

# Orlando: ‘Our tears, a flood of resistance’

By Teresa Gutierrez

Every time an atrocity happens — like the massacre of little children at Sandy Hook or of nine African-American people in church in Charleston, S.C. — it pulls on our heartstrings. Orlando is no different.

Since the killing of 49 people, overwhelmingly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, at the Pulse Bar on June 12 in Orlando, Fla., our hearts have been heavy. The dead are our *compañeros/as* fallen in the struggle, and they could have been any of our LGBTQ and other comrades who socialize at gay bars. The “gay bar” has been a place of refuge, often the only place a queer person can feel comfortable, relax, hold hands, kiss without fear of harassment or immediate violence.

Since Orlando there has been much talk of love and solidarity. It is encouraging that people in our LGBTQ communities are not getting caught up in anti-Muslim hatred.

Communists talk of love, too. Because there is no greater love than the love a revolutionary has for the working class. How wonderful if love alone could suffice! But until we abolish capitalism we must struggle, organize and fight back. Because from the very second the tragedy occurred at the Pulse Bar, the corporate media have been messaging how this incident can be used to intensify repression, to heighten Islamophobia, to strengthen the state apparatus.

The act, committed by Omar Mateen, an Afghan American, was, of course, heinous. But we do not blame the shooter. We blame the capitalist system that creates the kind of conditions that compel individuals in this direction.

Authorities are focusing blame on Mateen as an individual, and now are going after Noor Salman, his spouse, who is Palestinian. We reject the scapegoating of Noor Salman! Whether she knew or not does not matter. She herself may have been a victim of domestic violence.

## Murderous capitalism

If we look at the bigger picture, who actually should bear blame?

Anti-gay Gov. Rick Scott of Florida has the blood of the Pulse martyrs on his hands. Scott supported the anti-trans “bathroom bully” bill. He signed a bill to permit clergy and businesses to defy the U.S. Supreme Court decision granting same-sex marriage. He, like most others in the media, barely mentioned the attack was against LGBTQ people. Instead he spewed anti-Muslim racist rhetoric.

If you want to blame a religion, blame the U.S. Christian right, who backed 200 anti-LGBTQ legislative bills

*Continued on page 6*

## State of mourning



Somber faces at Houston vigil for Orlando victims.

PHOTO: OUTSMART

## ORLANDO: PRIDE & GRIEF

5-7

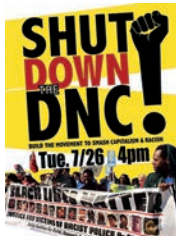
- \* U.S. and French unions speak out
- \* Is gun control the answer?
- \* Vigils honor Pulse martyrs
- \* Solidarity from Black Workers for Justice

## • 1966: Emergence of ‘Black Power’

4

## • Indigenous struggles in Yukon

4



5

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California

Oakland activists occupy City Hall

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

At the culmination of a week of actions highlighting that Oakland, Calif., is losing thousands of families per month to displacement and businesses like Uber are moving into the city with almost no accountability, a broad coalition of community groups marched into Oakland City Hall on June 17 and took it over for more than an hour to press their demands on Mayor Libby Schaff and the City Council.

The Anti Police-Terror Project, Black Power Network, ACCE Action, East Bay Organizing Committee (EBOC/ Fight for 15), the East 12th Coalition and others called a series of actions June 12-17 to “Reclaim Our City.” The groups demanded immediate protections for renters, the redirection of city money to protect low-wage workers and public education.

The action on June 17 started at the East 12th Street parcel, city land that the government has turned over to private developers, despite a significant campaign to

use it for low-income housing. The group then caravanned to City Hall and marched inside, demanding that the mayor and the City Council come out to talk to the people about their demands.

The week was organized to “target the repressive policies and practices of the Schaaf administration and fight back against private interests and large developers who are displacing our families and driving up rents.” The actions focused on “pressuring the City Council to extend the housing moratorium; building pressure to place the Oakland Renter Protection Act measure on the November ballot; [a] public education campaign around the connection between police terror, displacement and the impact on our schools/young people; [and] demands for community benefits including good jobs, affordable housing, and community stability to ensure that new development serves existing residents and workers.” □



Oakland, Calif., action, June 17.

Texas march against legal lynchings

By Gloria Rubac

Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement activists participated in the Juneteenth parade and festival on June 18 in Houston’s historic Third Ward at Emancipation Park, which was bought and established by freed slaves in 1872. The Abolition Movement makes the connection between slavery and what exists on Texas prison farms today.

“We recognize the continuum from lynchings after the Civil War to the legal lynchings that occur now in Huntsville, Texas, where 537 people have been executed by the

state of Texas since 1982,” said Joanne Gavin, a founder of the Abolition Movement in the mid-1990s and a veteran of Mississippi’s Civil Rights Movement.

Joining the Abolition Movement at the parade were veterans of Houston’s Black Panther Party, whose leader, Carl Hampton, was murdered by Houston police a few blocks from Emancipation Park. Houston cops were judge, jury and executioners of Hampton, a brilliant revolutionary and charismatic leader until his death in 1970. Also in the contingent was the Committee to Free Juan Balderas, who has been on Texas death row since 2015. □

WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

Orlando: ‘Our tears, a flood of resistance’ .....	1
Oakland activists occupy City Hall .....	2
Texas march against legal lynchings .....	2
Oakland PD implodes amid sex crime scandal .....	3
Pennsylvania: Major Tillery case appealed .....	3
Teachers and staff get new contract at CUNY .....	3
50th anniversary of ‘Black Power’ slogan .....	4
Houston thumps Trump .....	5
Murders of protesters in Oaxaca condemned .....	5
Union shows Orlando solidarity .....	5
Gun control or self-defense? .....	6
Vigils continue for Orlando .....	7
Black Workers for Justice extends solidarity .....	7
More victories for defense in Rasmea Odeh’s case .....	10

★ Around the world

Indigenous oppression and resistance in Yukon .....	4
From French unions ‘Solidarity with LGBT people’ .....	7
French state escalates attacks on unions .....	9
Cox assassination reveals Britain’s right wing .....	9
War over oil fuels Libya’s migrant crisis .....	10
NATO’s summit threatens war with Russia .....	11

★ Editorial

Stop Olympic profiling .....	10
------------------------------	----

★ WWP Presidential Campaign

Workers World Party election campaign underway .....	8
Wis.: WWP campaign to confront Bradley Foundation .....	8
N.C.: Socialist campaign of struggle and solidarity .....	8

★ Noticias en Español

Musulmanes y activistas LGBTQ: ‘Culpa del sistema’ .....	12
Puerto Rico en la encrucijada .....	12



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# Oakland Police Department implodes amid sex crime scandal

By Terri Kay  
Oakland, Calif.

Seven Black men were killed at the hands of the Oakland Police Department in 2015, but it took a sex crime scandal to finally expose that the OPD is rotten to its core. In a span of nine days from June 9 to 17, three Oakland police chiefs have been fired. Now department commanders are reporting to City Administrator Sabrina Landreth.

The scandal stretches across a number of Bay Area police departments and even to an investigator in the Alameda County district attorney's office. OPD is still under federal receivership from an abuse-of-power scandal, the Rider Case, in 2003.

Oakland's Anti Police-Terror Project (APTP) has used the scandal to demand "systems of safety that do not rely on militarized police departments and blanket incarceration of America's most vulnerable populations." In a dramatic action in front of OPD headquarters on June 17, climbers unfurled a banner across OPD's flag poles that stated "OPD Guilty of Human Trafficking & Statutory Rape #OPDGuiltyAsCharged." The protestors cordoned off the front plaza with crime scene tape.

This story cracked open on May 12 when the East Bay Express linked reports of three officers on leave to Officer Brendan O'Brien, who committed statutory rape of an underage sex worker last year before committing suicide in September.

The scandal came to the attention of U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson, the presiding judge over the settlement that put OPD in federal receivership.

He had issued an order on March 23 citing "irregularities" and "violations" of procedures by Oakland police detectives in charge of the sexual-misconduct inquiry, questioning the department's commitment to accountability and reform. Henderson directed court-appointed independent monitor Robert Warshaw to take over the sexual-misconduct case.

All this culminated in the firing of OPD Chief Sean Whent on June 9. According to interviews with the victim, elected officials and sources close to OPD, in addition to documents obtained by the East Bay Express, at least 14 Oakland Police officers, three Richmond Police officers and four Alameda County Sheriff's deputies had had sex with the teen. Three OPD officers had sex with her when she was underage, leaking confidential information about undercover stings to her as well.

The young woman told reporters she slept with the cops for protection. Multiple department supervisors knew about her abuse by Oakland police, yet did not report it.

## Sexism and racism covered up

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley issued a statement on June 15 that a district attorney inspector in the case has been placed on administrative leave. O'Malley, who has never prosecuted a single killer cop, declined to name the inspector. However, the young woman claims to have had an online



Activists scale OPD flag poles for banner drop, June 17.

PHOTO: P. MENCHINI

friendship when she was underage with District Attorney Inspector Rick Orozco, who at the time was an OPD captain.

The East Bay Express says Whent was forced out by Warshaw, who is responsible for overseeing OPD's progress with its 13-year-old federal reforms and who had hand-selected Whent to run the department in 2014. Whent's spouse knew of the young woman's relationship with officer O'Brien as far back as June 2015, according to multiple sources. In March, Warshaw discovered Whent knew about O'Brien's relationship with the underage teen.

On June 15, Mayor Libby Schaaf announced that she dismissed Interim Chief Ben Fairow, who is also the Bay Area Rapid Transit deputy police chief, after less than six days on the job. Multiple sources told the Bay Area News Group that Fairow had had inappropriate sexual contact with another employee during his earlier stint with OPD.

On June 16, East Bay Express reported that an OPD homicide cop was under investigation for having his "girlfriend" write his homicide reports and post evi-

dence from one of his confidential investigations online.

The next day Schaaf announced that she had dismissed Interim Chief Paul Figueroa after less than two days in office. Figueroa will go on leave, then return to a demoted position as captain. Schaaf also announced an investigation into racist texts, resulting in one officer being placed on leave. Schaaf stated that she would not name another interim chief while conducting a national search for a new chief. Instead she announced that command staff were to report to City Administrator Landreth. "I feel this is an appropriate time to place civilian leadership over the department," said Schaaf.

The APTP is holding a press conference on June 21 at OPD headquarters to press the following demands:

1. Community-controlled policing: Establish a community-nominated and -controlled civilian review board with the power to hire, fire and discipline all members of the OPD.
2. Defund OPD and invest in the community: Cut the policing budget in half and redirect those millions into community-run job centers, programming for youth, reentry resources, mental health services and very-low-income housing.
3. Address the child sexual exploitation scandal in a meaningful way: Launch a full investigation by an outside agency that will investigate criminal cases influenced by predatory officers and account for the trafficking investigations they have compromised. Additionally, OPD must publicly state that coercion and enticement of a minor are never the fault of the child.
4. Resignation of Mayor Libby Schaaf. □

# Major Tillery case appealed

The family and other supporters of Major Tillery, who has been in Pennsylvania prisons unjustly for over 30 years, gathered outside the Philadelphia courthouse just before his attorney filed a Post-Conviction Relief Act appeal. Attorney Rachel Wolkenstein, who wrote the appeal, says Tillery is factually innocent and was convicted only because of "gross prosecutorial misconduct violating the fundamentals of due process."

New evidence supporting his appeal comes from two jailhouse informants who testified at Tillery's May 1985 trial, almost nine years after a Philadelphia pool hall shooting on Oct. 22, 1976. There was no other evidence against Tillery except for these supposed witnesses. Both

witnesses now admit their testimonies were untrue.

The trial had taken place in an atmosphere of heightened repression. It was at the same time that the city firebombed the home of people in the MOVE Black political movement on Osage Avenue. The ensuing fire killed six adults and five children and destroyed a whole block of people's homes. Prosecutors repeatedly demonized Tillery by bringing into evidence his membership in the Nation of Islam.

As fellow political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal explained in a 2015 Prison Radio broadcast, Tillery became a jailhouse lawyer who "shook the prison walls in the case known as Tillery v. Owens, a groundbreaking prison conditions

case where double-dealing (or the placement of four men in a cell) was declared unconstitutional. The prison medical department was declared unconstitutional and living conditions in part of the prison were declared a violation of the Constitution."

When Abu-Jamal became sick from what was later diagnosed as hepatitis C, it was Major Tillery who told the Mahanoy Prison superintendent that if Jamal wasn't hospitalized immediately, he might die. Mumia was hospitalized but Tillery was transferred and put in



Pennsylvania

solitary confinement for six months on a phony drug charge. "Major is in the hole not because of drugs, but because of something prison administrators hate and fear above all things: prisoner unity; prisoner solidarity." (tinyurl.com/z5ahm4n)

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

# Teachers and staff get new contract at CUNY

By G. Dunkel  
New York

The City University of New York is one of the largest higher education public institutions in the U.S. But it has been stiffing its 45,000 employees, who provide a college education to over 480,000 students.

In the middle of a massive propaganda campaign about young people's need to have a college education, CUNY employees did not get a raise for over seven years. Their working conditions — and their students' learning conditions — were deplorable. Part-time teachers, or adjuncts, who do the majority of teaching at CUNY, had no job security. All CUNY employees felt disrespected because the

politicians running the state of New York, which funds the four-year CUNY colleges, made it clear they weren't interested in spending a dollar more on CUNY.

In response, the Professional Staff Congress, American Federation of Teachers Local 2334, representing 25,000 faculty and staff, held a strike-authorization vote earlier this spring. Public employee strikes are illegal in New York state according to the Taylor Law, but for a union to say they believe a strike is called for is not.

The proposition to authorize a strike got a 92 percent "yes" vote from union members.

Faced with angry employees, and going into an election season with more-than-usual attention given to worker protests, the CUNY administration settled with

District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, on May 10. DC37, New York City's largest public service employee union, represents CUNY workers who don't have a direct role in educating students.

Once DC37 workers won, CUNY had to either settle with the PSC or face a strike. It chose to settle.

The PSC pay increase is close to what DC37 got: 10.41 percent compounded over slightly more than seven years, but with no raises the first two years. There will be retroactive payments and a signing bonus, including for many part-time workers.

A major win would be to implement two-year and then three-year contracts for adjuncts, giving them more job stability. The professional staff would also

have an increased chance for promotion.

Now that the big unions, DC37 and the PSC, have settled, the unions representing smaller groups, like the nurses, will likely reach agreements. But a large number of employees, in a diverse number of categories such as CUNY civil service jobs, are essentially "at-will" employees who can be fired at any time.

For at least a decade, CUNY has been enticing workers in technical areas organized by the PSC, such as CUNY television, to leave the union for a civil service line at higher pay. CUNY has also hired workers for special projects directly into such lines. CUNY will face an organizing drive if it doesn't give the "at-will" workers compensation packages similar to the ones won by the unions. □



# 50th anniversary of ‘Black Power’ slogan

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

On June 16, 1966, the newly elected chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Stokely Carmichael, later known as Kwame Ture, was arrested and taken to jail in Greenwood, Miss., for refusing to obey a police order. Law enforcement officers forbade marchers from erecting tents at an elementary school where activists planned to stay overnight during their “March against Fear” from Memphis, Tenn., to the state Capitol in Jackson, Miss.

When marchers arrived in Greenwood that evening and tried to erect a temporary camp at the segregated Stone Street Elementary School, Carmichael was arrested for “trespassing on public property.” He was taken into custody for several hours and later rejoined the marchers at a local park, where they established a camp and held an evening rally.

There, Carmichael famously announced from the podium: “We been saying ‘freedom’ for six years. What we are going to start saying now is ‘Black Power!’”

### Background of ‘March Against Fear’

This historic march started off June 5 as a solo journey of James Meredith, the first African-American student to enter and graduate from the University of Mississippi, who planned to walk 220 miles from Memphis to Jackson. On the second day of his journey, 20 miles into Mississippi, James Aubrey Norvell, a white racist, shot Meredith in the head. Wounded and bleeding, Meredith was rushed to a hospital.

Leaders of SNCC; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and Floyd McKissick of the Congress on Racial Equality pledged to continue the march

at a press briefing the day after Meredith was wounded.

As the march neared Jackson, growing in size, Meredith was able to rejoin it, and on June 26, 15,000 people reached Mississippi’s Capitol building.

### From ‘Freedom NOW’ to ‘Black Power’

Willie Ricks, a SNCC field organizer, had informed Carmichael that the masses in the Mississippi Delta region were ready for the new, more militant slogan and the program, which advanced self-defense, self-determination and opposition to the Vietnam War. Carmichael, recently elected SNCC chairperson, had a clear objective of moving the organization in a more radical, nationalist political direction.

Ricks used the new slogan as he traveled ahead of the “March against Fear,” building support for it and mobilizing SNCC supporters throughout the region. SNCC had worked in Mississippi since 1961. In 1964, the organization spearheaded the Mississippi Summer Project, which brought hundreds of youth to the state to work on voter registration and to build the independent Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

After the Selma-to-Montgomery march in early 1965, Carmichael, on SNCC’s behalf, went to majority African-American Lowndes County, Ala., to initiate another independent party. By late 1965, in cooperation with local activists, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO) had been established, using the black panther as its symbol.

Although Lowndes County was majority African American, almost no Blacks were allowed to register and vote. The Democratic Party of Alabama was a white supremacist organization, even stating that on its emblem.

As a result of the national attention



brought to Lowndes County, Carmichael, along with his SNCC comrades, was able to take control of the organization. The “March against Fear” catapulted Carmichael into a global spotlight.

Carmichael was initially resistant to raising the slogan, but after his unjust arrest, he asserted in Greenwood, “We want Black Power!” The enthusiastic response to the slogan ushered in a new era of the African-American liberation struggle, which impacted political discourse for at least another decade.

### Black Power’s significance today

Five decades later, many gains made through the Civil Rights and Black Power movements have been reversed by the courts, the federal government and corporate forces. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been eviscerated, the law stripped of its enforcement provisions.

African Americans and other oppressed groups are brutalized and killed by law enforcement agents and vigilantes with regularity. Last year, some 1,134 people were killed by U.S. police. (Guardian, Dec. 31) In most cases, these crimes have gone unpunished, as judges, prosecutors, the U.S. Justice Department and the corporate media claim there is insufficient evidence to try and convict the perpetrators.

Jobless rates among African Ameri-

cans remain twice as high as for whites. Poverty rates among the oppressed far exceed those of the broader majority white population.

U.S. foreign policy continues on its imperialist path with wars of occupation and regime change in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The Pentagon budget is larger than the combined military expenditures of the next seven (or eight) highest spending nations. The Obama administration is launching a renewed \$1 trillion nuclear weapons program amid growing poverty and desolation throughout the U.S.

### Lessons of the Black Power Movement

The lack of historical memory has been a major impediment in the present situation. Even though a president of African descent was elected twice to the White House, there have been no fundamental changes in the power structure and economic relations of production in U.S. capitalist society.

Consequently, a revolutionary movement encompassing various organizational forms is necessary to address the current crisis. The limitations of spontaneous demonstrations and rebellions have been illustrated since 2013 when public sentiment against the racist killings of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland and other oppressed peoples sparked mass anger and protests.

Absent from today’s political landscape are organizations, such as SNCC and the BPP, which place organizers on the ground in communities and on campuses to mobilize and agitate for revolutionary change. This is the major challenge of this period. It can only be addressed by the newer generation drawing upon the best of the political traditions among oppressed peoples and the entire working class. □

# Indigenous oppression and resistance in Yukon

By **G. Dunkel**  
Whitehorse, Yukon

The poorest sections of people living in Canada are Indigenous. The First Nations include American Indians, Inuit and Metis. Since 1763, when France ceded nearly all its colonies in North America, the ruling class of Canada has been trying, sometimes by force, sometimes by legal trickery or unjust laws, to seize land and resources from the First Nations.

The results of these attacks and systematic oppression over the last 150 years, which should properly be called genocidal in intent, are clear and shocking. In Canada, Indigenous people control only 0.2 percent of the land while settlers have 99.8 percent. The life expectancy of Indigenous peoples in Canada is seven years less than that of non-Indigenous. Unemployment rates for Indigenous people are four times higher. Money spent on educating Indigenous youth is only a third of that spent on other youth. Their suicide rate is five times higher than that of non-Indigenous youth. (“Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-up Call” by Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald M. Derrickson, 2015)

The two most powerful tools in Canada’s repressive arsenal were the Indian Act of 1876, which is still around, though substantially amended in 1927 and 1951, and residential schools, which were introduced under the Indian Act. There

were about 80 schools in 1931; the last one closed in 1996.

The Indian Act created “reserves,” similar to U.S. reservations, that severely limited the land rights of Indigenous people. Residential schools — often the only education offered to Indigenous youth — were blatant agents of cultural genocide. They removed children from their families with the goal of assimilating them into the dominant Canadian culture. Over the course of more than 100 years, some 30 percent of Indigenous children, about 150,000 youth, were placed there. At least 6,000 children died while attending these schools. Besides the attacks on their culture, thousands suffered psychological and physical abuse.

### Struggle wrests gov’t. action, apology

Decades of protests, lawsuits and outrage over the schools grew so sharp that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a hard-right conservative, offered a public apology on behalf of the Canadian government on June 11, 2008. A couple of years earlier, Canada’s highest court had awarded a class action settlement of \$2 billion to school survivors.

In 2010, the Canadian government issued a statement saying it would follow the principles of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, although it would not officially adopt it. While Harper was still prime minister, the struggle around First Nations’ rights

became intense.

This May 10, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett, representing the newly elected Liberal government, went to the U.N. and officially announced that Canada had changed its policy and would officially adopt the declaration.

### Gold vs. First Nation rights

Local struggles in the Yukon illuminate how First Nations try to overcome the decades of cultural genocide and economic assaults against their livelihood and the local ecology.

Even though the Yukon was the site of a major gold rush at the end of the 19th century, and wound up producing an estimated 12.5 million ounces of gold, it didn’t have a solid road connection to the rest of North America until the U.S. Army built one in response to the Japanese invasion of Alaska during World War II.

It is still isolated, with just 35,000 people — 25 percent of them First Nation — in a land area with a population density of 0.2 people per square mile, compared to Alaska’s 1.3.

There are 14 different First Nations in the Yukon. The First Nation community center in Whitehorse has a fairly large, modern language lab. A number of First Nations offer cooking classes and such traditional skills as hunting, dressing the kill, fishing and food preparation for older grammar school and high school students.

In Dawson, home of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation, local schools teach the Hän language to both First Nation and Canadian students in kindergarten through high school.

Between 80 and 90 active placer mining operations for gold and other minerals exist in Yukon streams and rivers because they don’t require a lot of capital to set up. Most are legacy operations, having been worked for a number of years, but there is still some prospecting.

Two prospectors have raised capital and put in for 45 mining claims on Judas Creek, an area near Carcross and Marsh Lake in southern Yukon. It is in the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dun and Carcross/Tagish First Nations and is adjacent to land of the Kwanlin Dun settlement.

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board did not approve the application because it would have had an adverse effect on the Carcross caribou herd, a resource the First Nations began using hundreds of years ago. (Yukon News, May 13)

Indigenous people throughout Canada want and need economic development, but they say it has to be human in scale and respect their traditional economy and ecology. They have retained their identity after hundreds of years of oppression because they have waged stubborn, effective resistance, though at great cost. □





# Houston thumps Trump

Houston met Donald Trump with loud, militant and massive protests on June 17 at both his exorbitantly priced home in River Oaks, Houston's wealthiest neighborhood, and at his mass rally in suburban Woodlands. There, as the motorcade passed in front of the crowd of protesters across the street, the noise and the anger of the crowd reverberated off palatial mansions and manicured lawns. The protest was led by many immigrant organizations. A larger-than-life piñata of Trump was front and center with the sign around the effigy's neck reading "El Hijo del Diablo" (the son of the devil).

— Report and photos by Gloria Rubac



# Murders of protesters in Oaxaca condemned

In response to the police killing of eight activists and injuries to more than 100 others at a teachers' protest in Nochixtlan, Oaxaca, Mexico, on June 19, people rallied outside the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia on June 20. The Philadelphia Solidarity With #Oaxaca protest demanded that the police assassins be brought to justice, and that all the teachers and unionists arrested be released alive and unharmed, including leaders of National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE).

Teachers in CNTE are resisting President Enrique Peña Nieto's education reforms that would impose mandatory

testing on teachers and leave schools in rural areas unable to function. Police opened fire as teachers and their supporters blockaded roads, staged mass marches and set up encampments. Mexican Federal Police are notorious for scores of political disappearances, murders and cases of torture. In November 2014, some 43 students at a rural teachers college in Ayotzinapa were disappeared by police in collaboration with a drug cartel. This crime led to massive protests against government violence and corruption that continue to this day.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette



# Union shows Orlando solidarity

*Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, passed a resolution unanimously on June 16 to denounce the "homophobic, racist, right-wing mass shootings" in Orlando, Fla., and the "Islamophobic hate campaign" that has followed. Here are excerpts from that resolution, slightly edited.*

Whereas, a cruel and outrageous anti-LGBTQ and racist hate crime took place on June 12 in Orlando, Fla., with the mass murder of 49 patrons of ... Pulse and the wounding of 53 during Latin Party Night, with the majority of the victims Latino/a, a large number of them under the age of 30, and some of them undocumented,

Whereas, this horrible act of terror did not take place in a vacuum, but in the current climate of hostility towards the LGBTQ community, as exemplified by anti-trans "bathroom bills" and right-to-discriminate "religious freedom" legislation being pushed throughout the U.S.; and as Latinos/as are being targeted by Donald Trump and his racist ilk, and Puerto Ricans, who were the majority of those killed, are being forced out of their country in record numbers by capitalist austerity measures,

And whereas, the capitalist media did not waste a minute in characterizing the shooter as "an American-born Muslim," ...

And Whereas, in reality there is no evidence that the massacre was motivated by religion, but instead the shooter is clearly linked to ... the military-industrial complex through his employment by G4S, a transnational security firm with contracts around the world, including the U.S. and Israel, with a corporate culture and structure, like Veolia/Transdev, that profits from the pain, suffering and deaths of Palestinian people,

And Whereas, this murderous attack occurred during both the month of Pride and the holy month of Ramadan, adding immeasurably to the pain in the hearts of Muslims and the LGBTQ community,

Be it therefore resolved, That USW Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, first and foremost extends our heartfelt solidarity and love to the families who lost their loved ones, to the injured, to all of the survivors of this horrific massacre, and to the LGBTQ community and to communities of color — for whom this event is the latest outrage coming from a system that has op-

pressed them for centuries,

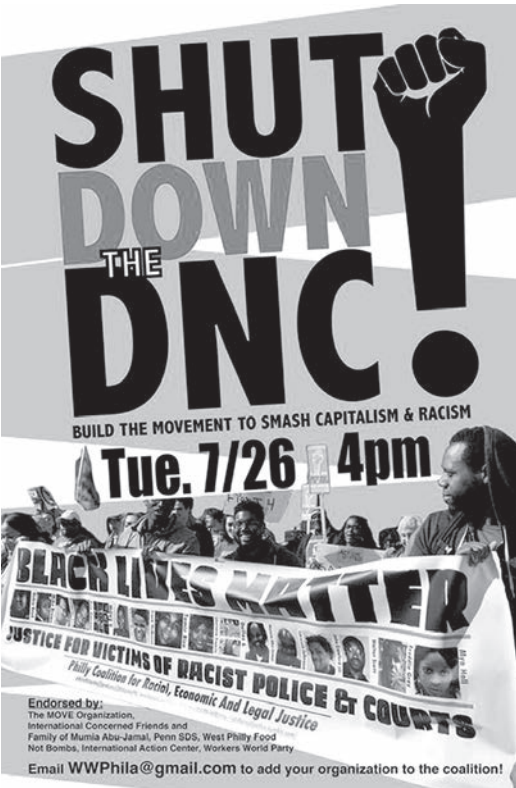
Be it further resolved, That USW Local 8751 denounces the continued hateful right-wing campaigns against LGBTQ people in the U.S. and against people of color, particularly the immigrant and Latino/a communities, and we demand an end to all bigoted political and state acts that encourage the hate that turns the guns on already oppressed people,

Be it further resolved, That USW Local 8751 stands in solidarity with the Muslim community against Islamophobia, as we unequivocally reject each and every attempt, especially by the U.S. state or individual politicians, to exploit this tragedy, to foment hatred against Muslims and to [call] for an expansion of the misnamed "war on terrorism,"

Be it further resolved, That USW Local 8751 will continue its tradition of decades of rallying, marching and demonstrating in solidarity with the LGBTQ, Muslim, Palestinian, immigrant, Black, Latino/a and other [oppressed] communities, as we push back against the hate responsible for this heinous crime through our rock-solid commitment to building

labor solidarity that unites workers of all sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, races, sexes, nationalities, abilities and faiths ...

Be it finally resolved, That we call on the entire labor movement to demonstrate visible solidarity with the LGBTQ community by sending union contingents to vigils and demonstrations for the Orlando victims, and, beyond this painful moment, turning out labor contingents in large numbers for LGBTQ Pride marches and gatherings, while at the same time showing visible solidarity whenever possible with the Muslim community, unfairly accused of a crime their faith has nothing to do with, and by these actions show other workers how we can unite against bigotry. □





# Fightback for LGBTQ Pride

## Gun control or self-defense?



By Minnie Bruce Pratt

In the wake of the Orlando, Fla., massacre, LGBTQ people and people of color are calling out, again: “Stop killing us!”

Over 100 people were shot down on June 12 and 49 died. Almost every one was a person of color, with 90 percent Latino/a or of Latino/a descent. Twenty-three of the dead were from Puerto Rico, and three were undocumented immigrant workers from Latin America. More than half were under 30 years old.

The bullets were fired from an MCX semi-automatic rifle designed by gun manufacturer Sig Sauer. Smith and Wesson describes this type of weapon as fitting the needs of “global military, law enforcement, and security personnel.”

In response to the massacre, an agonized cry for gun control has risen in the U.S., and understandably so. On social media, people tell of friends afraid to gather at their local LGBTQ bar or at June Pride events, of young children who fear when their LGBTQ parents leave the house because “You might get killed.” There are heartbreaking comments by friends, lovers, parents and siblings who have lost loved ones in repeated mass shootings, from Orlando to the nine African-American churchgoers killed in Charleston, S.C., only a year ago, and many other massacres. The U.S. has had more than a thousand mass shootings in the last three years.

Gun-control advocates are demanding that Congress reinstate a federal assault weapon ban that expired in 2004. More than a dozen gun control bills are pending in the U.S. Senate, but stand little chance of being enacted into law.

To understand why guns are so prevalent

in the U.S., we have to look unflinchingly at the nature of the U.S. state and its relation to working and oppressed people. The U.S. was founded on the thieving seizure of lands of massacred Indigenous peoples; on white supremacy and enslavement of people of African descent; on the exploitation and wage slavery of working people; on the exploitation of women politically, economically and socially; on the forced imposition of heterosexual family structures; and on colonial and imperialist wars to feed power and profits to its ruling class.

### The state and ‘bodies of armed men’

To maintain power rooted in these realities, the U.S. state, like all states based on class rule, must rely on “bodies of armed men” — a standing army, police, prisons and other “instruments of coercion.” V.I. Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution, explained the true nature of this “social order” in his classic work, “The State and Revolution.”

History affords many examples of what this looks like. In the seizure of Indigenous lands and the establishment of slavery in the U.S. South, armed white settlers served as “instruments of coercion” for the new U.S. state. Recently, we have only to focus on the African-American community of Ferguson, Mo. In the summer of 2014, the small town was invaded by police and National Guard units with tanks and military-grade weapons, similar to those used in Orlando, simply because the community asserted its constitutional right to assemble to protest racist injustice.

In the context of state repression, “gun control” has historically meant disarming workers and oppressed people who need to defend themselves, their families or

their homes against violence by the state or the owning class. With the end of Reconstruction and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and armed white vigilantism in the 1870s, former slave owners mobilized these “instruments of coercion” to disarm freed people of African descent and force them back into peonage.

More recently in New York City, infamous “stop and frisk” laws were implemented ostensibly to make the city “safer.” Between 2002 and 2015, cops terrorized over 5 million people, almost 90 percent of whom were Black or Latino/a. This occurred during intensifying gentrification, with billions in real estate profits to be gained by removing rent controls from working-class housing.

Of course, practical measures should be taken in response to the scourge of gun deaths. For instance, an increase in funding for beleaguered mental health programs is much needed, as they continue to lose resources under “austerity” budgets.

But a look at the disproportionate number of deaths of people of color, people with disabilities and genderqueer people at the hands of the police, as highlighted by the Black Lives Matter movement, belies the wisdom of relying on the U.S. state to safeguard our lives and the lives of other workers and oppressed people. We can also see how the endless U.S. wars normalize both the scapegoating of targeted people and the placement of military weapons into the hands of the police as well as right-wing, neofascist forces.

An Associated Press headline recently gloated that after Orlando, “gay leaders” must turn for protection to the very police who had raided and beat LGBTQ people at the Stonewall and Compton rebellions, sparking the modern LGBTQ

liberation movement.

Not so. Instead, we can turn to the many examples of mutual help and self-defense to strengthen solidarity between all of us who, as the poet Audre Lorde said, “were never meant to survive” under the grinding heel of capitalism.

We can remember Mae Mallory and Rob Williams, who fought white supremacy with organized armed self-defense in the African-American community in Monroe, N.C., in the 1960s.

We can remember what happened in Buffalo, N.Y., after the murder of Dr. Bernard Slepian. The 1999 Rainbow Peacekeepers formed a human chain during the day to protect the local women’s clinic from anti-abortion blockaders, and guarded local gay bars at night from threatened attack by the same right-wing forces.

We can learn from the historic 2006 general strike launched by Latino/a workers throughout the U.S., which called on immigrants and allies to struggle together against racist scapegoating and deportation.

We can emulate the solidarity in the message from North Carolina Muslims to the LGBTQ community immediately after Orlando: “Their grief is our grief.” In February 2015, three young Muslim students were killed in Chapel Hill, N.C., by an anti-Islamic neighbor. (wral.com)

We can listen to the LGBTQ community and allies in Pensacola, Fla., who, before Orlando, met the Christian right wing’s violent harassment outside their local Emerald City bar with a live band and militant, vociferous opposition, ultimately clearing the haters out. Local organizer Devon C. said on Facebook: “This is how we collectively rise up and overthrow those who seek to oppress us.” □

## Orlando: ‘Our tears, a flood of resistance’

*Continued from page 1*

in the last six months. But the cause is not religion — it’s the capitalist system that produces these divisions.

Since Sept. 11, Muslim people in the U.S. and abroad have been besieged, vilified, scapegoated and terrorized. Racist round-ups, occupation and war on Muslim communities started long before this election year, but have been heightened by demagogue Donald Trump.

In this climate, if Mateen was struggling with his own sexuality, with mental illness or other issues, it is not surprising that, without a revolutionary class outlook, he turned his rage against another oppressed group.

Capitalist society, corrupt and sick, breeds alienation — alienation from the fruit of our labor and alienation from each other. Individual “effort” is touted, so if you are homeless or jobless, it is made to be your fault. If you are Black or Brown, queer, Muslim, woman, Native, your boundless oppression is made to be your fault.

### Solidarity forever begins today

The answer to alienation is solidarity. Now more than ever we must build solidarity and show our utmost unconditional solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

To build solidarity, we must clarify some issues raised in the wake of the Orlando tragedy. Like the fact there has



Pride marchers in Syracuse, N.Y., June 19.

been “genocide comparing,” which of course we shouldn’t do.

We must answer media statements that the killing of LGBTQ people in Orlando is “the worst mass murder in U.S. history.” But Wounded Knee and the history of Indigenous people in the U.S. testifies that is not true. What about the deaths of countless enslaved peoples of African descent, the massacre of African Americans in Tulsa, Okla., in the 1920s? And so many other tragedies that could be named.

Indeed, the LGBTQ massacre at Pulse was not the first. Over the years, many gay bars have been attacked, and scores of LGBTQ people have died. In 1973 an arsonist set fire to a New Orleans bar and 32

people died. Many were never identified since repression was so fierce that people, afraid and closeted, did not use their real identification.

We must build solidarity because at Orlando the overwhelming majority of the 49 victims were Latino/a, African-American and other people of color. They now join the list of those victimized by this anti-LGBTQ system.

June 11 was a Saturday “Latin-themed night” at the Pulse. The bar was packed with Brown and Black people. Florida has the third largest population of Latino/a people in the U.S. — 24 percent and growing. Ninety percent of those killed were Puerto Ricans, who make up the largest segment of the Latino/a popula-

tion. The deaths are a blow to Puerto Rico, struggling to free itself from U.S. colonialism, and another reason not to compare the loss of precious lives.

Puerto Rico is experiencing the greatest mass exodus of its people in 50 years. A horrific economic crisis is causing this forced migration. Puerto Rico’s debt to the U.S., imposed by colonialism and capitalism, exceeds a whopping \$72 billion and demands cancellation and reparations.

The Pew Center estimates the island’s population is dropping yearly by 11,000 people due to high unemployment and the cost of living. Annual departures more than quadrupled between 2010 and 2013, with many people moving to central Florida. Orlando has a strong appeal for young, unemployed Puerto Ricans because of the many entry-level jobs at Disney World and other parts of the tourist industry.

The vast majority of victims were Puerto Rican, but many were also from Mexico, Venezuela and other parts of Latin America. Their families and friends are struggling with the high cost of getting their bodies home or with hospital bills. Many families are coming to grips for the first time with knowing their loved ones were gay.

This tragedy reminds us that, despite progress made by LGBTQ communities like the right to same-sex marriage, life is still hard for queer people, and will con-

PHOTO: M. GREENLAR



# & against all bigotry

## Vigils continue for Orlando

*Vigils and other events to mourn the slain martyrs of Orlando have occurred since June 12 and are continuing to take place in cities large and small across the United States as well as in other countries. Here are two reports from WW correspondents Martha Grevatt in Detroit and Gloria Rubac in Houston.*

Metro Detroit has held several vigils, in different parts of the city and suburbs, to express grief and rage over the Orlando massacre. The largest was held June 14 inside and outside the LGBTQ community center, Affirmations. While the capacity crowd of 350 listened to speakers inside the center, another 300 who could not get in gathered outside. Between long periods of mournful silence, those outside sang the Civil Rights song “We Shall Overcome” and, towards the end, chanted, “We are all Orlando! Bigotry has got to go!” Activists from the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice held signs that read “No to anti-LGBTQ bigotry! No to Islamophobia!” Vigil attendees, one after another, complimented and took cell-phone pictures of the signs.

As soon as word of the Orlando murders hit Houston, people were at City Hall for a vigil. There were also thousands at a vigil at South Beach, an LGBTQ night-



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

## Black Workers for Justice extends solidarity

*The following statement was issued by the North Carolina-based Black Workers for Justice on June 14.*

The Black Workers for Justice is outraged and saddened by the brutal attack on the patrons of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla. We extend our condolences to the families of those killed, and hope for healing and a speedy recovery of the wounded. We stand in strong solidarity with the LGBTQ community. While we don’t know why the shooter picked Saturday night for his heinous crime, it was a Latin Night and as such many in the club were Latino/a. We extend our solidarity to that community as well.

This outrageous homophobic attack did not happen in a vacuum. The creation of hateful and anti-democratic legislation, like North Carolina’s HB2 and similar laws passed or proposed in other states, and the poisonous rhetoric used by its proponents is the toxic environment in which this reprehensible act took place.

As one of our members has said, we are living in the intersection of homophobia, religious extremism and Islamophobia. The attacks on the LGBTQ community are both physical and policy based. Extremism masked by religion is subjecting millions of true believers to unimaginable horrors of violence. It is anti-democratic, patriarchal, racist and fascist. However, this unspeakable violence cannot be separated from the continuous violence caused by the U.S. direct and supported violence of wars and military invasions throughout the Middle East and Africa to dismantle governments and for regime change. All of this, at the end of the day is in the service of U.S. and European imperialism. To be clear, this extremism is not restricted to Islam.

Islamophobia is an irrational hatred of Muslims based on the actions of religious extremists and is racialized to target Brown and Black people from the Middle East, South Asia, the U.S. and Africa. Capitalism and white supremacy undergird these ideologies. Capitalism in crisis and decline uses them to try to maintain the status quo while its benefactors continue to enrich themselves, creating even more destitution for workers with austerity budgets, privatization and a reduction in wages.

They continue to trample on Black workers and other workers of color with scandalous levels of structural unemploy-

ment, mass incarceration — including the school-to-prison pipeline — and rampant and unpunished brutality and murder of Black people by the police and other state sanctioned actors.

Fighting back is the only answer, as demonstrated by Verizon workers who waged a courageous strike and won. Similarly, public employees in Durham with the aid of the community and progressive elected officials conducted an extended campaign for a living wage and won.

The workplace struggles and the struggles against homophobia and Islamophobia have to be linked and joined with the Movement for Black Lives and the various Moral Monday type efforts across the country.

We all must become hypervigilant, as we have argued before, and protect each

*Continued on page 10*

### From French unions

### ‘Solidarity with LGBT people’

*The following is from a “statement in solidarity with LGBT people” from the CGT, the labor confederation in France that has been leading the demonstrations and general strikes opposing the new anti-labor law.*

Montreuil, France, June 13 — Once again, barbarism has struck, during a massacre in Orlando, Fla., USA. Homophobia is at the root of this tragedy.

Worldwide discrimination, violence and repression regarding sexual orientation and gender identity are still prevalent. Some countries still have laws that criminalize LGBT people.

In France, through the power of demonstrations, the rights of LGBT people have made gains. Still not all rights have been gained or won, as inequalities persist in the workplace and in private life.

The CGT is committed to campaign for equal rights and to actively fight all forms of discrimination, hatred and violence to which this bigotry leads. □

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#### ‘Rainbow Solidarity: In Defense of Cuba’

by Leslie Feinberg  
Read online at [workers.org/books/](http://workers.org/books/)

#### ‘The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression: A Marxist View’

by Bob McCubbin  
Available from online booksellers.

.....

tinue to be so under capitalism. For example, a bigoted Food and Drug Administration ban on gay men donating blood meant that many loved ones of the victims could not give much-needed blood.

LGBTQ youth deal with bullying, harassment and violence every day. One study shows that students hear bigoted verbal abuse more than two dozen times a day. Eighty percent of queer youth report severe social isolation.

#### The problem: not guns alone

Yes, it has gotten better, but we still have a long way to go. We must escalate the struggle. How do we go forward?

There is growing mass anger on the issue of gun control, and we understand that heartfelt wish, which is really a desire to live in peace. Mothers of color have lost children to so-called gun violence. People are flabbergasted why anyone sane would want to buy a weapon that only serves to kill many people at one time.

But gun control alone is not the answer. If shop owners had been prevented from selling rope, would that have stopped lynchings of African-American people after slavery or in the 1920s? Of course not. Because the problem is not the tools, but the context of the society they are used in. A nation founded by violence will foster violence.

As long as you have the contradictions — social, political and economic — of capitalist exploitation, an individual will find a way to do harm, certainly as long as there is no care for people with emotional and mental disabilities.

And murder and tragedy will continue as long as the ruling class is allowed to foster divisions, as long it allows Klan-like groups to exist and arm themselves, but destroys groups of the oppressed; as long as Dylann Roof, the shooter at the Charleston tragedy, is treated to a hamburger when he is arrested, while a Black or Brown person is given a beating or death. The unspoken truth in the gun-control debate is this: The most dangerous gun is that held not by a Muslim but by a cop.

Guns are a \$4 billion industry. They

club, as well as large crowds at the Monroze Community Center, at Resurrection Community Church and at another candlelight vigil at City Hall. Houston’s African-American mayor Sylvester Turner spoke at most of the events, saying the city of Houston will not tolerate anti-gay violence. City Hall will be lit up in the colors of the LGBTQ rainbow for the month of June. □

are profitable. They are most dangerous in the hands of the right wing, and so will continue to be sold to terrorize the oppressed and sow divisions among the working class.

#### Resistance and revolution

We are saddened indeed by Orlando, by yet another atrocity, yet another senseless tragedy. There are surely more to come.

But we are heartened nonetheless. We are encouraged by the outpouring of solidarity. We are heartened by the recent response of New Yorkers when two Muslim women were harassed violently and called terrorists on the subway. Passengers shouted the bigots down, saying, “We are diverse, of many backgrounds, and we protect our own! Racists, stop your s\*\*t and get off the train!”

This is our class, the working class — every day becoming more and more conscious, every day becoming more and more clear that it is not a lesbian, gay, bi, trans or queer person who is the enemy, it is not the religion of Islam, or a Black youth or an undocumented worker who is the problem.

Consciousness is growing every day that solidarity is what we need. Now that consciousness has to turn into action, into struggle.

Trump has opened up an avalanche of dangerous racist rhetoric. Hillary Clinton is not much better; she is just smarter and more established.

But soon, very soon, there will be an avalanche of resistance to both.

The tears that so many people shed this week — not just in Florida, not just in this country, not just in Puerto Rico or Latin America, but around the world — are not signs of weakness.

They are the water that will make a flood of resistance and revolution. It is these tears and this pain that will wash away oppression once and for all.

**Long live the Pulse Martyrs!  
Queer Pride forever!**

*Gutierrez is campaign manager for Workers World Party’s Moorehead-Lilly 2016 presidential campaign.*



# Workers World Party election campaign underway

By Workers World Staff

In front of Trump Tower in New York City on June 14, two days after the Orlando mass shootings, the Workers World Party 2016 election campaign held a protest to tell racist Donald Trump: “Don’t use the Orlando massacre to whip up Islamophobia!” June 14 marked the 70th birthday of the billionaire Republican Party presidential nominee.

Members, friends and allies joined WWP presidential candidate Monica Moorehead on a picket line to confront pro-Trump supporters and expose Trump’s divide-and-conquer rhetoric as he tries to win over white workers to his white supremacist views.

Moorehead said in a press statement: “Trump, who does not care about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and mostly Latino/a victims of the Orlando massacre, is already trying to use this

terrible tragedy to whip up racism against Muslims. As the people’s movement embraces the LGBTQ community at this difficult time of mourning and healing, we will also strengthen our solidarity with our Arab, Asian, African, Latino/a and Muslim sisters and brothers. We will not allow either Trump or Hillary Clinton to use Orlando to generate bigotry and war fever. Nor will we allow the government to use Orlando as an excuse to intensify police surveillance and repression against Muslims.”

## WWP files in New Jersey

Moorehead is a revolutionary Black woman running for president who lives in New Jersey, so why shouldn’t she be on the Garden State ballot?

Socialists and other activists went to Trenton, N.J., on June 15 to file petitions putting Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead and her running

sector of the working class and oppressed peoples.

“Conditions for people of African descent in Wisconsin are some of the worst in the United States and the world. Latinos/as are facing raids and deportations. This is a part of the international austerity assault by all Wall Street forces.

“The Bradley Foundation, with the complicity of similar right-wing organizations, has been using Wisconsin for decades as a laboratory to test ruling-class policies and attacks. Most notably have been charter schools and so-called ‘welfare reform.’ This has increased rapidly since 2011 after Act 10 was implemented, gutting public sector collective bargaining.

“WWP, Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement and others are targeting the Bradley Foundation to expose its role as a leading right-wing, pro-Wall Street ideological think tank. Like the Koch family’s [American Legislative Exchange Council] and Americans for Prosperity, Bradley is a major architect of the neoconservative program of austerity, privatization, charter schools, resegregation, deregulation and union busting.

“The Bradley Foundation epitomizes everything the WWP socialist campaign opposes.”

In this spirit, Lilly will lead a community conversation about “Building People’s Power.” He will raise the necessity to build the anti-racist, independent people’s movement as a united front, with socialism as the solution to capitalist austerity and organizations such as the Bradley Foundation.

*“Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest sponsored by WI Bail Out the People Movement, July 7 at 1241 N. Franklin Pl., Milwaukee, 4:30 p.m.*

*“Building People’s Power” community conversation sponsored by WI Bail Out the People Movement, July 7 at 734 N. 26th St., Milwaukee, at 7 p.m.*

*For more information about the July 7 events, visit [wibailoutpeople.org](http://wibailoutpeople.org) and [facebook.com/wibailoutpeople](https://facebook.com/wibailoutpeople).*

## Wisconsin

# WWP campaign to confront Bradley Foundation

By Workers World Staff

Supporters of Workers World Party’s 2016 campaign with Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president will be petitioning for ballot status in Wisconsin throughout the month of July. Lilly will be at two events July 7 in Milwaukee, one a “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest and an evening of “Building People’s Power,” a community conversation that Moorehead will join via Skype.

A leading member of WWP’s Durham, N.C., branch and a member of WWP’s National Committee, Lilly also has credentials as a journalist, an organizer and a speaker. His political commentary has been featured in Workers World newspaper, Truthout, Counterpunch, the LA Progressive, Black Youth Project, the Durham News and Triangle Free Press.

Lilly was awarded a 2015 Local Hero Citizen’s Award by Indy Week of Raleigh-Cary-Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C., for “pushing for workers’ rights and police reform.”

Moorehead has been an activist and organizer for more than four decades. A member of Workers World Party since 1975, Moorehead is a member of the party’s secretariat and a managing editor of Workers World newspaper. She was WWP’s candidate for president of the United States in 1996 and 2000.

## What is the Bradley Foundation?

To build for the “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest, the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement issued a statement which included the following excerpts:

“Wisconsin over the past five years has seen some of the worst austerity in United States history. Many of the gains our class has won over the past 80 to 100 years are now gone or reduced to shells. These includes rights to public sector collective bargaining, tenure by state statute and prevailing wage, among numerous other laws that now attack every single



New York City

WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Above, Monica Moorehead, WWP presidential candidate, center.

WW PHOTOS



New Jersey

## Baltimore Campaign for People’s Power

Sharon Black for City Council President, left. Andre Powell for Mayor, speaking.

mate Lamont Lilly on the ballot.

Nearly 1,500 signatures were collected, almost twice the number required. After the filing, WWP supporters confronted Donald Trump’s sidekick, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who jump-started his political career by framing Muslims known as the Fort Dix Five.

New Jersey is a rich state, but nearly a third of Trenton’s people live in poverty. The Moorehead-Lilly campaign is part of the fightback.

## Baltimore candidates endorse fightback

Speaking at a June 14 press conference in Baltimore, Andre Powell, an independent socialist candidate and a leader of Workers World Party, explained, “Today is Trump’s birthday, and we wanted to send him a special message that his hate and division will not be tolerated. Given the painful and tragic events in Orlando this week, it is all the more important to deliver this message.” Powell is an openly gay candidate in Baltimore’s race for

mayor in November.

David Card, one of the co-chairs of the Maryland campaign for Moorehead and Lilly, pointed out that June 14 also marks an international day of solidarity with French workers. Card spoke about the importance of international workers’ solidarity.

Lee Patterson, a staff volunteer with the campaign, read the Moorehead/Lilly campaign’s “Birthday message to racist billionaire Donald Trump.”

Powell and Sharon Black, who is running for Baltimore City Council president, announced their endorsement of the Moorehead/Lilly campaign and of Nnamdi Scott from the Ujima People’s Progress Party, who is running for the 7th District Council seat.

The press conference took place at the site where, the night before, a vigil for the Pulse nightclub martyrs had drawn thousands. □

## N. Carolina

# Socialist campaign of struggle and solidarity



Lamont Lilly, WWP vice-presidential candidate, center.

WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

## By WW Durham, N.C., Bureau

“Prisoners cannot vote and they are dying in our local jails. Youth cannot vote and our schools are being underfunded. Undocumented workers cannot vote and the border walls just keep getting higher and U.S. foreign policy continues to displace the masses,” said Durham, N.C.-based campaign coordinator L.T. Pham at a June 14 press conference. Pham went on to explain that Workers World Party is running an election campaign in the spirit of fighting back against the ills of capitalism.

North Carolina’s oppressive election laws require 100,000 verified signatures to get on the ballot. The WWP Durham branch is launching a campaign for offi-

cial write-in status in North Carolina.

Police arrested four of the hundreds of protesters greeting Donald Trump in Greensboro, N.C., on June 14. The WWP Durham branch joined the protests to shut Trump down. Last November, WWP was on the front lines of organizing the protest that shut Trump down in Raleigh.

The WWP branch supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer peoples’ organizing and uprisings around the state against House Bill 2 and all those targeted by violence, most recently in Orlando, Fla.

WWP also protests the racist police killings of Akiel Denkins in Raleigh, Jesus Huerta and La’Vante Biggs in Durham

Continued on page 9



# French state escalates attacks on unions

By G. Dunkel

The French government used tear gas and threatened leaders with “terrorism” charges to try to stop the protests that a coalition of unions and students, led by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), has been waging vigorously and repeatedly since March to force the government to withdraw its new anti-labor law.

The French state has tried lying. The cops claimed that the last demonstration in Paris on June 14, which involved over 600 buses from all over France, where it took hours for demonstrators to leave the assembly site and march along a wide Parisian boulevard, drew only 75,000 to 80,000 people. A careful analysis of the data at Initiative Communiste indicates that 750,000 to 950,000 people — close to the million estimated by the unions — is the most probable figure. ([www.initiative-communiste.fr](http://www.initiative-communiste.fr))

The French state is trying intimidation. The government, under its state-of-emergency powers, issued an order forbidding 130 individuals, listed by name, from participating in the June 14 demonstration. It is even threatening to ban upcoming national demonstrations on June 23 and June 28, allegedly because there was violence and property destruction on June 14. The CGT says that this threat shows the government is losing and is on the ropes.

In comparison with the strike actions, the European soccer tournament currently being held in France has seen far more violence and property destruc-

tion. Over 332 people have been arrested throughout France, amidst scenes of massive, drunken destruction; some have already been convicted and either deported or imprisoned for a few months. (Les Echos) But there have been no government threats against the tournament.

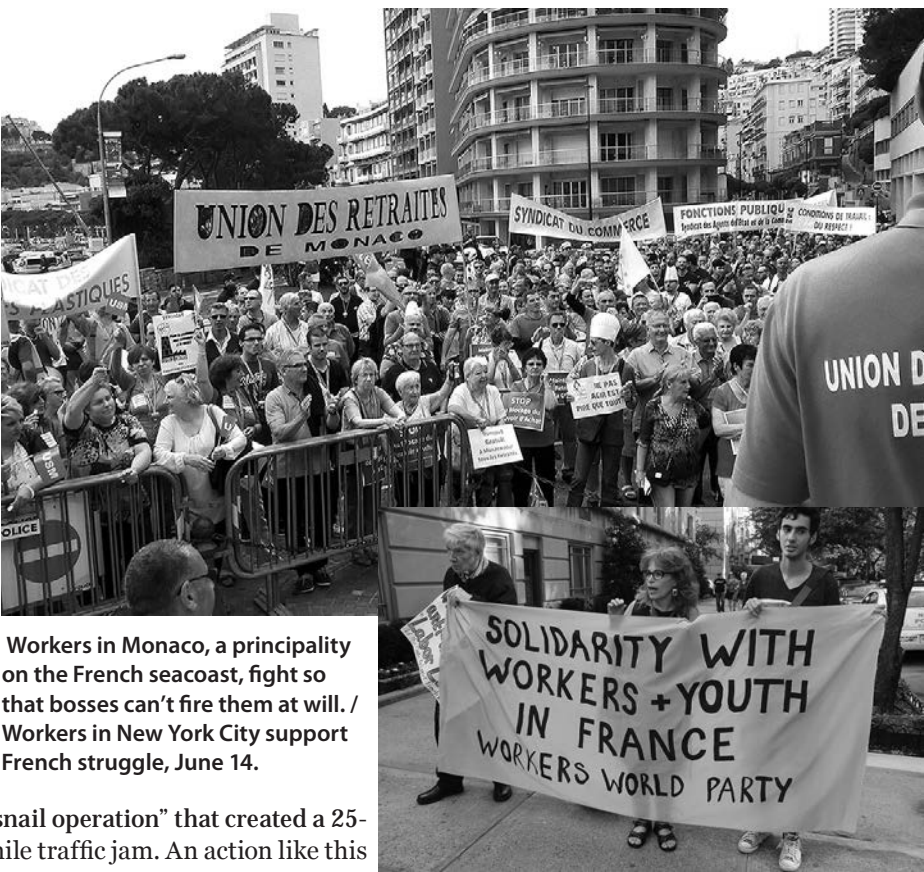
Recently, two police agents were assassinated in Maintes-la-Jolie, a small city with a large population of North Africans. Bernard Cazeneuve, the minister of the interior, speaking on TV2 the evening of June 14, even tried to tie the assassinations to the CGT-led strikes, which he claims engender a climate of violence. President François Hollande gave the elegy at the police officials’ hugely publicized state funeral.

The CGT says it reserves the right to defend itself, and CGT security tries to keep the demonstrators safe from all attacks, including attacks from the cops.

**Cops shown beating protesters**

The June 14 blog of Initiative Communiste describes how a middle-aged man suffered a serious back injury after being shot with a tear gas cannister. The June 19 New York Times has a picture of four or five cops beating a Black protester on the ground; video clips on YouTube of the June 14 protest show cops clubbing protesters on their backs as they tried to get away.

The media and government are trying to minimize the impact of the strikes that accompany these demonstrations. For example, some workers on a road near Limoges in south central France held a



Workers in Monaco, a principality on the French seacoast, fight so that bosses can’t fire them at will. / Workers in New York City support French struggle, June 14.

PHOTO: JOE CATRON

“snail operation” that created a 25-mile traffic jam. An action like this was mentioned in the June 15 issue of Le Monde, but less spectacular actions are purposely unreported.

Even with all the government lies blaming the CGT for violence, and the disruptions and inconveniences the strikes have caused, popular support for the unions has stayed high. Despite lack of fuel, missing trains, irregular metro service and canceled flights, the most respected French polling service (IFOP) reports support at around 60 percent.

# Cox assassination reveals Britain’s right wing

By Deirdre Griswold

June 20 — The shocking assassination of Jo Cox, a Labor Party Member of Parliament in Britain, is clearly linked to the violent anti-immigrant campaign stoked every day by the country’s right-wing tabloid press and media.

Accused killer Thomas Mair is reported to have cried out “Britain first!” as he repeatedly shot and stabbed Cox to death on a public street in Birstall, West Yorkshire, on June 16 as she was leaving a meeting with her constituents, many of whom are Muslim immigrants. During a subsequent court hearing, Mair shouted, “Death to traitors, freedom for Britain.”

Freedom for Britain? Like the United

States, Britain is a powerful imperialist country. Its ruling class has a long colonial history of oppressing and exploiting peoples around the world — especially in Africa and south Asia — but also including other nationalities occupying the British Isles: the Irish, Welsh and Scots.

Only a hate-crazed ultra-nationalist could call for “Freedom for Britain,” which invokes the railings of Adolph Hitler against imperialist Germany’s “oppression.” The U.S.-based Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks fascist and other far-right activity, has released receipts showing that Mair had purchased \$620 worth of printed materials from a neo-Nazi organization called the National Alliance.

The assassination of Cox took place just

one week before the “Brexit” referendum on whether Britain should leave the European Union, scheduled for June 23. As in all the major capitalist countries, the British economy has been stagnant, especially since the market crash of 2008-09. At the same time, the vicious wars waged against predominantly Muslim countries by the U.S. and NATO have sent a wave of refugees to Europe seeking asylum and jobs.

Many right-wing supporters of Brexit have demagogically blamed Britain’s economic problems on immigrants, just as Donald Trump has been doing in the U.S. The assassination of Cox has undoubtedly contributed to making immigration a central focus in the referendum.

On the other hand, the EU is a reac-

tionary institution that centralizes the power of big capital in Europe and wields it against the workers of all countries. In many countries, honest workers’ organizations want out of the EU.

However the vote goes on June 23, the working class and oppressed nationalities in Britain will still be faced with the same enemy: the entrenched capitalist ruling class. Whether in or out of the EU, the struggle for jobs for all, a living wage, housing, health, education and all the other necessities of life will depend on forging greater solidarity among all workers and rejecting the old reactionary tactic of blaming the ills of the system on the most oppressed. □



Continued from page 8

and recently Deriante Miller in Kinston, N.C. The WWP campaign demands the disarmament of the police, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and the Pentagon. WWP will also continue to join protests challenging oppressive conditions in the Durham County jail.

The campaign has congratulated Durham city workers, whose union picketed City Hall for 10 weeks, for winning a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. WWP supports fast food and all low-wage workers fighting for \$15 per hour and union rights.

WWP vice-presidential candidate Lamont Lilly, a North Carolina Central University graduate, told the crowd at the news conference: “We’ve been in the streets in Baltimore, in Ferguson. We’ve been in Oakland. We’ve been in Cleveland organizing with the people, in communities that the bourgeois media do not go to. Those are the areas we are in mobi-

lizing and teaching our people.”

Lilly discussed WWP’s 10-point political program of the “Vote Socialism 2016” campaign, saying, “We want an end to the war on Black people and we support the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement, including jailing the killer cops, abolishing the police and the historic necessity of reparations for Black people here in the U.S. and worldwide.” Lilly said the oppressed people have to rise up, as they did in Baltimore, Ferguson, Mo., and Durham.

The campaign fights for revolutionary socialism, a system of people’s power where workers and oppressed peoples, not banks and corporations, own and control everything, and where the needs of the 99%, not the profits of the 1%, are prioritized. This means fully funding public education, housing, food, water, clothing, health care and childcare for all. We salute the “March for More” starting June 14 to demand the state in-

crease funding for public education. We also support the fight to stop House Bill 873, which would underfund Historically Black universities.

**Local activists speak out**

Other local activists, such as Abdul Burnette, a Bojangles worker and leader in the “Raise Up for \$15” per hour and union rights campaign, expressed solidarity with the Moorehead-Lilly campaign.

Loan Tran stated: “Workers World Party organized press conferences today across the country in cities like here in Durham, but also in New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Boston. The U.S. is at a political crossroads with the presidential election looming over the heads of workers and oppressed people, and the conditions under the capitalist system only continuing to get worse. We come together to express solidarity with all struggles to fight racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia,

anti-immigrant bigotry and much more.”

“There was a big massacre over the weekend in Orlando and we saw one of the worst attacks in this country. What we are witnessing here in the form of Islamophobia and homophobia is a crisis of capitalism,” stated Manzoor Cheema from Muslims for Social Justice, based in Raleigh, N.C. “The rise of these victimizations are [caused by] the increasing disparities of the rich and poor. One of the local concrete examples is the law House Bill 2, which makes LGBT and trans communities into second class citizens” and also “denies municipalities the ability to pass minimum wage ordinances for their contractors.

“We have to be careful in the wake of the Orlando tragedy,” Cheema added, “because the perpetrator is portrayed as a Muslim person. This is exactly what the powerful forces want to do. They want to pit one oppressed community against another.” □



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Stop Olympic profiling

The decision to ban Russian track and field athletes from the 2016 Olympics has nothing to do with drugs and everything to do with world politics.

The International Associations of Athletics Federations made its punitive announcement as U.S.-led NATO forces were conducting military maneuvers near Russian borders. The IAAF decree was also revenge for Russian aid that keeps Syria alive.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe is both a runner with four Olympic medals and an anti-worker politician. From 1992 to 1997, Coe was a Tory (Conservative Party) member of the British Parliament.

As Baron Coe of Ranmore and a knight commander of the Order of the British Empire, he raced back to the House of Lords last year to vote for budget cuts that would have hurt 3 million people. (London Mirror, Oct. 27, 2015)

Why can't Russian and other athletes be tested individually for drugs like steroids before competing in Rio de Janeiro? Banning athletes just because they're from the Russian Federation is profiling.

That's what New York City cops were doing when they stopped and frisked hundreds of thousands of people because they were Black or Latino/a.

The most notorious case of sports doping involved U.S. bicyclist Lance Armstrong. He admitted using prohibited substances after winning the Tour de France seven times. But other U.S. bicyclists weren't prevented from competing.

Phony charges against athletes are nothing new. David Frum — who coined the term “axis of evil” as a speechwriter for President George W. Bush — hinted that tennis superstar Serena Williams

was using steroids in a July 11, 2015, tweet. That's racist and sexist libel.

It was criminal that the heavyweight championship was taken away from Muhammad Ali for opposing the Vietnam War.

It took until 1983 for the International Olympics Committee to restore the medals earned by the great Native athlete Jim Thorpe at Stockholm in 1912. Thorpe was stripped of them for earning a few bucks playing baseball in order to eat.

Nobody claims that the Olympics are amateur anymore. After heading the organizing committee for the 2012 London Olympics, Sebastian Coe got 12 million British pounds (approximately \$17.6 million) for selling his private consultancy firm to an Olympic advertising contractor. (Daily Mail, Oct 25, 2012)

That's at least as corrupt as using steroids. Before accusing Russia, “Knight Commander” Coe should remember that it was the British Empire that waged the Opium Wars against China to push drugs.

One of those barred from Rio will be the woman pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, who won gold medals at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

“I have never failed a doping test — be it in London, China, the United States or any of the European countries where I have vaulted,” wrote Isinbayeva. “I have been tested endlessly by antidoping officials around the world, and all my 28 world records were set abroad.” (New York Times, June 15)

U.S. pole vaulter Jenn Suhr wants to be able to compete against Isinbayeva in Rio. They are the only women who have cleared 5 meters in the pole vault.

Will you let them, Lord Coe? Hands off athletes from the Russian Federation! □

More victories for defense in Rasmea Odeh's case

*Based on a report from the Rasmea Defense Committee, led by the U.S. Palestinian Community Network and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, June 14.*

People from all over the Midwest gathered in Detroit to support Rasmea Odeh as she appeared before Judge Gershwin Drain for a status conference on June 13 and heard that a tentative date for a new trial has been set for Jan. 10, 2017.

Odeh was convicted on a politically motivated immigration charge in 2014, and sentenced to 18 months in prison and deportation last year.

In February 2016, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals sent the case back to Judge Drain, saying he had wrongfully barred the testimony of a torture expert that was critical to Odeh's defense. At the [2014] trial, Odeh was not allowed to tell the entire story of Israel forcing her to falsely confess to alleged bombings in 1969, when she endured over three weeks of vicious sexual, physical and psychological torture at the hands of the Israeli military.

Odeh suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder because of this torture, which, according to world renowned psychologist, Dr. Mary Fabri, caused her to suppress the horrible recollection of the arrest when she answered questions on her immigration application. Judge Drain excluded Fabri's testimony from

the trial, and disallowed any evidence about the rape and torture.

Appeals court judges sided with the defense, leading to this new trial.

Two other positive developments occurred June 13 as well. Deutsch requested to have Odeh's “burdensome reporting requirements” to probation authorities reduced from once a week to once a month. Judge Drain did not object, commenting that his earlier concerns about her being a flight risk “have been alleviated.” He also suggested that he would be willing to allow Odeh to occasionally travel within the U.S.

The Zionist, right-wing ideologue Jonathan Tukel, the lead prosecutor on the case, is now off the case.

While waiting for Odeh and her defense attorneys to join them, her supporters — who included about a dozen leaders from the Arab Women's Committee that Odeh heads — rallied outside the downtown courthouse for almost three hours.

Odeh herself stated during the press conference: “We want you to continue to help build our movement across the country as we seek justice. I need you now more than ever. It is together that we can win.”

The committee is shifting the demand to drop the charges now!

See [justice4rasmea.org](http://justice4rasmea.org) □



War over oil fuels Libya's migrant crisis

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Fighting for control of the western coastal city of Sirte, Libya, has increased the flight from the embattled North African state. Five years ago, the country was targeted for regime change by the CIA, Pentagon and NATO.

Sirte is the hometown of former leader Col. Muammar Gadhafi, who was assassinated while fleeing imperialist bombs in October 2011. Since 2015, the Islamic State group (IS) has controlled the city and other areas across the Mediterranean Sea's western coast.

IS's presence in Libya accelerated after the U.S., Britain, France and Russia bombed their positions in Syria and Iraq. Forces loyal to the United Nations-imposed “Government of National Accord” have laid siege to the city to drive out IS.

Anti-war.com reported June 19 that GNA spokesman Reda Issa said the focus was to “bolster positions” outside Sirte and “provoke ISIS fighters to come out of hiding.” IS reportedly has 5,000 fighters in Libya, with many in Sirte. “Given the unity government's forces mostly consist of the Petroleum Facilities Guard [PFG], which was never built for offensive operations, it is unsurprising that the offensive isn't the quick mop-up it was initially suggested to be.”

These heavily armed fighters have taken some territory away from IS in Sirte, but the Islamists remain dug into their positions, slowing the drive to force them out of the area and break their main base in Libya's central-western region. Some 80 percent of the country's oil reserves are located under the Sirte basin.

Militias from Misrata are trying to oust IS. These militias were notorious for their violence and racism during the war of regime change.

Despite endorsement by U.S. and European Union imperialists, the GNA junta has generated controversy among the two rival regimes and other factions vying for control of Libya.

**War for oil rages in the east**

In the eastern region, renewed attacks have targeted oil installations. The Benghazi Defense Forces (BDF) attacked PFG units loyal to the GNA on June 19, striking three oil terminals north of the country's major oil fields, killing at least three people.

PFG spokespeople say the oil installations were not threatened, but PFG was prepared to prevent a serious attack. This fighting followed clashes between the BDF and the U.N.-backed GNA Libyan regime.

BDF rebels were defeated by militias loyal to Khalia Haftar, the renegade general under Gadhafi who later worked for the CIA. He was flown back to Libya from Virginia in 2011 to lead the imperialist-supported counterrevolution. His forces have clashed with rebels for two years, including some in IS.

On June 18, the BDF clashed with militias loyal to the eastern government in Ajdabiya. The rival regime based in Tobruk, the House of Representatives, is not supporting the GNA headquartered in Tripoli. The Tobruk regime has had conflicts with the General National Congress faction in Tripoli, too. At present two different National Oil Corporations claim to be legitimate controllers of petroleum resources in the country.

Libyan oil production has dropped off considerably from the 1.6 million barrels per day under Gadhafi's Jamahiriya gov-

ernment. For years, Libya was the most prosperous state in Africa, but it now produces less than 400,000 barrels daily, leaving the country scrambling for foreign exchange, amid declining oil prices.

**Migrant crisis worsens**

Meanwhile, hundreds of Libyans are dying attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. Over 52,000 people have made the journey this year. Many subjected to the worst treatment by human traffickers and militias occupying Libya are migrants from West Africa.

The June 17 British Guardian newspaper said, to reach the sea, West Africans “had to survive a horrific journey across the Sahara. If they don't fall off the back of the smugglers' pickup trucks, passengers are often kidnapped or beaten or die of dehydration.” Their worst experiences come from inside Libya, which “has become a hell on earth for migrant workers. ... Migrants have become easy prey for kidnappers and militias looking to raise money through ransoms, businessmen looking for slave labor and smugglers looking for passengers to exploit.”

The imperialist war and its aftermath created chaos, turning Libya into a major source of African and even European instability. EU governments controlling points of entry for refugees are seeking to halt entry into their countries. Resistance to refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Asia has strained relations between southern and eastern European states and those in the north and west.

Negotiations have occurred with Libya's fractured regimes and NATO-member Turkey to prevent or return migrants who enter EU countries. In Europe, these oppressed refugees face institutional racism, xenophobia and violence from security forces and far-right vigilantes.

The migrant crisis is a major international issue, yet it remains absent from the discourse surrounding U.S. electoral politics and foreign policy. The U.N. Refugee Agency and other humanitarian organizations say the displacement crisis is worse than ever since the end of World War II.

The World Health Organization stated on June 20, designated “World Refugee Day,” that 75 million international migrants are living in Europe, some one-third of all migrants worldwide. The crisis has escalated rapidly, and “Europe has experienced this acutely.” Over 1 million refugees arrived in Europe in 2015 alone, and over the first five months of this year, 200,000 more migrants have arrived on European shores and its borders. □

**Black Workers for Justice**

*Continued from page 7*

other with security measures designed to defend against a variety of attacks. The relative comfort and safety of our churches, mosques and gay clubs cannot be taken for granted in this environment.

From Stonewall to Pulse, from the 16th Street Baptist Church [in Birmingham, Ala.] to Emmanuel AME Church [in Charleston, S.C.], we must defend ourselves and openly and vigorously oppose the hatred that drives these attacks.

The Black Liberation movement is critical to the larger fightback against working-class exploitation, national, women's and LGBTQ oppression. A manifesto for Black Liberation can help to unite our many battlefronts and mobilize mass-based and transformative power against these conditions. □



# NATO’s summit threatens war with Russia

By John Catalinotto

The location of NATO’s next summit meeting is itself a provocation against Russia. NATO leaders will meet on July 8-9 in Warsaw, Poland, less than 200 miles from the Russian province of Kaliningrad.

The meeting follows NATO military maneuvers under U.S. command that threaten Russia. On June 5, a sea exercise called Baltops 16 began in the Baltic Sea with 6,100 troops, 45 ships and 60 warplanes from 17 countries, as bombers flew toward Russian borders. A June 7-16 military exercise called Anaconda 16 moved 31,000 troops and thousands of vehicles, including tanks, from 19 NATO members and six other states, across Polish territory.

The Warsaw summit is expected to agree on placing thousands of troops and heavy equipment in Poland and the Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — on or near Russian borders.

This is happening as 51 State Department officials petitioned the U.S. government to take military action against Syria — which means attacking Syria’s Russian ally. Taken together, this all points to escalating U.S. military aggression and increased war danger.

**U.S.’s NATO strategy: 1949-1989**

NATO has always been a tool of U.S. imperialist policy. In 1949 Washington founded NATO to prevent workers’ revolutions in war-ravaged Western Europe and to confront the Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe. Only later did

the Soviet Union establish the Warsaw Pact with its allies.

In 1990, during negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet leaders, Washington promised not to move NATO eastward. An article in the German magazine Der Spiegel on Nov. 26, 2009, made clear that during these negotiations “there was no doubt that the West did everything it could to give the Soviets the impression that NATO membership was out of the question for countries like Poland, Hungary or Czechoslovakia.” (tinyurl.com/nvm476v)

Now these former Warsaw Pact members and others that had been part of the Soviet Union are not only capitalist states but have been drawn into an anti-Russian military alliance.

**New NATO role: world cop**

The Soviet Union’s impending disintegration in 1991 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact ended NATO’s declared purpose.

But since 1991, far from dissolving NATO, Washington expanded the military pact, always under U.S. command. The U.S. proclaimed in a military strategy paper made public by the New York Times in 1991 that it would use NATO to maintain the same hegemony in Europe



Sign at anti-drone demonstration at U.S. Ramstein AFB in Germany reads, ‘Stop USA from terrorizing the world.’

as it would worldwide.

Even Washington’s imperialist allies like Britain, France and Germany were to be prevented from putting their own interests before U.S. imperialism’s interests. The U.S. turned NATO into a type of imperialist police force for military intervention — and not only in Europe. Under U.S. command, NATO has become a worldwide intervention force at the service of the transnational monopolies that exploit the world’s labor and resources.

The first actual U.S.-NATO aggression destroyed Yugoslavia. U.S.-led NATO military interventions followed: Afghanistan in Central Asia, Iraq in West Asia after the 2003 U.S.-British invasion, and Libya in North Africa.

NATO not only defends imperialist interests. During the last 25 years it has attempted to reconquer those areas of the world that had gained some independence from imperialism during the existence of the Soviet Union. Now Russia, the only

country with sufficient nuclear weapons to confront the U.S., is the target of U.S.-NATO war provocations.

**Summit arouses opposition**

The Anaconda 16 exercises moved NATO troops close to Russia’s Kaliningrad Province. It was the first time German tanks have moved eastward through Poland since Nazi Germany’s attack on the Soviet Union in July 1941.

Not only big NATO powers participated in Anaconda 16. So did Sweden — not officially part of NATO — and Finland. Before 1989 Finland was always a neutral buffer state between the Soviet Union and the West. This new move lines up another border country against Russia.

Even many West European officials recognize the dangers from such a provocative war exercise. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier criticized the exercises, calling them “saber-rattling,” and spoke out for more cooperation with Russia. (Sueddeutsche Zeitung, June 18)

The World Peace Council and other groups have called for demonstrations worldwide on July 9 to oppose the war plans of the NATO summit. Demonstrations and an anti-war summit are planned in Warsaw itself.

In the U.S., the United National Anti-war Coalition, which is sending a representative to the Warsaw protest, as well as the U.S. Peace Council, Veterans for Peace, the International Action Center and others have called a rally in New York City on July 9 at 2 p.m. at the Army Recruiting Center in Times Square. (For more information, see unacpeace.org.) □



## Musulmanes y activistas LGBT: ‘culpa del sistema la masacre en Orlando’

Continua de página 12

un templo sij. Por otra parte, esta histeria se utiliza para justificar guerras por ganancias y capital, disfrazados de una hazaña patriótica para defender EUA contra los enemigos extranjeros”.

**Políticos capitalistas = no solidaridad con clase obrera**

A principios de este año, el gobernador de Florida Rick Scott, apoyó la Legislatura estatal cuando intentó pasar un “proyecto de ley de baño” anti-trans que penalizaría a las personas trans por usar el baño que mejor se alinee con su identidad.

Después de la tragedia en Orlando, el gobernador reaccionario, anti-LGBTQ y racista Scott quiere que el estado haga todo en su poder para defenderse de este “acto de terrorismo”. No es de extrañar que los políticos capitalistas quieren que la clase trabajadora se olvide de sus posiciones reaccionarias con el fin de servir los intereses de los grandes medios de comunicación y patronos.

Imani Henry, un activista trans negro con la Asamblea del Poder Popular, dijo: “La ironía de esta tragedia es que vivimos en un país donde las vidas negras y marrón, especialmente las LGBTQ, no importan. La gente negra y marrón LGBTQ son tratadas como de segunda clase a diario - se nos discrimina a cada paso y luchamos sólo para tener puestos de trabajo, vivienda, asistencia sanitaria y acceso a la educación en EUA. Vivimos con el miedo constante de violencia anti-LGBTQ, que muchas veces no se denuncia debido a la humillación adicional y violencia que experimentamos a manos de policías y tribunales. ¿Qué le importa al gobierno de

EUA las mujeres trans de color, muchas de las cuales viven por debajo del umbral de la pobreza, y son asesinadas en cifras récord en EUA?

“Es una vergüenza”, dijo Henry , “que el movimiento Vidas Negras Importan, un movimiento específicamente dirigido por personas LGBTQ negras, se considere una organización ‘terrorista’ y vilipendiado en la prensa, y que se permita a la policía tener una presencia militarizada en nuestras manifestaciones. Que los derechistas puedan disparar a activistas VNI y no serán procesados, pero los líderes de VNI - más recientemente Jasmine Abdullah, una activista negra y LGBTQ en Pasadena - pueden ser condenadas a 90 días de cárcel en virtud de una ley de ‘linchamiento público”, mientras que los policías que mataron a Freddie Gray, Akai Gurley, Shantel Davis, Ramarley Graham y muchos más quedan libres”.

Teresa Gutiérrez, directora de la campaña electoral del Partido WW-Mundo Obrero con Monica Moorehead para presidenta y Lamont Lilly para vicepresidente, declaró: “Como lesbiana mexicana, mi corazón está acongojado hoy por mis hermanas y hermanos y toda mi familia LGBTQ abatida en la noche latina en la discoteca Pulse. Pero culpo al sistema, no al tirador, de esta tragedia. Es la retórica racista de Trump que tiene la culpa. Son las deportaciones en masa del presidente Barack Obama, y la máquina de guerra de Hillary Clinton que son culpables. Mexicanas/os y otros han demostrado en California, Nuevo México e Illinois la respuesta: Luchemos. No retrocederemos. Dedicuemos este mes de orgullo a las/os mártires de Pulse”. □

## Puerto Rico en la encrucijada

Continua de página 12

En este momento hay que recordar las palabras de Don Pedro Albizu Campos, “Está sobre el tapete la suprema definición: o yanquis o puertorriqueños”.

Hoy hay en Puerto Rico un avivamiento del movimiento independentista, incluyendo la organización de diversas formas de lucha como desobediencia civil contra la Junta, demostraciones, foros, trabajo en el Comité de Descolonización de las Naciones Unidas que tomará este asunto este verano, y otras.

Desde la Diáspora, donde nos encontramos más de 5 millones de boricuas, quisiera añadir las siguientes reflexiones.

No puede ser una lucha en reacción solo contra la Junta, tiene que ser necesariamente por la independencia. Para lo cual se necesita una amplia campaña educativa como se hizo durante la Huelga del Pueblo (Huelga contra la privatización de la telefónica) en 1998. Ir a todos los rincones donde haya un/a boricua, para explicar la necesidad y la posibilidad real de independencia.

Aunque la ONU es importante, hay que recordar que ha servido, por la imposición del Consejo de Seguridad, como instrumento de guerra pro imperialista y no de paz.

La lucha boricua se inserta en tiempos de deterioro capitalista y ahora cuando la derecha quiere recobrar espacios arrebatados por los pueblos en lucha en Latinoamérica. PR es parte de esos pueblos y de los pueblos en lucha a nivel mundial, incluyendo el pueblo estadounidense. Hay que hacer que la lucha por la independencia sea lugar común de toda lucha

a nivel internacional.

No es tiempo de reformas y luchas a medias. Hay que ir a la ofensiva. Recordar las palabras del Che, “al imperialismo, ni un tantito así”. No es ir a pedir ni rogarle al Congreso estadounidense, ni renegociar una deuda que el pueblo no tomó y que es ilegítima. Es exigir reparaciones por tanto daños que Estados Unidos le ha causado al pueblo puertorriqueño y que dada la falta de espacio no podemos incluir la larga lista.

Sobre todo, hay que exponer el papel criminal de EUA en todos los foros posibles.

¡No a la deuda y el control fiscal imperialista! ¡Independencia ya!

*Joubert-Ceci es doctora en medicina jubilada; nacida y criada en Puerto Rico. Ha residido en EUA desde mediados de los años 80. Fue parte del equipo de médicos que examinaron a Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores y Oscar Collazo a su regreso a Puerto Rico después de que sus sentencias fueran conmutadas en el 1979. Se estableció entonces una cálida y duradera relación entre Joubert y Lebrón, quien solía llamarla “mi doctorcita”.*

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– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Mtr. of Nicaragua’s Sandinista gov.

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# Musulmanes y activistas LGBTQ: ‘Culpa del sistema la masacre en Orlando’

Por L.T. Pham

Junio 12 - Mientras las comunidades LGBTQ lloran - y prometen luchar - a raíz del tiroteo en un club nocturno gay en Orlando-Florida, los medios de comunicación han intentado atizar un sentimiento anti musulmán en respuesta.

En las primeras horas de la mañana del 12 de junio, un tirador abrió fuego durante la noche latina en el club Pulse en Orlando, lo que resultó en la muerte de 50 personas y casi otras tantas heridas. Al menos la mitad de las personas muertas eran puertorriqueñas, lo que refleja el reciente y masivo éxodo desde la colonia de EUA, que se ha visto inmersa en una crisis económica forzada por criminales bonistas. Esta tragedia se produce en un momento en el que el terror anti-LGBTQ se ha visto acrecentado por la aprobación de ley anti-trans en Carolina del Norte y en el Sur.

Sin tener en cuenta inicialmente que el blanco del ataque eran lesbianas, homosexuales, bisexuales, transgénero y gente queer, la prensa corporativa comenzó a elaborar una narrativa que fortalece las guerras imperialistas de EUA — aquí y en el exterior — contra personas en el Medio Oriente, musulmanes y seguidores del Islam. Los mayores autores del terrorismo sin embargo, son el gobierno capitalista de EUA y el Pentágono, que tratan de derrocar las revoluciones progresistas en

Venezuela y Bolivia, mientras continúan el bloqueo contra Cuba revolucionaria socialista; matan a miles de civiles en países como Siria, Irak y Afganistán; y han invadido, ocupado y asesinado a millones desde México a las Filipinas.

Un organizador musulmán cubano, Abdul Hakim Peña, dijo a WW-Mundo Obrero: “Lo que pasó en Orlando es un terrible caso trágico dirigido a la comunidad LGBTQ y la comunidad latina. Esto es un reflejo de los tiempos hostiles en los que vivimos y el fervor violento instigado por la retórica de Donald Trump, así como la “guerra contra el terrorismo” del gobierno de EUA y la guerra contra LGBTQ y otros grupos oprimidos. Este no es un ataque islámico, sino un ataque de ira y odio mal dirigido. La ira y el odio no tienen religión.

“En este mes sagrado de Ramadán”, continuó Peña “en el que los musulmanes practican la caridad y buena voluntad a toda la humanidad, no nos ceguemos y seamos conducidos a actos de violencia en contra de nuestra clase obrera, luchadoras/es contra el sistema capitalista — que sólo enseña a la humanidad a ser sanguinario contra los enemigos del capitalismo. Nos levantamos en solidaridad. Unámonos con la comunidad musulmana y digamos ‘As Salamu Alaykum! La paz esté con todos’!

“No podemos hacer enemigos el uno

Continúa a página 11

# Puerto Rico en la encrucijada

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Así como el capitalismo se encuentra en un callejón sin salida, el estado colonial de Puerto Rico, el llamado Estado Libre Asociado está en la misma posición, sin salida.

El jueves, 9 de junio de 2016 pasará a la historia como el día de la muerte del ELA.

Ese día, en el Tribunal Supremo de EUA se resolvió el caso conocido como Commonwealth of Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle et al. Se trata de uno sobre doble exposición, en el cual dos sujetos puertorriqueños fueron acusados de vender armas a un agente encubierto de la policía. La Corte de PR les acusó bajo las leyes puertorriqueñas, pero el Tribunal Federal en gran jurado, también les había acusado por el mismo delito al cual ellos se habían declarado culpable. Por ello, los acusados pidieron que se desestimara el caso en las cortes puertorriqueñas. El caso entonces se sometió ante la Corte Suprema de EUA para su resolución.

En votación 6-2, la jueza Elena Kagan escribió por la mayoría, que “Debido a que la fuente última del poder fiscalizador de Puerto Rico es el Gobierno Federal, porque cuando rastreamos el camino de dicha autoridad, llegamos a las puertas del capitolio estadounidense, el ELA y los Estados Unidos no son soberanos independientes”. Dicho claramente, es el Congreso de EUA quien manda en Puerto Rico; en otras palabras, queda públicamente confirmado su estado colonial.

El juez Stephen Breyer y la jueza Sonia Sotomayor emitieron los votos disidentes, reconociendo cierta validez del estado del ELA basado principalmente en su papel en las Naciones Unidas. Allí, EUA lo había removido de los territorios a principio de los años 50 para no tener que rendir cuentas sobre sus posesiones y hacer aparentar que Puerto Rico era una nación con ‘cierta’ soberanía, tratando de purificar su imagen internacional con el propósito de ahondar su Guerra Fría anticomunista.

Minutos después y a pocos pasos de la Corte Suprema, la Cámara de Representantes aprobaba el proyecto PROMESA, (Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act) el cual debe ser ahora avalado por el senado.

El día antes, el presidente Obama, quien apuesta también a la ‘Promesa’, se había reunido con la y los legisladores puertorriqueños, Nydia Velázquez, José Serrano, Luis Gutiérrez y el comisionado residente Pedro Pierluisi, para dejarles saber que “no había Plan B” respecto a la propuesta Junta de Control Fiscal presentada por los republicanos. O sea, que la junta iba irremediamente tanto con aval republicano como demócrata.

Pública y oficialmente se ha confirmado lo que el movimiento independentista siempre ha mantenido: que el ELA ni es ‘estado’, mucho menos ‘libre’, y ni siquiera ‘asociado’. Y para probarlo, hundiéndolo el puñal hasta lo más profundo del corazón puertorriqueño, el Congreso aprueba horas más tarde esa junta dictatorial.

En artículo anterior ‘Puerto Rico — Junta de control imperialista’ se ha explicado esta Junta, pero la descripción del patriota puertorriqueño Rafael Can-

cel Miranda, la resume claramente “La Junta de Control Fiscal es esclavitud descarada”.

Escribíamos en el citado artículo que “Entre sus puntos resaltan los siguientes. La JCF estaría compuesta por siete miembros nombrados por el presidente de los EUA y escogidos por los líderes de la Cámara de Representantes y del Senado más una persona designada por el gobernador de PR la cual no tendría derecho al voto.

Sus poderes - que hay que recordar que están dirigidos al pago de los bonistas - serían abarcadores y autónomos, sin tener que rendir cuentas al pueblo puertorriqueño ni regirse por sus leyes. Todas las disposiciones, regulaciones, presupuestos, préstamos, reestructuración, en fin, toda acción del gobierno de PR y cualquiera de sus instrumentos tendrá que ser aprobado y certificado por la JCF. Podrá determinar e imponer el presupuesto, incluso sobre cualquier presupuesto aprobado por el gobierno insular. Puede investigar y/o penalizar a cualquier persona. Puede congelar puestos de empleos y tendrá la potestad de que se requiera su aprobación para cualquier contrato que sea mayor de \$100.000”.

Todos los casos relacionados a la duda se verán solo a nivel de la corte federal y cualquier plan de reestructuración de la deuda deberá ser consistente con su Plan Fiscal y que sea para el “mejor beneficio de los acreedores”. (noticiasmicrojuris.files.wordpress.com)

El salario mínimo de las trabajadoras menores de 25 años se reduciría de \$7,25 a \$4,25 la hora.

¿Cuáles son las consecuencias de estos desarrollos?

Desde que el Congreso estadounidense impuso el ELA, se ha mantenido a capa y espada la gran mentira de que el gobierno de PR tiene autonomía y que hay un ‘pacto’ entre los gobiernos de EUA y PR como si fueran iguales.

Esta gran mentira fue activamente sostenida por el imperio y sus representantes criollos abarcando todas las áreas para crear y mantener una cultura de subordinación donde el pueblo puertorriqueño solo se podía concebir como uno atado y ‘protegido’ por sus amos estadounidenses.

La independencia fue desde la invasión en el 1898, perseguida, satanizada, reprimida y hasta asesinada. Se trató de igualar el ideal de independencia y soberanía a una gran desgracia. En los hogares boricuas, y esta escritora se incluye en esta triste historia de familias, no había misericordia para quienes proclamaran ese ideal, a menos que por suerte, su familia también los profesara. Esta historia del independentismo es larga, incluyendo además exilios forzados.

Ahora, tras las recientes decisiones, se abre una nueva etapa de lucha en Borikén donde la opción de colonia ya no es posible. Muchas personas mencionan que ahora solo hay dos opciones, ‘estadidad’ o ‘independencia’. Pero la realidad es que la estadidad realmente no es opción, y que según CANCEL MIRANDA, sería el sometimiento total de la colonia.

Pero, ¿cómo poder ir camino de la independencia cuando tanto esfuerzo se ha puesto para colonizar la mente boricua?

Continúa a página 11

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- Queremos liberación PLENA y la igualdad para las mujeres, incluida la justicia reproductiva, y la liberación TOTAL de lesbianas, homosexuales, bisexuales, transgénero y personas queer. ¡Dejar de matar a las mujeres transgénero de color!
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