Inferno survivors demand justice

By Kathy Durkin

June 29 — In London, a raging inferno tore through Grenfell Tower in the early hours of June 14. As of today, officials say 79 people are dead or missing and presumed dead. Fatalities are expected to rise. Many people are still hospitalized, some in critical condition.

The 24-story residence held 120 apartments. Residents were working class, many of them immigrants from the Philippines, Somalia, Sudan and Syria or second-generation family members. Among the missing are retired people, youth, children and infants.

Some of them are Ligaya Moore, a 79-year-old Filipina; Jessica Urbano, 13; Fathaya Alsanousi; Raina Ibrahim and her daughters, aged 5 and 3; Lucas Jamies, 12; Issac Shano, 3; Miriem Elgwahry, teenager; the el-Wahabi family of five; a Bangladeshi family of five; Raymond “Moses” Bernard; and Abdel Salam, 75.

Reportedly, there were no fire alarms, no sprinkler system and no evacuation plan in case of fire. There was only one badly lit fire escape and one exit for hundreds of tenants. Sleeping residents were alerted by neighbors, including Muslims who were awake early to commemorate the end of the Ramadan holiday. Their quick actions allowed many people to escape the flames.

Protests in London

As the Tory government headed by Prime Minister Theresa May made no move to help the disaster’s survivors, fury against officials grew. Those displaced are left without money, housing or a list of their missing relatives. However, local activists are organizing relief efforts, including Muslims who were awake early to commemorate the end of the Ramadan holiday. Their quick actions allowed many people to escape the flames.

On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, Workers World Party issues this call for “Pride in solidarity.”

On the night of June 28, 1969, working-class Black and Brown queer and trans people rebelled against the unending policing and state violence waged on LGBTQ people at the Stonewall Inn, a popular place for LGBTQ people to gather in New York City. Among the first to say “enough is enough” to the police raids were trans women of color, including Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, co-founders of S.T.A.R (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), an organization committed to fighting for the rights of trans and gender nonconforming people.

The following year, a Pride celebration took place in New York City to commemorate the courage and right of LGBTQ people to fight back against police brutality. Both Pride and the Stonewall Rebellion were major victories for LGBTQ people and cemented their place as part of the Workers World Party statement.

Continued on page 6

MORE PRIDE 6-7

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

• Philando Castile’s killer goes free
• Protests vs racism
• Stop NYC gentrification
• ICE rounds up Iraqis

Part of the Queer Liberation contingent in Detroit’s Pride parade, June 11.
Bay Area

Renters resist landlord lies

By Tristen Schmidt
Oakland, Calif.

Recently, the 12-square-mile island of Alameda in the San Francisco Bay Area has been overrun with aggressive signa
ture collectors, spreading slogans about “democracy and voting rights” in an at
tempt to dupe people into signing a peti
tion to end just-cause renter protections.

For many of the 56 percent of Alameda res
dents who rent, this protection of the basic human right to housing came after years of fighting unlimited yearly rent in
creases piled up on units with poor main
tenance. Hundreds of Alameda’s families have also been evicted for no reason in the past, so that money hungry owners of mul
tiple properties can double rent amounts.

GoCo, a notorious, for-profit, signa
ture-gathering company, has hired young people who are desperate for work to go
into Bay Area communities to collect signa
tures in order to overturn basic renter pro
tections. Tactics they are trained to use in
clude lying and intimidation, some recently
 captured on tape. Landlords, hiding behind front groups
created to obscure transparency and accountability, use these dishonest tactics, fostered by the California Apart
ment Association, in an attempt to ensure unlimited in
come. (thealamedarenterscoalition.org)

Increased exponentially as renters who manage to secure
money for housing, while having longer commutes to
work, more often than not are forced to live farther and farther away from
the area in order to get a place with a roof over their head.

ARC members have been using social media, word of
mouth and extensive public sign-holding to alert com
munity members to the true nature of the petition. Many
community members have come forward requesting to
retract their signatures after petitioners came to their homes
claiming their signatures were pro-rent-control. Many long-term legal challenges to the wrongdoing of
multiple institutions lie ahead. But in the short term,
keeping children and elders in their homes is a first pri
ority, necessitating all hands on deck to inform friends
and neighbors of the falsehoods being circulated so
that enough signature withdrawal forms can be submitted
to the city clerk before the petition signatures are vetted.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Le
ninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast.
We are a multinational, multicultural and multi-gen
erational organization that does not capitulate to ad
commodationism, 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 aus
terity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved un
der capitalism.

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

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you!

workers.org/wwp

WORKERS WORLD

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Le
ninist party fighting for an international socialist re
volution that tops imperialist globalization with social
ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially
owned and its distribution planned to serve and guar
antee basic human needs.

In 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.

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 re
main in their hands, not be stolen on deck in the form of capital
ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially
owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guar
antee basic human needs.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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Justice for Philando Castile!

By Stephen Millies

Millions of people saw the sickening video of Philando Castile bleeding to death in his car on July 6, 2016. Police offi-
cer Jeronimo Yanez shot at the Black man seven times after stopping him in Falcon Heights, Minn., a suburb of St. Paul. Millions heard Castile’s friend Diamond
Reynolds scream, “Please don’t tell me that he’s gone. Please officer don’t tell me that you just did this to him. He was just getting his license and registration, sir.” (Associated Press, July 7, 2016)

And now millions of people are outraged that on June 16 Yanez was found “not guilty” of second-degree man-
slaughter and two counts of dangerous discharge of a firearm. Both Diamond Reynolds and her four-year-
old daughter, who were in the car, could have been killed, too. After seeing her boyfriend shot, Reynolds was hand-
cuffed by police.

“The system continues to fail black people,” said Valerie Castile, the mother of Philando Castile. (Huffington Post, June 16) One hundred sixty years after the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous Dred Scott decision, Black people still have, in the words of the ruling, “no rights which the white man was bound to respect.”

The night of the verdict over 2,000 people took to the streets of St. Paul, starting at the state Capitol. The #Justice4Philando rally was “packed and ready to go.” He replied, “I’ve been picked up and ready for two-and-a-half years.”

Two nights before his release, Work-
ers World asked Pinkney whether he was “packed and ready to go.” He replied, “I’ve been picked up and ready for two-and-a-half years.”

“Whites only” Second Amendment

Philando Castile told officer Yanez that he had a gun which he was licensed to carry in Chicago. On June 14, 2016, as Castile was complying with the offi-
cer’s request for identification, Yanez killed him.

Don’t African Americans have the Sec-
ond Amendment right to possess firearms? In fact, Black people are denied even the right to self-defense. Seventeen-year-old Black sharecropper Samuel Osborne was confronted in his South Carolina shack by white landlord William Walker on Aug. 17, 1941. Walker was drunk and carrying a .32 caliber pistol.

In justified fear for his life, Osborne reached for his rifle and killed his crack-
er boss. Osborne’s right to self-defense didn’t matter to Judge Strom Thurmond, who sentenced Osborne to the electric chair. (Lars-Eric Nelson column, New
York Daily News, Jan. 8, 1949)

Super-racist Thurmond would later be elected South Carolina governor and also signed 49 years in the U.S. Senate. Thurmond’s support was vital to putting Rich-
ard Nixon in the White House. Every time cops kill an unarmed per-
son, they claim they are in fear for their lives. But killing a drunken racist who was pointing a gun at him sent Samuel Osborne to the electric chair.

The Black teenager was executed on Nov. 19, 1943. Four months later, the Palmetto State electorate elected 14-year-old Black child George Jonas Stonney, whose trial on powder murder charges lasted just two hours.

California Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the Mulford Act in 1967, banning the carry of guns. The National Rifle As-
sociation was silent. This law was aimed to smash the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, as it was called at the time. Black Panthers would carry a law book in one hand and an unloaded shotgun in the other while observing police.

Claiming that they were armed and dangerous was the excuse for police to kill Black Panther Party members. Among the victims were Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, who were murdered in the August 4, 1969, Chicago Massacre.

Nearly 50 years later, poor people aren’t supposed to have First Amendment free speech rights, either. State legisla-
tors in Arizona and Texas last year introduced bills to bar video recording of police. (Arizona Republic, Jan. 12, 2016)

What’s needed! Millions in the streets

Minnesota is considered a liberal state. But between 2000 and June 2016 — that is, before Philando Castile’s death — 474 people were killed by Minnesota police. (Star Tribune, June 7, 2016)

The biggest mass hanging in U.S. his-
tory occurred in Mankato, Minn., on Dec. 26, 1862, when 38 Indigenous Santee men were executed. (unitedindianpeople.com)

After attacking Somali immigrants living in Minnesota, Donald Trump came within 44,000 votes of winning the Go-
pher State.

Rally against racist verdict

Hundreds rallied June 17 at Oscar Grant Plaza in downtown Oakland, Calif., angered by the not-guilty verdict for the cop who killed Philando Castile. The rally was called by a 16-year-old Oakland High School student, who opened the rally talking about Black Lives Matter and the need to use the phrase “police terror,” rather than police brutality. She opened the mix to any of the Black people in the audience who wished to speak. One at a time, people got up and told how police murder and the not-guilty verdict affected them.

By David Sole

Detroit

“Exactly two years and six months af-
fter being locked up, Michigan’s politi-
cal prisoner, the Rev. Edward Pinkney, was exonerated and released.”

Two nights before his release, Work-
ers World asked Pinkney whether he was “packed and ready to go.” He replied, “I’ve been picked up and ready for two-and-a-half years.”

Those familiar with the case believe that this 68-year-old Af-
rican-American community leader could have been charged, tried and convicted on

Pinkney faced a white judge, a white prosecutor and an all-white jury on frame-up charges of having altered some dates on a recall petition against Benton Harbor’s then-mayor, James Hightower.

There were no confession, no forensic ev-
idence and no witnesses against him.

All activists are threatened by his con-
viction, which was overturned last year by the Michigan Court of Appeals. That court ruled that Rev. Pinkney had the great-
est animosity to the mayor and therefore could be assumed to have committed the crime. The case is now headed for the Michigan Supreme Court. Even if that court were to exonerate Rev. Pinkney, they cannot give him back the hard 30 months he has already served.

Detroit area supporters are holding a “Welcome Home” rally for Pinkney on Saturday, July 7, at which Rev. Pinkney will speak. It will be at the St. Matthew – St. Joseph Center, 2582 Edward Ave., Detroit, and will run from 2 to 5 p.m.

“A Welcome Home” fund has been es-
tablished to help the Pinkneys get back on their feet. On line, you can go to You-
Caring.com, search for “Fund for Rev. Pinkney” and click on that to make your donation. Or send a check to Morton Court Now Coalition (memo – Rev. Pinkney), 5920 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.
Juneteenth celebrated in Houston

A new page in the proud history of Houston's African-American community was turned on June 17 when a completely new and newly named park opened on the site of what was the first public park in Texas.

The original 7-plus acres for the park — a full square city block — were originally pur chased in 1875 by a group of people freed from slavery. The park served as the epicenter for Juneteenth celebrations as well as for many other community events over those 145 years.

The Juneteenth celebration commemorates the day that news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas: June 19, 1865 — two-and-a-half years after it was signed — with the landing of Union troops at Galveston Island. The park was donated to the city of Houston in 1916.

The $33 million complete redo was facilitated by donations from several foundations. The sight of new street signs on the street which the park borders further sweetened the celebration. They read “Emancipation Avenue.” The park’s name was changed from that of a Confederate military officer to the name that recent community efforts demanded.

A jubilant all-day festival was preceded by a community parade in which the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement and the Black Panther Alumni Association marched together honoring Carl Hampton, the Houston Panther leader assassinated in 1970, and called for an end to executions, whether by cop or by the state at the Huntsville death sentence facility.

— Joanne Gavin

Chicago

‘Stop raids and deportations’

Hundreds of activists marched and rallied outside Chicago City Hall on June 15 to demand the mayor and city council amend Chicago’s Welcoming City Ordinance — which makes it a sanctuary city — to eliminate “carve-outs” allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement to continue its abusive and devastating raids and deportations of immigrants and migrants. Speakers from organizations representing Latinx, Asian, Arab and African-American communities described the terror felt by the victims and their families of these raids and urged continuing street actions until the current ordinance is strengthened and ICE is banned from Chicago.

— Report and photo by Jeff Sorel

NYC tenants: ‘We want affordable housing!’

Public housing tenants in New York City gathered on Wall Street on June 12 after hearing that new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson was to address the Stock Exchange there. East Harlem’s Community Voices Heard mobilized housing and community groups for the rally against Carson, who has said, “Poverty is a state of mind.”

The protesters, mostly from Black and other oppressed nations, suggested that Carson spend the day in their projects instead of with stockbrokers. Some asked if he knew that 600,000 people live in New York City Housing Authority apartments, which encompass 178,000 units. The average household income is $23,500, and there is a long waiting list for such affordable housing.

Instead of adding more needed apartments, HUD and NYCHA plan to allow private developers to build private homes on government-owned property, which will then belong to the developers. In reality, the public housing safety net is being torn down.

At the Wall Street rally, helmeted police on motorcycles suddenly made the demonstrators move aside for government cars bringing Carson and his entourage to mingle with stockbrokers and other millionaires. Instead of intimidating the community leaders and other activists, the police and government security emboldened them further. They chanted, “Ben Carson, can’t you see? All these cuts are killing me!”

The next rally for affordable public housing will be in Harlem on June 24. Remember the strength of the Civil Rights’ song: “We Shall Not Be Moved!” Support affordable housing!

— Report and photo by Anne Pruden

Wisconsin

Workers protest Walker-Trump duo

Dozens of angry protesters joined a demonstration against Donald Trump and Scott Walker in Milwaukee on June 13. Sponsored by Fight For $15 Wisconsin, the “Low-Wage Walker” protest included members from a diverse variety of organizations including the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, Service Employees, Amalgamated Transit Local 998, other unions and worker organizations, community organizations and political groups such as Workers World Party. Donald Trump came to Wisconsin on June 13 to “tour” the Waukesha Technical College and then to be a speaker at a fundraiser at the local Hyatt hotel for Scott Walker’s third gubernatorial campaign. Both racist, anti-worker politicians were protected by Milwaukee cops and sheriffs and other repressive state forces, but this didn’t stop protesters from engaging in an hours’ long militant protest.

— Report and photo by WW Wisconsin Bureau

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— Report and photo by WW Wisconsin Bureau
Hundreds of Iraqis in U.S. rounded up for deportation

By Joe Mshahwar

Detroit

A fresh wave of state terror against the Iraqi community began on June 11 in Michigan. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, targeting primarily Iraqi Chaldeans called Chaldeans, began to kidnap people from their homes, restaurants, gathering places in the Iraqi community and deport to a country destroyed by ongoing war.

This situation has proceeded unhindered, as 1,444 Iraqi people are on an ICE list with final orders for removal. Their fate is to be kidnapped and deport to a country destroyed by ongoing war.

There is an important context for these deportations: Iraq has not accepted people deported from the United States for the last seven years. Recently, Washington squeezed the Iraqi government into accepting deportations by offering to take the occupied country off Trump’s “Muslim Ban” list. This is a list of coun- tries that should really be referred to as “victims of imperialism.”

Washington’s arm twisting makes the current attack on the Iraqi diaspora an unprecedented event, leaving the door open for a serious resistance effort and the exposure of U.S. hypocrisies.

Many families with members facing deportation are struggling to find legal assistance. Many are joining an Ameri- can Civil Liberties Union lawsuit against the deportations. The ACLU is suing on the basis that it is against U.S. law and international treaties to send someone to a place where they are likely to be violently persecuted. The suit goes before a judge on June 21, although a ruling may be de- layed. A demonstration will take place outside the Detroit federal court building located at 521 W. Lafayette at 12 p.m. that day.

Even if the suit is successful, it will not guarantee that those represented will be able to stay in the U.S. It only buys time for people to build their cases.

Kary Moss, executive director for the ACLU of Michigan, said in a statement released June 15: “We are hoping that the courts will recognize the extreme danger that deportation to Iraq would pose for these individuals. Our immigration pol- icy shouldn’t amount to a death sentence for anyone.”

Why would deportation amount to a death sentence? This answer lies in the reason many of these Iraqi people live in the U.S. today. Since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire following World War I, Western colonial powers have worked hard to dominate the entire Mid- dle-East-North-Africa (MENA) region by any means necessary, often using de- structive and genocidal tactics.

U.S. targeted Iraq

Iraq specifically has been targeted with some of the greatest horrors of the

Detroiters condemn racist hate crime

By Koba Wright

Detroit

Activists rallied in Detroit’s busy East- ern Market on Saturday morning, June 17, to condemn the attempted murder of a homeless Black man in this city’s history by white supremacist thugs. Members of Workers World Party and the Michigan Peoples Defense Network called the ac- tion to condemn the heinous hate crime.

On June 1, three racists attacked Ran- dolph Davison as he was sitting outside a mental health treatment center in the historic Eastern Market commercial dis- trict of Detroit. The attackers shouted the n-word and repeatedly stabbed and slashed Davison with a knife.

Local corporate media described the attack as a “jumping” in which Davison was supposedly stabbed in the leg. How- ever, Davison revealed multiple gashes across his chest at a June 13 press confer- ence held to announce the rally.

Organizers say the attack was a hate crime of attempted murder and should be treated as such by the authorities. But, despite heavy security camera cov- erage of the area, Detroit police have an- nounced no suspects and have made no arrests in the case.

The knife attack mirrors other recent white supremacist hate crimes across the country, including the racist murders of Black men in New York and Maryland, as well as the murder of two bystanders who intervened against a white supremacist in Ore- gon.

Activists gathered at the corner of Russell and Wilkins streets in Eastern Market and distributed leaflets condemning the at- tack on Davison. Speakers analyzed the attack in the context of the gentrification of the Eastern Market area.

Under the guise of Detroit’s “revitalization,” the city’s “revitalization,” the wealthy developers that control the city have used Eastern Market, one of the larg- est farmer’s markets in the U.S., as a tour- ist attraction for whites coming from the well-off Detroit suburbs and elsewhere.

Speakers and protesters said that a hate crime as brazen as Davison’s at- tempted murder could only have hap- pened in an environment in which racists feel emboldened. Gentrification, along with the racist green light coming from the U.S. president and his cabinet, have provided that environment in Detroit, a majority-African-American city.

Activists also contrasted the police re- sponse to the attack to the fast arrests of graffitist artists in gentrified areas of De- troit, who are quickly identified via video surveillance and charged.

Following the rally, protesters marched down the main thoroughfare of Eastern Market, disrupting the shopping and brunches of market goers and chanting anti-racist messages as well as “Justice for Randolph!” Several passersby joined the march.

Detroit police harassed the marchers, at first falsely claiming protesters had no right to assemble on a public sidewalk and then denying that the hate crime ever took place.

Several pro-choice clinic escorts also joined WWP and MPDIN members at the action.

North Carolina

Protest counteracts anti-Muslim hate

By Meghan Watts

Raleigh, N.C.

On June 10, ACT for America held Islamophobic “anti-sharia” marches in more than two dozen cities across the country, including one staged at the state Capitol building in Raleigh, N.C.

ACT, categorized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, has grown since its inception in 2007 to the largest grassroots anti-Muslim group in the U.S. ACT founder Brigitte Gabriel has stated that a practicing Muslim “cannot be a loyal citizen to the United States of America.” (tinyurl.com/fshd4q)

ACT and groups like it are promot- ing at “Islam-free movement” that is nothing more than a thinly veiled cover for white supremacy and Islamophobia. ACT’s campaign has gained legislative power and propagated hate violence, like the recent white supremacist murder in Portland, Ore., of two people defending two Black women.

The planning of the Raleigh counter protest, United Against Islamophobia and Racism, was heavily influenced by the current climate and the timing of the anti-Muslim rally during the holy month of Ramadan.

A call for action was first coordinated via Facebook and then turned over to Muslims for Social Justice and the Move- ment to End Racism and Islamophobia to ensure that the voices of those direct- ly affected were heard. MSJ and MEREI were joined by Electrical Workers Local 150 — N.C. Public Service Worker Union, Comité de Acción Popular, the Triangle People’s Assembly, Workers World Party, International Workers of the World and others in organizing to oppose the ACT rally.

The anti-Islamophobia/anti-war work- ing group, along with MSJ, had previous- ly hosted a few “know your rights” clinics at local mosques as trainings on how to look out for FBI and police repression. Members of the TPA also did outreach for the action by leafleting at Arab stores and shops for a serious resistance effort and mass support among the Muslim community.

The June 10 racist, anti-Islam rally drew around 75 people, many of whom claimed to be marching against “radical Islam” and for “human rights” under the pretense of “protecting women.”

Fatema Ahmad, member of MSJ and an organizer of the counterprotest, re- sponded: “They’re not out here to pro- tect everybody. It is a mostly white group and it’s only about protecting white peo- ple against a supposed threat from us. There’s no threat here, and we are actually pro- tecting our rights to live here safely and in [the] community.”

MSJ, in turn, organized a counterprotest that was vastly outnum- bered the ACT bigots. More than 250 people gathered in solidarity at Raleigh’s Legislative Mall to hear speakers, predominantly comprised of women of color, and then march to the Capitol to stage a noise protest aimed at drowning out the ACT speakers.

After the rally, the entire contingent of counter protesters, many of whom were Muslim, joined the march and directly confronted the racists. The Unit- ed Against Islamophobia and Racism demonstration ended in great success and with no harm to that contingent.

Battling Islamophobia, racism and other oppressions is imperative. And this action is a reminder that all struggles must be linked.
Pride forum hits capitalism

By WW Boston Bureau

The Action Center in the Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain was packed June 16 for Stonewall Warriors and Workers World Party’s LGBTQ Pride forum on “Capitalism, Racism, LGBTQIA Oppression and the Class Struggle.”

The forum opened with a report by Christine Allopp on the reopening of the Sexual Minorities Archive in Holyoke, Mass., with the dedication of the Sylvia Rivera Room and the Leslie Feinberg Library. A video was shown of WW member Minnie Bruce Pratt reading a poem in memory of Feinberg, who was her spouse.

Several participants spoke of the impact of becoming aware of key LGBTQIA history for the first time at the SMA dedication. (Workers World, June 7, tinyurl.com/yaek88b)

Nate Heathman followed, with a moving tribute to Black and other trans women of color murdered in the last two years. He led the group in saying the names of these many trans women.

Diva T. Williams gave the main report, followed by discussion, on the historic Stonewall Warriors Queer and Trans PoC Liberation, Anti-Capitalist Contingent in Boston’s LGBTQIA Pride demonstration on June 10. (Workers World, June 14, tinyurl.com/ybac4ch4)

The forum ended with a review by Frank Neisser of the origins of the oppression of LGBTQIA people, the overthrow of the matriarchy and the subsequent division of society into classes, as explained in two books by Workers World Party comrades: Bob McCubbin’s “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View” and Leslie Feinberg’s “Transgender Warriors.”

‘Queer Liberation and Socialism’

Following on the heels of Motor City Pride, Workers World Party in Detroit held its own Pride forum June 17 on “Queer Liberation and Socialism.” Speakers went over the history of the LGBTQ struggle; how colonialism and imperialism impact queer oppression; the history and gains of LGBTQ liberation in socialist Cuba; and a retrospective on a year of struggle since the Pulse tragedy last June 12, including the fight to overturn the transphobic “bathroom law” in North Carolina. After the speakers’ presentations, a lively discussion on queer liberation took place, with many attendees providing further insights and dropping more knowledge on the audience.

Pictured here from the left are speakers Mond Jones, Martha Grevatt, Cosmo Angelopoulos and L.T. Pham, and chair Kayla Pauli.

— Kris Balderas Hamel

Come out for Pride! COME OUT FOR WORKERS WORLD!

June is Pride month, with rallies and marches all over the world commemorating the 48th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. Workers World has been a proud participant in the struggle for LGBTQ justice and equality. In the foreword of the book, “Queer Liberation and Socialism,” the editorial team says, “It’s time to join the struggle against capitalist oppression.”

In the United States, Black women led the push to organize a march against the police violence that led to the Stonewall Rebellion. According to scholar Mariame Kumpo, this march was one of the first to focus on police violence and was an early fight against state violence, capitalism, and racism.

The Stonewall Rebellion was a turning point in LGBTQ history, as it marked the beginning of a movement that would eventually lead to the legalization of same-sex marriage, the repeal of anti-LGBTQ laws, and the creation of LGBTQ rights organizations and advocacy groups.

Today, LGBTQ activists continue to fight against state violence, capitalism, and racism. They organize protests, marches, and rallies to demand greater equality and rights for LGBTQ people. They also work to educate others about the history of LGBTQ oppression and the need for continued activism.

Workers World encourages all to come out for Pride! Join the fight for LGBTQ rights and justice today. Whether you’re attending a local Pride festival or participating in a larger demonstration, let your presence be felt as a show of solidarity with LGBTQ people everywhere.

Join us in the struggle against capitalist oppression. Together, we can make a difference. Let’s come out for Pride and stand together for LGBTQ rights and justice.

— WW Staff
**A Southern trans worker on how to end poverty**

By Devin Cole

To be honest, looking back now, working in fast food like I used to wasn’t the problem itself. I’ve been thinking about this a lot, especially since graduating college. I didn’t mind flipping burgers or making processed scrambled eggs or whatever I was doing. None of the work itself bothered me, besides the fact that I was providing a basic human right — food — that people had to pay for. But that’s a story for another day.

What bothered me about working in fast food, and also in retail, is the overarching issue that I was being exploited and underpaid. I was giving so much of my labor, strength and time to a system that didn’t even pay me enough to get by. People say, “You should be grateful you even have a job?” But is it really any better if you still can’t pay the bills on time? What is the difference between being unemployed and in poverty, and making $220 a week and still being in poverty? That money dries up fast. You can’t save up anything when you bring in maybe $320 a month, and you’ve got the rent and the utilities and the groceries and the car (if you’re even lucky enough to have one).

Working at McDonald’s was basically like being unemployed, in that respect. And many people treat fast food workers horribly. Many customers think they’re entitled to bad behavior because you serve them. They’re condescending, rude, demeaning, and that is also what is exhausting.

Our society teaches that blue- and pink-collar jobs are to be looked down on. We hear as children: “You don’t want to be a garbage truck driver, do you?” or “Go to college or you’ll be flipping burgers for the rest of your life!” Those jobs are seen as unfortunate stepping stones or a negative consequence of a bad upbringing.

But there’s nothing wrong with working these jobs except the way that they and the people who work in those jobs are represented.

The other issue I had working in food service was the homophobia. That was also exhausting. At the time, I knew better than to come out to my co-workers as transgender. But due to the grave error I made in trusting my manager with my gender identity to the continued deaths and oppression of trans women of color and LGBTQ communities of color.

We must resist the lure of corporate flags and empty promises by the state to keep LGBTQ people safe. That promise was false 50 years ago and is still a lie today as the epidemic of violence against trans women of color goes on, as LGBTQ youth continue to struggle with homelessness, and as queer and trans people battle addictions that go unresolved by a failing, profit-driven health care system. LGBTQ people are our own heroes. The working class has the utmost potential to wage revolution in this society in part because of our ability to build class unity and solidarity.

One year ago we lost 49 LGBTQ kin died at the Pulse night club in Orlando, Fla. We remember and mourn the lives stolen, and we remember our firm solidarity with LGBTQ Muslims and against anti-Muslim and Islamophobic bigotry. We remember in the wake of HB2 in North Carolina how LGBTQ youth of color refused to be divided and stood firm in solidarity with workers who were also under attack. We remember that Black Lives Matter organizing across the U.S. and the globe is led by LGBTQ women and people of color.

Since before the Stonewall Rebellion, Workers World Party has been in the struggle to defend LGBTQ people against patriarchy and anti-LGBTQ bigotry. For the past several decades, from the AIDS epidemic to solidarity with Cuba and the Black Lives Matter movement, WWP has been in the streets raising the banner of LGBTQ liberation across all struggles.

We raise our fists in solidarity with all LGBTQ people who continue to bring to Pride its original and true revolutionary fighting spirit.

Solidarity with all LGBTQ people for whom Pride is a safe haven and refuge! Solidarity with all LGBTQ people for whom Pride is a site of struggle, victory and celebration! We continue to fight for Pride, for our Pride means Black Lives Matter; Indigenous sovereignty; a free Palestine; U.S. out of Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa; and housing, health care and jobs at livable wages for trans women of color, young people, and all workers and oppressed people.

Our Pride means socialist revolution and a world where all of us can be free.
U.S. vet fights for Donetsk People’s Republic

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Russell Bonner Bentley was born in the United States and named after the “information warrior” for the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), which declared its independence from Ukraine in 2014. This former U.S. soldier set out to fight against fascism in Ukraine and around the world.

Back in the 1990s when he was in the states, Bentley spent much of his adult life fighting for justice, including the struggle to free U.S. political prisonersLeonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal, both of whom he called “great men and true American heroes.”

Although he describes himself as a poet by nature, Bentley left the U.S. in 2014 to pursue the “war story,” which is never repeated.” (tinyurl.com/yalkot8f)

Bentley has made scores of videos and supported the Ukrainian government. He is highly motivated by this and the fact that our cause is just.”

For more information about how to contact Bentley, visit Bentley’s website at www.russellxbentley.com or visit tinyurl.com/ybaydupn.

Inferno survivors demand justice

Continued from page 1

For “corporate manslaughter” and “criminal negligence” charges to be brought against those responsible for this catastrophe, residents’ influence fingers are being pointed at them.

Angry residents and their supporters marched through Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall, chanting, “We want justice!” for the fire victims’ families and survivors. They demanded to meet with officials. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside. Socialist Workers’ signs read: “Tories have blood on their hands! Justice for Grenfell!”

Protesters are demanding the council’s comment on how a fire may be started.

Westminister council’s comments on how a fire may be started.

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A group of people in solidarity with Cuba picketed across from Trump Tower in New York City on June 15. They called the demonstration to preempt the bigot—in-chief’s Miami speech the next day attacking the socialist country.

Despite the ritzy surroundings on Fifth Avenue, many people were friendly. One Black man walking by shouted “F—k Trump!” continuously. “Travel to Cuba Yes!, in 2016,” he shouted. “Travel to Cuba Yes!”, he shouted.

The action was organized on short notice by Joan Gibbs and Sam Anderson and was joined by Gail Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Commu-
Deadly imperialism
By Faiquan Sells

All across the globe, the greedy hands of U.S. imperialism, seeking to expand and strengthen the resources of nations (mostly in the global South), through the use of force, ravage the lands and resources of other nations, often on a completely different continent, have created and will continue to create resentment against imperialism. This resentments has turned deadly and has cost thousands of lives since the start of the new millennium alone. The key reason that Osama bin Laden, the late leader of al-Qaeda (who himself was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs invading Afghanistan), wrote two fatwahs, one in 1996 and the other in 1998 that called on U.S. imperialism to join the 2003 U.S.-British invasion of Iraq. “We call on all imperialist nations to join the 2003 U.S.-British invasion of Iraq,” said that the late leader of al-Qaida (who himself was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs invading Afghanistan). 

The shooting of Republican politicians practicing baseball on a ball field in Alexandria, Va., was an anomaly — that is, something that deviates from what is standard, normal or expected.

Anatomy in Alexandria

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2003 to 2010, the workers in this industry—possibly reflecting the early aftermath of the 1999 seizure of power by revolutionary forces led by Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and others, African independence movements have undergone transformative struggles that have constituted a major factor in Cuban foreign policy. President Castro noted in 1967 that socialist Cuba was populated by Latin-American people opposed to colonialism, racism and imperialism.

This historical tradition was reinforced at a recent conference held in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, which brought together African leaders and Cuban government officials to renew ties among the geographically remote and to chart a way forward in the current period. The Fifth Continental African Conference of Solidarity with Cuba was convened June 6-8 and brought together over 200 delegates from 26 African states under the theme of “Intensifying Solidarity and Continuing the Legacy of Fidel and Che.”

The first of these conferences was held in South Africa in 1993, just one year after the racist-apartheid system’s demise brought to power President Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress to power. Subsequent gatherings took place in Ghana during 1997, Angola in 2000 and Ethiopia, the headquarters of the African Union, in 2012.

The year 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the election of the first African government—President Namibian President Hage Geingob, who said, “We applaud the positive development in this respect and we commend the U.S. government and Cuba for their efforts toward normalizing of ties. However, there is still much ground left to cover to ensure the complete lifting of the blockade of Cuba.”

Geingob emphasized the urgency of the conference to develop a unified African strategy in regard to supporting Cuba. In addition, the delegates passed resolutions demanding the return to the Cuban people of Guantanamo Bay, which remains under occupation by U.S. forces. The delegates also called for the end of the U.S. war on Cuba and, in a significant move, called for the declaration of Cuba as a “scheduled” state.

In attendance as well from Cuba were Fernando Gonzalez, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People, and Giraldo Mazaola, Cuban Ambassador to Namibia.

Call for continuing solidarity

African leaders viewed the current situation involving the status of U.S.-Cuban relations as critical in light of the political character of the administration in Washington. President Donald Trump used his prerogative of reversing the reforms instituted by his predecessor on June 16.

The conference stressed as a mandate for African leaders actions to continue developing and strengthening the Cuba solidarity movement in each one of our countries, for the reunification of Latin America. Noting that Cuba’s right to self-determination and sovereignty, as well as its right to decide the political system of its choice, be respected, and that the role of the U.S. must be counterbalanced and disarmed, the Conference reaffirms Africa-Cuba solidarity from 26 African states under the theme of “Intensifying Solidarity and Continuing the Legacy of Fidel and Che.”

Hundreds of Iraqis in U.S. rounded up

Continued from page 5

Iraqis like those now facing deportation. Amid these possible deportations, the U.S. is leveling cities in Iraq like Mosul in the name of fighting terrorism, even though Washington has used terrorist groups as proxies in its war against Iraq. The level of destruction is so great that it has become apparent there aren’t enough resources or preparation to shelter those internally displaced in Iraq.

The deportations from the U.S. began this June as an extension of the genocidal war against Iraq’s people. Families in the camps whose loved ones are safe from the bloodshed are being broken up and threatened with this virtual death sentence. Many of those deported are elders who have not been to Iraq through decades of destruction and completely lack family or community ties in their homeland.

Those who oppose U.S. military adventures must turn this terrible attack on the Iraqi people into an opportunity to resist the deployment of U.S. and NATO military units in Afgansa in the defense of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, beginning in October 1975. Angolan President Antonio Neto requested Cuba’s support from President Fidel Castro in the face of an invasion by the South African military, the U.S.-backed UNITA-NFAL strips, which were designed to derail the genuine independence of Namibia.

Cuban internationalists spent another 15 years in Angola, where they assisted in defeating the South African forces in granting the Angolan people the right to self-determination. Angola had been occupied by South African forces since 1961. This occupation continued for 50 years had raised expectations of a possible lifting of the economic blockade imposed by Washington in October 1960.

Without the abolition of the blockade, relations cannot be fully normalized, decreed the U.S. Congress, which has been favoring reopening of embassies. The U.S. Congress would have to approve the liquidation of the blockade, and there are political ele- ments in the U.S. Congress who are supporting the reopening of ties. However, there is still much ground left to cover to ensure the complete lifting of the embargo on Cuba.

In a statement to this year’s Windhoek conference, Namibian Deputy Prime Minister Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasized: “The holding of this conference is all the more timely because it is taking place when retrospective forces are bent on reversing the gains made recently to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States.” Under the previous U.S. administration of President Barack Obama, the U.S. and Cuba began resuming diplomatic relations with Cuba after a breach of over 50 years had raised expectations of a possible lifting of the economic blockade imposed by Washington in October 1960.

To be continued.
El otoño pasado, como lo han hecho todos los años desde 1992, los países miembros de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas votaron a favor de una resolución pidiendo al gobierno de EUA que ponga fin al bloqueo económi
có, financiero y comercial de Cuba. La votación fue de 195 a 0. Estados Unidos y su compañero Israel por primera vez se
abstuvieron, en lugar de votar en contra de la resolución.

¿Significa esto que Washington es
taba dispuesto a levantar el cruel blo-
queo? No. El año pasado, el gobierno de Obama
sólo suavizó las restricciones de los Estados Unidos para viajar a Cuba, lo que conduce a un aumento del 19% por
cierto, de los viajeros estadounidenses a la isla este año, en comparación con el número en 2016.

¿Significa esto que ahora somos libres de viajar a Cuba? No.

Por Kris Balderas Hamel

Mítines en EUA demandan: ¡Fuera EUA de Venezuela!

Durham, Carolina del Norte. Una pequeña pero visible mani-
festación de Arriba con Maduro! Abajo con Trump! las(os) manifestantes acudieron a dos cuadras, frente a plie-
g.join the party de EUA y WW-MO. Una pequeña pero visible manifestación de solidaridad con la Rev-
olución Venezolana se celebró en Times Square el 6 de junio.

¡Arriba Con Maduro! ¡Abajo con Trump! Las(os) organizadores de la rama de Filadelfia del PWW-MO, junto con la Liga de ciudadanos de todo el país para apoyar al pueblo venezolano y a su gobierno el 9 de

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Mítines urgentes en solidaridad con Venezuela Bolivariana y en contra de la interferencia e intervención de Estados Unidos tuvieron lugar en varias ciudades alrededor de los EUA a principios de julio. Oficiales de la Organización Comunitaria/Pas-
antes de Derechos Humanos de Durham, Carolina del Norte, se manifestaron el 3 de junio en una conjunta manifestación contra la OEA de forzar un cambio de régimen en Venezuela y contra la intervención de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Siria, Libia y otros países en todo el mundo. La administración tiene que lidiar con una gran audiencia, incluyendo a una delegación de venezolanos, que está respondiendo. Las res-
Mítines en EUA demandan: ¡Fuera EUA de Venezuela!

En julio las dos organizaciones de solidaridad con Cuba más antiguas y más consistentes viajarán allí sin licencias. La Brigada Venceremos irá del 21 de julio al 4 de agosto y la Fundación Interreligiosa para la Educación y Cultura de Cuba, Pastores por la Paz viajará del 11 al 27 de julio. Ellas(os) ejercerán su derecho absoluto a asociarse y a viajar con los pueblos del mundo, incluyendo el de Cuba.

¡Arriba Con Maduro! ¡Abajo con Trump! Las(os) organizadores de la rama de Filadelfia del PWW-MO, junto con la Liga de ciudadanos de todo el país para apoyar al pueblo venezolano y a su gobierno el 9 de junio. Los medios de comunicación estadounidenses han pintado falsamente la Revolución Venezolana como una revolución popular contra un gobierno opresivo. Es justamente lo opuesto.

Un grupo pequeño pero decidido pi-

tó qué es el bloqueo y por qué debería terminar. El grupo pintó un murales reconocido mundialmente. Cuando se presenta, el bloqueo está aumentando desde Cali-

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Por Kris Balderas Hamel

Mítines urgentes en solidaridad con Venezuela Bolivariana y en contra de la interferencia e intervención de Estados Unidos tuvieron lugar en varias ciudades alrededor de los EUA a principios de julio. Oficiales de la Organización Comunitaria/Pas-
antes de Derechos Humanos de Durham, Carolina del Norte, se manifestaron el 3 de junio en una conjunta manifestación contra la OEA de forzar un cambio de régimen en Venezuela y contra la intervención de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Siria, Libia y otros países en todo el mundo. La administración tiene que lidiar con una gran audiencia, incluyendo a una delegación de venezolanos, que está respondiendo. Las res-
Mítines en EUA demandan: ¡Fuera EUA de Venezuela!

En julio las dos organizaciones de solidaridad con Cuba más antiguas y más consistentes viajarán allí sin licencias. La Brigada Venceremos irá del 21 de julio al 4 de agosto y la Fundación Interreligiosa para la Educación y Cultura de Cuba, Pastores por la Paz viajará del 11 al 27 de julio. Ellas(os) ejercerán su derecho absoluto a asociarse y a viajar con los pueblos del mundo, incluyendo el de Cuba.

¡Arriba Con Maduro! ¡Abajo con Trump! Las(os) organizadores de la rama de Filadelfia del PWW-MO, junto con la Liga de ciudadanos de todo el país para apoyar al pueblo venezolano y a su gobierno el 9 de junio. Los medios de comunicación estadounidenses han pintado falsamente la Revolución Venezolana como una revolución popular contra un gobierno opresivo. Es justamente lo opuesto.

Un grupo pequeño pero decidido pi-

tó qué es el bloqueo y por qué debería terminar. El grupo pintó un murales reconocido mundialmente. Cuando se presenta, el bloqueo está aumentando desde Cali-