‘Anti-Zionist, not anti-Semitic’

Chicago Dyke March opposes ‘pinkwashing’

By Workers World Chicago bureau

The Chicago Dyke March, an annual social justice-oriented queer community celebration, is under attack by the mainstream media for asking several pro-Zionist individuals to leave the June 24 march.

The organizers of the Chicago Dyke March have issued the following statement:

“Yesterday, June 24, the Chicago Dyke March was held in the La Villita neighborhood to express support of undocumented, refugee, and immigrant communities under threat of deportation. Sadly, our celebration of dyke, queer, and trans solidarity was partially overshadowed by our decision to ask three individuals carrying Israeli flags superimposed on rainbow flags to leave the rally. This decision was made after they repeatedly expressed support for Zionism during conversations with Chicago Dyke March Collective members. We have since learned that at least one of these individuals is a regional director for A Wider Bridge, an organization with connections to the Israeli state and right-wing pro-Israel interest groups. A Wider Bridge has been protested for provocative actions at other LGBTQ events and has been condemned by numerous organizations

Pinkwashing: Zionist PR

“Pinkwashing” is a public-relations strategy used to portray Israel as the only place in the Middle East that is friendly to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people. It relies on a broad-brushed slander of the entire Arab and Muslim world, which is presented as “backward.” It is further based on the egregious lie that

Continued on page 5

DETROIT battles tax foreclosures

Disability rights: ‘HEALTHCARE not wealthcare’

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Detroit against tax foreclosures and for people’s housing

By Jerry Goldberg

A public forum on June 17 addressed the homeless crisis in Detroit that has left thousands of families facing imminent eviction from their homes. The forum was organized by the Coalition to Stop Unconstitutional Tax Foreclosures, composed of many community groups including the Moratorium Now Coalition, Detroit BYP 400, the Detroit People’s Platform, the United Community Housing Coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Professor Atuahene, Wayne State University visiting law professor and coalition organizer, described the scope of the crisis. Professor Atuahene explained how between 2011 and 2015, one in four properties in Detroit was foreclosed on for unpaid property taxes by the Wayne County treasurer, a number not seen since the 1930’s depression. When you combine the effect of tax foreclosures with the 65,000 mortgage bank foreclosures that also took place, Detroit has approximately three times fewer occupied homes now than ten years ago.

Property tax rates are calculated based on the home’s tax assessment. Atuahene pointed out that despite the Michigan Constitution explicitly providing that no property can be assessed at more than 50 percent of its market value, between 2009 and 2015, 55 to 85 percent of homes in Detroit were over-assessed. Permits were levied based on the inflated assessments on these homes and the ensuing foreclosures for unpaid taxes that occurred, were in blatant violation of the Michigan Constitution.

Predatory lending targeted Black communities

Professor Atuahene presented data showing how homeowners of color in Detroit had their property taxes assessed in 2007 to less than $20,000 in 2011, and are at around $30,000 today. This was a direct result of 65,000 bank foreclosures between 2009 and 2015, and the banks targeted Detroit’s African-American residents for predatory, fraudulent, subprime and adjustable rate mortgage loans. Detroit, which formerly had the highest rate of African-American homeownership in the country, now ranks near the bottom.

After foreclosing on families’ homes, and being paid off by the government through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for their losses, the banks then sold the foreclosed homes for overly reduced prices to investors. These investors, in turn, contributed to the tax foreclosure crisis by renting the properties or placing unsuspecting buyers into land contracts, not paying the property taxes, and allowing the homes to go into tax foreclosure leading to the evictions of unsuspecting occupants.

A speaker at the forum, Sonya Bennett, described how this process left her family facing the loss of their home this fall.

Forum speakers also explained how tens of thousands of Detroiters were denied property tax exemptions which would have reduced their property tax rates anywhere from 50 percent to nothing at all, when they did not have the ability to pay taxes and were facing the loss of their homes.

Banks benefit from federal bailout funds

The forum also discussed the denial of federal Hardship Hit Funds from homeowners in the billions.

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People with disabilities, caregivers and friends protest life-threatening health care cuts outside the U.S. Senate office on June 22.

By Mary P. Kaessinger

“Healthcare not Wealthcare!": Disability rights activists arrested

Detroit housing

Continued from page 2

funds virtually inaccessible. In contrast, MSHDA turned over the housing assets of the Detroit Land Bank to tear down homes with no oversight whatsoever, leading to massive corruption and criminal fraud investigations of the “blight removal” program.

The coalition is demanding a moratorium on tax foreclosures on occupied residences until the taxes are reassessed to prevent the harm they have caused. Also, that the 3,000 homes appropriated by the Detroit Land Bank from tax foreclosures be given to Detroit families in need of housing as a result of the illegal practices of both the banks, and Wayne County and city of Detroit officials. June 28 has been designated “A Day of Action” by the Moratorium Now! Coalition. At 9:30 a.m., activists will attend the MSHDA monthly board meeting at the State of Michigan Building at Cadillac Place in Detroit to address the minuse of Hardest Hit Funds and their immediate release to families in need of aid to save themselves from homelessness.

At noon on June 28, Moratorium Now! is calling for a demonstration at the Wayne County Treasurer’s Office in Monroe, to demand a one-year moratorium on evictions of any families from occupied, tax foreclosed homes. June 28 is currently the last day before the tax foreclosed homes are designated for auction.

Find information on the June 28 demonstrations at moratorium-mi.org. For the Coalition to Stop Unconstitutional Property Tax Foreclosures, visit illegalforeclosures.org.

Vigil against health care cuts

Over 200 demonstrators participated in a June 22 rally in Philadelphia against massive cuts to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid being planned by Congress and the Trump administration. There were speeches by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, a leader of the North Carolina Moral Mondays civil rights protest movement; Philadelphia Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild (POWER) leader Rev. Greg Holstein; and a number of speakers who will be negatively impacted by threatened loss of health care coverage.

Then a 24-hour vigil began in front of the offices of Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey (R), one of 13 senators responsible for writing the Senate bill. The event was organized by the Pennsylvania Health Access Network.

The Senate leadership is secretly negotiating the bill to repeal ACA that would end coverage for 23 million people and permanently slash funds to Medicaid. It would also give even more power to insurance companies, allowing them to charge more to older people and those with pre-existing conditions. Medicaid funding cuts will disproportionately affect seniors, children, low-income adults and people with disabilities. Health care is a human right. It should be free for all!

— Story and photo by Joe Piette

By Mary P. Kaessinger

“Healthcare not Wealthcare!” was a sign carried by Disability Rights Activists from the Coalition for a Livable Community on June 22 inside Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s office in Washington, D.C., by members of ADAPT, a disability rights organization. The group was protesting the Republicans’ “rewrite” of the Affordable Care Act.

Disability rights activists came from across the country to fight for their freedom if the proposed $834 billion cut in Medicaid occurs, many people who are disabled and elderly will die or be warehoused in institutions.

Some 43 activists were arrested during the protest. U.S. Capitol Police picked them up off their wheelchairs, dumped some people unceremoniously on the ground, and then carted them outside to be arrested.

In front of McConnell’s office, five Capitol police lifted 29-year-old Stephanie Woodward off her wheelchair. She didn’t move quietly, but shouted, “No cuts to Medicaid!” as she was carried outside. Woodward is an ADAPT member from Rochester, N.Y.

“I was born with spina bifida in 1988,” Woodward told the Huffington Post. “It wasn’t easy for my folks, my mother, a hair stylist, and my father, an electrician, to get me the health care and multiple surgeries I needed.” She has since graduated from law school. Now she has private insurance, but says, “Without Medicaid, I would not be here.” (June 23)

Save Medicaid!

The same article tells of ADAPT member Laura Halvorson, a 33-year-old Dallas native, who has muscular dystrophy and reluctantly decided not to resist when Capitol police told her to move along. Resisting could have damaged the breathing apparatus attached to her chair, creating a life-threatening situation.

Halvorson requires help with chores like bathing and cooking, so she is trying to obtain a personal care attendant through a Medicaid waiver program. If she can’t get one, she would be forced to live in an institution at twice the cost of home care, a point stressed by protesters.

Speaking on the June 23 MSNBC show “The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell,” Karen Clay characterized this ACA “ rewrite” as a decimation: “I cried watching the police carry the disabled activists. What kind of country are we living in? I was concerned for the safety of the people the police were handling. You need training to know how to handle people who ride in chairs. Their muscles have atrophied and their bones are not used to carrying weight.”

In the interview, Clay talked about her son, Mike Phillips, who has spinal muscular atrophy, is confined to bed, and manipulates a computer to communicate. With a Medicaid waiver he is a personal care assistant who takes him to the movies, Starbucks or out to dinner with friends. “I’m not Ryan Gosling” he quipped, “but I live a good life.”

Medicaid provides essential life support. The program pays home care attendant who provide services needed for daily living, like cooking, bathing and dressing for work. It enables people with disabilities to have access to durable goods, such as wheelchairs and oxygen tanks, and to live as normal a life as possible in the community, to work and to raise families. These things would be impossible without the assistance and necessities jeopardized by this inhumane bill.

To add insult to injury, the funds slashed from Medicaid would be used to subsidize tax cuts for the wealthy 1% — “wealthcare” as the protesters claim. Filling in the gaps would be left to the states; many won’t do it or don’t have the money to do so.

The bill was drafted in secret. McConnell has been planning to rush the bill through before the Senate’s July 4 recess. (See editorial, page 10.)

But nobody is waiting to see how the Senate votes. Spontaneous protests are popping up opposing the bill. Planned Parenthood, which would be defunded under the bill, called a demonstration for June 27. Their email read, “This is not a drill. We’re in the fight for our lives.”

ADAPT’s activism

ADAPT members are fighting hard because their lives and freedom depend on it. They organized actions at senators’ offices across the country on June 19, 20 and 21, in addition to the Washington protest which made news, even abroad.

Mike Oxford, an ADAPT organizer in Kansas, telling this writer of the strong bond that exists between people with disabilities and their caregiver workers, stressed that the organization campaigns for higher wages for them. They succeeded in Kansas where their hourly pay was raised to $10.

ADAPT got its start in Denver in July 1978, fighting for the right to ride city buses. Then, 25 activists argued that as taxpayers they had a right to travel on the local buses they paid for. Carrying placards which read, “Taxation without Transportation,” they circled the buses and sat down for three days, preventing traffic from moving. At night, they got off their wheelchairs and lay down in the street to sleep.

It took five years and more demonstrations, but ADAPT finally got wheelchair-accessible buses. They did it with humor; their banner read “[We want] to go boldly where everybody else has gone before.” That protest sparked similar demonstrations across the country.

Mary P. Kaessinger is a wheelchair user.
Immigrant farmworkers win union victory in Washington

In a major victory for U.S. farmworkers, about 200 migrants who pick berries for Sakuma Brothers in Burlington, Wash., ratified their first union contract on June 15. This win is stunning, given the workerc's special opposition — they’re from the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Guerrero and speak neither English nor Spanish but Mixteco and Trique. Farmworkers have been legally excluded from organizing, except in California, since 1937.

The four-year pact is dedicated for Justice union, which is 500 strong and independent from the AFL-CIO but works with the Washington Labor Council, has a history of success. It played a major role in the Driscoll berry boycott of 2005 — the picket line and rail blockade, labor victories.

The boycott was suspended after Sakuma agreed to hold the election. The deal boosts a rate of up to $15 an hour for experienced workers, seniority rights, just “cause” discipline and a base rate of $12 an hour — the highest in the state.

Global giant XPO runs in millions annually from such customers as Toyota, BMW, P&G and Sony, so it could easily meet the truckers’ demands. However, it’s appealing the California Labor Commissioner’s wage-theft award of $1 million for five XPO drivers. (teamsters.org, June 15) FUI just earned another notch in its stellar history!

LITTLE STEEL STRIKE: Capitalists expose their brutality

By Martha Grevatt

The Little Steel Strick was one of the bloodiest strikes in 1937, and a setback for labor in a year characterized by a string of union victories.

Scores of unionists, supporters and family members were wounded, and 18 of their slain brothers would never return to work again.

Breaking this strike — under a Democratic administration in Washington and Democratic governors across the Midwest where the pickets were stationed — exposed the violent nature of the capitalist state.

“Little Steel” referred to eight companies — only “Little” in comparison to “Big” U.S. Steel — that had formed a bloc to resist unionization.

The Feb. 11, 1937, victory of the United Auto Workers against General Motors in the Flint, Mich., sit-down strike set off a wave of occupations and strikes. Seeking to preempt a strike in March, U.S. Steel agreed to let the Steel Workers Organizing Committee represent workers in its mills. In the next few months about 215 steel companies let SWOC come in. The union, barely a year old, now had 330,000 members.

In taking on SWOC, the eight Little Steel barons were acting on behalf of the ruling class, which wanted to push back the forward march of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (originally the Committee on Industrial Organization). Beginning as a committee inside the craft-based American Federation of Labor, the CIO formed to organize the mass of industrial workers. In 1936 the CIO’s 12 member unions were expelled from the AFL.

Yet workers, inspired by successes in rubber and later in auto, blocked the militant CIO unions by the millions. Unlike the moderate AFL, whose member unions included some that actually barred African Americans from joining, the CIO opened its doors to the most oppressed. Women, workers of color and immigrants swelled its ranks. SWOC, formed by the CIO in 1936, was no exception.

The Little Steel bosses’ united front — encompassing Jones & Laughlin, Pittsburgh, Crucible, Bethlehem, Youngstown, National, Republic and Inland steel companies, led by the notorious Tom Girdler of Republic — began to crumble in May when J & L signed with SWOC after a 36-hour strike. Then Pittsburgh and Crucible gave in.

Steel workers united in strike

The union struck three holdouts, Republic, Youngstown and Inland, on May 26, and shortly thereafter workers walked out at one of Bethlehem’s plants. SWOC held off taking on National, whose president, Ernest T. Weir, was one of the worst anti-unionists in the whole country. Together 92,000 steelworkers in seven states were on picket lines; mills were shut down lock-tight.

Just four days into the strike on May 30, Re- public struck a deal with the CIO, which was having a Memorial Day social with their families at Sam’s Place, SWOC’s local headquarters. Leo Kryzicki, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and a leading figure in the union’s pledged support, issued a statement from the Chicago mayor affirmed the right to peacefully picket. Having that statement in hand, the strikers at the social voted to march to the mill and picket.

“Probably no group of people ever strolled more casually toward death and wounds,” wrote 1930s labor journalist Mary Heaton Vorse. “The testimony showed that the police had been eating in the mills and a platoon of fifty policemen was seen walking out of the mills that morning. The testimony goes to show that this was a planned attack; that the police came out with the intention of shooting down the workers and then arresting and transporting them. The police had planned to make this peaceful picket line seem like a Red plot to capture the mills. The brave policemen were to have warded off the revolution seekers and then their families and many witnesses and too many cameramen.” (“Labor’s New Millions,” 1938)

A new edition showed strike leaders pleading with police to let them pass. Police instead opened fire and clubbed workers mercilessly. One died after some workers tried to get him in a car and drive him to the hospital; police dragged him out of the car and left him to die. Four were dead on the spot. In the next few weeks the death toll climbed to 20, nine from gunshot wounds and nine beheaded to death. Over 200 were wounded, many incapacitated for life. The injured included infants and children.

Social worker Guadalupe Marshall gave eye- witness testimony to the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, formed to investigate widespread illegal union busting. She was clubbed on the head while trying to assist the wounded and then arrested. Hospitals were overwhelmed with the injured strikers and put out a call for volunteers, but police blocked volunteers from entering and one sabotaged to death. Over 200 were wounded, many incapacitated for life. The injured included infants and children.

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LGBTQ Pride in Solidarity 2017

**Drop all charges against the #BlackPride4**

By Susan Schnur

Several Black queer and trans people and allies gathered at the LGBTQ Pride Festival in Columbus, Ohio, on June 17 with the intent of silently blocking the parade for seven minutes to hold space for Black and Brown queer and trans people.

The activists were protesting the recent acquittal of the police officer who killed Philando Castile. Other important aims were to raise awareness about the violence against and erasure of Black and Brown queer and trans people, and in particular the lack of space for an All-Black and Brown people at Pride festivals and to raise the names of the 14 trans woman of color who have already been murdered this year.

In a June 18 press release, activist Ariana Steele stated that “though our method was a silent, nonviolent, peaceful demonstration, the CPD (Columbus Police Department) immediately opted for unnecessary force in lieu of our civil and human rights. Protesters were assaulted with batons, sprayed with mace, jumped on, pushed, punched and chased with horses—all within two minutes of the initiation of the roadblock. In the process, four Black protesters were targeted, arrested and the #BlackPride4 were taken into custody and held in a CPD van for four hours in 90 degree heat prior to processing without being provided medical attention.”

The Columbus Police Department has confirmed that the charges for Wrily Bennett, Kendall Denton, Ashley Braxton and Deandre Miles include aggravated robbery, resisting arrest, causing harm to a police officer, failure to comply with a police officer’s order and disorderly conduct.

Later that evening, crowds gathered outside Columbus City Hall demanding the release of the anti-racism protesters and that all charges be dropped. Miles was kept overnight in solitary confinement and charged with felony aggravated robbery for allegedly trying to grab one of the cops’ guns.

At Cleveland Pride on June 24, anti-racist solidarity demands releasing the #BlackPride4 and “Black Trans Lives Matter” placards were distributed to parade participants. On June 25, the website No Justice No Pride reported support actions in Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis and New York City.

A campaign is underway to demand that all charges be dropped against the #BlackPride4. To donate to the defense fund, visit tinyurl.com/donateBlackPride4.

**Fight back unity cheered at Pride**

On June 4 in Buffalo, N.Y., youth from Workers World Party, Queers for Racial Justice and other groups marched at Pride in a first-time-together, fightback continuum. They carried banners and signs condemned anti-LGBTQ oppression, racism, sexism, war and Trump’s entire anti-work program. Placards raised support for immigrants, the Black Lives Matter movement and defense of trans women of color — raising the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. The contingent’s presence in an otherwise heavily corporate celebration brought wild cheers all along the parade route.

— Report by Tom Answeeney and Garrett Dicembre

**San Francisco Trans March**

Several thousand people participated in the Trans March, which started at Dolores Park and ended in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district on June 29. API Equalities—Northern California, along with Gabriela SF, Le marginal and VietUnity, organized a militant and colorful contingent “to show our power as Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Asian and Pacific Islander people!”

The contingent made a powerful presence, with chants like “When I say trans, you say justice! Trans justice!” and “One! We are the people! Two! A little bit louder! Three! We want justice for all trans people!” The Korean drummers of Le marginal added rhythm and enthusiasm to the contingent.

— Story and photo by Terri Kay

**Columbus, Ohio**

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The activists were protesting the recent acquittal of the police officer who killed Philando Castile. Other important aims were to raise awareness about the violence against and erasure of Black and Brown queer and trans people, and in particular the lack of space for an All-Black and Brown people at Pride festivals and to raise the names of the 14 trans woman of color who have already been murdered this year.

In a June 18 press release, activist Ariana Steele stated that “though our method was a silent, nonviolent, peaceful demonstration, the CPD (Columbus Police Department) immediately opted for unnecessary force in lieu of our civil and human rights. Protesters were assaulted with batons, sprayed with mace, jumped on, pushed, punched and chased with horses—all within two minutes of the initiation of the roadblock. In the process, four Black protesters were targeted, arrested and the #BlackPride4 were taken into custody and held in a CPD van for four hours in 90 degree heat prior to processing without being provided medical attention.”

The Columbus Police Department has confirmed that the charges for Wrily Bennett, Kendall Denton, Ashley Braxton and Deandre Miles include aggravated robbery, resisting arrest, causing harm to a police officer, failure to comply with a police officer’s order and disorderly conduct.

Later that evening, crowds gathered outside Columbus City Hall demanding the release of the anti-racism protesters and that all charges be dropped. Miles was kept overnight in solitary confinement and charged with felony aggravated robbery for allegedly trying to grab one of the cops’ guns.

At Cleveland Pride on June 24, anti-racist solidarity demands releasing the #BlackPride4 and “Black Trans Lives Matter” placards were distributed to parade participants. On June 25, the website No Justice No Pride reported support actions in Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis and New York City.

A campaign is underway to demand that all charges be dropped against the #BlackPride4. To donate to the defense fund, visit tinyurl.com/donateBlackPride4.

**Fight back unity cheered at Pride**

On June 4 in Buffalo, N.Y., youth from Workers World Party, Queers for Racial Justice and other groups marched at Pride in a first-time-together, fightback continuum. They carried banners and signs condemned anti-LGBTQ oppression, racism, sexism, war and Trump’s entire anti-work program. Placards raised support for immigrants, the Black Lives Matter movement and defense of trans women of color — raising the legacy of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. The contingent’s presence in an otherwise heavily corporate celebration brought wild cheers all along the parade route.

— Report by Tom Answeeney and Garrett Dicembre

**San Francisco Trans March**

Several thousand people participated in the Trans March, which started at Dolores Park and ended in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district on June 29. API Equalities—Northern California, along with Gabriela SF, Le marginal and VietUnity, organized a militant and colorful contingent “to show our power as Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Asian and Pacific Islander people!”

The contingent made a powerful presence, with chants like “When I say trans, you say justice! Trans justice!” and “One! We are the people! Two! A little bit louder! Three! We want justice for all trans people!” The Korean drummers of Le marginal added rhythm and enthusiasm to the contingent.

— Story and photo by Terri Kay

**Baltimore Pride, June 16.**

**Supporters gathered outside City Hall on June 17, the day the #BlackPride4 were arrested at the Columbus Pride Parade, to demand their release.**

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**Baltimore Pride, June 16.**
La vida de Sylville Smith importa

“We are heartbroken and angry that the criminal justice system has again failed to hold a police officer accountable for murdering a Black man,” said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera. “Sylville Smith’s life matters. He was murdered by the same legal system that racially profiles Latinx, separates immigrant families through deportation and labels millions of people of color as criminals. He was murdered by an economic system that outsources jobs from good paying factories, defunds public schools and health care, and evicts and forecloses on Black, Brown and working-class families. We especially urge Milwaukee non-Black, Brown and working-class families. We urgently urge Milwaukee non-Black Latinx and immigrant community members to protest this verdict. We cannot demand justice for Latinx and immigrant families without demanding justice for Black families separated by the police killings of loved ones. Voces de la Frontera condena la exoneración del policía de Milwaukee en el asesinato de un miembro de la comunidad: Junto a 21, una vez más un policía fue exonerado después de ase- sina un a hombre afroamericano, esta vez en Milwaukee. Voces de la Frontera publicó la siguiente declaración: “Estamos tristes y enojados que el sistema de justicia penal otra vez no ha castigado a un policía que mata a un hombre afroamericano,” dijo Christine Neumann-Ortiz, directora ejecutiva de Voces de la Frontera. “La vida de Sylville Smith importa. El fue asesinado por el mismo sistema legal que discrimina en contra de los latinos, separa a las familias inmigrantes por la deportación y nombra a millones de personas de color como criminales. Fue asesinado por el mismo sistema económico que está err- rando las fábricas que proveía trabajos buenos pagados, que está cortando fon- dos de las escuelas públicas y el cuidado de salud y desaloja a las familias de color y de la clase trabajadora. Animamos especialmente a los latinos y inmigrantes de Milwaukee a protestar este juicio. No podemos exigir justicia para las familias latinos e inmigrantes sin exigir justicia para las familias afroamericanas rotas por los asesinatos policíacos.” Voces de la Frontera, a national leader in the movement for immigrant and worker rights, is the largest grassroots Latinx membership organization in Wisconsin: www.vdlf.org.

Sylville Smith’s life matters

Friends and family protest Seattle cops’ killing of mother of three

By Jeff Sorel

June 18, in Detroit, organizing against ‘cruel and unusual punishment’ of young people imprisoned for life.

Michigan currently has 346 people who were imprisoned as juveniles and who are serving life sentence- es without parole, most of whom have not had their sentences re-examined. Michigan ranks second in the nation for the mostjuveniles sentenced to life without the chance of parole. Back in 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that such punishments were cru- el and unusual, save for extreme cases where there was no possibility of rehabi- litation. In 2016, the court made their decision retrofit so that anyone sen- tenced before the ruling should have their case re-evaluated.

Justice for Nabra vigil

June 18, in Sterling, Va. The slain 17-year-old Muslim teen was brutally attacked and killed by a man with a baseball bat on her way home from a Ramadan-relat- ed event. She was wearing a traditional Muslim headscarf at the time of the attack.

A diverse rainbow of organizations from the Arab, Muslim, Latinx, Afri- can-American and other communities participated. Youth and students played a significant role in organizing this event.

Chicago

Milwaukee

Vigil organizers stated: “We cannot separate this terrible act of violence from the current political moment, a moment where Black lives are under increased at- tack. Other individuals like Nabra’s mur- derer are emboldened by the anti-Black, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim rhetoric, where other important issues include stopping predatory prices on phone calls home.”

Wayne County Community College is who is engaged in the fight for criminal justice re- form, to organize the event. They also cre- ated an online petition demanding passage of state prison reform that would impact every prisoner in Michigan. The link to the “Support Michigan Prison Reform” peti- tion is tinyurl.com/mipr2017.

Among the demands are relief for pris- oners serving life and long indeterminate sentences, and ending mandatory minimum sentencing and incarceration for victims of abuse who defend themselves. Other important issues include stoping predatory prices on phone calls home.

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In 2018, Paredes was incarcerated for life without the chance of parole at the age of 15. Paredes paired with Elena Herra- da, a professor at Marygrove College and Wayne County Community College who is engaged in the fight for criminal justice re- form, to organize the event. They also cre- ated an online petition demanding passage of state prison reform that would impact every prisoner in Michigan. The link to the “Support Michigan Prison Reform” peti- tion is tinyurl.com/mipr2017.

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Friends and family protest Seattle cops’ killing of mother of three

May 2017 • Page 7

WE RESIST

Sylville Smith

Justice and Equality, the conference pre-

mond, Va., for the United National An-

dent path against neoliberalism, imperi-

ippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine

31 states as well as nine foreign coun-

was being acquitted.

the cop who murdered Philando Castile

“Stop the Wars at Home and Abroad:

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

Due to the hard work and dedication of middle school students from the Jubi-

Lee School here, there is finally a histori-

meric headstone on Osage Avenue and Cobbs Creek Parkway in remembrance of the 11

OVE members, including five children, who died in a purposely uncontrolled fire

on June 13, 1985. Philadelphia

officials, including the mayor, police

missioner and fire commissioner, or-

dered a bomb dropped on MOVE’s West

adelphia Row home in addition to the

s, the resulting fire also destroyed

the entire two-block area.

The Jubilee students described the at-

move on MOVE as “one of the worst cases of police brutality in America.”

Speaking as a collective voice, five Ju-

bilee students described how the marker project began as part of a field trip to the

ea on May 13, 2016.

The students went to Osage Avenue to

commemorate the MOVE bombing and to

witness the impact first hand, including the poorly rebuilt houses, many now un-

inhabitable. The trip’s goal was to uncover

why the city wouldn’t acknowledge what

the police did in the Philadelphia Black

community over 32 years ago. During this

visit, they noticed there was no marker

erected for it or any other raising.

Students repeatedly asked why those

responsible for the murderous assault

were never held accountable. They said this failure helped pave the way for the

s current epidemic of police brutality.

The marker unveiling was part of a

campaign called “Songs of the Children

Movement: A Campaign against Police

Violence,” which was begun in 2015 by Jubilee students to speak out against so-

cial injustices. The students chose this li-

tle because they wanted to use poetry as a

“message builder.”

The young students also led three

marches of hundreds of children to con-

front police brutality and to abolish the

city’s “Stand Your Ground” and “Stop and

Fright” laws. On March 18, 2016, they held a silent march with drums, inspired by

E.B. Du Bois’ march against lynching in the early 1900s.

Several of the remaining Osage Avenue

residents supported the students’ efforts

and attended the June 24 unveiling. Ra-

mona Africa, the sole surviving MOVE

member to escape the fire, spoke publicly

at the site for the first time since 1985.

Over 150 people came to the unveil-

ings and Sunday’s official dedication of

Philadelphia poet Sonia Sanchez. Young

MOVE members attended, carrying large

pictures of nine MOVE members impris-

oned since 1978 as the result of an earlier

Philadelphia attack on the group. Several

were grandchildren of MOVE members

killed in the 1985 fire.

In their year-long campaign, the stu-

dents stood their ground and eventually

won out against efforts of the histori-

cal commission to include wording that

would imply there was “a gun battle” at

the site instead of an overwhelming at-

tack by 100 police with water cannons,

tear gas and heavy machine gun fire.

City officials claimed the group had not

filed paperwork needed to place the

marker on the public parkway. This de-

layed the marker’s placement. Jubilee

School principal Karen Falcon, who said that the students submitted all necessary

paperwork, stated, “It still feels like the
city isn’t fully owning up to it in some sense.” (billypenn.com, June 21)

The final wording on the marker reads: “The MOVE Bombing – On May 13, 1985, at 6221 Osage Avenue, an armed conflict occurred between the Phila. Police Dept. and MOVE members. A PA State Police helicopter dropped a bomb on MOVE’s house. An uncontrolled fire killed five MOVE members, including five children, and destroyed 61 homes.”

Youth remember MOVE with historic marker

The five Jubilee student organizer-leaders at MOVE memorial unveiling, Philadelphia, June 24.

By Stephen Millies

Over a hundred people marched through downtown Newark, N.J., on June 24 demanding reparations for the African Holocaust. Called by the People’s Organization for Reparations Now, the Newark march was “a step in our journey in understanding the true cost of war and the impact it had on our community.”

Hundreds of people gathered at the site of the second Battle of Newark on June 24, 1863, to “honk, honk, honk” in memory of those that died. The march followed veterans, other Newarkers and activists.

Larry Hamm, chairman of POP, quoted Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois that at least 150 million people were stolen from Africa during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. World capitalism was built upon this colossal crime, along with the documented and uncounted indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

Hamm noted that New Jersey’s history was intertwined with slavery. The state legislature initially refused to recognize the 13th Amendment banning slavery.

Among the huge companies that have benefited from racism is Prudential Ins-
surance, whose headquarters the demo-

strators marched past. Prudential sold

“Jim Crow” policies at higher rates to Af-

rican Americans for decades.

Omonwale Clay, of the December 12th Movement, told the crowd chanting, “They stole us! They sold us! They owe us!” a powerful slogan which D12 origi-
nated. Glen Ford, of the Black Agenda Re-

port, said the mood of the crowd Saturday was buoyed by the fact that the biggest U.S. capitalist investments were enslaving Africans.

Other organizations that participated included the Nation of Islam, the Black Lives Matter movement and BAYAN.
Oscar López Rivera's presence in circles of the Boricua diaspora at this crucial moment in the history of Puerto Rico represents a great boost towards the unity and the advancement of the struggle for decolonization and independence as the only way forward for true sovereignty.

López Rivera's recent visit to New York had several purposes: to meet with political activists, attend the 1 June National Puerto Rican Day Parade and testify at the June 19 meeting of the United Nations' Special Committee on Decolonization.

Many meetings and events were held during the days prior to and after the June parade, not only with the diaspora, but also with labor and other activists. One was a breakfast sponsored by the SEIU Local 1199 of health care workers, where several well-known figures attended, including renowned sister Pam Africa.

Puerto Rican Day Parade

In May, the Parade Board had decided to dedicate the parade to López Rivera and named him National Freedom Hero. Within days, most of the corporate sponsors — Coca-Cola, JetBlue, Goya Foods, the Yankees, Univision, etc. — withdrew their sponsorship. Police, firefighters and other groups associated with “law and order” or sympathizers of the pro-statehood status formula refused to attend.

Puerto Ricans who favor independence then launched a boycott campaign aimed at these firms’ social media. Many of those commenting expressed their satisfaction, stating, “We got our culture, our parade, back,” referring negatively to the commercialization of the parade in the last decades.

The result was a magnificent demonstration of Puerto Ricans’ fierce determination to prevail despite the criminal attacks of the colonial powers. Thousands of Boricuas attended. Floats and contingents from labor unions, university commoditizers as in the past, but carried signs and banners demanding independence. They demanded the ousting of the dictatorial Fiscal Control Board and the “junta” that the U.S. Congress set up as a collection agency to grab the enormous — and illegitimate — cost of Puerto Rico living in the diaspora, while there are less than three-and-a-half million living in Puerto Rico. …

The colonialists who administer the colony give incentives to the builders and to buyers who are foreigners, and to the “developers” who are industry, while there are executives, small business owners, and less than three-and-a-half million living in Puerto Rico living in the diaspora, where the beaches are the most beautiful, the construction of luxury buildings is already overtaking the landscape.

“Because this is such a moment, we are asking this Committee to take the issue of the decolonization of Puerto Rico to the General Assembly and ask it to fulfill its responsibilities to bring to an end the colonization of Puerto Rico by the U.S. government.

“I hope you will do whatever you can to bring to an end the colonial status of Puerto Rico, to help us make Puerto Rico the nation it has the potential of being. …

“Any country that loses two-thirds of its population, including its best developed human resource, cannot see itself having a strong economy and good quality of life for its citizens. …

“Oscar López boosts struggle for Puerto Rican independence

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

By G. Dunkel

The new centrist and neoliberal party, La République en Marche (LREM), is only 14 months old, but it was still able to field candidates in all of France’s 577 election districts for the National Assembly, the French parliament. It won 308 seats in the 577 available. …

Two-thirds of French workers, according to Le Monde, abstained from voting in parliamentary elections — and not because they assumed LREM would win and represent their interests. Two weeks later, a new poll shows that LREM fielded workers, according to Le Monde, which carefully examined all of their profiles. Even though over half of the workers’ parties were women, and a surprising number were from France’s Arab and African communities, most were executives, small business owners, professionals and intellectuals, graduates of France’s top schools. Half of LREM candidates were under 47, again unusual in France. (June 8)

The French Socialist Party held 280 seats in 2012, but won only 30 in this election. Even though it has been a major French party since World War II, the pro-imperialist Socialist Party’s future is shaky.

The French neofascist party, the National Front, which came in second in the presidential race with a third of the votes, only managed to win eight seats, though early projections estimated it would win 30. Only 25 percent of the representatives in the National Assembly before this election managed to hold onto their seats. The French political scene has been thoroughly disrupted. Despite this, the basic role of the French state — to suppress French workers and promote French imperialism — hasn’t changed.

New neoliberal party monopolizes French parliament

By G. Dunkel

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By Berta Joubert-Ceci

In Mexico, the government of Enrique Peña Nieto ignores the just demands of the mothers and fathers of the 43 Ayotzinapa student teachers and continues to kill, threaten and snoop with illegal eavesdropping — as in the Pegasus case, which involves Israeli software sold to the Mexican government for the surveillance of journalists.

In Honduras, activists continue to be murdered.

In Colombia, threats and killings continue against Indigenous people, peasants, union leaders, human rights defenders and other activists.

Yet the Organization of American States doesn’t even mention these crimes and instead attacks the Bolivarian government of Venezuela, calling it repressive and covering up what is really going on in that country.

It is U.S. imperialism — which in the first place created the OAS in 1948 to subjugate the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean — that is using it now to promote an aggressive campaign against Venezuela. Since 2015, the right-wing political organizations such as MUD and Primero Justicia, the CIA, Wall Street and Hollywood have been funneling money to the opposition in an effort to unconstitutionally accelerate the electoral process and its future are currently the main topic of debates throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Revolutionary groups and parties analyze not only present and past events, but the very behavior of the revolutionary government — its successes and its errors, its deviations in deepening the revolu-
tion toward socialist development — among other events that have defined the Bolivarian Revolution.

These analyzes run from the most critical of the government of Nicolás Maduro to those who excuse all its actions. What unites the great majority of these analysts is their defense of the Bolivarian process in the face of the U.S. imperialist onslaught.

They see this process as crucial for the very survival of the progressive gains and movements in the region.

Along with these debates, there has been a great wave of solidarity with the government and the Bolivarian people.

These expressions of solidarity include messages, street actions, forums, declarations and statements from governments such as Cuba, which show unconditional support for the government — its successes and its errors, its deviations in deepening the revolu-
tion toward socialist development — among other events that have defined the Bolivarian Revolution.

By Leslie Feinberg, author of ‘Stone Butch Blues’

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba documents revolutionary Cuba’s inspiration of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes. This book-ground breaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of oppression of expression of sexualities.

Rainbow Solidarity answers the demobilization of the 1959 Cuban Revolution by Washington and the CIA, Wall Street and Hollywood by demonstrating that the process of solving these problems is the forward motion of the revolution.

NED NOTE: Almagro failed to obtain the majority vote needed to approve the Constitutional Assembly. The final aim is to secure the necessary international diplomatic cover to force foreign intervention in Venezuela with the pretext of solving a “humanitarian crisis.”

What the media hides

This intervention is at the level of “international diplomacy” that under the guise of seeking “democracy” reflects what’s happening on the ground. Together with the Venezuelan counterrevolutionaries, the U.S. is attempting to force regime change. Under headlines such as “Crisis in Venezuela,” the news media want to project the image that “the people” in general oppose the government. This could not be farther from the truth. The fact that these media hide what is really happening is in itself a crime of gigantic proportions. They try to justify the right-wing terrorism against people who support the revolution and the vandalism that destroys state institutions providing basic services of transport, housing, healthcare and education to citizens. As a result of violent actions that began on April 1, according to reports from Venezuela, around 90 people have died and more than a thousand have been wounded. (tinyurl.com/ya6wqsbe)

The media omit reporting the findings of the Sebin, the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service of Venezuela, which has been apprehending and dismantling some counterrevolutionary cells. For example, in early June the Sebin captured Yeisson Rodríguez. An article from Telesur on June 10 reported that Rodríguez was “accused of engaging in violent acts and assaults in several communities in Caracas (the capital) and in Miranda state (center) ... According to the director of Sebin, they obtained evidence of plans to attack members of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces as a political target, accompanied by recordings of telephone conversations that Rodriguez held with several people, evidence of their participation in the actions carried out by the treasurers squads financed by the opposition.”

The Sebin director also said that Plaza Alamar, located in the Chacao munici-
pality, governed by opposition mayor Ramón Muchacho, is the center of oper-
ations of reactionary opposition sectors.

“In turn, he warned about the exist-
ence of evidence that shows the connec-
tion of the citizen Yeisson Rodríguez with the government of Miranda state, which is in the hands of opposition leader Henrique Capriles.”

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Bolivarian Venezuela resists USA and OAS plots

By By Berta Joubert-Ceci

In Mexico, the government of Enrique Peña Nieto ignores the just demands of the mothers and fathers of the 43 Ayotzinapa student teachers and continues to kill, threaten and snoop with illegal eavesdropping — as in the Pegasus case, which involves Israeli software sold to the Mexican government for the surveillance of journalists.

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In Colombia, threats and killings continue against Indigenous people, peasants, union leaders, human rights defenders and other activists.

Yet the Organization of American States doesn’t even mention these crimes and instead attacks the Bolivarian government of Venezuela, calling it repressive and covering up what is really going on in that country.

It is U.S. imperialism — which in the first place created the OAS in 1948 to subjugate the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean — that is using it now to promote an aggressive campaign against Venezuela. Since 2015, the right-wing political organizations such as MUD and Primero Justicia, the CIA, Wall Street and Hollywood have been funneling money to the opposition in an effort to unconstitutionally accelerate the electoral process and its future are currently the main topic of debates throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Revolutionary groups and parties analyze not only present and past events, but the very behavior of the revolutionary government — its successes and its errors, its deviations in deepening the revolution toward socialist development — among other events that have defined the Bolivarian Revolution.

These analyzes run from the most critical of the government of Nicolás Maduro to those who excuse all its actions. What unites the great majority of these analysts is their defense of the Bolivarian process in the face of the U.S. imperialist onslaught.

They see this process as crucial for the very survival of the progressive gains and movements in the region.

Along with these debates, there has been a great wave of solidarity with the government and the Bolivarian people.

These expressions of solidarity include messages, street actions, forums, declarations and statements from governments such as Cuba, which show unconditional support for the government — its successes and its errors, its deviations in deepening the revolution toward socialist development — among other events that have defined the Bolivarian Revolution.

Bolivarian people continue to struggle

The total lack of coverage by the corporate media of the government in the inner base of the revolution, the poor neighborhoods, is also significant.

The actions of the opposition not only their demonstrations in defense of the revolution, but above all their daily life and strong decision to guide the country in a path of development, developing skills, building the homeland, as people say there.

Above all, emphatically rejecting the violent processes of the counter-revolution.

It is these core people who are the key to success, the cornerstone of the Constitutional Assembly, which would give the people the opportunity to forge their own future and to deepen the revolution.

International support

The situation in Venezuela is highly complicated. The Bolivarian revolutionary process and its future are currently the main topic of debates throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Along with these debates, there has been a great wave of solidarity with the government and the Bolivarian people.

These expressions of solidarity include messages, street actions, forums, declarations and statements from governments such as Cuba, which show unconditional support for the revolution. One of the most emblematic soliders with the same name not from Latin America but from Mozam-

bique in Africa.

It is up to the progressive movements in the United States to increase and expand their solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution by exposing, denouncing and combating U.S. policies, such as the foreign policy of the Pentagon, the White House and Wall Street.

Say no to the intervention of the OAS/ USA in Venezuela.

Long live the Bolivarian Revolution and the international peoples’ struggle!
This week, Republican senators are squabbling over the details of just how they plan to remove more than 20 million people from health insurance coverage. That’s really what their plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act means.

As of June 26, they haven’t passed their ACA replacement bill yet. In brief, it would remove people from Medicaid and close down nursing homes. It would remove millions of poor women from care that has been provided by Planned Parenthood at women’s clinics in places where no other such care is available. It would close clinics that treat people addicted to opioids — drugs whose overdoses killed 58,000 people in 2017 alone.

To rub salt in the untreated wounds of the people, the ACA’s replacement would cut taxes for the rich and even more for the super-rich. It would shift costs for health care and health insurance to people who can afford it least.

Whatever the ACA’s shortcomings, what it has already accomplished is to stop the corporate run on health care and the congressional Republicans are doing by “repealing and replacing” it would prolong suffering and condemn to death hundreds of thousands of people in the United States.

Thirteen white male senators debated and drafted the new bill behind closed doors. These millionaire senators — whose own health care and that of their families is guaranteed — thus avoided having their contempt for the poor aired before the population.

But the senators finally showed their contempt publicly when they had the Capitol Building painted red in a protest by people with disabilities who protested.

The first best step this summer of 2017 is to mobilize the majority of the people who want to stop Congress from eliminating the ACA.

Even with the ACA, the U.S. capitalist state, the richest country in the world, already has polling support from a third for a socialist society that removes profits as the driving force of this industry, profits that increase the costs of medicines, equipment and care. That’s why we fight for socialism: a socialist society that plans and directs means of production into the hands of the workers.

What faces the U.S. workers now is a murderous attack, an attempt to replace the ACA — also called Obamacare — with “Trumpick.” If workers here can mobilize a socialist society that removes profits as the driving force of this industry, profits that increase the costs of medicines, equipment and care, that’s why we fight for socialism: a socialist society that plans and directs means of production into the hands of the workers.

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But after the development of surpluses shows how early communal societies accepted the norm. That’s what we’re fighting to end today.

This mammoth industry often fails to produce health. It always produces profits for private insurance companies, for hospital owners, for pharmaceutical cartels and for medical equipment manufacturers.

Capitalist greed is the root cause of the suffering inferno that killed at least residents of Grenfell Tower in London on June 14 and left hundreds homeless. It became evident when an unsafe building materials that even some capitalist countries have barred from use.

The British government is guilty of neglect and prioritizing cost-cutting above all in maintaining and renovating the high-rise building. Of lesser — or no importance to the British rulers were the working-class firemen, disadvantaged working-class and poor families, including many immigrants, who lived there.

Protesters, including survivors, community members and other progressive forces immediately mobilized to demand that the empty luxury housing in that area house all survivors of the catastrophe. Labour members of Parliament called for uninhabited housing in wealthy Kensington, where Grenfell Tower was located, to be provided for them. Calls resonated for Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May’s resignation and criminal prosecution of those responsible for the fire.

People came from all over Britain to express their solidarity with the victims. Between the country and worldwide, people expressed outrage against the British government’s callous disregard for human life.

And her Tory colleagues who voting to cut the core of this crisis — the domestic and global reaction. The government quickly announced that it had purchased 68 apartments in the posh Kensington Tower complex for those displaced by the fire. (Guardian, June 26)

For years, Grenfell Tower residents at the 24-story building’s dangers — no alarm system, no sprinklers, no fire escapes, no evacuation plan and only one exit. Showing disdain for the tenants, the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, the building’s owner, and its management company, ignored them. Racing class contempt factored into their neglect.

Residents’ complaints grew louder in 2016, when a contractor, the Rydon Group, was hired to stop that attack, we can move to fight for “Medicare for all.” In that struggle, Workers World will continue to expose the pernicious role of capitalism that puts the drive for profits before the care of the people.

**Come out for Pride! COME OUT FOR WORKERS WORLD!**

June is Pride month, with rallies and marches all over the world commemorating the 48th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. Workers World has a proud history of reporting on and participating in the living struggle for LGBTQ justice and equality. In the front these days is fighting for trans and gender non-conforming people, like making sure youth and adults can use the public bathrooms of their choice and ensuring that there are no death threats on and murders of trans women of color.

Workers World made an early and vital theoretical contribution to the LGBTQ struggle with publication of WW contributor and staff member Bob McCubbin’s 1976 book, “Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View” (World View Forum, third ed., 1993). Drawing on Frederick Engels and Dorothy Ballan to produce a dialectical materialist explanation of LGBTQ oppression, McCubbin shows how early communal societies accepted all forms of human intersexualities. He links the development of surpluses and then male supremacy, rigid rules governing gender and sexuality became the driving force of this industry, profits that increase the costs of medicines, equipment and care. That’s why we fight for socialism: a socialist society that plans and directs means of production into the hands of the workers.

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By Chris Fry

On June 16, Donald Trump, while announcing the rollback of President Obama’s modest improvements in U.S. imperialism’s posture towards revolu-

tionary Cuba, demanded Cuba return freedom fighter Assata Shakur.

As part of the Cuban government’s overall response to Trump’s attack, For-
eign Minister Bruno Rodríguez rebuffed Trump’s demand: “Regarding the issue of the so-called ‘U.S. fugitives in Cuba,’ I can reaf-
cirm that, under our national law and international law and the Latin American tradition, Cuba has granted political asylum or refuge to U.S. civil rights fighters. Of course these people will not be returned to the United States, which lacks the legal, political, and moral foundation to demand this.” (telesur.net, June 20)

In May 1973, Assata Shakur, former Black Panther Party activist and member of the Black Liberation Army, was in a car stopped by New Jersey state troopers. A shootout broke out. One trooper and the car’s driver were killed, and Shakur was severely wounded.

Another trooper initially testified that Shakur shot and killed the cop, but then admitted he lied. In her trial, it was re-

vealed that Shakur never even touched a weapon let alone fired one. The police bullets that pierced Shakur had severed nerves in her arms and shoulders, mak-
ing it impossible for her to fire a weapon.

Nevertheless, an all-white jury, includ-
ing five friends and family of N.J. state troopers, convicted Shakur of murder simply because she was present at the shootout. She was sentenced to life in prison.

Assata Shakur received horrible treat-

ment in prison. In 1979, the United Na-
tions Commission on Human Rights wrote: ‘One of the worst cases is that of Assata Shakur, who spent over twenty months in solitary confinement in two separate men’s prisons subject to con-
tions totally unbesmirching any prisoner. Many more months were spent in solitary confinement in mixed or all-women’s prisons. Presently, after protracted liti-
gation, she is confined at Clinton Correc-
tional Facility for Women in maximum security. She has never on any occasion been punished for any infraction of pris-

on rules which might in any way justify such cruel or unusual punishment.’

Assata Shakur gave birth to her daught-
er, Kakuya Shakur, in 1974. While in the hospital she was beaten and restrained by prison guards. On Nov. 2, 1979, with the help of BLM members, Assata Shak-

ur escaped from the New Jersey Clinton Correctional Facility. The FBI and local police conducted a massive, nation-

wide manhunt for Shakur, including warrant-

less searches through a whole apartment building in Harlem.

In 1984, Shakur managed to reach Cuba, where the government immediate-

ly granted her asylum. She was reunit-


Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza wrote: ‘When I use Assata’s pow-

erful demand in my organizing work, I always begin by sharing where it comes from, sharing about Assata’s significance to the Black Liberation Movement, what its political purpose and message is, and why it’s important in our context.”

Assata’s pledge affirms: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and protect one an-

other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

U.S. imperialism has long sought to reinstall Cuba and the federal government have offered a $2 million bounty for her capture. But revolutionary Cuba has long stood on the side of the oppressed people of the U.S. and around the world. No amount of bul-

lying by Boss Trump is going to shake its

resolve.

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Haitian workers strike for $12.50 a day

By G. Dunkel

For the past few years, workers in Haiti’s textile sector have been struggling to raise their minimum wage from 350 gourdes (currently about $8.75) to 800 gourdes (about $12.50) a day and to have the eight-

hour day respected by employers.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, according to U.N. statistics.

Less than 30 percent of Haitians have a regular job, relying on catch-as-catch-
can to survive. Still, inspired by May Day, workers in Port-au-Prince’s Sonapi Industrial Park, Carrefour neighborhood, at the airport, and joined by workers in the Caracol Industrial Park in northeast Haiti, walked out repeatedly in May un-
der the leadership of their unions.

Even though police attacked the strikes, and the bosses and the political establish-

ment, including President Jovinel Moïse, soundly condemned them, the bosses felt that enough wasn’t being done. Lost production cost them millions.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, President Moïse appointed a new council to study the minimum wage issue, with both union and bosses’ representatives included.

That still was not enough for the boss-

es. They fired 47 leaders of the job ac-

ctions in Port-au-Prince and 15 leaders at Caracol. These workers were from a coalition of independent labor unions, OSSTTRA/CTSP, which represent textile workers and are associated with Batay Ouvrière (Workers Struggle), which fights for workers’ rights.

A letter signed by André Apaid, an owner of Interamerican Woven S.A., a textile company with 1,500 employ-

ees, justified the firings by claiming the actions of the union leaders forced the workers to go out. It ignored the real and substantial support for these actions. Apaid was a leader of the Group of 184 which financed the 2004 coup against Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The role of the United States in all these maneuvers and manipulations is not al-

ways obvious. It’s well known that these factories produce for large U.S. compa-

nies, such as Levi Jeans and Fruit of the Loom. But programs that give such fac-

tories special tax and customs benefits in the U.S. market, and the earlier U.S. State Department opposition to raising the minimum wage, are not well known at all. In 2008, Congress passed a generous, duty-free trade bill called HEP II. And the U.S. Agency for International Develop-

ment provided technical assistance and training programs to Haitian textile companies to help them take advantage of the new legislation and low-cost man-

ufacturing for companies like Levi Jeans.

In 2011, Haiti Liberté, based on se-

cret U.S. Embassy cables provided by WikiLeaks, was able to establish that “The U.S. Embassy in Haiti worked closely with factory owners contracted by Levi's, Hanes, and Fruit of the Loom to aggressively seek a paltry minimum wage in-

crease for Haitian assembly zone workers.”

Haitian workers must fight not only their own bosses and politicians, but the U.S. foreign policy establishment as well.

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Hands Off Cuba & Venezuela!


By WW Milwaukee bureau

In a spirited display of international-

ism, dozens of Milwaukee residents par-

ticipated in a “Hands Off Cuba and Venezuela” rally June 24 at the U.S. Federal Courthouse.

Speakers from the Milwaukee Coalition Against Trump, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Latin American Solidarity Committee, Stop the Wars Committee, Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement, Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Rela-

tions with Cuba and Workers World Party denounced the Trump administration’s latest efforts to tighten the U.S. blockade against socialist Cuba, to escalate attacks on people’s Venezuela and to support the banks’ takeover of Puerto Rico.

The rally honored the late president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez. As buses driv-

e by members of Amalgamated Transit Local 998 rolled by the rally site, speak-

ers noted how that countries President Evo Morales is a former bus driver.

Speakers and literature portrayed Cuba and Venezuela as “beacons of hope” for the world’s poor and oppressed, highlighting their numerous advances in housing, lit-

eracy, health care, food, culture, sports, LGBTQ and women’s rights, food produc-

tion and more.

In contrast, within the USA, oppressed people in particular suffer daily from lack of access to basic human needs and face epidemic levels of police terror. These
¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unios!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mientras en México el gobierno de Enrique Peña Nieto ignora las justas exigencias de las madres y padres de los 43 normalistas de Ayotzinapa y sigue manteniendo la línea de tratarse de un caso interno, hay en el mundo, con escuelas ilegales – como en el caso Pegasus, que involucra al gobierno israelí en la instalación de un software “para la vigilancia de periodistas”; en Honduras se sigue asesinando activistas; y en Colombia continúan las amenazas y muertes contra indígenas, campesinos, sindicalistas, defensores de DDHH y otras/os activistas, la OEA ni mención hace, ocupándose solo de atacar al gobierno bolivariano de Venezuela; su intervención en el país bolivariano.

En el municipio italiano de Novara puso el pasado 1 de mayo. El propósito de la Plaza Altamira, ubicada en el municipio Chacao, gobernado por el alcalde opositor Ramón Muchacho, constituye el centro de las operaciones de sectores reaccionarios de la oposición. A “su” vez, alertó sobre la existencia de pruebas que evidencian la vinculación del ciudadano Yeison Rodríguez con la gobierno del estado Miranda, que está empeñada en derrocar al gobierno.

Venezuela resiste ataques OEA/EUA

El jueves 22 de junio, grupos violentos arremetieron con bombas incendiarias contra la Base Aérea Carlota. Un joven fue el resultado mortal precisamente por disparo a manos de un sargento de la Policía Aérea que custodiaba la base. La Policía Aérea ha difundido este hecho como prueba de la represión del gobierno. Tras investigaciones, se identificó al responsable quien está siendo sometido a los procesos pertinentes de ley. Sin embargo, hay que resaltar lo siguiente. Lo que está sucediendo en Venezuela es un fuerte ataque contra revolucionario que intenta derrocar al gobierno legítimamente constituido, un intento de golpe de estado. ¿Cómo se responde frente a un ataque a una base militar?

Aquí debemos señalar que los contrarrevolucionarios han tratado de atacar la base al menos en 10 ocasiones.

El capitaneo en un callejón sin salida

En él dice el autor: “El asedio a la base militar de La Carlota, en la capital de la república, su asemejamiento a las instalaciones por, “pacíficos, indefensos, jóvenes”, hermosos manifestantes buscan: la desmoralización de la tropa, de la FANB, una descontinuación de este partidario del estado Nacional a la Constitución Bolivariana, una respuesta bélica y contundente del gobierno, un Estado Nación fallido que deriva en conmoción nacional e internacional como pretexto a la inter- vención extranjera para derrocar al gobier- no y la institucionalidad republicana.” (porreferencia a la contrarrevolución en Venezuela que opera a través de algunas células contrarrevolucionarias.

Por ejemplo, a principios de junio capu- tura a Yeison Rodríguez. Un artículo de TeleSUR del 10 de junio informó que éste fue “acusado de generar actos vio- lentos y asesos en varias comunidades de Caracas (capital) y el estado de Miran- de (centro)”. “...Se obtuvo prueba de los planes de ataque a los integrantes de la FANB (Fuerzas Armadas Nacionales Bolivarianas) como objetivo político”, escribió el director del Sebin, acompañado de grabaciones de las conversaciones telefónicas que sostuvo Rodríguez con varias personas, en las que se evidencia su participación en las acciones desar- rolladas por las escuadras sedicionistas financiadas por la oposición”. “El director del Sebin también de- nunció que la Plaza Altamira, ubicada en el municipio Chacao, gobernado por el alcalde opositor Ramón Muchacho, constituye el centro de las operaciones de sectores reaccionarios de la oposición. “A su” vez, alertó sobre la existencia de pruebas que evidencian la vinculación del ciudadano Yeison Rodríguez con la gobierno del estado Miranda, que está empeñada en derrocar al gobierno.

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En el contexto del acaparamiento de poder y de la desigualdad, hay un firme repudio a este ataque a la vida y al territorio de los venezolanos y se denuncian ante la comunidad internacional las acciones bélicas y desestabilizadoras contra Venezuela, que atentan contra la inestabilidad y el bienestar del país, y que tienen como propósit...