWU.


El estudio del GWU estaba progra- mado para mayo, pero hasta el día de hoy no hay ningún informe.

Crímenes contra los trabajadores

Mientras que las muertes están en los titulares, otro crimen contra las/os traba- jadores puertorriqueños se está desarroll- ando. Muchos se están diciendo sobre la llma- dada “lucha de poder” entre el gobernador y la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el Congreso de Estados Unidos. Pero es importante resaltar que las pequeñas dif- erencias que puedan existir no están rela- cionadas con la posibilidad de ningún ben- eficio para la población boricua. Ambos tienen el mismo objetivo, el sacrificio de la clase obrera y la Junta de Control Fiscal en el altar de las ganancias de los capitalistas.

Desde sus inicios, la JCF ha inten- tado imponer medidas criminales de austeridad mediante un Plan Fiscal que incluye “flexibilidad laboral”, “empleo a voluntad”, grandes aumentos al pago de matrícula de la universidad pública de PR y el cierre de varios de sus recin- tos, cierran de escuelas, eliminación de muchos beneficios de las/os trabajadores, incluyendo vacaciones y días de enferme- dad, bonificación de Navidad, reducción de pensiones, y varias otras medidas que serán un golpe mortal para la clase tra- bajadora que ya ha estado sufriendo los efectos devastadores de la recesión en PR desde 2006.

Sin embargo, dado que la JCF no tiene el poder de promulgar leyes, y éstas son necesarias para cambiar las garantías actuales de las/os trabajadores, el gobier- nador, que ha actuado sumisamente a las demandas de la Junta, ha presentado rápidamente proyectos de ley a la Legis- latura donde finalmente serán aprobados.

La semana pasada, la aprobación de la eliminación de la Ley 80 en una de las cámaras legislativas, fue uno de esos golpes. Esta ley protege a las/os traba- jadores del sector privado en caso de un desajo injustificado. Después de mu- chas posturas del gobernador quien dijo que nunca permitiría tal ataque contra las/os trabajadores puertorriqueños, fi- nalmente se dio por vencido cuando la JCF ofreció aumentar el presupuesto de la Fortaleza (la residencia de los goberna- dores) de $15 a $43 millones.

Las/os trabajadores en Puerto Rico son el último capítulo en el ataque criminal del capitalismo en un callejón sin salida, que persigue la eliminación de cualquier barrera que pueda limitar su búsqueda de ganancias. En PR, debido a la condi- ción de ser una colonia, piensan que pueden ganar la eliminación de cualquier derecho adquirido de las/os trabajadores. Pero la historia no ha terminado. Las comunidades en PR se están organizando, ahora con la certeza de que no pueden con- tar con su gobierno para defenderlas. Esta toma de conciencia está ocurriendo mien- tras muchas organizaciones y sindicatos presentan demandas contra la inconsti- tucionalidad de la Ley PROMESA, tanto en virtud de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos como de la puertorriqueña. Las raíces de varias de estas demandas de- sañaron el estado colonial, que después de la sentencia de 2016 del caso Sánchez Valle, se está discutiendo en escenarios donde el estado nunca fue cuestionado.

Mars dijo “No es la conciencia de los hombres lo que determina su ser, sino, por el contrario, su ser social lo que determina su conciencia”. En PR, las condiciones sociales hacen que cada vez tengamos más en cuenta esta cita. La realidad, tanto en las calles como en los tribunales, promete que este verano será uno muy caliente en el archipiélago.