

# As feds rip families apart Firestorm erupts over ICE terror

By Taryn Fivek

Pictures on social media and television of children in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention are now horrifying millions of people in the United States and around the world. Since Donald Trump's cruel and racist edict to separate migrant families when they arrive at the U.S. border, which went into force in mid-April, more than 2,000 children have been ripped from the arms of their parents and whisked away to destinations unknown, all within the last two months.

Some were even taken away from their parents on the pretext of being given "showers," echoing a tactic used by Nazis during the genocide of Jews, oppressed nations and others in Europe in the late 1930s and 1940s.

Some of the photos of bereft migrants on social media were actually from the Barack Obama presidency. Widely called the "Deporter in Chief" by the im/migrant rights movement, Obama's tenure saw more people deported than during the combined terms of all U.S. presidents in the 20th century. At least 2.5 million deportations in just eight years!

Obama laid the administrative and logistical groundwork for Trump's onslaught on migrants. When Obama signed an executive order that directed the federal government to cease working with the for-profit prison-industrial complex, he notably left out ICE and Department of Homeland Security prisons, which are more than 60 percent privately run.

But when Trump came into the presidency, he famously announced that he was now going to take "the shackles off" racist ICE agents so they would be able to target people with impunity.

Since then, we have seen DREAMers deported — undocumented people who came to the U.S. as children and have never known another home. We have seen the U.S. deporting the gravely ill, workers, parents, elders and babies.

The federal government has now revoked women's ability to seek asylum on the basis of domestic violence. LGBTQ people have died in ICE cells while trying to seek refuge from their home countries — where violence has been instigated by U.S. economic and imperialist policies.

The Trump regime is even beginning to normalize the denaturalization of people born outside the U.S. who have won citizenship — deporting them under the auspices of "investigating fraud."

While private for-profit prisons are churning with thousands of incarcerated migrants forced to work for a dollar a day to pad corporate profits, thousands of children kidnapped by the federal government are cry-

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**FREED!**

Debbie Africa, survivor of the government assault in 1978 on the MOVE organization. See story, page 5.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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# Disability Pride parade rocks

## Philadelphia

By Mary Kaessinger and Edward Yudelovich  
Philadelphia

Philadelphia's Disability Pride Week came to a spirited end with a parade in Center City on June 16. About 300 people walked, rode, rolled and scooted up Market Street to City Hall for a celebration with music, speakers and entertainment provided by artists with and without disabilities. An exuberant African-American wheelchair user rolled up and down the line with his cute dog, enthusiastically leading chants of "Disability Pride!" Large local puppets brought fun and festivity to the celebration.

It was the parade's seventh consecutive year in a city that takes disability rights seriously. Mayor Jim Kenney told Uber officials that its private cab company would not be allowed to work in Philadelphia unless all its cabs were accessible for people with disabilities. The company complied. Subway stations here are much more accessible than in New York City. There were tables at the parade full of information on available resources from providers of services for people with disabilities, including the Philadelphia Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.

Feisty political sentiment was expressed at the parade. Disability Pride buttons and T-shirts displayed clenched fists. A black T-shirt was inscribed with the slogan "Piss on Pity." Orange and pink stickers with black lettering demanded the removal of two of the U.S. government's most notorious disability haters: "Trump and Pence Must Go!"

### Support New York Disability Pride!

Several participants, including these two reporters, traveled from New York City to bring solidarity greetings from the NYC Disability Pride Committee, which is planning its annual parade on July 15. Disabled activists and their allies are engaged in a struggle with the New York City Police Department. They are seeking a return of the gathering site, parade route and festival venue to their originally scheduled spots, with the assembly point at Union Square Park and the festival at the well-shaded Madison Square Park. The NYPD reversed the locations at the last minute on May 31.

Under the police department plan, people would gather



Workers World in Philadelphia Disability Pride.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

at Madison Square Park and hold the festival in the northern section of Union Square Park, which has no shade. On a hot July day, with the sun beating down, this is potentially dangerous. Many people with disabilities are extremely sensitive to heat and sunlight, which can cause serious injury, illness and even death.

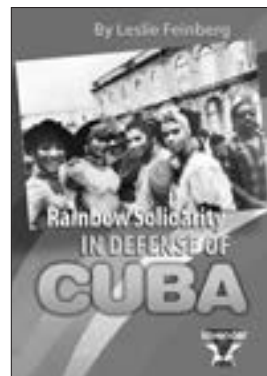
Disabled people are entitled to a reasonable accommodation with a parade route and festival venue that do not endanger their health. Updates on this situation will be posted in WW as they develop. On to Disability Pride NYC!

*Kaessinger is a wheelchair user. Yudelovich has emotional and hearing loss disabilities.*

## Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg  
author of *Stone Butch Blues*  
Available at online book sellers

*Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba* is an edited compilation of 25 articles from the Workers World newspaper series by Feinberg entitled *Lavender & Red*, online at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).



## 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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# #NoDAPL water protectors continue the struggle

By Mahtowin Munro

The historic Indigenous-led struggle of thousands against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock may not be news in the mainstream media anymore. But the struggle continues as hundreds of water protectors have had to deal with federal and state charges against them.

The #NoDAPL protests, which began in April 2016 and continued into the bitter winter of 2017, were in resistance to Energy Transfer Partners' plans to run a pipeline from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota beneath the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, crossing the traditional lands and sacred waters of the Standing Rock Sioux.

Indigenous Nations and peoples led a campaign that called forth international solidarity, resulting in the presence of thousands at Standing Rock, marches and resolutions in distant cities, and delegations from U.S. military veterans to union workers.

Local and state police, reinforced by corporate "security" mercenaries, assaulted the people violently and repeatedly with dogs, sound cannon, tasers, mace, batons, rubber bullets and armored vehicles. Over 600 people were arrested.

## Water protectors in legal struggles

On May 30, Michael "Little Feather" Giron became the first #NoDAPL water protector to receive a federal prison sentence resulting from resistance to the pipeline.

Charged with civil disorder and use of fire to commit a federal felony offense, arising from events of Oct. 27, 2016, Little Feather entered into a noncooperating plea agreement. Under this, the use of fire charge — which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and the possibility of up to 15 years in prison — was dropped, and Little Feather received a 36-month sentence for aiding a civil disorder.

According to the Water Protector Legal Collective of the National Lawyers Guild, which is representing the vast majority of those arrested, other water protectors are currently awaiting trial or sentencing.

Going to trial has been considered

fraught with peril due to the impossibility of getting a fair trial before racist judges and juries. During the winter of 2017-18, Red Fawn Fallis, who was targeted by an FBI informer, felt that it was in her best interests to take a plea deal of seven years rather than face the possibility of a life sentence at trial. Red Fawn is awaiting sentencing on June 25.

Dion Ortiz is awaiting a federal trial, and James "Angry Bird" White is preparing for a federal trial. Michael "Rattler" Markus is awaiting sentencing in August. ([waterprotectorlegal.org/updates](http://waterprotectorlegal.org/updates))

Approximately 835 North Dakota state criminal cases resulted from the #NoDAPL movement's efforts to stop Energy Transfer Partners' Dakota Access Pipeline. Of those, 333 were dismissed, 24 were acquitted at trial, 153 were moved to pretrial diversion, 135 were plea agreements, and 19 were convicted at trial.

There are 171 North Dakota cases ongoing — under appeal, open, or under inactive or warrant status.

Other water protectors have also been charged, or may be under investigation, and are being represented by other counsel. These include Holy Elk Lafferty and Chase Iron Eyes, both of whom will use a "necessity defense," claiming they had no recourse but civil disobedience due to the perceived threat of the pipeline.

Attorneys for water protectors are also fighting back in the courts, including filing a federal civil rights class action lawsuit, *Dundon v. Kirchmeier*, challenging police violence on the night of Nov. 20-21, 2016, at Backwater Bridge. The case, on behalf of all people injured

by law enforcement that night, is moving forward in the U.S. District Court in Bismarck, N.D.

## Struggle continues on multiple fronts

The fact that #NoDAPL water protectors continue to have to deal with charges against them speaks to the collusion of federal and state governments with the fossil fuel industry and major capitalist financial institutions.

In the U.S., it is well-known that many politicians, including Trump and others in his administration, have close ties to destructive resource extraction industries such as fracking and pipeline companies. The politicians and corporations have been using their power to reduce the size of public lands (which are really Indigenous lands) and to reduce protections from mining and drilling, such as at Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party administration announced at the end of May that Canada would buy the Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline and related infrastructure from Kinder Morgan for \$4.5 billion. Canada could spend billions more to force through and build the pipeline expansion despite a lack of Indigenous consent and widespread public opposition.

Resistance to the pipelines has targeted the relationships between municipalities and financial institutions such as Wells Fargo and U.S. Bank. This has led to worldwide divestment campaigns, successfully applying pressure on Seattle and other cities to cut ties with banks and

institutions funding pipeline companies such as Energy Transfer Partners.

Indigenous peoples come from and are intertwined with the land and water, and have defended the land and water from colonial exploiters for generations. The struggle at Standing Rock was not the first or last time this will happen.

Since the last camp closed at Standing Rock in 2017, water protectors have continued to use every means at their disposal to fight all forms of destructive fossil fuel extraction and mining. More than 100 Indigenous Nations have signed onto the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion. This is a pledge to oppose all pipeline projects in the U.S. and Canada that would lead to a major expansion of the Tar Sands, including Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain, TransCanada's Energy East and Keystone XL, and Enbridge's Northern Gateway and Line 3 pipelines.

There is resistance throughout the Americas, in Ecuador and Mexico, in Louisiana and the U.S. Midwest, in the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Water protectors build tiny houses to block pipelines' paths and put their bodies on the line, and sometimes drilling equipment mysteriously gets damaged.

Indigenous Nations need to be at the forefront of all movements to protect the land and water. This resistance will only increase and be joined by millions more people as pipeline explosions and leaks occur even more frequently, proving a key point made by all the water protectors: Pipelines are dangerous and inevitably leak. □



Standing Rock

# 'No justice, no rent!'

By Anne Pruden  
New York

Some 20 tenant groups brought at least 1,000 of their working-class members to rally on the steps of the Mid-Manhattan Library on June 14. The city's rent-stabilized tenants have been attending hearings in every borough, appealing to the Rent Guidelines Board for a rent freeze. Speaking at least three languages, these multinational activists from three of the city's five boroughs passionately explained their plight. Many wore colorful T-shirts with their tenant group's name. A strong feeling of unity and solidarity emanated from the crowd, who knew that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was in town.

After rallying, and despite threats of arrest by the police, the tenants marched to Park Avenue, where Cuomo was to receive an award from some rich friends. The tenants chanted: "We work! We're



Tenants rally in New York: "Tax the rich! House the poor!"

poor! Please don't raise our rent no more!" and "Tax the rich! House the poor!" along

with "¡El pueblo, unido, jamás será vencido!" A speaker active with Brooklyn's

VOCAL organization insisted: "We will not let the landlords and developers ruin our neighborhoods!"

Cuomo has a long history of doing nothing about the much-needed public housing for the working class and the growing number of homeless. He is silent on the racism perpetrated by realtors and developers.

While the New York City Police Department used their motorcycles to block the building where Cuomo mixed with his rich Park Avenue friends, the large, militant protest stood its ground for three hours, eventually proceeding to the front of the building. With tenants on both sides of the doorway, there was a prolonged "mic check" and then a very loud "Boo!" as security moved Cuomo's car closer to the door. He couldn't avoid seeing and hearing the protesters.

Cuomo ran to his car as tenants cheered their victory and demanded, "Cuomo! Get off it! Your system is for profit!" □

WWW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



# Community/union power defends fired health care workers



By Gery Armsby  
Boston

Over 100 workers and protesters rallied outside the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury, Mass., on June 15 to loudly reject the abrupt firing of 20 employee activists there. Hundreds more clamored on social media, spreading news about the firings that unleashed a torrent of anger in the community and among health care workers throughout the city.

By June 17, the outcry reached such a fever pitch that Boston Mayor Marty Walsh had to pressure the health center's management to publicly commit to a reversal of the firings of staff. On June 18, however, fired workers who returned to the health center to attend an all-staff meeting were barred from the premises by threats of arrest issued by Whittier's human resources director.

Whittier Street Health Center is a community health facility serving mostly low-income patients from Boston's Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and Dorchester neighborhoods. Many employees who were inside the center on June 15 left work to join protesters outside.

The 20 fired employees have been active in an organizing drive for the center's 75 health care workers — including nurses, medical assistants, doctors, mid-level providers and behavioral health workers — to be represented by Service Employees Local 1199. The firings came just five days before a slated vote for union representation on June 20.

Whittier's Board of Directors, CEO and hired "union avoidance" experts targeted the organizing drive with an aggressive union-busting scheme in which workers had their badges unexpectedly deacti-

vated on June 14 during patient exams and appointments. Patients were left waiting in exam rooms as 20 of the most vocally pro-union employees were directed to leave the building.

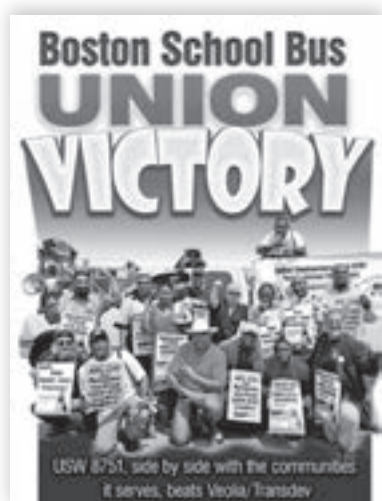
In a Monday morning statement issued June 18, management claimed the abrupt firings had been "unfortunate steps to stabilize Whittier Street's financial future," necessitated by "shrinking funding opportunities," and that the equally abrupt reversal was arranged thanks to the "Mayor's leadership and guidance ... providing a pathway forward that would put Whittier on a stable financial footing for now." But this media campaign was just a slick, face-saving maneuver. As of this writing, not one of the workers has been allowed to return to their jobs or see their patients.

The health care bosses have yet to set a reinstatement date for the fired workers. This stalling is just another attempt to rattle workers who have fought hard to unionize their workplace in order to win job security, maintain community control at Whittier and advocate for improved patient care. Management hopes workers will be intimidated into voting down the union on election day, or will at least stay home.

But no amount of back-peddling or public relations spin can hide the truth, which was patently clear to every front-line health worker in Boston: These firings were 100 percent based on the growing fear among health care industry corporate elites of the power of organized health care workers. The reversal of the firings, too, came as both politicians and health center upper management felt the fiery breath of an overnight union-community mobilization — not because of some benevolent act inspired by mayoral "leadership."

Whittier employees, union organizers and community members know all too well that it is up to the power of the people to make sure that the fired workers truly get their jobs back and that the union election proceeds unimpeded. A coalition with broad community support has set an election-day rally to uplift precisely this crucial worker solidarity and support for a pro-union vote, which will be necessary to win back these jobs.

Organizers and supporters of the June 15 and June 20 rallies include SEIU Local 1199 members, SEIU Local 32BJ members, the Greater Boston Labor Council, the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign, Jobs with Justice, City Life/Vida Urbana, numerous union and community activists, and others. □



Download at:  
[bostonschoolbusunion.org/](http://bostonschoolbusunion.org/)

## On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

### Workers protest to save Kroger jobs

A fight to stop possible job loss led hundreds of members of Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 to rally outside Krogers' Mid-Atlantic Division headquarters in Roanoke, Va., on June 12. When the grocery chain announced it had bought eight Farm Fresh stores and would reopen them as Krogers, the company claimed they would extend jobs to all Kroger workers. But a Farm Fresh sits across the street from a Kroger in Norfolk, Va., and it was rumored that the Kroger would close, leaving the workers transferred or fired.

Flanking more than 300 UFCW members were five shopping carts stuffed with "Save our jobs" petitions requesting management keep their promise of jobs. To dramatize that, two clotheslines were strung up with 74 bright yellow union T-shirts — one for each job that would be lost — with a sign reading, "Don't hang us out to dry." (Roanoke Times, June 12) Though Kroger hasn't yet responded, dramatic protest and rousing solidarity often win!

### Faculty unionize at two Oregon universities

Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon State University faculty delivered union authorization cards to the Oregon Employment Relations Board on June 5. They were the last of Oregon public universities to unionize. Under state law, public employees are automatically unionized once a majority of the bargaining unit sign cards.

The 172 full-time faculty, instructors and librarians at OIT became members of the American Association of University Professors. At OSU, the faculty of 2,400 joined the United Academics of Oregon State University, a joint project of AAUP and the American Federation of Teachers. AFT already represents graduate students, and support staff are members of Service Employees Local 503.

Organizing committee member Darrell Ross says OSU faculty want a greater say in university governance and better working conditions, which have steadily deteriorated. "There's increasing reliance on contingent faculty, [who] have little job security, they're not paid well, and they often don't know until the last minute if they'll have their contracts renewed." The union drive accelerated when academics from the University of Oregon and Rutgers University described how their unions improved working conditions and job security. (nwlaborpress.org, June 12)

### Unions unite with migrant workers to fight wage theft

Imagine spending 10 days roofing luxury condos in 100-degree heat in Pittsburgh and the boss doesn't pay you! That was the outrage driving a rousing rally there on June 9, when members of building trades and painters unions united to fight together with five Guatemalan roofers who hadn't been paid \$5,000 for their work last summer. They demand that Stapleton Homes, the project's developer, pay up.

The rally marked the beginning of efforts by area construction unions to fight the growing trend of wage theft. Rather than pushing im/migrant workers away, buildings trades unions have begun to embrace im/migrant labor. "If we don't step up and keep the pressure on [these contractors], they are just going to keep doing it," said a Painters District Council 57 union representative.

One of the Guatemalan workers told Payday Report that the injustice doubly affected the immigrant workers: "It's just wrong. We have kids, [and] I have more family in Guatemala. ... It's not fair that we didn't get paid." (June 11)

Workers are unstoppable once we uproot the myth that other workers are stealing "our" jobs — and we unite against the real enemy.

### Building trades' apprenticeships help African-American, women workers

When a building boom began in Pittsburgh several years ago, exposing a shortage of skilled building trades workers — carpenters, plumbers, electricians, steelworkers, etc. — the mayor issued two executive orders, with the cooperation of the historically white- and male-dominated building trade unions, to recruit African Americans and women to become union apprentices. A once-closed trade school in a Black neighborhood was reopened for pre-union apprenticeship classes.

"This program changes people's lives," said Ron Sapp, a Black labor leader in Operating Engineers Local 66, who came out of retirement to become an instructor. He told Payday Report: "One of the good things about these [unions] is that you can have a record. ... It's no big deal." Richard Broadus, a 46-year-old father of three who served five years for selling drugs, praised the program: "It's given me a new outlook on life. Now I don't have to do the same thing that I had to do before to provide for my family. I appreciate the opportunity to do better."

Over the past four years, more than 300 students graduated from the program, with 90 percent able to test into union apprenticeship programs. As Payday Report observes: "The stability of a union card equates to lifetime job security for many young people." (June 6) □



# MOVE member Debbie Africa released

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

In the early morning of June 16, after nearly 40 years of unjust imprisonment by the state of Pennsylvania, political prisoner and MOVE 9 member Debbie Sims Africa was granted parole and released from the State Correctional Institution-Cambridge Springs.

Messaging on Instagram, the MOVE Organization wrote: "Our sister Debbie Africa is FREE! What a beautiful day to find freedom! Let's keep fighting for our bros and sisters still behind bars — Mike [Sr.], Eddie, Chuck, Janet, Janine and Delbert! The struggle is underway!"

This important victory comes exactly two years after Debbie, Janet and Janine Africa were last denied parole in 2016. Two MOVE members, Phil and Merle Africa, have died in prison, causes unexplained. Other surviving MOVE members, including Eddie, Mike Sr., Delbert and Chuck Africa, have been repeatedly denied parole since 2008, when they first became eligible under the 30-to-100-year sentences imposed after a police officer was killed during a raid on their home.

The Fraternal Order of Police, with members on the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, has consistently pushed for parole denials, claiming that MOVE members "refused to accept responsibility," "lacked remorse" or posed a "risk to the community."

Debbie Africa's son, Mike Africa Jr., noted: "They don't really want to be so quick to let people who are accused of killing a cop on parole. ... [T]he parole board seems to be retrying them, asking them questions about the incident that seem to have nothing to do with the years they've spent. It's supposed to be, 'Have you been rehabilitated and can you be a member of a society and a productive cit-



PHOTO: @PRODUCERTOMMY

Debbie Africa with her son, Mike Africa, after her release on parole.

izen?' The case has nothing to do with it." (www.metro.us, April 25)

## Forty years since brutal police assault

MOVE, a Philadelphia-based Black Liberation organization, was founded by John Africa in 1972. MOVE maintained the mantle against police brutality and environmental destruction after all-out state campaigns decimated the ranks of the Black Panther Party and other liberation groups.

In May 1977 police obtained a court order requiring MOVE to vacate their Powelton Village home. What followed was a tense 15-month siege of the surrounding neighborhood, including shutting off water to the house and preventing food or aid to be sent to the family. Throughout the ordeal neighbors stepped up to support the family.

This Aug. 8 marks the 40th anniversary

of the all-out assault by thousands of police on the MOVE house in 1978. When the family still refused to leave their home, police launched an early morning raid, using thousands of rounds of munitions, water cannons and tear gas to destroy the compound and drive the family out.

During the raid, Philadelphia Police Officer James P. Ramp was killed by a shot to the back of the head. All MOVE 9 members were convicted of third-degree murder and conspiracy, even though no evidence linked any of them to the shooting. In fact, by immediately razing the entire property, police destroyed any potential evidence that would have helped the MOVE 9 prove their innocence. Police made no efforts to preserve the crime scene or measure for ballistic angles.

Debbie Africa, then 22 years old, was in the house during the 1978 attack with her 23-month-old daughter, Michelle. She was eight and a half months pregnant with her second child, Mike Jr. She has described the terror of the police attack. (onamove.com/move-9/debbie-africa) When family members woke up to find police surrounding their home, they quickly gathered up children and dogs, going to the basement where they thought they would be safe.

"We huddled together scared because we knew cops had lots of guns and other weapons, we didn't know how they were gonna do it, but we knew their plan was to kill us. Cops were yelling over a loud speaker for us to come out the house ... but we didn't trust them so nobody went

out there."

Debbie described how police used fire hoses to forcefully spray water through a broken window in the basement, with enough impact to throw two-by-four oak beams across the room, literally tearing the house apart and killing dogs in the process. Then a second wave of water came through another window, catching them in a cross fire of water. The cops started throwing smoke bombs and tear gas into the basement and began shooting directly at the people inside. The smoke was so dense Debbie could not see her child's face.

While she survived the raid, Debbie's daughter was snatched from her arms by police. On Sept. 15, 1978, in a prison cell, she gave birth to her son. Debbie wrote: "I have not been able to physically mother my son and daughter, who are now parents themselves. Two of my MOVE sisters who are in prison with me, Janine and Janet, both had young children at home on Osage Ave. when we were sent to prison, and their children were murdered on May 13, 1985, by the same Philadelphia cops who attempted to murder us on August 8, 1978."

## The struggle must continue

Debbie's release did not come because the state suddenly decided to do the right thing. It was the result of a 10-year consistent campaign to win parole for the MOVE 9. More work remains to be done.

Mike Jr. noted that the FOP's push to deny the MOVE 9 parole extended to other political prisoners. In 2016, when former Black Panther Party member Sundiata Acoli, age 80, was to be paroled by court order, police "unions" successfully challenged this all the way to higher courts, getting his sentence extended for another 15 years.

Another former BBP member, Veronza Bowers, was due to be released on mandatory federal parole in 2004 only to have the gates closed on him after intervention by the FOP. This March 13, when Herman Bell was granted parole in New York state after 44 years in prison, police organizations tried to get the parole rescinded. As a result of public pressure, Bell was finally released on April 27.

However, despite the FOP, the movement to free the MOVE 9, Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners will continue buoyed by Debbie's victory. There is no sitting on the sidelines. Find out more about the MOVE 9 and their fight for freedom at onamove.com and move9parole.blogspot.com. □

# Cheers for 'Abolish death penalty'

By **Gloria Rubac**  
Houston

The Juneteenth Parade, an annual event in Houston, memorializes the day in 1865 when the Emancipation Proclamation was put into effect, ending slavery across Texas.

This year it was celebrated on June 16. As the parade wound its way from Texas Southern University down Emancipation Avenue to Emancipation Park, the crowds were treated to beauty pageant participants, politicians, bands and community organizations.

But real emancipation was on the minds of many as the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement entry in the parade rolled by. It was warmly received with loud cheering, applause and fists in the air. Lots of photos were taken.

The contingent focused on several cases of innocent people on death row, including Big Lou Perez, Gerald Marshall, Tony Medina and Linda Carty. But the main focus of the Abolition Movement was on Christopher Young. There were posters and signs with a photo of Young along with his artwork — a graphic of a clenched fist crushing the needle of a lethal injection device.

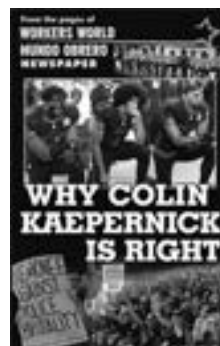


'Stop the execution of Christopher Young' car in Juneteenth Parade.

Texas has set July 17 for Young's execution, despite several jurors saying they voted to convict him because their god had told them that Young, who is African-American, should not have had a white spouse and two children with her.

Showing the blatant bias in jury selection, a member of the jury pool in Young's case was eliminated because her church has a prison ministry, even though she was not part of it.

The parade ended at Emancipation Park, where the 146th annual Juneteenth Festival was in full swing. More information on Young's case is posted at tinyurl.com/y8y7scrw/. □



Learn more. Available online at: [www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books)

## WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero

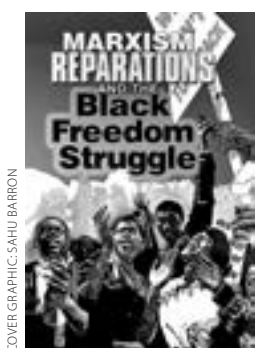
*Excerpt:* 'Last October, Colin Kaepernick, the African-American former quarterback for National Football League's San Francisco 49ers, was asked after a game why he was wearing a Muhammad Ali t-shirt. He said, "To pay homage. [Ali] fought a very similar fight and was trying to do what's right for the people.'"

## MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination • Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery • Black Youth: Repression & Resistance • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key • Domestic Workers Demand a Bill of Rights • Black & Brown Unity • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Alabama's Black Belt: • The 1965 Watts Rebellion  
Available at major online booksellers.





## Aurora, Colo.

# Rally urges 'zero tolerance' for family separation

By Viviana Weinstein  
Aurora, Colo.

Nearly 500 people gathered in front of the GEO-ICE Detention Center here on June 14 to protest the recent U.S. policy of arresting parents who cross the U.S. border.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement takes their children away from them, often tearing them away while both parents and children scream in terror. The children, including babies and toddlers, were being placed in foster homes but, since the government declared a policy of "zero tolerance," the number of children separated from their parents has risen into the thousands. Some have now been placed in a refurbished Walmart Supercenter in Texas, and there are even plans to send some to live in tents on military bases.

While the U.S. government and Justice Department have threatened to fill 50,000 private prison beds per year with the parents in places like GEO Corp., their children are being shipped far away. The parents have no idea where their children are being sent to and most have no contact after they have been removed.

Often, the government loses track of them. When the mothers and fathers are then deported, they have no idea where their children are, nor do they have a way to reunite with them. All this has been reported in the mainstream press for weeks.

This increasing policy of "zero tolerance" for people who cross the U.S. border no longer makes an exception for those who walk up to the border and openly ask for asylum. This includes women fearing reprisal for fleeing severe domestic abuse. In all cases, the parents are arrested and their children literally torn from their arms.

Stories abound of screaming children, mothers and fathers, and of at least one father's suicide after his children were brutally taken from him. To avoid these



Hundreds turn out to protest ICE separating parents from children.

WW PHOTOS: VIVIANA WEINSTEIN

scenes, ICE agents lie to the parents, saying they are taking children for a shower — from which they do not return. This has spurred the protest slogans "Keep families together" and "Zero tolerance for family separation."

The demonstration here in Aurora drew people angry over this inhumane and hateful policy, including Jews who likened it to what the Nazis had done to dehumanize and destroy families during the Holocaust.

Indivisible Colorado organized the demonstration. It is an umbrella organization of many progressive groups throughout the state. The speakers included Dreamers, the undocumented and organizers among the immigrant community.

### Mother of three tells her story

Guadalupe (her last name withheld deliberately) spoke of being from a Guatemalan family but born in Mexico and then brought to the U.S. as a little child more than 20 years ago. Her mother died and she quit high school to work and raise her brothers and sisters.

Guadalupe seemed to be in her thirties, but as her eyes welled up with tears talking about her mother's death, her face looked worn and aged. After marrying, she had three young children. Then, her husband and she were stopped by police. They spent days in jail while the children were not notified and had no idea where their parents were. Since then, they have



incurred great expense obtaining legal help, which has caused terrible hardship in addition to their living in constant fear.

Despite all this, Guadalupe had a warm smile and expressed deep love for the people who came out to support her and others like her who resist the taking of children to terrorize immigrants at the border. She is active in two organizations that give help to the undocumented and families going through the same hardships.

Her two younger children sat lovingly looking up at their mother as she softly told her story in Spanish, a friend translating. Thankfully, they were still together. When she stepped down from the truck bed after speaking, she was surprisingly thin and barely five feet tall. She and her children ran back into the crowd.

Organizers spoke of four women in sanctuary here in Colorado who have been in contact with each other for over five months and have written a document called the People's Resolution. They have communicated with each other over Skype and consulted with lawyers, immigrant and faith-based communities.

The People's Resolution proposes direct steps that elected officials can take to create a path to status. Organizers urged the crowd to press for adoption of this plan in Colorado. (peoplesresolution.org)

They urged everyone to call elected officials, especially Republican Sen. Cory Gardner, to sign on to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bill to stop taking children from their parents at the U.S. border. They urged letter writing to the newspapers and doing everything to protect families from this cruel policy of being separated at the border.

The gathering ended so people could meet at Montview Presbyterian Church, where a candlelight march was to start at 6:30 p.m., and then walk to Temple Micah, a local synagogue that welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Other gatherings to protest ICE and organize to stop the U.S. government from taking immigrant children were taking place the same evening in Pueblo, Colo. An announcement asked people to protest at the home of Sen. Gardner the next day, hundreds of miles away in western Colorado. □

## 'Stop separating families!'

### Portland, Ore.



Hundreds of angry protesters demonstrated and marched in front of the Portland, Ore., Immigration and Customs Enforcement center on June 17, Father's Day. A Syrian woman whose parents immigrated to the U.S. shouted, "Stop separating families!" She denounced ICE for tearing immigrant children from their parents, locking them in cages and shipping their parents hundreds of miles away to sit in prisons — just for seeking asylum. She told of one father who committed suicide after his daughter was bru-

tally ripped from his arms.

Organizer Juan Rogel, 16 years old when his family came to the U.S., said: "It's psychological trauma. You are always missing something. You miss your parents, your family. You miss your culture. You feel like you don't belong, but at the same time, it's where you belong." Protesters plan to drive over 60 miles to a federal prison in Sheridan, Ore., to denounce the horrendous treatment of more than 100 ICE detainees there.

— Story and photo by Lyn Neeley

## Firestorm of protest over ICE

Continued from page 1

ing out for their parents, while huddled under Red Cross blankets in retrofitted Walmarts or military buildings.

While the federal government is already scouting Texas for somewhere to build a tent prison to confine up to 5,000 migrant children, defense contractors are getting ready to profit off this terror, advertising jobs to build the infrastructure that will warehouse children taken from their families.

In the U.S., a secret federal police force has access to advanced database technology and seemingly unlimited jurisdiction and funding to round up millions and put them in virtual concentration camps, with no international or even community oversight.

With racist rhetoric, Trump blames capitalism's decline on migrants. But this bigotry is not found solely in the U.S. Across Europe, far-right, racist parties are climbing to power on the backs of the world's migrant workforce. These workers are falsely blamed for taking jobs, for violent crime, for being a so-called strain on social services and more. The racist right chooses them as easy political targets because of their immigration status, never acknowledging that they have been driven from their homelands by capitalist austerity measures and imperialist war.

### Repression sparks resistance

Now is the time to light a fire in progressive movements, one that burns away this imperialism that migrants are run-

ning from and that openly takes on this capitalist system that, in its death throes, threatens to imprison, maim and kill many millions of the global working class.

In the U.S., Democrats and reformists wring their hands over "the immigrant crisis" and say, "Wait for the elections" — as if Obama had never deported a soul.

And now there has been such a fierce public outcry over the plight of immigrant children that even Republican lawmakers and former First Lady Laura Bush, hoping to shield their reactionary party from a total loss of credibility, have had to condemn Trump's edicts on "family separation."

But mere condemnation is not action. In the case of the politicians, it is an effort to deflect people from doing something about what is widely acknowledged to be a horrible assault on those already terribly oppressed and abused, as im/migrants and as workers.

Fortunately, outraged neighbors, co-workers and communities are not waiting for the politicians. The persecution of im/migrants, in the U.S. and worldwide, is spurring people into action.

For example, members of National Nurses Organizing Committee-Texas, representing 1,700 registered nurses from four El Paso hospitals, joined with other organizations on June 19 to march to the ICE Field Office in El Paso and protest the forced separation of families and detention of immigrant children.

Other articles in this issue of *Workers World* describe similar acts of solidarity from around the country.





## Palestinians condemn ICE policies

*A coalition of Palestinian and Palestinian solidarity organizations in the U.S. has released the following statement.*

We, the undersigned Palestinian and Palestinian solidarity organizations led by the U.S. Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI) condemn, in the strongest terms, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policies of separating minors from their families seeking refuge at U.S. borders. We recognize that these asylum seekers risk their lives on dangerous and unpredictable journeys because they are fleeing from extreme violence and desperate poverty, much of which is rooted in decades of unlawful covert and overt U.S. intervention. U.S. practices of funding military coups, backing brutal dictators and implementing exploitive economic policies have left nations like Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, for example, reeling from brutal dictatorships, political instability, gang violence, drug cartels and economic collapse.

According to a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson, 1,995 minors were separated from 1,940 adults in a mere six weeks between April 19 and May 31, 2018. On February 20, 2018, ICE separated an 18-month-old infant from his mother and in the same month removed a four-month-old baby from his father in Texas. There are reports of a breastfeeding infant being wrested from her mother in a detention center. From October to April, 49,622 family units were apprehended. Children separated from their parents are held in cage-like enclosures and then typically transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services, while their parents are deported.

The United Nations condemned and called on the U.S. to halt the practice of separating families, saying it “amounts to arbitrary and unlawful interference in family life, and is a serious violation of the rights of the child.” Defending this policy as a necessary deterrent, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions suggested that such cruelty was ordained by none other than God. He invoked Romans 13, the same biblical passage that was used to justify and sanctify slavery.

We condemn these U.S. immigration policies, which represent an escalation in a prolonged assault on migrant families, espec-

ially those coming from harsh physical and economic conditions in Central America.

The U.S. attack on migrant families resonates with Israel’s treatment of Indigenous Palestinians. Palestinians have experienced Israel’s routine and arbitrary detention or imprisonment of children in Palestine, and have seen their families torn apart by Israel’s ethnic cleansing policies.

As Palestinians and those who stand in support of Palestinian rights, we express solidarity with migrant families who are being torn apart by such cruel and inhumane government policies inflicted on an already vulnerable and traumatized people. We join the U.N. call on the U.S. to end all practices of separating migrant families, and we call for the protection of these families. We also call for an end to U.S. foreign and economic policies in Central America that bear a heavy responsibility for the conditions forcing families to leave their homes in the first place. □

## Protest targets Sessions

Within hours of learning that Attorney General Jeff Sessions was speaking to the National Sheriffs’ Association on June 18, the New Orleans Peoples’ Assembly, Congreso de Jornaleros (day laborers) and the New Orleans Workers Group mobilized 150 people to confront the racist top cop.

Blocking the main street and facing down the sheriffs, the demonstrators demanded the reunification of families and abolition of ICE, chanting, “No Trump, no Sessions, no racist, fascist USA” and “Solidarity with immigrants.” Five demonstrators were arrested. At one point, someone driving a pickup truck tore through the crowd, hitting one woman. The driver has been identified and a campaign against his company is planned.

— Story by Gavrielle Gemma

## Philadelphia



## ‘Keep families together!’

Over 100 people protested outside a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Philadelphia on June 14. Lined up on sidewalks on both sides of the 100 block of 8th Street, participants held signs facing rush-hour traffic as a number of speakers condemned the Trump/Sessions’ racist separation of migrant families.

The protest was part of a national day of such actions held all over the U.S. Or-

ganized by Families Belong Together, their webpage explains the reason for the protests: “Trump’s federal agents are taking children, from infants to teens, away from their immigrant parents — tearing apart families and meting out physical and psychological abuse at our border, every day. We demand that Trump keep families together.”

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## New Orleans



## Cuban U.N. Ambassador Anayansi Rodríguez speaks at Friendship Caravan meeting

By Cheryl LaBash  
New York

The 29th Cuba Friendship Caravan kicked off here on June 16 at the Bronx Art Space. Energized by a greeting from Cuba’s U.N. ambassador, Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo and a 30-minute video about U.S. students at Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine, the gathering generously contributed nearly \$2,000 to continue the work of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. “Tear down walls and build bridges” is the caravan’s 2018 theme.

Continuing its challenge to the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba, Pastors for Peace will fly to the historic heart of the Cuban Revolution, the southeastern city of Santiago. But first it will carry out a 10-day blitz of informational and fundraising meetings in 40 cities across the

U.S., from June 22 to July 1. For a meeting in your area, see [ifconews.org/2018-caravan-map-and-events](http://ifconews.org/2018-caravan-map-and-events).

In Cuba, the caravanistas plan to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the July 26, 1953, attack on former dictator Fulgencio Batista’s Moncada Barracks. They will pay respects to Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, at his final resting place in Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, as well as visit the town of Caimanera in Guantánamo Province, near the U.S.-occupied naval base and infamous torture prison. June 10 marked the 120th anniversary of the illegal U.S. military occupation of Guantánamo.

IFCO calls for the base to be closed and the land returned to its rightful owner, an end to all restrictions on U.S. travel to Cuba, and the complete lifting of the unilateral U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba, along with its regime-change programs. □



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



## Haiti

# Cops attack workers, injuring dozens

By G. Dunkel

For over a year, workers in Haiti's needle trades have been organizing, protesting and striking to raise their daily minimum wage from \$4.75 to \$15. The textile industry supplies 90 percent of Haiti's exports.

When hundreds of workers tried to walk out at the SONAPI Industrial Park (SONAPI is the French initials for the National Society of Industrial Parks) on June 11 to present their demands to Parliament, special riot police attacked them with clubs and sent dozens of workers to the hospital. (Haiti Libre, June 12)

Workers had applied for and received a permit to march, but Bernard Schettini, the government-appointed director of SONAPI, called out the riot cops.

Workers are demanding a raise in pay and also the public transportation, health insurance and public housing that the government has promised. Due to gov-

ernment-imposed price hikes of 20 percent on gasoline, inflation has been raging in Haiti.

Many categories of Haitian workers get a legal, daily subminimum wage of far less than \$4.75. According to the Minimum Wage Project, 107 countries have a higher average yearly minimum wage than Haiti.

There are six companies in Haiti that produce garments for U.S. stores like Walmart and Target: MGA Haiti, Astro Carton d'Haiti, Haiti Cheung Won, Textile Youm Kwang, Pacific Sports Haiti and Wilbes Haitian. They have all threatened to leave for countries where the workers are "less demanding" if the government fails to stop these strikes, which have had a major impact on production.

The head of the Association of Industries in Haiti, Georges Barreau Sassine, announced that 800 workers were going to be laid off by Wilbes, a South Korean firm. The rationale is that Wilbes



Haitian workers defy cops.

couldn't meet its obligations to Under Armour — a prominent U.S. firm that sells footwear, sports and casual apparel — due to worker unrest in May. This is a very serious threat in a country where some economists estimate the unemployment rate is 75 percent.

Dominique Saint Eloi, the coordinator of the National Center of Haitian Workers, had to announce the cancellation of the last two days of workers' protests due to police brutality. But he made it clear that there will be further protests in the future. □

## Michigan

# Poor People's Campaign unites unions, communities

By Jerry Goldberg  
Lansing, Mich.

The Michigan Poor People's Campaign action on June 11 was the largest yet. Some 500 activists protested in Lansing, the state capital, around the themes of "Education, Living Wages, Jobs, Income and Housing." An especially strong and dynamic contingent of mostly young African-American workers from the D-15 movement played a leading role in the demonstrations.

The rallies at a church gathering spot and the Michigan Treasury Department, organized by the Moratorium Now Coalition and D-15, reflected a coming together of union and community activists. Speakers included disability rights activists Lisa Franklin from Warriors on Wheels and Baba Baxter. Helen Moore from the Vote No Takeover Coalition spoke on the education struggle.

City retirees Yvonne Jones, representing Moratorium Now, and Donald Roberts, from the Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association, discussed the war on public workers, and especially retirees in Michigan. Shannon Kirkland from the Communications Workers spoke on a potential Midwest strike against AT&T, and a representative of the Lecturers Union discussed their contract battle at the University of Michigan.

A United Auto Workers representative spoke on the fight of Colombian workers against General Motors. Jonathan Roberts rallied support for the One Fair Wage campaign, a referendum scheduled for a vote this November to lift the Michigan minimum wage for all low-wage workers and specifically to abolish the subminimum wage for restaurant servers.

The direct action included a sit-in, resulting in a number of arrests at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The sit-in supported a Moratorium Now Coalition contingent that went inside to demand MSHDA use the remaining \$200 million in Michigan's federal Hardest Hit Funds to keep families in their homes, as intended under the program.

In Michigan, the bulk of the Hardest Hit Funds are being illegally diverted to a corrupt blight removal program, administered by Detroit and Flint land banks. Moratorium Now is demanding that the funds be used instead to prevent the eviction of thousands of families from all the occupied homes facing tax foreclosure this fall.

Under the Moratorium Now proposal, the city or county would remove thousands of occupied tax foreclosed homes from the fall auction by exercising their right of first refusal. Hardest Hit Funds

would be supplied to pay delinquent property tax bills, and the homes would then be turned over to the occupants, whether they are owners, renters, land contract vendees or even squatters. Based on the strength of the action on Monday, MSHDA agreed to present this proposal for agreement by the federal Department of the Treasury.

The Michigan Poor People's Campaign action June 11 was part of weekly demonstrations that have occurred every Monday, beginning May 14, in over 30 state capitals across the U.S. The state protests will culminate with a national Stand Against Poverty Mass Rally & Moral Revival on Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m., on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. For information about this national rally, go to [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org). □

# Pensacola remembers lost LGBTQ lives

By Devin Cole  
Pensacola, Fla.

June 12 marked the second anniversary of the deaths of a crowd of almost all LGBTQ people, mostly Latinx, massacred by a gunman at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla.

That evening Pensacola chose to hold a celebration of life for the 49 victims of the shooting, as opposed to a standard, solemn memorial service. Photos and biographies of each of the victims were clipped to lines between trees in a local park, so people attending could walk by and read about them.

In addition to a poem and remarks by local trans leaders, Workers World Managing Editor Minnie Bruce Pratt spoke, raising the connection between LGBTQ families torn apart by violence and bigoted law; the recent death in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement cus-



WW PHOTO: DEVIN COLE

tody of Honduran trans asylum seeker Roxana Hernández; and the current U.S. attacks on immigrant families. After the speakers, the name of each of the Pulse martyrs was read and a candle was lit in their memory.

The event was initiated and led by Strive, a transgender advocacy organization in Pensacola. ([facebook.com/socialtransinitiative](https://www.facebook.com/socialtransinitiative)) □

**COME OUT FOR PRIDE!**  
**COME OUT FOR WORKERS WORLD!**

**June is Pride month,** with rallies and marches worldwide commemorating the 49th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. Workers World has a proud history of reporting on and participating in the living struggle for LGBTQ justice and equality. Foremost these days is fighting transgender oppression, which includes upholding the rights of trans youth and adults to use public bathrooms of their gender and assuring that transwomen, particularly transwomen of color, will no longer be attacked or murdered for living their truth.

Did you know that Workers World made a major theoretical contribution to the LGBTQ struggle? WW contributor and staff member Bob McCubbin wrote "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View" (World View Forum, third ed., 1993). Drawing on Frederick Engels and Dorothy Ballan for a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTQ oppression, McCubbin showed how early communal societies accepted all expressions

of human interrelations and gender. Only when class society became entrenched did rigid rules restricting gender and sexuality become the norm. That's what we're fighting to end today.

That analysis drives Workers World's view that the LGBTQ struggle is a vital component in the overall struggle to end capitalist oppression. So as part of the fight for the liberation of LGBTQ people, join the struggle against capitalist exploitation and help build Workers World newspaper.

We invite you to join the WW Supporter Program, set up 41 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, anti-sexist, pro-LGBTQ, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to crush capitalism and usher in socialism. Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or click on Donate on [workers.org](http://workers.org). Know that we are grateful for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S. □



# Attack on Yemen port city puts millions at risk

By John Catalinotto

With U.S. logistical and intelligence aid, the Saudi Arabia-United Arab Emirates coalition of reactionary monarchies in the Persian/Arabian Gulf region has been waging an offensive, including Saudi air strikes, on the Yemen port city of Hodeidah. Because Hodeidah is the main entry for food aid, the offensive threatens the lives of as many as 8.5 million of Yemen's 29 million people.

As of June 17 the battle for the port was still raging. The reactionaries' claims to have taken the airport were refuted both by the defending forces and international observers, according to an article in the June 18 German daily newspaper *Junge Welt*.

The corporate media describe the troops defending the port as "rebels." This term is misleading, as these troops are from the Ansarollah-led government that has controlled the city since soon after the prior interim president, Abed Rabbo Mansur Hadi, fled Yemen for Saudi Arabia in 2014. Hadi had been elected in 2012 for a two-year term under an agreement of contending groups in Yemen. He was rejected when he broke that agreement.

Ansarollah came out ahead in the ensuing struggle for power inside Yemen. Demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of people have supported the Ansarollah government, who are also called "Houthis."

The same media call the 21,000 troops attacking the port "government troops."

These forces, however, are made up of officers from the United Arab Emirates and troops recruited from opponents of the Ansarollah made up of separatist militias, fortified by mercenaries from Sudan.

The reactionary coalition, which first attacked Yemen in March 2015, also included Egypt and Jordan, although there are no reports of troops from these countries participating in the assault on Hodeidah. The coalition's main pretext for fighting against the Ansarollah forces — and the U.S. pretext for arming the coalition and fueling Saudi planes in the air — is the alleged role of the Iranian government in supporting Ansarollah.

While it is reasonable to assume that the Iranian government — as the only state power in the region independent of world imperialism — would be sympathetic to the mostly Shiite and also anti-imperialist, anti-monarchist Ansarollah movement, there is no direct intervention by Iranian forces in Yemen and no hard evidence of a massive supply of weapons to Ansarollah. The international agencies that administer aid through the Hodeidah port say that they would have seen any supply of Iranian rockets through the port.

## U.S. role in potential genocide

The other side, that is, the Saudi-UAE coalition backed by U.S. imperialism, represents the most reactionary states in the region. Coalition ruling classes are



completely entwined with world imperialism and act against any popular movements of the masses. The Saudi and UAE monarchies dominate the air, supply officers and hire mercenary troops, while the U.S. provides them with weapons of the highest technology.

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen, which has suffered from a cholera epidemic and where tens of millions of people are on the edge of starvation, threatens to lead to millions of deaths if Hodeidah is closed to aid shipments.

The Saudi bombing of Yemen began in 2015, with the backing of the Barack Obama administration. The Donald Trump administration, whose senior positions are filled with sworn enemies of Iran, like John Bolton, Mike Pompeo and Trump himself, has sold \$110 billion in weapons to Saudi Arabia and is looking to sell more.

A nervous June 12 editorial in the *New York Times* opposed an assault on Hodeidah. While it avoided criticizing Obama's decision or the overall imperialist

goal of defeating Ansarollah, it argued: "Over the course of this conflict, President Trump has emboldened Saudi and emirati leaders. He shares their antipathy for Iran and will sell them virtually any weapon they want. The military contractor Raytheon is lobbying Congress and the State Department for permission to sell the Saudis and Emiratis billions more dollars' worth of precision-guided munitions."

The *Times* spelled out its fears: "Although coalition leaders have argued that the offensive can be carried out quickly, they have repeatedly miscalculated over the years, trapping their countries in a quagmire. The result has been countless civilian deaths, many attributed to indiscriminate coalition bombing attacks. Under international law, these attacks may qualify as war crimes in which the United States and Britain, another arms supplier, are complicit."

The *New York Times* published a report May 3 that the Pentagon has stationed a unit of Green Berets in Saudi Arabia on the Yemen border.

The possibility then is that the U.S. will not only wind up involved in obvious war crimes — which in Yemen would amount to genocide — but that the mercenary forces it backs will face defeat by a popular army. The presence of U.S. Special Forces means that this opening toward a greater conflagration in the region could find U.S. forces in a direct battle with a people's war. □

## Trump, Korea, NATO Where is the world going?

By Deirdre Griswold

Even as the Trump administration unleashes the repressive instruments of the state to terrorize, imprison and tear apart im/migrant families in the U.S., the bigot in chief and his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo seem bent on using their bully pulpit to castigate many countries that have been close allies of U.S. imperialism.

NATO members like Canada, France and Germany are special targets of

### Expanding Empire

The global war drive of big business and the forces that will stop it

Vince Copeland's "Expanding Empire" tells the story of U.S. imperialism from its beginnings in 1898 up to the Vietnam War. The pamphlet was written in 1969 during the Vietnam War and became one of *Workers World's* most popular titles. It went through several printings.

The purpose of the pamphlet was to show that the war was not caused by any particular politician. Rather it was a product of the capitalist system.

The same is true today. In the end, it all comes down to profits. "Expanding Empire" explains how the capitalists' insatiable greed for increased profit inevitably produces war. And it shows how the only way to prevent future wars is to destroy capitalism at its roots.



Learn more. Find it at:  
[www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books)

Trump's invective right now. Yet these capitalist governments have endorsed Washington's aggressive, predatory wars, going all the way back to the massive U.S. assault on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1950 and continuing, with almost no exceptions, right up to the present-day horror shows against the Arab and Muslim world.

### Origins of NATO

NATO was born in the days of the Cold War, when the imperialists put aside (partially) their rivalries in order to have a united front against the Soviet Union, People's China, the workers' states of Eastern Europe and the liberation struggles gaining strength all over the world in countries trying to free themselves from colonialism and its successor, neocolonialism.

NATO was a nuclear-armed gang, led by the financial rulers of what they called the "free world" and held together by their utter hatred and fear of the rebellions against capitalist wage slavery and oppression shaking much of what was then termed the Third World.

It was unthinkable in those days for high officials in a U.S. administration to openly criticize any of their NATO partners, no matter how fierce the subterranean competition among them to control world markets and exploit both the resources and labor power of developing countries.

### 'America first'

But that is happening now, big time. And it isn't just Trump and his tweets. Pompeo, speaking to the Detroit Economic Club on June 15, said that "asymmetric trade relationships" with Canada, Europe, Japan and Mexico had to change.

He was merely echoing the "America first" rhetoric of his boss, who has made a fine art out of twisting facts into pretzels in order to blame other countries for the failings of the capitalist system here.

Regarding trade and the imposition of tariffs, the biggest attacks by the administration have, of course, been aimed at China. By decree Trump has already imposed tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum, thereby opening what is expected to become a tariff war with China. Since last summer's meeting with Xi Jinping, when the U.S. president professed friendship and respect for the most populous country in the world with the fastest-growing economy, he has made a complete U-turn.

Perhaps the kinds of deals he had expected to make with China, which would have enriched him and his already filthy-rich class of billionaires, didn't quite pan out?

### Charm offensive

Now the Trump administration is on another tack. With sentiment in all of Korea clearly being in favor of ending the hostility between north and south — remember the utter isolation of Vice President Mike Pence at the PyeongChang Olympic Games in February, when everyone else was cheering for the united north-south Korea team? — Trump has made friendly overtures to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and met with its leader Kim Jong Un.

The meeting was a victory for the north, which, before it had demonstrated its advanced scientific and technological capability by developing its own nuclear weapons, was ridiculed and belittled by the entire imperialist establishment

around the world.

So, from launching crude insults at the DPRK leader, Trump suddenly switched to a charm offensive and actually sat down with Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

### Korea's strength

Unlike the chaotic and unpredictable Trump administration, the political leadership of the DPRK has a solid foundation, forged over decades of heroic anti-colonial, anti-imperialist struggle. Kim Il Sung, founder of the DPRK, fought first against Japanese colonialism, which oppressed all of Korea from 1910 to 1945, and then against U.S. imperialism.

The Workers' Party that he founded continues to lead the country today, adhering to the socialist principles that have guided it through many difficult times. The party and government have successfully mobilized the people again and again to counteract the war threats and punishing economic sanctions emanating from the U.S.

In South Korea, a strong people's movement toppled the previous corrupt president and is firmly behind the efforts of the Moon Jae-in government to improve relations with the DPRK.

Meanwhile, U.S. imperialism is no longer the dominant economic power it was when it emerged from World War II as producer of half the world's manufactured goods. Europe was in ruins then, as was much of Asia. Today, it is a different story.

This new reality can be seen in the frantic efforts of the current administration to bully the rest of the world into deals that would further enrich sections of the U.S. ruling establishment. To quote someone, "Ain't gonna happen." □



# WORKERS WORLD

## editorial

### Covert war on Nicaragua — again

When the New York Times starts advocating the “rule of law” in another country, as it did in a May opinion piece, and other corporate media chime in, we should always pay attention.

That’s so we can know which country U.S. imperialism is gearing up to destabilize.

This time — once again — it’s Nicaragua, with the U.S. trumpeting to replace President Daniel Ortega and the Sandinista government.

It behooves us to note that the Nicaraguan prominently mentioned as the “opposition” to the Sandinistas by the U.S. press is Juan Sebastián Chamorro, a “spokesman” for the “Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy.” His aunt is ex-President Violeta Chamorro, whose government belonged to a coalition of U.S.-backed, right-wing political parties battling Sandinista national liberation forces in the 1990s.

Since the mid-19th century, the U.S. has asserted its Monroe Doctrine “right” to colonize and exploit Nicaragua as its own backyard. And from the beginning, Nicaraguans have resisted, including the revolutionary rebellion led by Gen. Augusto C. Sandino in the 1920s and 1930s.

When the Sandinista National Liberation Front triumphed in 1979, it still had to defeat the subsequent CIA-orchestrated covert war involving terrorist acts, as well as a Washington-sponsored propaganda campaign.

Now the U.S. is trying again to undermine Nicaragua, taking advantage of protests that turned violent after the government announced a planned decrease in social security benefits. It later rescinded the move.

There is much evidence that the violence was promoted by the reactionary, pro-imperialist opposition. But the May 29 report by Amnesty International claimed that the current Sandinista government was involved in “extrajudicial killing” and “repression.”

This certainly isn’t the first time that AI has served as a propaganda megaphone for U.S. interests. But this time, its claims have been cogently answered by Camilo Mejía, a native of Nicaragua — and a 2004 Amnesty International

prisoner of conscience.

Mejía wasn’t imprisoned by Nicaragua. He was jailed by the U.S. — as an Iraq war veteran, resister and conscientious objector.

In an “Open Letter to Amnesty International,” Mejía emphasizes: “The [AI] report feeds on claims from those on one side of the conflict, and relies on deeply corrupted evidence; it ultimately helps create the mirage of a genocidal state, in turn generating more anti-government sentiment locally and abroad, and paving the way for ever more aggressive foreign intervention.”

Mejía stresses that the U.S. opposes the Sandinista government for its attempts to maintain independence from the “neoliberal economic order imposed by the U.S. and its allies.”

Mejía notes that improvements made by this national liberation government include universal access to education, primary, secondary and university; and a modest, excellent health care system accessible to all. He points out: “Approximately 90 percent of the food consumed by Nicaraguans is produced in Nicaragua, and about 70 percent of jobs come from the grassroots economy — rather than from transnational corporations.”

Mejía says that “the audacity of success” of the Sandinista government has “once again placed Nicaragua in the crosshairs of U.S. intervention.”

Surely, we in the U.S. need no reminder of overt U.S. propaganda that manipulates public thinking — think of the demonization of independent Iraq, Libya and Syria.

And it is all too common for U.S. covert agencies to manipulate what may be valid demands by people in another country, in cooperation with ruling-class reactionaries. The U.S. ruling class will always attempt to turn progressive movements into their opposite — to divert people from a possible revolutionary path forward.

Our duty in the U.S. is to resist this overt and covert capitalist propaganda. Our duty is to relentlessly expose all of imperialism’s tricks and to oppose all of imperialism’s crimes. □

## Guatemala

# Natural and political volcanoes erupt

By Samuel Ordóñez

Thousands of Indigenous men and women marched on June 12 to the capital of Guatemala, organizing themselves into four columns to enter Central Park. They came in response to a call by the Committee for Peasant Development (CODECA) for a national strike to demand justice in the deaths of several human rights defenders from that organization. In the last month, five members of CODECA and several other peasant leaders not part of the organization have been murdered.

This action took place during a dangerous period in Guatemala, as the volcanoes of Pacaya, Santiago and Fuego are currently active. Fuego has already had several eruptions in recent weeks that devastated nearby villages and exacerbated the country’s political crisis.

Days before CODECA arrived in the capital, the city’s residents had taken to the streets to demand that President Jimmy Morales leave, blaming him for corruption and for failing to manage the damage from the volcano’s eruption.

In addition to demanding justice for the murdered defenders, CODECA called for the departure of the president and his cabinet. But they also called for the removal of the corrupt deputies from Congress. During the demonstration in the square, several leaders of CODECA and its allies proposed a referendum for a Plurinational People’s National Constitutional Assembly.

They opposed the so-called “pact of the corrupt,” which the ruling National Convergence Front (FCN) recently passed, taking advantage of the fact that the country had all its eyes focused on helping the victims of the eruptions. CODECA dubbed the government’s initiative “pact of the corrupt” because it was designed to grant impunity to the FCN from the ongoing investigations of illegal election financing.

As of June 16, the FCN deputies have been removed and the president is under investigation by the Supreme Electoral Court. Demonstrations have continued throughout the country in recent days.

### Jimmy Morales, tool of ruling class

In 2015, the Guatemalan people took to the streets and forced the departure of President Otto Pérez Molina, along with most of his ministers. That protest was a response to a crisis in social services caused by the uncontrolled theft of government funds by politicians and their friends in the oligarchy. The president resigned and the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) initiated legal proceedings.

What was missing in 2015 was a decisive alternative to the power of the military and the oligarchy that had ruled the country for so long. With the two major political parties discredited among the people by corruption scandals, Jimmy Morales, a popular comedian and candidate for a former military party, was brought to power.

What has been Morales’ approach to his presidency? Has it been to attend to social needs? Not at all. Since before the volcano erupted, the roads were in terrible condition, the hospitals had no medicine, and the country led Latin America in child malnutrition. Now, just as CO-

DECA has warned, the country is about to tumble into a state of collapse.

As signs of this plunge, Jimmy Morales has proposed referendums to decide on the border with Belize, encouraged investment in the country of U.S. and European capital, and moved the Guatemalan Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, days after Trump announced a similar U.S. decision.

As Mayan nations and peasants were mobilizing to help the victims of the eruptions, the government claimed there was “not a penny” in the budget. When trucks and individuals arrived from neighboring Honduras and El Salvador with help, they were not allowed to cross the border. Soon, the army took control of rescue operations, and now it is reported that donations at collection centers have not reached the victims.

In the months ahead, a major reconstruction campaign will be needed for disaster recovery. Although the oligarchy may ignore this need, they might also take advantage of the emergency by submitting luxurious contracts that benefit their corporations and foreign investors. As always, it will be the people who suffer.

The example of Puerto Rico and the ongoing destruction of the island’s public services should be a warning to the people of Guatemala. It is true that, unlike the Puerto Rican archipelago, Guatemala is not a formal colony of the U.S. But it is a neocolony, dominated by U.S. and European imperialism, which extract great profits from the country with the help of the oligarchy, which takes the leftovers.

### Popular movement, an alternative to oligarchy

That needn’t be Guatemala’s future. As we have noted, the same popular forces who are mobilizing against the government have supported the rescue process.

Tens of thousands of dollars in donations have come pouring in from the Guatemalan diaspora and the international working class through a GoFundMe website ([gofundme.com/helping-guatemalan-volcano-victims/donate](http://gofundme.com/helping-guatemalan-volcano-victims/donate)).

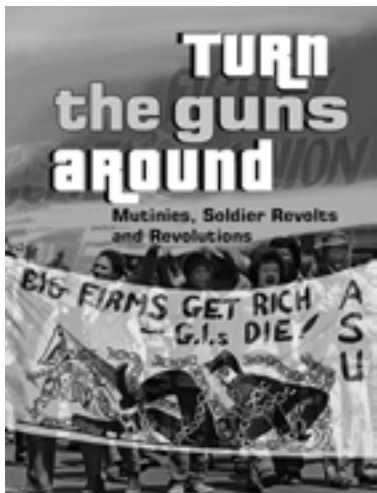
These funds are available to local cooperatives to address the crisis. Cuba, a great example of international solidarity, has sent a brigade of doctors.

There is no reason why Guatemala should be as poor as it is when its fields have enriched the world with coffee, sugar, cotton and, above all, bananas. The colonial system was the primary cause of so much suffering, with this system now replaced by neocolonial imperialism.

The only force capable of resolving the current crisis to the benefit of the people will be that of the people themselves. Surely that’s because they recognize what CODECA demands: a Plurinational People’s National Constitutional Assembly.

That the process should be plurinational is as important as that it should be of the people. In a colonized country, where the nations that are the heirs of the Maya have always been the majority, but also the poorest and most oppressed, the people cannot advance without rectifying such injustice.

The only real way to reverse so many centuries of cruelty is with a popular social movement led by the most oppressed sections of the people. □



## TURN THE GUNS AROUND

### Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

by John Catalinotto

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

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

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

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## France

# Strikes break out on all fronts

By Rémy Herrera  
Paris, France

June 15 — In recent months, while social conflicts in France have heated up, the corporate media here have fulfilled their role to perfection. They constantly disseminate propaganda aimed at undermining the morale of struggling workers and slavishly relay the lying speeches of President Emmanuel Macron's government. Backed by high finance, the Macron regime is hiding its intent to systematically destroy public services behind the word "reforms."

After claiming that the numbers of strikers and demonstrators opposed to the government's wide-ranging neoliberal measures have been diminishing, the media now declare "the imminent end of the railway workers' strike." In truth, the most combative unions in the railway sector (CGT, SUD ...) are currently discussing the possible continuation of the struggle at the French national railway (SNCF) beyond the initially scheduled end of the strikes on June 28.

In fact, simply reading the list of all the strikes that have recently taken place or continue to take place in France would exhaust the airtime of the television news! Commentators who are subservient to the ruling class talk about these conflicts as a "French illness" that should

be eradicated. One deputy from the presidential majority has even called this a "strike culture."

We must see this proliferation of social struggles as a reason for optimism. It is in these movements that workers, especially the youngest, are trained. They are re-learning how to build indispensable bonds of solidarity and local forms of organization while developing future leaders.

Despite the many difficulties encountered, these struggles will gradually increase and bear fruit. Patience is required. Class consciousness is growing, and with it the courage of more and more workers who are leaving behind inertia and resignation.

## Fast food workers fight

This is especially so since some of these social movements are unusual, even historic. A few examples:

The number of unionized fast food employees is increasing sharply. At McDonalds, strikers — some of whom fought for more than six months — demanded better working conditions and wages but also denounced the company owners' tax evasion and failure to share profits.

Workers in other companies no longer hesitate to expose cases of workplace exploitation and abuse. In the wake of the employee mobilization at the Carrefour "big-box" retail stores in France, the

movement spread to Belgium, where a hundred Lidl stores had to close during a spontaneous strike.

For several months, employees in elder care institutions have been demonstrating to denounce paltry salaries and decay speedups and understaffing. They also denounce poor living conditions for the residents and the exorbitant fees charged.

In May, tourists could observe that Paris sanitation and sewer workers were mobilized. These workers sought recognition of the "hardship" of their professions and demanded the right to early retirement.

In mid-June farmers blocked 14 oil refineries throughout the country to protest the government's decision to allow palm oil imports (notably from Indonesia). This oil is intended to feed biofuel production but also threatens the French rapeseed industry.

## Social unrest deepens

Goaded by the latest capitalist drive for privatization, outsourcing and downsizing of the work staff, social unrest is so deep that it even affects professions that never in living memory have been seen to demonstrate.

In May, a thousand auditors took to the streets against a bill that would cancel the requirement that small and medium-sized businesses have their accounts

certified by accounting firms (which would cause a loss of auditor income).

A month earlier, magistrates and lawyers were on strike to protest the Ministry of Justice's decision to "merge" (in reality, to close) the small-claims courts, which hear claims that do not exceed 5,000 euros (\$5,800), and have these claims heard in higher courts. In addition to cuts in budgets and jobs, this move would lead to dehumanized and privatized justice and deter the poorest from initiating legal proceedings to defend their rights.

In May, it was the turn of workers at the Catacombs (an underground cemetery where many thousands of skeletons are stored beneath Denfert-Rochereau Square) and the Archaeological Crypt to engage in the longest strike ever held at Paris museums. The employees are demanding "dignified and fair" working conditions, safety for the agents and security at these tourist sites, and a bonus for working underground in difficult conditions.

Thus, the strike wave of the spring of 2018 has already drawn new sectors of the working class into struggle and trained rank-and-file leaders of tomorrow.

*Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, who works at the Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris. WW staff translated this article.*

## May Day banned, communists jailed Stop repression in Transnistria!

By Greg Butterfield

Communists and socialists in the former Soviet Union and worldwide are calling for the immediate release of Oleg Horzhan, leader of the Communist Party of Transnistria, and dozens of other jailed party members and supporters.

A wave of repression against the communists began on June 2 following a public gathering in the central square of the capital, Tiraspol. Horzhan, who is also an elected member of the republic's Supreme Council, was stripped of his parliamentary immunity and arrested on June 6.

Transnistria, also known as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, is an "unrecognized" state in Eastern Europe. Transnistria's people proclaimed independence from Moldova in 1992, during the breakup of the Soviet Union, rejecting the capitalist counterrevolution and abandonment of Soviet norms.

The Communist Party of Transnistria has been a leading political organization in the republic since its founding. The communists have sought to defend the social gains of workers and the country's historic social and economic ties with other former Soviet republics in a region increasingly controlled by U.S./NATO-dominated right-wing governments.

Following elections in late 2016, a new government headed by a former military officer, Vadim Krasnoselskiy, took power, with a strongly pro-capitalist orientation. The new government has deepened its ties with the ruling oligarchy in Moldova.

The current crisis began when the new authorities banned the traditional May Day demonstration in Tiraspol this year.

In response, the Communist Party attempted to organize a protest. After

government agencies denied several requests for a permit to hold a rally, Horzhan called for a public meeting with voters in the central square on June 2 — something he was legally entitled to do as a member of parliament.

When people came to the square on June 2, the government organized provocations and arrested many people. Raids were carried out against Horzhan's family members and other communists throughout the republic.

Horzhan gave a press conference in Moldova on June 5, where he explained: "Old people, women with children and just spectators were arrested. Subsequently, I learned that people who were arrested were beaten. I went to the police station and asked that they be treated humanely. They drove me away and told me not to appear again. Yesterday, all day, there were court sessions. We have still been unable to get a full list of those arrested," the deputy said.

The next day, Horzhan was placed under arrest.

"At the meeting of the Supreme Council, Horzhan was stripped of his immunity, and he was detained by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. ... Horzhan is accused of organizing an unauthorized rally and using violence against a government official, and he faces a fine of up to 30,000 Transnistrian rubles or imprisonment for up to five years." (Regnum.ru, June 12)

Alexander Roshko, a leader of the Moldovan communist party, "Our Home Is Moldova," and a former political prisoner himself, reported June 15: "Oleg Horzhan continues on hunger strike, despite appeals from citizens not to risk his life and health. He's been taken by ambulance several times, but there is

no thought of releasing Oleg for health care. Today the Supreme Court unjustifiably denied his appeal."

Nadezhda Bondarenko, secretary of the Communist Party of Transnistria, thanked communists internationally for their support. She said: "At the moment, arrests and political persecutions continue. Some of our comrades are forced to hide, others are afraid not so much for themselves, but for the life and well-being of their loved ones.

"At the same time, the ruling regime is trying to destroy the last independent media that remain in the republic. Opposition journalists are persecuted and face massive pressure. So, on June 11, Tiraspol City Council deputy Alexander Samoniy — an employee of the press service of the Central Committee of the CPT — was arrested. The authorities could not forgive him for his truthful video reports about the June 2 events, in which Alexander showed people what the rulers of Transnistria wished to hide.



"But the Transnistrian communists do not intend to retreat, for our cause is just, we are defending the rights and lawful interests of ordinary people, we defend the principles of freedom and democracy, we defend the Republic created by the will of the people, which the oligarchs and their protégés in power are trying to turn into their own fiefdom. We will not disgrace the high title of communist — we will fight and win," she concluded. (kp-pmr.ru)

Free Oleg Horzhan! Hands off the Communist Party of Transnistria! □



## WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,  
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;  
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

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## Guatemala

# Erupciones naturales y políticas

Por Sam Ordóñez

El 12 de junio entraron a la capital de Guatemala miles de indígenas y campesinas/os, organizándose en cuatro columnas para entrar al Parque Central. Venían en respuesta al llamado a un paro nacional convocado por el Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (Codeca) para exigir justicia en las muertes de varios defensores de derechos humanos de esa organización. En el último mes han sido asesinados cinco miembros de Codeca y varios otros líderes campesinos que no formaban parte de la organización.

Esta acción viene durante un periodo peligroso en Guatemala, ya que actualmente están activos los volcanes de Pacaya, Santiago, y Fuego. Ese último volcán ya ha tenido varias erupciones en las últimas semanas que han devastado las aldeas cercanas y han exacerbado una crisis política en el país.

Días antes de que llegara Codeca a la capital, habían salido ciudadanos de ésta a demandar la salida del presidente Jimmy Morales por su corrupción y su fracaso en manejar la emergencia del volcán.

Además de exigir justicia para los defensores asesinados, Codeca también pedía la salida del presidente y su gabinete. Pero también pedían la salida de los diputados corruptos del Congreso. En la manifestación en la plaza, varios líderes de Codeca y sus aliados proponían un proceso de Asamblea Nacional Constituyente Popular y Plurinacional.

Se oponían al llamado "pacto de corruptos" que, aprovechándose de que el país tenía ocupada su atención en socorrer a las víctimas del volcán, intentaba pasar el partido gobernante Frente de Convergencia Nacional (FCN). Así llamaban a la iniciativa del gobierno que daría impunidad al FCN ante investigaciones de financiamiento electoral ilícito.

A la hora de escribir, se han cancelado los diputados del FCN y el presidente está siendo investigado por el Tribunal Electoral Supremo. A lo largo del país las demostraciones han continuado los últimos días.

### Jimmy Morales, herramienta de la clase gobernante

En 2015, el pueblo guatemalteco tomó las calles y forzó la salida del presidente Otto Pérez Molina, junto con la mayoría de sus ministros. Era una respuesta a la crisis de los servicios sociales causado por el robo descontrolado de los fondos de gobierno por parte de los políticos y sus amigos en la oligarquía. El presidente renunció y la Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Guatemala (CICIG) inició un proceso legal.

Lo que faltó en 2015 fue una alternativa decisiva al poder de los militares y la oligarquía que habían gobernado el país por tanto tiempo. Con los dos partidos políticos mayoritarios desacreditados en la mente del pueblo por escándalos de corrupción, llegó al poder Jimmy Morales, popular actor cómico y candidato de un partido formado por ex-militares.

¿Cual ha sido el enfoque de Morales en su presidencia? Es obvio que no es atender a las necesidades sociales, ya que incluso antes del volcán las carreteras estaban en pésimas condiciones, los hospitales no tenían medicinas y el país lideraba la América Latina en malnutrición infantil. Como denunciaba Codeca, el país está a punto de caer en un estado fallido.

Como prueba de eso, Jimmy Morales ha propuesto referendos sobre la frontera con Belice, incentivado la inversión de capital estadounidense y europea en el país y además, movió la embajada guatemalteca en Israel a Jerusalén días después de que Trump anunciara esa decisión en EUA.

Mientras las naciones mayas y las/os campesinas/os se movilizaban para ayudar a las/os damnificados del volcán, el gobierno decía que no había "ni un sólo centavo" en el presupuesto. Cuando llegaban camiones e individuos de los países vecinos de Honduras y El Salvador con ayuda, no les permitían cruzar la frontera. Pronto el ejército tomó control de las operaciones y ahora se re-

porta que las donaciones en los centros de acopio no han llegado a las víctimas.

En los meses siguientes será necesario una gran campaña de reconstrucción para la recuperación luego del desastre. Aunque la oligarquía puede ignorar esa necesidad, es posible que se aproveche de la emergencia sometiendo contratos lujosos que beneficien a sus empresas y a sus inversionistas extranjeros. Como siempre, será el pueblo el que sufre.

El ejemplo de Puerto Rico, y la actual destrucción de sus servicios públicos, debería ser una advertencia para el pueblo de Guatemala. Es cierto que, a diferencia del archipiélago, Guatemala no es una colonia formal de los Estados Unidos. Pero sí como neocolonia, está dominada por el imperialismo estadounidense y europeo que extrae grandes ganancias del país con la ayuda de la oligarquía que se queda con lo que sobra.

### El movimiento popular como alternativa a la oligarquía

El futuro de Guatemala no tiene que ser ese. Como ya hemos comentado, las mismas fuerzas populares que se movilizan contra el gobierno han apoyado el proceso de rescate.

De la diáspora guatemalteca y de la clase obrera internacional han llegado decenas de miles de dólares en

donaciones mediante la página GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/helping-guatemalan-volcano-victims/donate>). Esos fondos se han puesto a la disposición de las cooperativas locales para enfrentarse a la crisis. Cuba, gran ejemplo de la solidaridad internacional, ha enviado una brigada de médicos.

No hay razón por la que Guatemala tiene que ser tan pobre como es, cuando sus campos han enriquecido al mundo con café, azúcar, algodón, y sobretodo, bananas. La culpa de tanto sufrimiento primero fue del sistema colonialista, que ahora ha sido reemplazado por el imperialismo neocolonial.

La única fuerza capaz de resolver la actual crisis de manera que beneficie al pueblo, es el mismo pueblo. Seguramente es porque reconocen eso que Codeca exige: una Asamblea Nacional Constituyente Popular y Plurinacional.

Que el proceso sea plurinacional es tan importante como que sea popular. En un país colonizado, donde las naciones herederas de los maya han sido siempre la mayoría, pero siempre las más pobres y oprimidas, no se puede avanzar sin rectificar tal injusticia.

Y la única verdadera forma de rectificar tantos siglos de crueldad es con un movimiento social de carácter popular encabezado por los sectores más oprimidos del pueblo. □



## TRIBUNAL INTERNACIONAL sobre los Crímenes de EUA contra PUERTO RICO

27 de octubre de 2018

HOLYROOD CHURCH – IGLESIA SANTA CRUZ  
715 Oeste calle 179 • NY • NY 10033

Tribunal para presentar cargos contra EUA  
por 120 años de colonialismo, con todas  
las manifestaciones de ese crimen inicial.



Acusamos a EUA:

De la destrucción de la economía de PR; de la represión de su lucha histórica de liberación, del movimiento independentista y sus héroes y heroínas libertarias;

De la imposición de un modelo económico parasitario que no intentaba desarrollar la auto-suficiencia, incluyendo la alimentaria tan básica para el mínimo sustento;



De la imposición de una ciudadanía que facilitaba el flujo de mano de obra barata y carne de cañón en sus cruentas guerras;

De la imposición de una deuda ilegal y una Junta de Control Fiscal que representa a los mismos que causaron esta debacle, como lobos cuidando ovejas;



De la crisis actual – luego de los devastadores huracanes Irma y María – que ha sido incrementada enormemente por las políticas coloniales que priorizan el capital antes que las necesidades humanas básicas y la salud del planeta;



Acusamos al gobierno de EUA de negligencia criminal por su respuesta a la devastación de los huracanes, forzando a un pueblo a emigrar de su patria, con un siniestro plan de reestructurar Puerto Rico.

