

Migrant rights movement can

Stop deportations, arrests

By Teresa Gutierrez

People all over the U.S. are up in arms with righteous indignation.

From every corner of the country, from every sector of the population not in line with Trump's racist ideology, the people are saying "No!" to the cruel and inhumane treatment of migrant children and their parents.

This protest is excellent news, as the crisis created by #45 at the U.S./Mexican border merits an all-out, anti-capitalist, revolutionary response. The time for half measures is over.

The question, however, is will the current movement be enough to stop Trump's fascistic war against the tens of thousands of workers fleeing for their lives?

Will it be enough to reunite migrant children with their families?

Can this movement against the crisis at the southern border extend to recognizing the need to demonstrate solidarity with migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East?

Fight ICE

with FIRE 8

Only time will tell.

But unless the movement can be sustained, unless the people of this country can commit to a very long haul, not only will many stolen children never be reunited with their families, but the urgent care needed to counter the catastrophic trauma they have experienced may never be given.

In addition, the necessary and earned amnesty or permanent residency for refugees, especially from Central America, may never be won.

That is why it must be asked at this historic juncture: Can the current crisis on the border unite every sector of the working class to continue to push until victory? That would be a win not just for migrants, but for us all.

If the movement can win the closing of detention centers for migrants, for example, the thousands of prisons that incarcerate Black and Brown and poor people can be next. That should be the goal of today's movement. Incarcerated people have waited long enough.

Crisis made in U.S., not Central America

The unbearable conditions that have sent people fleeing from the Northern Triangle — El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — were created by the U.S. Unless the Pentagon and the government are forced to stop propping up these corrupt govern-

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June 24, New York City. Reclaim Pride contingent sparks resistance. See page 5.

WWPHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



Pittsburgh:

ANTWON ROSE

MATTERS 3

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SOLIDARITY

with migrants

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Health Center union wins 4



FROM PRISON NATION

Debbie Africa, Bryant Arroyo 9



PALESTINE 10

FRANCE 11



# CHICAGO



WW PHOTO: REBECCA TELLGREN-LENG

## Rebecca Tellgren-Leng Chicago

Over 50 neighbors, friends and comrades joined in a party and cookout on June 15 to celebrate the grand opening of the Chicago Solidarity Center.

The storefront office and meeting site is located in the multinational Noble Square neighborhood two miles from Chicago's Loop. The racks of revolutionary literature along the CSC walls make clear that this space will serve as an organizing center for the struggle against white supremacy, imperialist war, economic exploitation and all forms of oppression. "Although this space is run by members of Workers World Party, the Chicago Solidarity Center belongs to the people," Cambria York, one of the hosts, explained to inquiring guests.

At the office warming, members of Workers World, Anakbayan Chicago, Smash White Supremacy, the Chicago Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, Agitator (a neighboring art gallery) and community residents enjoyed food and music, discussed global political

developments and planned upcoming activities.

One activity will be a fundraising event at the CSC on July 15 for an art contest to be held in the Greater Grand Crossing community on Chicago's South Side. The contest will encourage community residents to share what they love about their neighborhood, as well as raise awareness about the nearby Confederate monument in Oak Woods Cemetery, which Smash White Supremacy is working to get removed.

Beautiful murals on the CSC walls, including Andi Shihadeh's 15-foot collage commemorating 100 years of socialist revolution, portray the center's purpose: to promote solidarity among workers, oppressed peoples and immigrants in the struggle for a better world. Attendees gathered in front of that mural at evening's end to chant "Build a workers' world!"

The CSC is available for progressive organizations to hold meetings and forums there.

To book the CSC, simply submit the form at [chicagosolidaritycenter.org/request-space](http://chicagosolidaritycenter.org/request-space). □



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

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

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

# Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

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

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# Police gun down Pittsburgh youth

By Audrey Hoak  
Pittsburgh

It was Juneteenth — June 19, 1865 — when slavery was declared abolished in Texas and the Southern states. On this same date 153 years later, 17-year-old Antwon Rose Jr., an unarmed Black man, was chased, shot and killed by East Pittsburgh police officer Michael Rosfeld, who just hours before had been sworn into the force.

Rose was one of two passengers in a car stopped by police because it matched the description of a vehicle suspected of being involved in an earlier shooting. Rose and a second passenger were fleeing the car when Rosfeld shot him in the back three times.

Police released the driver of the car after questioning him. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s Office listed Rose’s death as a homicide.

Pittsburgh resident Shaun Mary filmed the fatal encounter between Rose and Officer Rosfeld. She says Rosfeld had no reason to shoot Rose. Mary described Rosfeld’s behavior as harsh and very aggressive: He was “taking target practice on this young man’s back.” Mary and other witnesses say Rosfeld never even called out “Stop.” (triblive.com, June 24)

Before joining the Pittsburgh force, Rosfeld was a police officer at the University of Pittsburgh. This January he left the university force, a month after prosecutors

dropped all charges against three men he had arrested on numerous charges following an incident at a campus bar.

Timothy Riley, one of the men Rosfeld had charged, described him as “extremely belligerent.” Riley was upset to see that Rosfeld was involved in Rose’s murder: “It makes me sick that he was able to still be a cop after how they treated us, and that poor kid had to lose his life because of their negligence.” (tribdem.com, June 23)

The community’s response to the killing of this unarmed Black youth has been swift and smart. On the night it happened, a major interstate artery, Route 376 East, was blocked and held for six hours. Every night and day since then, bridges and key streets have been taken over.

Outside PNC Park on June 22, a black sedan made a run at the protesting crowd at the close of a Pirates baseball game. Luckily, nobody was injured. Let it be noted that despite the postgame traffic congestion, and with cameras everywhere, the sedan has not been located.

Four people were arrested that day when hundreds of demonstrators blocked streets in downtown Pittsburgh. Demonstrators with a sign, “Fire killer cops,” marched to the Homestead Grays Bridge where they blocked traffic for a few hours.

The next day, hundreds of people linked arms at Freedom Corner and marched in the pouring rain through downtown to Point State Park. The roar went up over and over: “Shot three times



in the back! How do you justify that?”

Antwon Rose Jr. had a future. Tia Taylor, who went to high school with Rose, said: “He wasn’t the person to be out here doing anything he didn’t have no business doing. He wasn’t that boy.” (cnn.com, June 23)

Three years before he was killed, Rose volunteered to work with an organization that donates goods to communities in need. Gisele Fetterman, who put him to work with the Free Store in Braddock,

Pa., described Rose as “friendly, easy to work with, smart, vibrant ... a caring person, and everyone loved him.”

In that period, Rose wrote a poem saying he never wanted his mother to feel the pain of burying her son:

## I AM NOT WHAT YOU THINK

I am confused and afraid  
I wonder what path I will take  
I hear there is only two ways out  
I see mothers bury their sons  
I want my mom to never feel that pain  
I am confused and afraid.  
I pretend all is fine  
I feel like I am suffocating  
I touch nothing so I believe all is fine  
I worry that it isn’t though  
I cry no more  
I am confused and afraid.  
I understand people believe  
I am just a statistic  
I say to them I am different  
I dream of life getting easier  
I try my best to make my dream  
come true  
I hope that it does  
I am confused and afraid.

Antwon Rose Jr., May 16, 2016

Betsey Piette contributed to this article.

## Chicago rally says

# ‘Stop and listen! Our girls are missing!’

By Katherine Cavanaugh  
Chicago

As school let out for the summer on June 19, a small crowd gathered on King Drive on Chicago’s South Side to express their grief and outrage in the wake of mounting awareness that at least five Black women and teenage girls have been missing since March. These disappearances have occurred within a 2.5-mile radius of each other on the city’s poor, working-class South and West sides. Two of them have been found dead.

Though the news of the missing women has spread quickly among neighbors and through social media, the police have not issued any Amber Alerts for the missing minors. The Chicago Police Department has consistently been dismissive of community leaders’ growing concerns that the disappearance of the victims could be connected.



Aziyah Roberts, organizer of the We Walk For Her march.

Instead, friends and families who are desperate to find their loved ones have posted fliers around their neighborhoods. One family described how they combed their block looking for the body of their missing neighbor in dumpsters and underneath cars.

In the face of very little media coverage or follow-through from police, 13-year-old Aziyah Roberts, of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, took matters into her own hands. In less than a week, Roberts and other youth organizers mobilized their communities to demonstrate at a Walk For Her March. They marched for 20 blocks down King Drive, demanding a response to the crisis from city officials.

## ‘Say her name!’

The crowd grew as it progressed south, chanting “Stop and listen! Our girls are missing!” They drew supportive neighbors out of their homes and into the street. High school student Miracle Boyd told the marchers, “If no one’s looking out for our Black girls, we’ll protect ourselves.” Other organizers took the megaphone to exhort the crowd to “say her name,” repeating the names of the missing: Shantieya Smith, Victoria Garret, Sadaria Davis, Yasmina Mitchell and Daisy Hayes.

A constant theme at the march was a refusal to be defeated. Neighbors pledged to protect and empower each other, many drawing direct connections between the plight of the missing women and a larger, systemic scourge of domestic violence, sexual assault and misogyny. They vowed to renew commitments to ending violence against women.

Continued on page 4



Chicagoans of all ages march to demand protection and empowerment for Black women and girls.

# Access to Naloxone can save lives

By Princess Harmony  
Philadelphia

In the opioid epidemic, which cost over 63,000 lives in overdose deaths in 2017, there has been no weapon that first responders, addiction specialists and addicts ourselves have that’s been as successful in saving lives as naloxone.

What is naloxone? Naloxone is a pure opioid antagonist — a chemical that binds to and blocks a receptor stopping a physiological response — that can reverse the physical and mental effects of opioids. As an antagonist, it binds strongly to receptors, knocking off most agonists — chemicals that bind to and activate receptors causing a physiological response — like heroin, fentanyl and buprenorphine.

When naloxone removes the opioid agonists from the receptors, the respiratory and mental effects immediately stop, allowing the user to breathe and function somewhat normally.

With states authorizing pharmacies to

dispense the vital medication, Philadelphia is acting as ground zero for opioid overdose reversals in Pennsylvania. In the Kensington section of Philadelphia, a survey done by the Philadelphia Department of Health found that 79 percent of people who responded to the survey were trained to use naloxone and that 70 percent carried it in the past three months, with 56 percent using naloxone to reverse overdoses they witnessed.

This is welcome news in a crisis that claims more and more lives every day. What more can be done to save lives in this crisis? Increasing naloxone distribution, increasing access to medication-assisted treatments such as methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone, and distribution of fentanyl testing kits.

Anyone defending the lives and health of workers with addictions should push for progressive, scientifically sound drug addiction policy based on the principles of harm reduction. □



# Boston workers say, ‘Health care is a human right’

By Workers World Boston bureau

Twenty fired doctors, nurses and therapists marched into the Whittier Street Health Center on June 20 to reclaim their jobs and join their co-workers in an historic “Union Yes” vote. Outside the clinic in Boston’s Roxbury neighborhood, a militant crowd cheered to show union, community and patient support.

With that vote, WSHC became the first community health center in New England where the professional staff is union strong. It was a stunning defeat of union busting and a historic victory against an orchestrated corporate attack on community health workers.

The victory was powered by a broad union-community mobilization, led by Service Employees Union Local 1199 organizers under the banner “Health Care Is a Human Right.” ([tinyurl.com/y84dw6d7](http://tinyurl.com/y84dw6d7))

A week earlier, on June 14, WSHC human resource managers and hired security agents had seized the credentials of these frontline health care workers. Management violated patient safety and confidentiality by entering exam rooms and labs unannounced during clinical sessions. They then forcibly “escorted” workers out of the building.

WSHC’s top-paid executives justified the firings as driven by the health center’s funding woes. But the Roxbury community, where many of WSHC’s patients live, expressed immediate outrage in the streets.

WSHC is an important resource for affordable or no-cost care for thousands of poor and oppressed people, many uninsured or without adequate insurance. The clinic also provides culturally competent and trauma-informed behavioral health services.

Community outrage quickly became a crisis for the city’s ruling class.

An overnight mobilization brought hundreds of community members, labor activists and health care advocates to a mass rally outside WSHC’s door.

The truth behind the firings was exposed: The fired doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, nutritionists, behavior health counselors, dentists, optometrists and ophthalmologists were all involved in leading a union campaign to organize WSHC’s workers — a federally protected activity. The illegal firings were timed to impact a June 20 union vote.

Facing immense pressure from the community and the progressive labor movement, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh reportedly intervened to pull WSHC back and soften its anti-union tactics. The WSHC board and CEO waffled for 48 hours and then caved in as voting day and more mass protests loomed.

## Exposing health care ‘speed-up’ conditions

Workers World talked with Dr. Sherar Andalcio, who explained he was fired by



Fired doctors, nurses and therapists along with supporters from the community outside the Whittier Street Health Center on June 20.

PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

WSHC for “objecting to management’s impossible productivity demands.” Dr. Andalcio continued to organize for the union victory while unemployed.

Dr. Andalcio described conditions at the center as “like a speed-up on a manufacturing assembly line ” — oppressive working conditions, constant wage theft and intolerable management demands on workers to increase WSHC revenue. He backed up his assertions with a wealth of internal WSHC documents, emails, painstaking research and personal notes.

Management’s ramp up of “billable patients” an hour over the last two years has caused 90 percent turnover of primary care and family medicine providers and 150 percent turnover of nurses. Clinical staff now have to see patients at a rate of 30 a day — with a strictly enforced maximum of 15 minutes with each patient to examine, treat and and write a chart note about their clinical plan!

Management pressure leaves health workers in a terrible triple bind: treating patients with complex diagnoses and co-morbidities, while also meeting strict productivity requirements and without making a mistake that would cause harm to a patient and/or jeopardize their own clinical license to practice in their field.

Like many health centers based in historically Black communities, WSHC serves patients coping with stark health disparities, rooted in the stresses of racism and poverty. Many WSHC patients suffer from, or are at increased risk for, diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, HIV, hepatitis, nutritional deficiency, depression and anxiety, substance use disorders, and many other poverty- and minority-stress-related conditions.

The profit-driven speed-ups at WSHC that forced providers to quit have negatively affected patients, leading to constant cancellations, re-appointments with new care teams and inconsistent care. Dr. Andalcio noted: “We are encouraged not to give longer visits because [WSHC] can only bill \$150, so we tell [patients] to come back. Just give me an hour

with this patient instead of a disjointed 15-minute session.”

## Profits for the ‘nonprofit’ health company

Dr. Andalcio researched WSHC’s “nonprofit” tax filings with the Internal Revenue Service and found that WSHC’s management methods generated \$1 to \$2 million in profits annually from 2008 to 2016.

This surplus was not used to benefit patients or the community. Instead the WSHC CEO’s salary and benefits were doubled over the eight-year period. Executive management also separately reported \$600,000 in investment interest income in its 2017 annual report. When this same management illegally fired union organizers, it used the pretense of “funding shortfalls.” Meanwhile, staff have gone without raises for years.

After the June 20 union win, the strategy for SEIU organizers, explained Dr. Andalcio, is next to organize all WSHC janitorial, secretarial and administrative staff. United contract negotiation is the goal.

Gery Armsby, a health administration worker at another Boston community health center, spoke with Workers World about the significance of the victory: “Hospitals, insurance companies and health centers are increasingly operated and motivated by Wall Street interests. This means a demand for increased profit, which comes in the form of rapid technology upgrades to cut labor and a big surge in the price tag for specialized care and drugs.”

Armsby noted: “The average length of patient hospital stays has been forcibly reduced by management in recent years.

## Chicago rally says

# ‘Stop and listen! Our girls are missing!’

Continued from page 3

Older activists beamed as they watched the youth organizers lead the demonstration. Tish Taylor, a longtime member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, knew she had to be there. “This child is lighting the way. What she needs is for us to show her the support of her elders,” Taylor told this writer as Roberts took the megaphone.

The march ended with a picnic outside Dyett High School. Though clearly energized and uplifted by the encouraging mood around her, Roberts became solemn when asked about her first reaction to news of the missing women and girls: “I had to do something because I’m a Black girl too, and it could have been me. It could have been anyone. ... But looking at all these people, I’m excited, and I

As a result, many small, urgent care and primary care centers — some community ‘non-profits,’ others run by huge companies like CVS — are opening, drawing large numbers of health workers into smaller, unorganized workplaces.”

## Health care workers organize

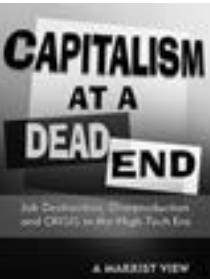
SEIU Local 1199 is investing resources in other union drives similar to that at WSHC. It started with early victories at NYC’s Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, which services the LGBTQ community, and Chase Brexton Health Care, which began as a gay men’s health center in the Baltimore area and now has five centers serving all generations in their communities as well as maintaining diversity. Now there are hopeful indications of a wave of successful union organizing.

Armsby observed: “A struggle-oriented approach inspires active worker-organizers in relatively small shops, like the 80 new members of SEIU at Whittier Street Health Center. Doctors and other traditionally nonunion professionals are clamoring to be organized alongside RNs, medical assistants, and janitorial, administrative and dining hall workers. This is a momentous shift in consciousness that needs to be supported and nurtured.”

“This level of solidarity reflects a desire, despite the atomization of the ‘gig’ economy workplace, to fight together against dead-end capitalism,” concluded Armsby. “Small shops should no longer be considered insignificant to this struggle, but rather seen as strategic to the goals of union justice for all health care workers and for health care as a human right for the people.” □

## El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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



## Capitalism at a Dead End Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to [LowWageCapitalism.com](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)  
Available at all major online booksellers.



# NYC resistance report: LGBTQ Pride for the people

By Christian Cobb  
New York

The LGBTQ Pride Parade in this city exists to celebrate and advance the fight for LGBTQ liberation. That is why we fight against corporatization of the march and against police being in Pride.

But on June 24, this year's Pride, the corporations and the police continued their attempt to co-opt and pink-wash the movement, while repressing young Black and Brown LGBTQ folks. Heritage of Pride, the group that organizes Pride, continues to work with the New York Police Department, the same NYPD that has never stopped harassing, beating and killing LGBTQ folks. This year HOP added several more repressive components to the parade.

First, HOP changed the course of the route, ending the march on 30th Street, and cut off the last three blocks on Christopher Street that are filled with Black and Brown LGBTQ youth every year! Also, HOP restricted the number of individuals in a contingent to 200 members and added the requirement that everyone in the parade had to have a wristband — a disgusting marker they wanted specially oppressed people to wear.

All these measures were to allow HOP to test how to control Pride next year, 2019, the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. It was a test run before further restricting Pride in order to maximize tourist profits.

Workers World Party wasn't going to let this go by unchallenged. WWP, along with the People's Power Assembly, joined the Reclaim Pride Coalition, and raised



Workers World Party delegation at NYC Pride Parade June 24.

the issue of support for Black Lives Matter and for abolition of police and ICE in the coalition. Reclaim Pride original members include the NYC Democratic Socialists Queer Caucus, ACT UP New York, and Rise and Resist.

As many people gathered at the Reclaim Pride resistance contingent meeting spot, some were engaging in a separate action, an anti-wristband march. Individuals in the coalition planned to march into the meeting area with no wristbands.

Minutes before this march was to take place, HOP rescinded its wristband requirements — only for the resistance coalition. However, barricades were still set up at the entrance for the coalition. HOP members planned to check individuals for which group they were with before letting people into the march. However,

they could still have lied to people about needing wristbands.

After achieving the victory of pushing HOP back, Reclaim Pride people still wanted “no wristbands” for everyone in the parade, so the anti-wristband action went forward. Marchers arrived chanting, raising the energy of everyone gathered there, and then the resisters took apart and moved the barricades! Because of this action, hundreds of people were able to move into the waiting area with no need for wristbands.

**WWP contingent promotes resistance**

Our Reclaim Pride contingent was made up of WWP comrades, members of PPA and NYC Shut It Down, dancers and their friends. Signs connected LGBTQ liberation, sex workers' rights, the im/migration struggle, Black Lives Matter, and

the abolition of police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In particular, signs honored Roxana Hernández, a Black trans woman from Honduras who died in ICE custody. A Black Lives Matter banner featured a rainbow Pride flag with the addition of the colors black and brown. The Workers World Party banner read: “Queer As In/Fuck The Pol(ICE)/Black and Brown Trans Lives Matter.”

The contingent entered the parade with our banners flying and signs held high, accompanied by the young Black dancers of Left Our Mark who have been part of WWP Pride contingents for the past two years. An accompanying van blared music that could be heard a block away. Marchers distributed over a thousand Workers World newspapers, along with hundreds of flyers for the PPA July 13 rally in memory of Sandra Bland. She was the young African-American woman who died in police custody in 2015, sparking the #SayHerName movement.

Contingent marchers assisted Black and Brown youth who wanted to join us in jumping the barricades — right in front of the cops. As the dancers entered a routine, or as the militant banners passed by, loud cheers erupted. The contingent size grew to over 400 people, predominantly Black and Brown youth. We were a moving dance party set to the rhythm of liberation! We were creating a true Pride parade!

Pride is not for the corporations. It is not for the police to tell LGBTQ people where, when and how we can celebrate. Everyone should be allowed into Pride to join the fight to abolish the police, abolish ICE and achieve LGBTQ liberation. □

## Newark, N.J.

# ‘They stole us, they sold us, they owe us!’

Despite threatened thundershowers, 50 people took to the streets of Newark, N.J., on June 23 to demand reparations for Black people.

Every year the People's Organization for Progress — a dynamic grassroots group based in Newark — calls a rally and demonstration to demand justice for the African Holocaust. POP Chairman Lawrence Hamm proclaimed the slogan initiated by the December 12th Movement: “They stole us, they sold us, they owe us!”

Hamm described how Black people were betrayed after the Civil War. Land

that had been turned over by Gen. Sherman to formerly enslaved Africans was taken away by force.

The Union army's triumph would have been impossible without the valor of hundreds of thousands of Black soldiers and sailors, 40,000 of whom died. Before 1860, the vast majority of U.S. exports were produced by Black people on slave plantations.

Roger Wareham, a lead attorney for the reparation lawsuits filed in federal court, spoke from the December 12th Movement, which organizes in the Black and Latinx communities around human rights violations, particularly police terror. The Reagan administration tried to jail Wareham and other activists in connection with the failed New York Eight frame-up in the early 1980s.



city's devastated downtown is the headquarters of the fantastically wealthy Prudential Insurance Company. Just dividing up Prudential's \$766 billion pile of assets among the estimated 46 million Black population would provide more than \$16,000 to every Black person in the United States.

The participants in this march and rally came from diverse backgrounds. Among them was 81-year-old Clarence H. Seniors, who was active with Workers World Party during the 1960s and 1970s. Seniors fought segregation in Atlanta and was the second African American to receive a library card there. He helped lead the Monroe Defense Committee, which fought for the freedom in 1962-63 of liberation fighter Mae Mallory, who died in 2007. Mallory was framed because she helped Mabel Williams and Robert Williams, who organized armed self-defense against the Ku Klux Klan in Monroe, N.C., in 1961.

— Report and photo by Stephen Millies

COME OUT FOR PRIDE!  
COME OUT FOR WORKERS WORLD!

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

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

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

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

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



# Protesters demand: ‘Reunite migrant fa

By Kathy Durkin

Outrage has been sweeping the U.S. with mass protests erupting from coast to coast since April 6 when the Trump administration announced a racist “zero-tolerance policy” for all migrants entering the country through the Mexican border. That meant all im/migrants, including asylum seekers, would be taken into custody and deported. The vicious anti-immigrant program has resulted in the arrests and imprisonment of thousands of adults. Law enforcement agents have forcibly removed children from their parents’ arms.

Children, including young babies, have been placed in detention facilities, tent cities, so-called “tender-age centers” and foster care, against their parents’ will, in at least 17 states. Journalists, political officials and even medical personnel have been denied entry to these facilities. Those who have gotten access to some centers report “militarized” and “prison-like conditions,” with buildings surrounded by razor wire. Some tell of seeing young children lying on concrete floors alone and in cages.

Eyewitness reports, videos and photographs of children screaming for their parents have enraged people worldwide. Protests have steadily increased in size, with tens of thousands in the streets in the U.S. Spontaneous demonstrations have broken out in McAllen and other border towns in Texas and in many U.S. cities, demanding the reuniting of children with their parents.

Feeling the heat, the Trump administration issued an executive order on June 20, saying that parents and children would no longer be separated. However, the order did not require the reuniting of over 2,300 with their parents, nor did it specify how that would happen. Records of the children’s locations seem to be missing, or the government is deliberately withholding this information.

Under this decree, parents and children would be incarcerated together in family detention. The Trump administration is trying to overturn the 1997 Flores court decision mandating that children not be held in immigration detention for more than 20 days, and instead extend that period indefinitely.

The White House bigot in chief and his lackeys are now seeking to deny undocumented im/migrants and asylum seekers due process and equal protection under the law, depriving them of the right to an attorney and a court hearing before a judge, in violation of federal laws. Their aim is the immediate deportation of undocumented individuals.

On June 30, nationally coordinated demonstrations will protest the abusive treatment of migrant adults and children by the Trump administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Only strong public pressure can push back these reactionaries. Workers World Party will join these actions.

Here are some of the protests in which WWP members participated in recent days.

### East Coast

Over 150 migrant rights activists, organizers and allies gathered in Jamaica Plain, **Boston**, on June 24 to demand an end to family separation at the border and the criminalization of migrants. Movimiento Cosecha, a grassroots Latinx organization which fights

for undocumented migrants’ rights, organized the action. Siham Byah, a Boston activist who was deported to Morocco last year, spoke over the phone about the emotional trauma she and her 8-year-old son suffered after being separated.

Demonstrators also heard several Salvadoran families describe conditions in their home country and their experience as im/migrants in the U.S. Other speakers included Black Lives Matter and Workers World Party representatives who explained the twin legacies of settler colonialism and slavery — and how the destruction and separation of families have a long history in the U.S. They agreed that people’s power is needed to confront these crimes.

— Sam Ordóñez

An anonymous tip on June 19 revealed that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had placed over 300 migrant children in foster care in **New York City**. Mayor Bill de Blasio claims he was unaware of the program, and the agencies that placed the children have refused to release any information about them. The following evening, news rapidly spread through social media that detained migrant children separated from their families were flying into LaGuardia Airport from Houston.

Hundreds of people responded to the call, including a WWP delegation, flocking to the airport on short notice. They witnessed the arrival of one group of children, who were quickly whisked away. The crowd waited for another flight from Houston, but no children were seen deplaning. A small group of activists waited until 5 a.m., but no more children appeared. An additional flight from Houston, possibly carrying children, was diverted to Newark Airport, away from the crowds and publicity.

— Nate Peters

There was a “stroller rally” in **Brooklyn, N.Y.**, on June 24. A multinational group of a few hundred people, mostly families with toddlers or infants, met in Sunset Park on behalf of im/migrant families and opposing Trump’s vicious policies. The group marched a few blocks to a planned rally outside the entrance of the Department of Justice’s Federal Bureau of Prisons building. Im/migrants awaiting deportation are held there.

When speakers started talking, prisoners were heard making noise in support. Later, some of the demonstrators initi-



WW PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

ated chants of “No deportations!” “No borders!” and “Free them all!” while facing the incarcerated. Many other people joined in and chanted along.

— Anne Pruden

A crowd of several hundred anti-ICE protesters greeted Vice President Mike Pence when he visited **Philadelphia** on June 19. The demonstrators lined up empty children’s shoes throughout Rittenhouse Square, symbolizing the children who have been stolen from their families and sent to U.S. im/migrant concentration camps. WWP, along with Juntos, the Philly Coalition for REAL Justice, and the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, led an offshoot of the protest with chants pointing out the enemy.

One demonstrator, arrested when a Secret Service vehicle attempted to drive through the crowd, was released quickly after getting a disorderly conduct citation and was greeted warmly by over two dozen demonstrators at the precinct building.

— Ted Kelly

At an anti-ICE protest called by members of the **Baltimore** Teachers Union, WWP members encouraged the crowd of over 100 to shut down the street in front of the ICE building in downtown Baltimore. Outnumbered and knowing they could not stop the crowd, the Baltimore Police Department barricaded the street and directed traffic around the block. Protesters blocked the street for over two hours and demanded the abolition of ICE and that ICE employees quit their jobs.

— Andrew Mayton

The Trump administration’s racist, xenophobic and classist rhetoric is emboldening local law enforcement and ICE to increase raids, surveillance, arrests, de-

tentions, family separations and deportations. In response, im/migrant groups and their allies are fighting back. Grassroots groups are teaching communities how to defend themselves and protect their families after arrests. Hundreds have attended trainings to defend migrants across **North Carolina**.

In **Graham**, in Alamance County, home to a Klu Klux Klan post office box and racist Sheriff Terry Johnson, the community is protesting 287(g), the federal program that sponsors collaboration between municipal law enforcement and ICE. Over 100 people gathered outside the Alamance County courthouse on June 13, at the second stop of the Mijente’s Chinga La Migra Tour, to protest Johnson and the collaboration of the local sheriff’s office with ICE. Everyone chanted against local police repression and shared testimonials.

— Workers World Durham bureau

### Midwest/Southwest

Hundreds of residents attended educational forums in **Iowa** to protect communities and fight against ICE’s reign of



Phil



Aurora, Colo.

WW PH



Brooklyn, N.Y.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



# Families! No detentions or deportations!



Durham, N.C.

WW PHOTO

terror there. Due to the ICE raid on Mt. Pleasant and the 10th anniversary of the raid in Postville, residents gathered in **Marshalltown** on June 19, **Iowa City** on June 20 and **Des Moines** on June 21 for forums titled “Keeping ICE Out of Iowa: Deportation Defense Discussion.” These teach-ins discussed how to confront federal officials in the midst of anti-immigration crackdowns.

The American Friends Service Committee, Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa, Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement were the main hosts of the forums. Madeline Cano, ICCI community organizer, wrote in a public statement, “Stand up to ICE and tell them ‘not in our town!’”

The CWJ statement promoting the Iowa City event read: “Come hear from two high-profile immigration organizers who have worked to stop deportations, collaborated to develop local policies that welcome immigrants, and fought against laws like SF 481.” Gov. Kim Reynolds signed this legislation, which demands that local law enforcement officers act as ICE accomplices, must adhere to detainer requests and “allow a sheriff to hold a suspected ‘illegal’ immigrant for 48 hours after a scheduled release.” (WHO TV, June 19)



Philadelphia

Marshalltown resident Mike Fitz told WHO TV that SF 481 was “disturbing. ... If I wanted to live in Nazi Germany, I would go back 75 years and live there.”

The forums’ main speakers were Priscila Martinez, Texas immigration coalition coordinator for the Workers Defense Action Fund, and Salvador Cervantes, Midwest regional coordinator for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement. Cervantes said there must be an end to the “brutality that is happening to our immigrant communities under this administration.” (Times-Republican, June 25) Speakers advised individuals not to talk to law enforcement without a lawyer, sign any documents or answer the door if a stranger approaches. Instead they suggested organizing a plan with family and friends in case ICE comes knocking.

— Mike Kuhlenbeck

Activists held a press conference outside the soon-to-open migrant detention center in downtown **Houston** on June 20. They stressed that no one — children, unaccompanied minors or families — should be imprisoned on Emancipation Avenue, where the Southwest Key company intends to open the center. (It took a long struggle to win the name change of the street from that of a so-called Confederate “hero.”)

The following day, the newly formed Free Los Niños Coalition demonstrated outside Southwest Key, which operates several detention centers and is now remodeling a homeless shelter into a detention facility for unaccompanied minors. Armed guards and barbed wire encircle the Houston building.

About 400 people demonstrated in front of the Southwest Key construction site on June 23. Led by Immigrant Families and Students in Struggle, they took off on a spontaneous march through the downtown area, chanting loudly.

— Gloria Rubac

## West Coast

**San Diego’s** downtown streets were impassable for much of the morning of June 23 as tens of thousands of people demonstrated at the ICE field office in the federal building to express their outrage at the Trump/ICE attacks on im/migrant families. A Muslim family sent a message of solidarity in Spanish, English and Arabic: “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor.”

At the same time, several thousand people demonstrated at the U.S./Mexico border, targeting the **Otay Mesa** ICE office. As of June 25, a sit-in was still blocking traffic in front of the building.

— Bob McCubbin

Hundreds of people rallied in blazing heat at Chelsea Manning Plaza on the Embarcadero in **San Francisco** on June



San Francisco

PHOTO: ALICE LOAIZA

23 to proclaim that “families belong together.” They demanded an end to #45’s zero tolerance policy and insisted that migrant families not be detained or imprisoned. WW’s banner read, “Abolish ICE! Open the borders!” Slogans on signs had similar themes.

— Terri Kay

By June 17, outrage had built to a boiling point over the mistreatment of undocumented families, and a spontaneous demonstration began outside the **Portland, Ore.**, ICE facility. Members of the surrounding community and organizations, including WWP, joined to show solidarity. What started as a trickle of protesters and a few people camping out mushroomed into a 50-tent village with a wall of anti-ICE placards and daily protests.

Department of Homeland Security agents dressed in riot gear had to escort over 20 employees out of the building and through the crowds. On June 20, @OccupyICEPDX had a victory when the ICE facility had to shut down for “safety reasons” until “security concerns” were addressed.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said the ICE agency was “on the wrong track” and stated that the city would not interfere with the peaceful protesters or clear the occupation encampment.

Many groups have coordinated to support the sophisticated commune with mounds of donated food, water and funds. Makeshift protective barricades line the corner of the building where a busy highway turns into the camp. Canopies are

## New Orleans



tagged “Free food and water,” “Medical,” “Engineering,” “Kids” and “Quiet Space.” Translators and volunteer lawyers assist im/migrants who have arrived at the ICE office. Donated funds are given to im/migrants to cover transportation costs to appointments.

Over 1,000 demonstrators, including city officials, packed the streets around the empty ICE facility on June 24. They denounced Trump’s policies of separating children from their parents and sending asylum seekers to detention camps. Occupiers vow to stay until ICE is abolished, immigrant families are reunited and all asylum seekers are freed.

Occupations and demonstrations are spreading to towns and cities all over Oregon, with similar demands.

— Joshua Hanks and Lyn Neeley



San Diego



San Diego

WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN



Portland, Ore.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY



# STATEMENT FROM FIRE

# FIGHT FOR IM/MIGRANTS & REFUGEES EVERYWHERE

*Resistance is rising to fight U.S. atrocities against im/migrants and refugees, with massive marches set for June 30. Taking part in those protests, including at the U.S./Mexico border in McAllen, Texas, is the new group, FIRE, which issued the following call:*

The news from the border has been impossible to ignore, even for those who tend to overlook the war on im/migrants. Parents weep as their children are ripped from their arms to be taken to concentration camps and placed in cages. The Border Patrol shoots an unarmed Indigenous Guatemalan woman in the head. A trans woman fleeing patriarchal violence is left to die in a so-called “ice box.”

But is this inhumanity and destruction of families new to this country? How many families were destroyed in the genocide and forced displacement of the Indigenous Nations of this land? During slavery, African people were auctioned off after being torn from their families and put in chains. In the 1940s the U.S. forced Japanese immigrants and their descendants into internment camps. In recent times, the prison system, for-profit or government-run, has separated millions from their families and communities.

FIRE — Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere — is a newly formed, multinational, multigender, grassroots movement comprised of migrant rights advocates, students, teachers, unionists, socialists, Black Lives Matter, anti-imperialists and other activists. We believe that not just the Republican Party, but the Democratic Party as well, is to blame for this crisis. Migrants have been forced into the U.S. and Europe because of pol-

icies hatched in Washington and Wall Street. People fighting on their own behalf is the only solution.

The aim of FIRE is to melt ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Not to reform it, or change its management, or any other half-measure. To fight for im/migrants, we must get rid of ICE entirely. It means dismantling concentration camps for immigrants and tearing down any racist border wall that Trump tries to build. Fighting for refugees means understanding that many im/migrants are fleeing conditions at home created by the U.S. And we must understand the global character of this crisis.

The root cause of migration in this age is imperialism, the highest stage of capitalist development. Whether through wars and military strikes in the Middle East, far-right coups in Honduras in 2009 and Brazil in 2016, or draining countries’ wealth so they are unable to respond to natural disasters like the earthquake in Haiti, imperialism creates the conditions that im/migrants and refugees are fleeing.

The ruling class also creates refugees through its blatant disregard for the en-

**‘I’m going to the border to represent those in Atlanta who want to abolish ICE and police. Death to capitalism and to imperialism, which create the conditions that force migration.’**

..... **Lizz T, FIRE, Atlanta**

vironment, even as floods, storms and/or expanding deserts displace millions. Climate change and capitalist austerity have devastated Puerto Rico, leaving almost 5,000 dead and displacing tens of thousands more.

This criminal treatment is not unique to the U.S. While trying to pass refugees onto neighboring countries, many European states confiscate their valuables before placing them in camps. The imperialist countries vie for cheap labor and natural resources while co-operating to deny the most basic humanity to their victims.

This country’s working class has not sat idly by. There have been demonstrations in cities across the country, including occupations of ICE centers, with countless more planned for the coming weeks.

In the face of working-class power, the Trump administration has hastily issued an executive order, hoping to pacify the growing people’s resistance. But facts are stubborn, and this so-called “retreat” does not begin to end the policy of family separation.

Trump hopes to resolve the crisis by replacing child concentration camps with family ones, as if the problem were not the concentration camps themselves! At the same time, he ramped up the status of “illegal” border crossings from a civil offense to a criminal one. Once parents have a criminal conviction, the state again has

free rein to take their children! The executive order also allows migrants to be detained indefinitely and asks the Pentagon to open camps on military bases.

The Democratic Party and the corporate media loyal to it seem content with this “solution,” as long as it is followed up with an electoral victory in November. The Democrats are desperate to portray themselves as defenders of migrant families when in truth they were enthusiastic participants in creating this horror. Even beyond the record of “deporter in chief,” Obama, whose administration built many of these detention centers in the first place, or the Clinton-era law that drastically lowered the threshold for deportation, the Democrats have always been complicit in the crimes of U.S. imperialism.

It falls upon the workers and the oppressed of this country to fight to end these crimes and for liberation from the system that fosters them. We won’t be fooled by partial retreats and a kinder face to concentration camps. We call on the multinational, multigender working class to join with us to dismantle ICE and the racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic imperialist system that created it.

We ask you to help us do something simple, though not easy: Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere — FIRE!

To contact FIRE:  
Website **ourfire.net**,  
email **info@ourfire.net**, postal  
address FIRE, c/o Solidarity Center,  
147 West 24th Street, 2nd fl., 10011,  
or call **212-633-6646**. □

**‘I’m going to the border because I won’t tolerate evil settler-colonialists imprisoning and torturing people just for crossing imaginary lines on stolen land.’**

..... **Nat, FIRE, Boston**

## As a people’s movement grows

# Can it stop the jailings and deportations?

*Continued from page 1*

ments and pay reparations for the riches they have stolen, people will continue to flee.

This major humanitarian and political crisis stems from the global economic crisis, which is wreaking havoc on the people and the planet.

That the most powerful country in the world has a president the likes of #45 during this global crisis is troubling enough. But both the Democratic and Republican parties have historically demonstrated that they have no real solutions and are in fact part of the problem. For all their fervor against #45, the Democratic Party will not break from the capitalist system that spawned him.

In fact, it was former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who in 2009 approved the policies forcing migration today.

**#45 digs in**

Over 2,300 children have been wrenched away from their parents and families — if the numbers are to be trusted. It could even be many more.

Some of the adults have already been deported without their children. That itself is inhumane. Children in one shelter in Texas have been given psychotropic drugs, evoking Nazi Germany.

In fact, all of #45’s tactics evoke Nazi Germany.

Today’s outcry is in response to the “zero tolerance policy,” an administrative rule issued in April by #45 and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Under this policy, anyone crossing the border without a visa is automatically labeled a criminal.

Many crossing the border today actually qualify for asylum as victims of state terror and other qualifications. Yet this legal and humane process is being done away with. In fact, #45 announced he wants to end due process altogether. Photos of dozens of migrants shackled together in front of a judge are mind boggling.

#45 issued an executive order June 20 putting zero tolerance on hold. But conflicting reports from the administration have indicated that the policy will nonetheless continue, one way or another.

What is being promoted by the government now is “family internment,” exactly as in the days of the heinous internment camps during World War II set up to hold people of Japanese ancestry. This amounts to “handcuffs for all,” as the media have pointed out.

Nowhere are there plans for how or if the government will reunite the more than 2,300 children who have already been separated from their families. Instead, what is being planned is the mili-

tary detention of migrant workers.

According to an exclusive June 22 article in TIME magazine, “The U.S. Navy is preparing plans to construct sprawling detention centers for tens of thousands of immigrants on remote bases in California, Alabama and Arizona, escalating the military’s task in implementing [the] ‘zero tolerance’ policy ... according to a copy of a draft memo obtained by TIME.

“The Navy memo outlines plans to build ‘temporary and austere’ tent cities to house 25,000 migrants at abandoned airfields just outside the Florida panhandle near Mobile, Alabama, at Navy Outlying Field Wolf in Orange Beach, Alabama, and nearby Navy Outlying Field Silverhill.”

The article continues: “The memo also proposes a camp for as many as 47,000 people at former Naval Weapons Station Concord, near San Francisco; and another facility that could house as many as 47,000 people at Camp Pendleton, the Marines’ largest training facility located along the Southern California coast. The planning memo proposes further study of housing an undetermined number of migrants at the Marine Corps Air Station near Yuma, Arizona.

“The planning document estimates that the Navy would spend about \$233 million to construct and operate a facility for 25,000 people for a six-month time

period. The proposal suggests these tent cities be built to last between six months and one year.”

While the focus now is clearly on the southern border, the movement must be prepared to turn its attention to these encampments. Young people in particular are ready to “shut shit down” — clearly one of the answers to this current crisis.

#45 is holding out to get the billions needed to build the wall, and his real estate developer pals and construction vultures are salivating all over it.

The movement, however, can stop the building of the wall.

A June 25 Ipsos polling survey found that the U.S. and Canada were the “two most tolerant and inclusive” countries in the world toward immigrants. The study suggests that most people in this country are “at odds with the nativist position of the current administration.” That is what we are witnessing across the country today.

Comrade Fidel Castro once stated that he believed fascism would never take hold in the U.S. He had a great deal of confidence in the people of this country to stop it.

Let us hope that today we are witnessing the beginning of a great movement, one that can be sustained to not only stop #45’s fascist tactics at the border but end capitalism once and for all. □



# News conference by MOVE 9's Debbie Africa, released after 40 years

By **Betsey Piette**  
East Lansdowne, Pa.

At a press conference in East Lansdowne, Pa., on June 19, MOVE 9 member Debbie Sims Africa made her first public appearance since being released from prison after nearly 40 years of incarceration. She had been imprisoned since Aug. 8, 1978, following the Philadelphia police attack on the MOVE Organization.

Sims Africa was one of nine MOVE members, collectively known as the “MOVE 9,” who were convicted and sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison following the altercation. She was eight months pregnant at the time and gave birth in jail to her son, Mike Africa Jr. She has been incarcerated for his entire life. Mother and son spent time together outside of prison for the first time on June 16, following her release.

Flanked by her son and her attorney, Brad Thomson, Sims Africa said at the press conference: “I have not yet caught up with my emotions on how happy it makes me to see my family and to be united with my son for the first time in all those years. As happy as I was to be with my family, it is a bittersweet victory for me because my sisters Janet, Janine and the rest of the MOVE 9 are still in prison in the same situation that I was in. They deserve parole, too.”

Mike Africa Jr. echoed this sentiment: “After being born in jail and never being with my mom or dad, I’m happy to be with my mom at home for the first time ever in almost 40 years. But my family is still incomplete because my dad is still in prison. The MOVE Organization has experienced so much hate and anger from the system

that this is a victory, yet 40 years of separation is not over for our family.”

Mike Africa Sr., one of the MOVE 9 still in prison, is scheduled to appear before the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) in September. Janet and Janine Africa’s next parole opportunity is in May 2019. Three other members of the MOVE 9 remain incarcerated. Two died in custody.

## Free all of the MOVE 9!

Thomson, an attorney with the People’s Law Office, represented Sims Africa throughout her parole proceedings. He noted: “This is an historic moment for Debbie, her family and the MOVE Organization. We consider this a big, important step towards freeing all of the MOVE 9.”

Janet and Janine Africa appeared before the parole board on the same day as Sims Africa, but they were denied parole. Thomson said it was hard to understand the board’s rationale for not releasing the other two women, given that each has maintained Department of Corrections records as exemplary as and nearly identical to that of Sims Africa.

Thomson said: “Based on statutes regarding parole in Pennsylvania, the board made the correct decision with Debbie, but they should have made the same ruling for Janet and Janine. The facts in all three cases and other members of MOVE 9 show that none of them should have been convicted in the first place. There is no rational basis for keeping them incarcerated.”

All MOVE 9 members have been eligible for parole since 2008; each has gone through numerous hearings. Sims Africa’s May 10 hearing was her ninth.



Debbie Africa and Mike Africa, Jr

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Carolyn Engel Temin, the Philadelphia district attorney’s office first assistant, wrote letters to Leo Dunn, PBPP chairperson, on behalf of DA Larry Krasner, saying that she was “confident” that Janet and Janine Africa “will not pose a threat to the Philadelphia community,” and that their “continued incarceration does not make our city safer.” However, the PBPP lied, claiming the “negative recommendation of the prosecuting attorney” was a basis for denial. (onamove.com, June 19)

Thomson asserted: “We are hoping that moving forward we will be able to win release for the remaining six people.” When asked about the impact of calls on their behalf to the PBPP, he replied, “It is important that the parole board recognize that Debbie and the rest have people who support them, [and] that they are not a threat to the community.”

When asked how the state’s bombing of

the MOVE house and murder of 11 MOVE members on May 13, 1985, affected imprisoned MOVE members, Sims Africa recounted their profound disbelief when prison guards told them about the attack, refusing to accept that it had happened.

Mike Africa Jr. said that Janet and Janine Africa had children who died in that fire. Now, the same state that killed their children refuses to grant the mothers parole. He read Janet Africa’s letter about Sims Africa’s release: “Everybody here, especially the lifers and long termers are lifted and motivated by Debbie leaving. Tell her she took a piece of our heart when she left, but it balances out because she left a piece of hers with us.”

Events in Philadelphia will mark the 40th anniversary of the Aug. 8, 1978, police attack on MOVE. See onamove.com for information about the Aug. 8 Day of Resistance for the MOVE 9. □

# Bryant Arroyo: On the inside, speaking out

Part 1 of Bryant Arroyo’s story, which as Kelly writes, “was just one story. One story among millions.

By **Ted Kelly**  
SCI Frackville, Pa.

Even from within the confines of a state correctional institution in rural Pennsylvania, Bryant Arroyo is on the move. Just in the last few months he has spoken at Harvard University and Haverford College, testified at a roundtable discussion on prison conditions in Center City Philadelphia and been the keynote speaker at the 2018 Yale Environmental Forum.

“I’m on tour!” Bryant exclaimed in one of our recent phone conversations.

That conversation, like all the speeches he delivers live from a prison phone booth, are interrupted intermittently with a monotone prerecorded message: “This is a call from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections ...”

The calls are disconnected after fifteen minutes. At the roundtable event in Philly this spring, Bryant was only able to answer one question from the group before getting cut off. That’s why his Yale address was prerecorded and hosted on Prison-Radio.org, where many of his addresses can be heard. Each recording contains a voice that is thoughtful and deliberate as it recites highly poetic rhetoric.

In person, Bryant is energetic and talkative. His jovial demeanor isn’t constricted by that deep maroon jumpsuit he is



PHOTO: BENJAMIN IRVIN

forced to wear. He’ll clap you on the shoulder after making a joke or gently grab hold of your forearm as he gets more emphatic. If ever he pauses, it is to great effect.

It was during one such pause, in the midst of talking about the “distractions and divisions” that keep our class from organizing itself, that Bryant leans in close and punctuates his point:

“Because I hate to break it to you, but you’re in prison, too.”

He’s not referring to the fact that Joe Piette and I are sitting with him in the visitation room at SCI Frackville, where Bryant is currently living out a sentence of life without parole for a crime he did not commit. (He is still fighting to overturn this unjust conviction.)

We sit together on molded rubber seats in the packed chamber where prisoners are huddling together with their visitors.

## PART 1– ‘You’re in prison too.’

Some of them are eating lunch with their children and grandchildren. Others are sitting silently, facing a blank wall together, arms intertwined with their spouse’s. It’s a Sunday morning. These loved ones surrender their car keys and wallets, turn out their pockets and willingly cross over the gated threshold that separates the “free” from those in bondage.

The person we came to see is a Puerto Rican man who grew up in Lancaster, Pa. His father owned a grocery store that was bought out from under them by gentrifying land-grabbers when Bryant was a child. His family was left scrambling for a steady source of income. By the time he was supposed to be in tenth grade, Bryant had dropped out of school to find work.

He speaks passionately about the lessons his father taught him about the grocery store customers, many of whom were desperately poor, disabled and elderly. “We treat them with respect when they walk in this store,” Bryant’s father would insist, regardless of the person’s background. “We serve them and they serve us,” he’d say, pointing up at the light above their heads — a reminder of how the bills got paid.

Bryant doesn’t hesitate to name the people who created the conditions of destitution and misery in his community.

Bryant calls them “the corporate raiders.”

When he says, “I hate to break it to you,” he’s talking about power in our society. The people don’t have it. The corporate raiders have seized it from us.

## Roots of the struggle

A man who has now spent a quarter of a century behind bars, Bryant Arroyo knows what it is to experience powerlessness. He is one of the 2.2 million people who are imprisoned right now by the United States government, and therefore he is a member of the most oppressed sector of the working class in this country. He describes the position of the prisoner as being “completely indigent.”

This is a clear echo of the political platform that “prisons are concentration camps for the poor,” reverberating from a time in history when Workers World Party maintained an active Prisoners’ Solidarity Committee. This committee was so organized and well-respected among prisoners that in September 1971 it was invited to send a representative into the Attica prison yard to assist those rebels in negotiating for their demands.

It’s an event that WWP First Secretary Larry Holmes described as “the Black Liberation Movement’s Paris Commune moment.” The Attica demands included the right to a union, vocational training, pay scales, a limited-hour workweek, health care and injury compensation — in short, to be considered workers. “This is a class issue,” the Attica statement said. □



# On Waters, immigrants and violence

People all over the country — indeed, all over the world! — are demonstrating against the latest obscene steps taken by the Trump administration in its war against im/migrants and refuge seekers. They are haunted by the images of im/migrant children trembling and sobbing as they are yanked away from their parents.

One of those speaking out against this extreme official cruelty is Rep. Maxine Waters, who became the subject of numerous talk shows, editorials and Oval Office tweets after she called on people to confront and denounce the politicians responsible for this policy.

Waters is a longtime liberal Democrat, re-elected many times by her largely Black constituency in Los Angeles. She is not a typical politician. She has been outspoken in supporting Cuba against the U.S. blockade and opposing the Iraq war, and she sided with her constituents in the Watts neighborhood of LA when poverty and police brutality pushed them to rebel in 1992.

That a Black elected official, a woman, would vigorously call for in-your-face protests against his vicious attacks on im/migrants enraged Trump, who in a tweet insulted her intelligence and accused her of encouraging violence — even as his agents were violently breaking up im/migrant families.

All the corporate media are using Trump's attack to condemn violence on the part of those who resist him and call for "civil discourse." They dwell on the militant actions of those protesting the violence of the capitalist state, while accepting the day-in, day-out rule of terror by generals, cops, prison guards and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents as normal and not even worthy of discussion.

This is the oldest trick in the book. When the Vietnam War was on, and thousands were dying every day because of that horrific assault on the Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, those here who tried to stop the war were accused of violence if they burned draft records or scuffled with Army recruiters.

Those fighting this exploiting and repressive system need to consider the relationship of forces when devising what tactics to employ in the struggle. But it is not a moral issue. Malcolm X put it right when he said in 1964 that Black people must fight for their freedom by "any means necessary." All the morality in this struggle is on the side of the oppressed, who have met with violence from the repressive state at every turn.

Confront the racists and warmakers! Stop the attacks on im/migrants by any means necessary! □

## Im/migrant rights solidarity from India

The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and its mass organizations are carrying out solidarity protests against the separation of families and attacks on migrants and refugees in the U.S. Participating in an action on June 25 were the Delhi State committees of the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS), All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), and All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO). These groups held a joint demonstration against the gross violation of human rights of refugees and mi-



grants at the U.S.-Mexico border by the Trump administration.

— Report by Workers World staff

# The Movement for Black Lives calls for Black, Brown, Indigenous solidarity

The following statement was issued by The Movement for Black Lives at [policy.m4bl.org](http://policy.m4bl.org).

The Movement for Black Lives joins MiJente and the national call to shut down U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, abolish ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and resist a fascist future where families are caged.

We understand that this moment represents the continued legacy of detaining, abusing, and separating Black, Brown and Indigenous people. This is an intentional legacy, bolstered by policies and safeguarded by police, judges, and elected officials meant to harm and destroy our communities and our commitment to a different and just world. Further, we are also clear that it is the violent and oppressive role of the United States abroad, and specifically in Central America, that has displaced many of these families and led them to this country seeking safety.

As a movement that is pro-Black, pro-woman, pro-LGBTQ, pro-migrant and pro-family, we are appalled by this Administration's actions. Children and their families belong in safe places, not detention camps. The internment of children

at the border pushes all of us to call into question the state apparatus, and its continued operation as a detriment to the lives of Black, Brown and Indigenous people across the world.

As a member of The Majority, a coalition representing movements and organizations across the country, we are united in calling for all of our communities to come to together to protect and defend each other. Whether it is the murdering of Black children by police like Antwon Rose in Pittsburgh or the caging of children and families at the border, it is more clear than ever that freedom will come as a product of our collective work.

"We must love each other and support each other" is more than a chant — it is a mandate for how we must show up in these times. We are freedom fighters who stand on the shoulders of our Ancestors and side by side with our comrades as we fight for a world in which our collective liberation is realized; join us. □

## San Diego, NYC

# Rallies for Palestine

## San Diego honors Palestinian rescue worker

Workers World Party hosted a rally and vigil in San Diego on June 22 in honor of Palestinian rescue worker and volunteer medic Razan al-Najjar, as well as all the martyrs killed in Gaza during the Great March of Return.

Najjar was murdered by the Israeli Defense Force on June 1 as she went to the aid of an elderly injured protester at the Gaza boundary fence that imprisons Palestinians. An IDF sniper shot the 21-year-old nurse as she advanced with her hands up to show she was unarmed. She was clearly identified as a rescue worker.

The Great March of Return began in late March, affirming the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. Since then the Israeli military has killed hundreds and wounded thousands at the Gaza boundary, including 223 paramedics, seemingly targeting rescue workers deliberately.

San Diego protesters gathered at the Balboa Park fountain for the evening rally. In addition to members of WWP, there was support from the Committee Against Police Brutality, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Labor San Diego, as well as several members of the local Palestinian community and unaffiliated community members.

Demonstrators held signs demanding justice for Palestine and an end to U.S. support for the racist apartheid state of Israel, and affirming that Jerusalem is Palestine's capital. Also on display was a large, full-color painting of health worker Razan al-Najjar by WWP member Codie. Carl Muhammad led the crowd in chants of "From Palestine to Mexico, Border walls have got to go!" and "¡Viva, viva, viva! ¡La lucha Palestina!"

WWP member Bob McCubbin addressed the crowd, calling for the U.S. to get out of the Middle East and expressing the party's full support for the Palestinian right of return to occupied Palestine.

Another WWP member, Rahui Suré Saldivar-Soto, spoke on the importance of fighting from within the belly of the



WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

beast and honoring all the lives that have been lost in Palestine. Workers World newspaper was distributed to receptive park attendees, and several productive conversations ensued, including with a group of preteens from a YMCA summer camp.

— Workers World San Diego bureau

## New York rallies for Palestinian freedom fighter

At a June 23 picket in New York City in front of the office of the Friends of the IDF, protesters briefly blocked access to the doors, while chanting against the FIDF's fundraising for war crimes, racism, occupation and apartheid. Rallies also distributed flyers and carried signs to demand freedom for imprisoned Palestinian leader Khalida Jarrar. The action was organized by Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

Jarrar has been imprisoned without charge or trial for nearly a year under "administrative detention," with a new detention order issued by the Israeli occupation military on June 14. Jarrar is a leftist, feminist, Palestinian parliamentarian, aligned with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a longtime advocate for Palestinian prisoners' freedom.

Joe Catron, U.S. coordinator of Samidoun, said at the rally: "Khalida's decades of solidarity with Palestinian political prisoners and the prisoners' movement inspire all of us supporting the same struggle. Her administrative detention by Israeli occupation forces is a clear effort to impede her work, particularly her role in efforts to hold Israel accountable at the International Criminal Court for its crimes against Palestinians." (For more information on Jarrar's struggle, see [tinyurl.com/y79g7kss](http://tinyurl.com/y79g7kss).)

— Workers World New York bureau



PHOTO: JOE CATRON



France

Where and when will it stop?

By Rémy Herrera  
Paris

June 25 — During the conflict at the French national railway (SNCF), President Emmanuel Macron has argued that the “reform” he has imposed, for which the French Parliament has already passed implementing legislation, will not lead to privatization of the rail sector.

But the Minister of Economy and Finance, Bruno Le Maire (previously minister under Nicolas Sarkozy), has introduced legislation (which he calls a “Pact”) that amounts to a privatization program under the guise of helping small and medium-sized businesses and reducing government debt.

This new legislation would transfer state-owned shares of ADP (the company that manages Paris-Charles-de-Gaulle and Orly airports, number one in Europe for freight and mail), ENGIE (formerly GDF-Suez, the third largest non-oil energy group in the world) and La Française des Jeux (lotteries and sports betting) to the private sector. The state’s stock sale would also affect Air France (where the unions remain mobilized in an unresolved labor conflict), Orange (telecommunications) and the automobile industry (Peugeot, Renault).

How far will the neoliberals manage to erode state control of these industries, especially with people distracted by the

2018 FIFA World Cup, an event that provides a maximum dose of the “opium of the people”?

This government offensive comes at a time when the right-wing (UNSA) and reformist (CFDT) union confederations are breaking up trade union unity, and the most combative unions (CGT, SUD-Rail) have announced they will continue the strike this summer, when over 60 percent of the population goes on holiday.

Workers counterattack

The workers’ counterattack was not long in coming. Nearly 150 workplaces were occupied by electricians and gas company employees on June 14 — proving that even if you love soccer’s World Cup, you can still get passionate about class struggle. In many offices where workers had gathered to hear management’s rationales for privatizing energy, they saw the bosses lower their heads without saying a word, barricade themselves in their offices or run away!

Union members occupied more than 220 sites on June 21. Here and there, in the middle of entrance halls, strikers in bathing suits installed inflatable swimming pools and soaked in comfort while waiting for their children to be invited to do the same on the weekend! This reminded people of the historic Popular Front strikes in 1936 when workers played pingpong in occupied factories.

Meanwhile, Macron’s lackeys announced his plan to build a new private swimming pool in Brégançon, the presidential holiday resort on the French Riviera — at taxpayers’ expense. And that the presidential couple has decided to replace the china dishware at the Elysée Palace (the presidential residence) for 500,000 euros, or close to \$600,000!

On the same day, a video circulated on the internet showed the president declaring that a “wild amount of money” is spent on social needs. Are we to understand that Macron’s next demolition project will seek to cut public expenditures that reduce poverty (income and social benefits for poor households, income floors for the elderly, housing allowances, etc.)?

That would be a big blow against the workers. A recent official report indicates that the number of poor children is exploding: nearly 20 percent of French children now live below the poverty line. They come mainly from single-parent families and/or unemployed families.

The government says that unemployment is falling. In fact, the requirements to obtain unemployment benefits have become so onerous that many unemployed people are no longer counted or included in the statistics. What does this mean for the government? It just laid off 4,000 employees of the public agency,



French TV reports on CGT demanding cutoff of gas to the French president’s residence. Earlier the workers cut power off as the prime minister was speaking.

Pôle emploi, responsible for helping the unemployed find a job!

They will join the thousands of laid-off Carrefour employees — 2,500 announced job cuts — who learned on June 15 that the shareholders’ meeting of this giant retail company (third biggest worldwide, Walmart being first) had awarded its CEO a departure bonus of 13 million euros and an annual pension of over half a million euros as reward for his management.

How long will these predatory and cynical officers and directors, supported by the government, be allowed to continue their systematic destruction and looting?

Recent actions indicate not for long. On June 21, the CGT Mines-Energie Federation demanded that the gas supply to the Élysée Palace be cut off, as happens to millions of French households. A few days earlier, near Toulouse, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe was forced to make a speech in the dark and without a microphone because of a power cut organized by the CGT.

*Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre National Recherche Scientifique, who works at the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris. WW staff translated this article.*

Europe

Humanitarian migrant crisis deepens

By G. Dunkel

A humanitarian and political crisis is brewing in the European Union over the issue of im/migrants. Millions upon millions of people attempting to escape wars and violence, poverty and persecution of all sorts in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan and North Africa have fled toward what they see as more stable prosperity in Europe.

The refugees are willing to take serious burdens and risks getting there. Smugglers, who offer a spot on underpowered, overcrowded rubber dinghies, charge high prices. Crossing the Mediterranean Sea is dangerous. Of the 44,000 refugees who have attempted so far this year, more than 1,000 failed to survive, according to the UNHCR, the U.N. Refugee Agency, on June 25. (data2.unhcr.org)

The political crisis was brought to a high point by the recent election in Italy. A coalition government of the Five Star Movement and the racist League took control, with League leader Matteo Salvini becoming a vice premier and minister of the interior. Salvini immediately began the process of closing the country’s refugee reception centers, which held hundreds of thousands of refugees.

When Salvini made a campaign-style tour on June 3 of southern Sicilian ports — all of which have seen large debarkations of refugees from Libya, particularly in Pozzallo — he was met with bands of left opponents carrying signs that read, “Welcome refugees.” These opponents held their own against Salvini’s supporters, who want to see 700,000 people immediately expelled.

Precipitating a humanitarian crisis, Salvini also closed Italian ports to the Aquarius, a rescue ship operated by Doc-

tors Without Borders, with 629 people on board, including children, pregnant women and people with medical problems. After a few days the Spanish government agreed to accept the ship, and the French government said it would accept some of the rescued passengers.

Salvini did the same thing to the Lifeline, a ship operated by a German nongovernmental organization that had rescued 230 people off the Libyan coast. He even tried to make it hard to deliver supplies to the ship and insulted the people onboard, calling them “human meat.”

The Maersk Alexander, a container ship that picked up 113 refugees but also had cargo for Sicily, has been denied permission to enter Italian waters as well. The new Spanish government, trying to present a progressive face, is likely to ac-

cept both ships.

On the weekend of June 23-24, Salvini insisted that 1,000 migrants on the coast of Libya be picked up by the Libyan coast guard, rather than European nongovernmental organizations.

In Germany, which has accepted more than 1 million refugees, a section of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s coalition has taken a much harder line than Merkel and wants Germany to stop taking any new refugees. President Emmanuel Macron in France is under pressure from a semi-fascist, right-wing party called the National Rally (previously the National Front).

Merkel and Macron held an emergency, off-the-record meeting on June 24, to come up with a solution to the migration crisis, to present to a full meeting of the

European National Council at the end of June. The regimes directing Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary — which form the V4 “Visegrad Four” group — avoided taking part in this meeting. They refuse to take in asylum seekers from other EU states.

Given all the political maneuvering and jockeying over the migrant issue, the 28 EU countries have to take into account that the unions and many political parties in the front line states — Spain, France, Italy and Greece — know in their bones and in their foundational history that solidarity is the most important tool in the arsenal of the working class. This solidarity lies behind all the rescue missions accomplished since waves of immigrants began crashing on Europe’s shores in recent years. □

PUERTO RICO

‘Occupation is a crime’

Chanting “Occupation is a crime — from Puerto Rico to Palestine,” Puerto Rican activists and supporters marched and rallied near the United Nations on June 18.

The occasion was the meeting of the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization, which heard testimony from former political prisoner Oscar López Rivera and others describing the rising poverty, displacement and devastation following hurricanes Irma and Maria, compounded by ongoing U.S. austerity measures embodied in the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).

A march organized by the Mande-

la-Oscar Committee for Decolonization began at Hunter College and concluded at Ralph Bunche Park across from U.N. headquarters. There protesters unfurled an enormous Puerto Rican flag while demanding an end to U.S. occupation and reparations for 120 years of colonial robbery. They also demanded freedom for Nina Droz Franco, a Puerto Rican political prisoner arrested during the general strike in San Juan on May Day 2017.

Another rally was held at nearby Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza.

A summary of testimony given to the U.N. Committee can be read at tinyurl.com/ybv92j47.

— Report and photo by Greg Butterfield







# Otra vez guerra encubierta en Nicaragua

EDITORIAL

Cuando el New York Times comienza a promover el “estado de derecho” en otro país, como lo hizo en un artículo de opinión el pasado mayo, y otros medios de comunicación corporativos meten la cuchara, siempre debemos prestar atención.

Eso es para que podamos saber qué país el imperialismo estadounidense se está preparando para desestabilizar.

Esta vez - una vez más - es Nicaragua, donde Estados Unidos pregona la necesidad de reemplazar al presidente Daniel Ortega y el gobierno sandinista.

Nos corresponde señalar que el nicaragüense mencionado por la prensa estadounidense como la “oposición” a lxs sandinistas es Juan Sebastián Chamorro, un “portavoz” de la “Alianza Cívica por la Justicia y la Democracia”. Su tía es la expresidenta Violeta Chamorro, cuyo gobierno pertenecía a una coalición de partidos políticos derechistas respaldados por Estados Unidos que luchaban contra las fuerzas sandinistas de liberación nacional en la década de 1990.

Desde mediados del siglo XIX, los EUA han afirmado el “derecho” de su Doctrina Monroe a colonizar y explotar a Nicaragua como su propio patio trasero. Y desde el principio, lxs nicaragüenses se han resistido, incluyendo la rebelión revolucionaria encabezada por el general Augusto C. Sandino en las décadas de 1920 y 1930.

Cuando el Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional triunfó en 1979, aún tuvo que vencer a la posterior guerra secreta orquestada por la CIA que involucraba actos terroristas, así como a una campaña de propaganda patrocinada por Washington.

Ahora EUA intenta nuevamente socavar a Nicaragua, aprovechando las protestas que se tornaron violentas después de que el gobierno anunciara una disminución planificada en los beneficios de la seguridad social. Más tarde, el gobierno rescindió la movida.

Hay mucha evidencia de que la violencia fue promovida por la oposición reaccionaria y proimperialista. Pero el informe del 29 de mayo de Amnistía Internacional (AI), afirmaba que el actual gobierno sandinista estaba involucrado en “asesinatos extrajudiciales” y “represión”.

Esta ciertamente no es la primera vez que AI ha servido como un megáfono de propaganda para los intereses de EUA. Pero esta vez, Camilo Mejía, un nativo de Nicaragua, y preso de conciencia de Amnistía Internacional en 2004, ha respondido de forma convincente.

Mejía no fue encarcelado por Nicaragua. Fue encarcelado por EUA como veterano de la guerra de Irak, opositor y objetor de conciencia.

En una “Carta abierta a Amnistía Internacional”, Mejía enfatiza: “El informe [de AI] se alimenta de reclamos de quienes están en un lado del conflicto y se basa en evidencia profundamente corrompida; en última instancia, ayuda a crear el espejismo de un estado genocida, generando a su vez más sentimiento antigubernamental a nivel local y en el exterior, y allanando el camino para una intervención extranjera cada vez más agresiva”.

Mejía enfatiza que Estados Unidos se opone al gobierno sandinista por sus intentos de mantener la independencia del “orden económico neoliberal impuesto por los Estados Unidos y sus aliados”.

Mejía señala que las mejoras realizadas por este gobierno de liberación nacional incluyen el acceso universal a la educación primaria, secundaria y universitaria; y un modesto y excelente sistema de atención médica accesible para todos. Él señala: “Aproximadamente el 90 por ciento de los alimentos que consumen los nicaragüenses se produce en Nicaragua, y cerca del 70 por ciento de los empleos provienen de la economía de base, en lugar de las empresas transnacionales”.

Mejía dice que “la audacia del éxito” del gobierno sandinista “volvió a poner a Nicaragua en el punto de mira de la intervención estadounidense”.

Seguramente, nosotros en EUA no necesitamos ningún recordatorio de la propaganda abierta estadounidense que manipula el pensamiento público, piense en la demonización del Iraq independiente, Libia y Siria.

Y es muy común que las agencias encubiertas estadounidenses manipulen lo que pueden ser demandas válidas de personas en otro país, en cooperación con los reaccionarios de la clase dominante. La clase dominante estadounidense siempre intentará convertir los movimientos progresistas en su opuesto: para desviar a las personas de un posible camino revolucionario.

Nuestro deber en EUA es resistir esta propaganda capitalista abierta y encubierta. Nuestro deber es exponer implacablemente todos los trucos del imperialismo y oponernos a todos los crímenes del imperialismo. □

# Declaración de FIRE (FIGHT FOR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES EVERYWHERE\*)

*La resistencia está aumentando para luchar contra las atrocidades estadounidenses contra in/migrantes y refugiadxs, con marchas masivas convocadas para el 30 de junio. Participando en esas protestas, incluyendo en la frontera EUA/México en McAllen, Texas, está el nuevo grupo FIRE, que emitió el siguiente llamado:*

Las noticias recientes de la frontera han sido imposibles de ignorar, incluso para quienes normalmente excusarían la guerra contra lxs inmigrantes. Lxs progenitores lloran cuando sus hijxs son arrancados de sus brazos para llevarlos a campos de concentración y colocarlos en jaulas. Una mujer guatemalteca indígena desarmada recibe un disparo en la cabeza por parte de la Patrulla Fronteriza. Una mujer trans que huye de la violencia patriarcal es dejada morir en una llamada “caja de hielo”.

Pero, ¿es esta inhumanidad y destrucción de familias nuevas en este país? ¿Cuántas familias fueron destruidas por el genocidio y el desplazamiento forzado de las naciones indígenas de este país? Durante la esclavitud, lxs africanos fueron subastados después de ser arrancados de sus familias y encadenadxs. En la década de 1940, los EUA forzaron a lxs inmigrantes japoneses y sus descendientes a ingresar en campos de internamiento. En los últimos tiempos, el sistema penitenciario, con fines de lucro o administrado por el gobierno, ha separado millones de sus familias y comunidades.

FIRE es un movimiento multinacional y multi-género de base formado por defensorxs de los derechos de lxs inmigrantes, estudiantes, profesores, sindicalistas, socialistas, del Movimiento las Vidas Negras Importan, antiimperialistas y otrxs activistas. Creemos que no solo el Partido Republicano tiene la culpa de esta crisis, sino también el Partido Demócrata. Lxs inmigrantes han sido forzados ingresar a EUA y Europa debido a las políticas tramadas en Washington y Wall Street. Y la única solución es la gente luchando en su propio nombre.

El objetivo de FIRE (fuego) es derretir ICE (hielo). No para reformarlo, ni cambiar su gestión, ni ninguna otra medida a medias. Para luchar por lxs in/migrantes, debemos deshacernos por completo de ICE. Significa dismantelar los campos de concentración para inmigrantes y derribar cualquier pared fronteriza racista que Trump intente construir. Luchar por lxs refugiados significa entender que muchxs in/migrantes huyen de las condiciones en sus países creados por EUA. Y debemos entender el carácter global de esta crisis.

La raíz de la migración en esta era es el imperialismo, la etapa más alta del desarrollo capitalista. Ya sea a través de guerras y ataques militares en Medio Oriente, golpes de extrema derecha en Honduras en 2009 y Brasil en 2016, o agotando su riqueza para que los países no puedan responder a los desastres naturales, como el terremoto en Haití, el imperialismo crea las condiciones por las cuales lxs in/migrantes y refugiadxs están huyendo.

La clase dominante también crea refugiadxs por su completo desprecio por el medio ambiente, mientras inundaciones, tormentas y la expansión de los desiertos desplazan a millones. El cambio climático y la austeridad capitalista se combinaron para devastar a Puerto Rico, dejando alrededor de 5.000 muertes y desplazando decenas de miles más.

Este tratamiento criminal no es exclusivo de los Estados Unidos. Al tratar lxs refugiados

de pasar a los países vecinos, muchos estados europeos confiscan sus objetos de valor antes de llevarlos a campamentos. Los países imperialistas compiten por mano de obra barata y recursos naturales al mismo tiempo que cooperan para negar la humanidad más básica a sus víctimas.

La clase trabajadora de este país no se ha mantenido en silencio. Ha habido manifestaciones en ciudades por todo el país, incluyendo ocupaciones de los centros de ICE, y hay un sinnúmero más de estas planificadas para las próximas semanas.

Ante el poder de la clase trabajadora, la administración Trump ha emitido apresuradamente una orden ejecutiva, esperando pacificar la creciente resistencia de la gente. Pero los hechos son obstinados, y esta llamada “retractación” dista mucho de haber terminado con la política de separación familiar.

Trump espera resolver la crisis reemplazando los campos de concentración de niñxs con los de la familia, ¡como si el problema no fueran los campos de concentración! Al mismo tiempo, incrementó la pena por el cruce fronterizo “ilegal” de una ofensa civil a una criminal. Una vez que lxs progenitores han sido condenados por una ofensa criminal, ¡el estado nuevamente tiene libertad para llevarse a sus hijxs! La orden ejecutiva también apunta a permitir que lxs inmigrantes sean detenidos indefinidamente, y le pide al Pentágono que abra campamentos en bases militares.

El Partido Demócrata y sus leales medios corporativos parecen estar contentos con esta “solución”, siempre que sea seguida con una victoria electoral en noviembre. Los demócratas están desesperados por presentarse a sí mismos como los defensores de las familias de inmigrantes cuando, en realidad, fueron entusiastas participantes en la creación de este horror. Incluso, más allá del récord de Obama “deportador-en-jefe” sobre el tema, que incluye la construcción de muchos de estos centros de detención en primer lugar, o la ley de la era Clinton que redujo drásticamente el umbral para la deportación, lxs demócratas siempre han sido cómplices del imperialismo estadounidense.

Le toca a lxs trabajadores y oprimidxs de este país luchar por la terminación de estos crímenes y por la liberación del sistema que nos trajo aquí. No nos engañan las medidas parciales y una cara más suave de los campos de concentración. Exhortamos a la clase trabajadora multinacional y multi-género de este país a unirse a nosotrxs para dismantelar el ICE y el sistema imperialista racista, sexista, homofóbico y transfóbico que lo creó.

Le pedimos que nos ayude a hacer algo simple, aunque no sea fácil: Luchar por In/migrantes y Refugiados por Doquier (FIRE).

\* Luchemos por In/migrantes y Refugiadxs por Doquier

Para contactar a FIRE: sitio web **ourfire.net**, email **info@ourfire.net**, dirección postal **FIRE**, c/o Solidarity Center, 147 West 24 Street, 2nd fl., New York, NY, 10011, o llame al **212-633-6646**.