



Stop Brexit racism with global worker solidarity

By Fred Goldstein

The Brexit referendum in Britain is the result of a reactionary, racist campaign by the right wing of the British ruling class, which pushed through the Leave victory and took Britain out of the 28-member European Union. The working class and the middle class of Britain were confronted with a referendum, called for by Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, in which they were given an onerous choice: remain in an imperialist economic bloc that has imposed austerity and anti-working-class policies on hundreds of millions, or choose the Leave option led by a racist, demagogic campaign to leave the EU on the basis of anti-immigrant rhetoric.

The initiator of the Leave political position was Nigel Farage, head of the racist, anti-immigrant United Kingdom Independence Party. The Leave forces turned the campaign into a referendum on immigration.

UKIP has become the third-largest party in Britain, getting 4 million votes in the last election. It has done this by stirring fears about immigrants, especially since the refugee crisis with Syrians and others fleeing war in the Middle East.

UKIP leader Farage publicly stated in March 2015, “There is an especial problem with some of the people who’ve come here and are of the Muslim religion and don’t want to become part of us. People do see a fifth column living within our country, who hate us and want to kill us.” (The Guardian, March 12, 2015)

Farage and UKIP also target Eastern European workers, such as Poles and Romanians, who are exploited as cheap labor in Britain. He warned of a “Romanian crime wave” in 2014. He proposes to institutionalize job discrimination by legalizing “British jobs for British workers.”

Rampant immigrant bashing

The campaign for Leave was filled with slogans and graffiti denouncing Poles and Muslims and calling to “make Britain great.” It spread the word, falsely, that Turkey is to become a member of the EU and then Britain will be flooded with Muslims.

One of the adherents of this camp assassinated Jo Cox, a Labour Member of Parliament known for supporting the rights of immigrants. She was killed the day she was scheduled to address Parliament with a pro-immigration speech.

Boris Johnson, of the Conservative Party and the former mayor of London, is head of the Leave campaign. Around the time of Cox’s assassination, the campaign put up a billboard/poster with a picture of thousands of Syrian refugees and the caption “The Breaking Point.”

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LGBTQ Pride: Orlando = fight back!



From coast to coast, large Pride marches resonated with determination not to let Orlando turn back the struggle for LGBTQ rights. See page 3.

NEW YORK CITY

WW PHOTO: DUNKEL



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Getting WWP on Wisconsin ballot

By Workers World Staff

Organizers across the state of Wisconsin are busy preparing to obtain ballot status for Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead for U.S. president and Lamont Lilly for U.S. vice president. The volunteer organizers will be petitioning for ballot status in Wisconsin throughout the month of July. WWP candidates were last on the ballot in Wisconsin in 2000.

Lilly will be at two events July 7 in Milwaukee: “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest and an evening of “Building People’s Power,” a community conversation that Moorehead will join via Skype.

Besides the work of WWP members and supporters across Wisconsin, the ballot petitioning campaign will be joined by WWP members and friends from across the U.S.


Mike Shane, along with fellow members of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, will be in Wisconsin to assist local organizers in early July.

“The Moorehead-Lilly campaign is a breath of fresh air for workers everywhere, but especially in the U.S. Midwest, where we have experienced unrelenting waves of plant shutdowns, job losses, cutbacks in social services, destruction of public education, along with particularly harsh assaults on the most oppressed communities,” said Shane.


He added: “Both Michigan and Wisconsin, home to heroic union struggles, are now so-called ‘right-to-work’ (for less!) states. Wisconsin, like Michigan, is ruled by racist, extreme right-wing, neoliberal politicians hellbent on imposing even more austerity on the workers and oppressed. The Moorehead-Lilly campaign brings a message of hope and struggle to the people. Our socialist campaign offers a program that addresses the immediate needs of the people while challenging the ruling class’ push for more austerity, repression and attacks on communities of color, immigrants, women and the LGBTQ communities. That’s why I am going to Wisconsin to support the statewide launch of Workers World Party’s presidential campaign.”

Tommy Cavanaugh, of the Rockford, Ill., branch of WWP, is also coming to Wisconsin. “The Rockford branch will be sending members, including myself, to help assist the efforts to get the Moorehead-Lilly campaign on the ballot in Wisconsin. We feel it’s a great tool for building the Party and uniting various sections of the broader movement which have been in motion. This campaign will be a rallying point for union workers, immigrants, LGBTQ

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BLACK LIVES MATTER
FULL LGBTQ RIGHTS
FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM**



Moorehead-Lilly '16
For President & Vice President @wwp2016
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‘Building people’s power’ – a community conversation with
LAMONT LILLY
WWP vice presidential candidate

MONICA MOOREHEAD
WWP presidential candidate will join meeting via Skype

**Thursday
JULY 7
@ 7 PM**
734 N 26th St
Milwaukee, WI
Free & open to the public
More information:
414.395.0665
wibailoutpeople.org

people, people of color, students and women, who have been under attack for years now in Wisconsin. We see the great strength of the masses currently resisting racism and austerity in Wisconsin and will be using our election efforts to give a strong voice and support to them.”

WWP is supporting upcoming actions sponsored by the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement, which include a “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest on July 7 at 1241 N. Franklin Pl., Milwaukee, at 4:30 p.m. and a “Building People’s Power” community conversation on July 7 at 734 N. 26th St., Milwaukee, at 7 p.m. For more information about the July 7 events, visit wibailoutpeople.org and facebook.com/wibailoutpeople, or call 414-395-0665.

To make a much-needed monetary contribution for expenses related to the WWP “Put Socialism on the Ballot” Wisconsin campaign: gofundme.com/wwpwisconsin. □

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Who we are & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outmoded capitalist system is dragging down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions. □

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LGBTQ groups call for ‘Police out of Pride!’

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Millions marched worldwide on June 26 to mark the 1969 rebellion at the Stonewall Inn in New York City that sparked modern LGBTQ liberation movements. In that uprising, gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people — mostly people of color — fought back against daily harassment and brutality by police. Though recent Pride marches in the U.S. had become more celebration than political demonstration, the recent massacre of 49 mostly LGBTQ people of color in Orlando, Fla., refocused Pride this year on political issues.

In New York City, the parade’s lead float was dedicated to the Orlando martyrs, and there was a brief “die-in” for gun control on Christopher Street. Forty-nine people wearing full-length white veils down to their feet marched, each holding a photo of one of the dead.

But the most emphatic political message was carried by the Workers World Party contingent. Its lead banner “Solidarity Now! Fight for Orlando!” acknowledged the overwhelming loss there of Black and Latino/a lives with the message, “Reclaim Stonewall for Black and Brown Queer Lives.” Some signs in the contingent had rainbow fists and the slogans “Queer Means Fightback!” and “Smash Capitalism!” Marching with WWP were members of the People’s Power Assembly.

Much was made of Democratic Party Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton joining the march for 15 minutes. But Clinton, and her reluctant and long-delayed endorsement of full rights for LGBTQ people, stood in stark and negative contrast to Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead, who marched in Pride as she does every year. Moorehead is a decades-long activist for full LGBTQ rights, which she endorsed in each of her previous campaigns in 1996 and 2000.

In both New York and San Francisco, the two biggest Pride marches in the U.S., the state responded to the Orlando deaths with a massive police presence. In New York City, roving counterterrorism units, bomb-sniffing dogs, rooftop obser-

vation posts and police helicopters were deployed while thousands of uniformed cops lined the parade route.

San Francisco honorees withdraw

In San Francisco, where the Pride theme was “‘For Racial and Economic Justice,” police announced there would be a significant uniformed and undercover police presence. For the first time those attending the Pride Festival had to pass through metal detectors and were subjected to a body search.

In response to this show of force, three major participants withdrew from the parade and celebration: Black Lives Matter Bay Area; St. James Infirmary, a sex worker health clinic; and TGI Justice Project’s Janetta Johnson, a community grand marshal. BLM was to have marched as recipient of SF Pride’s Lifetime Achievement award, and St. James Infirmary had received the Heritage of Pride award. TGI Justice is “an organi-

zation by and for trans, gender non-conforming and intersex people in prisons, jails and detention centers.”

In a jointly issued statement, they emphasized they were withdrawing “because of the unsafe conditions created for our communities by law enforcement.” Shanelle Matthews of BLM Bay Area added: “Black communities experience real fear and terror at the hands of homophobic vigilantes and law enforcement, and we work every day to find solutions. We know the militarization of large-scale events only gives the illusion of safety.”

Stephany Ashley, executive director of St. James Infirmary, noted: “LGBT sex workers are often victims of violence and exploitation at the hands of police. The increased police presence ... as well as the ban on shopping carts and items typically belonging to marginally housed and homeless people will only make Pride less safe and accessible to our communities.”

Resistance is growing to the state

ramping up its cop presence under the pretext of “safety” for LGBTQ people. On June 19, the LGBTQ youth group BreakOUT! withdrew from the New Orleans Pride parade, despite being chosen as an organizational grand marshal.

They noted the streets of the city would fill with “NOPD officers, the FBI, Louisiana State Troopers, Orleans Parish Sheriffs, and private patrols,” and dramatically described the danger this posed to their members, “many of whom are undocumented, youth with negative experiences with police and sheriffs, including sexual violence, youth who feel unsafe and triggered when our bodies and belongings are searched, and youth who have already been the targets of private patrols and security.”

BreakOUT! then called for the LGBT community to “chart a course forward that doesn’t rely on state systems, but rather community, to keep us safe.” (youthbreakout.org) □

Orlando felt at Trans Day of Action

Special to Workers World New York City

The 12th annual Trans Day of Action was held in New York City’s Washington Square Park on June 24. The major theme of this action, sponsored by the Audre Lorde Project, was “Uplifting the resilient legacy of TGNC [transgender, non-conforming] community power!” An estimated 2,000 people, mainly queer youth of all nationalities and their allies, took to streets in Greenwich Village following a short rally.

At this Trans Day of Action, less than two weeks since the tragic June 12 Orlando shootings, many carried signs with a strong Orlando theme. The ALP issued a statement on June 15 with these opening paragraphs: “We at the Audre Lorde Project are devastated by the massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando which resulted in the murder of 49 queer and trans people (the majority of whom are Black,

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WW PHOTOS: TONI ARENSTEIN; G. DUNKEL

Above left, Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party presidential candidate, and Colin Ashby, People’s Power Assembly organizer at Trans Day of Action.

Huge Pride march in Houston

By Gloria Rubac Houston

Houston’s Pride festival and Pride parade drew about three-quarters of a million people to downtown on June 25, all determined they would not let fears rising out of the Orlando LGBTQ massacre deter them.

The march was led by people carrying a huge rainbow flag overwritten with the names of those killed in Orlando. Honorary grand marshal of the parade was Imran Yousuf, a bouncer at the Pulse night-

club who helped save many lives during the Orlando killings. He said, “It’s a good feeling — to get out there, help rebuild and remember the ones we lost in the best way we can.”

The female grand marshal was African-American activist and attorney Fran Watson, who overcame great odds to get her GED diploma, graduate from the University of Houston-Downtown and then from Texas Southern University’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2009. In

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Revolutionary LGBTQ Pride

Workers World Party in Detroit commemorated LGBTQ Pride month with a public forum June 25. The featured speaker was Loan Tran, a queer and gender nonconforming organizer from North Carolina who is a leading activist in the struggle to overturn HB2, the state’s bigoted anti-trans bathroom law. There are over 40 anti-trans bills being considered in 16 states, including Michigan.

The highly political talk included LGBTQ history, working-class internationalism and the role of imperialism. It also stressed the need for solidarity and leadership by oppressed people in order to overthrow capitalism and build a new society free of racism and bigotry of all kinds. The blame for the Orlando tragedy was placed squarely on the capitalist system, which relies on its military and armed state repression of workers and oppressed for its existence.

Mike Mchahwar, a student leader and activist at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, spoke on the participation of WWP and Fight Imperialism, Stand



Together in the annual Motor City Pride parade and festival. FIST, a revolutionary youth organization, supports full rights and liberation for all LGBTQ people.

— Report and photo by Kris Hamel

A letter: from florida

Pride in time of tragedy

On June 11, I attended the annual LGBTQ Pride event held in Pensacola, Fla., my girlfriend and I arriving at about 1:30 in the afternoon. We toured some of the booths celebrating queer and transgender lives and art, listened to some great live music, made connections. Some of us more radical queers discussed where we hoped the future of the LGBTQ community would be by next year. It was a great time and a great space to occupy.

Less than 12 hours later, I was sitting at my desk, staring in horror at my phone where a headline said at least 20 people

had been shot in an Orlando gay night club. As the day went on, the death toll of our mostly Latino/a queer and transgender comrades, as well as allies who had supported us, rose to 49, casting a somber shadow over our community, as well as our Pride month.

The next week on June 26, Pride went on in St. Petersburg, Fla., despite this tragedy. Though emotions were high, there was still Pride. The parade was filled with music and dancing, but there was also remembrance. Parade-go-

Continued on page 5

VW reaction to ‘Dieselgate’ Make workers pay for lost profits

By Martha Grevatt

The capitalist auto barons will often do what seems unbelievable to boost their bottom line. “Switchgate” and “Dieselgate” are proof.

To shave less than \$2 off the price of making a car, General Motors caused the deaths of possibly hundreds of vehicle owners with a faulty ignition switch. Volkswagen, while advertising that its diesel models were eco-friendly, manufactured over 11 million vehicles with a software program that allowed it to cheat on emissions tests.

It is estimated that, until VW got caught, its cars released over 1 million tons of undetected pollutants into the atmosphere annually. Now, its profit-making scheme has backfired, to the tune of a minimum of \$18 billion in government fines and owner compensation. Not surprisingly, there has been a management shakeup. But the new management is taking a hard line, not against managers but rather against workers and their unions.

In March, Bernd Osterloh, VW board member and chair of the company’s “works councils,” warned the U.S. government to consider the “dramatic social consequences” of imposing a hefty fine for its violation of environmental regulations. Osterloh threatened that a substantial number of jobs could be cut; how many would depend “decisively” on how big a fine was levied against VW. (Reuters, March 8)

At the same time, top executives were rewarded with multimillion euro bonuses.

VW has works councils in all its plants, with one exception: its only U.S. assembly plant in Chattanooga, Tenn. The councils are based on “co-determination” and decide jointly on a number of matters that would otherwise be decided through collective bargaining — and subject to the strike weapon if the union deemed necessary. Such councils were rejected by militant unions in the 1930s as company unions, and are normally illegal in the U.S., but can be brought in under the aegis of a recognized labor union.

To bring a works council to Chattanooga, VW signed a joint neutrality agreement with the United Auto Workers in 2014, agreeing not to interfere with UAW organizing efforts and to recognize the union if a majority of its workers voted in favor of UAW representation. Then UAW President Bob King championed the works council model, hoping to eventually make it a template for UAW-represented plants of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

The election was viewed as an easy win for the UAW, and one that would pave the way to organize all 18 nonunion U.S. assembly plants of foreign auto companies, mainly in the South. However, the UAW lost the election after right-wing Tennessee politicians and anti-union activists such as Grover Norquist, a right-wing, anti-tax zealot, waged a campaign of fear. That culminated in flagrantly false statements by Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker that VW would not build a new SUV in Chattanooga if the plant went union.

The UAW then filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against Corker and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, claiming “flagrant interference.” These charges were withdrawn at the request of VW management, who are beholden to Tennessee’s Republican political machine.

In exchange for withdrawing the NLRB charges, VW signed an agreement with the union, stating it would grant recognition of the UAW as a “members only” union. In April 2015, the UAW filed documents with the Department of Labor demonstrating that 55 percent of VW workers were signed up as union members. In December 2015, skilled maintenance workers, in an NLRB-conducted election, voted 108-44 to be represented by the UAW. That should have made the UAW Local 42 the bargaining agent for every worker in this unit. But VW refused to recognize the skilled trades vote.

VW backtracks on union recognition

However, in the wake of the emissions scandal, and seeing significant wage gains won by the

UAW in contracts with the Detroit Three, the company has shed all pretense of “neutrality.” On June 21, the union charged that VW had reneged on its pledge to recognize UAW Local 42.

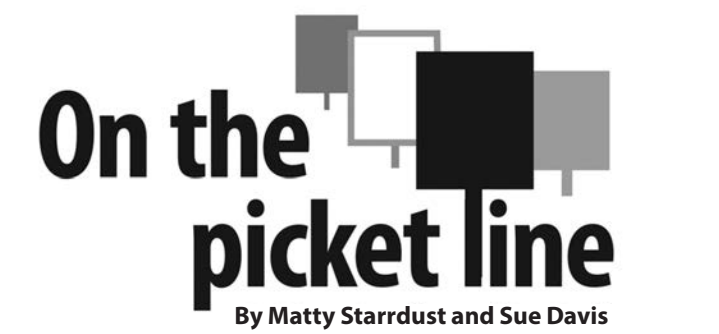
The union filed NLRB charges. In April, the board ruled in the union’s favor. Rather than accept the NLRB decision, VW appealed it in federal courts. VW hired Littler-Mendelson, a major law firm that advertises its expertise in “legal union avoidance” and “maintaining a union-free workplace.” (littler.com) An online petition demanding VW recognize the union has not moved the company from its position.

This is a big change from 2014, when VW began negotiating with the UAW even before the election. Now, faced with an unprecedented crisis, one financially threatening and public relations damaging, the company has opted to play hardball with the union. The last thing VW wants is to be saddled with a union contract that dictates pay, benefits and work standards.

This should come as no surprise to the UAW leadership, who should recognize the irreconcilable contradiction between labor and capital. Unfortunately, that immutable fact remains lost on many labor officials. In 2014, Bob King blasted the right-wing politicians for “attacking labor-management cooperation.” (Washington Post, Feb. 14, 2014) In response to VW’s current hard-line stance, UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel stated, “We believe the company is better than this.” (Associated Press, Jan. 21)

On the contrary! In baring its fangs, the company that released millions of tons of toxic pollutants rather than absorb the added cost of reducing emissions is acting like any capitalist corporation — no different than Nissan, which the UAW has blasted repeatedly for blocking unionization and abusing Black workers in Mississippi. Does Casteel expect a European company to be “better than” one that is Japanese?

Only militant class struggle unionism can stay the capitalists’ hands. That is the way forward to unionize the transplants and organize the South. □



By Matty Starrdust and Sue Davis

FedEx workers win a place at the bargaining table

“What they said couldn’t be done is getting done,” two Charlotte, N.C., FedEx drivers announced triumphantly in a June 11 video at ChangeFedExToWin.org. FedEx Freight workers in Philadelphia and Charlotte, represented by Teamsters Local 71, entered contract negotiations June 15 and 16, respectively, three months after a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judge ordered the company to bargain with the two locals. In its 45-year history, the notoriously anti-union FedEx had barred workers in the freight division from collective bargaining.

This labor victory culminates a years-long, David-and-Goliath struggle against FedEx, which during 2009-10 spent over \$21.1 million lobbying Congress against labor rights legislation. Workers and supporters in the Teamsters union fought back on multiple fronts, with National Labor Review Board complaints and in federal court, on picket lines in California and at rallies in Philadelphia and Charlotte.

After the first Charlotte meeting with management, Teamsters Local 71 President Joe Eason declared, “We are going to hold the company’s feet to the fire during negotiations and we are committed to negotiating a first contract for the workers in Charlotte.” (TTnews.com)

Broad support for Minnesota nurses’ strike

Some 4,800 members of the Minnesota Nurses Association struck five hospitals operated by Allina Health in the Twin Cities metro area June 19-26. Despite a net income of \$1.3 billion over the past six years, while workers and their families struggled after the 2008-09 recession, Allina has continued to dangerously understaff hospitals. Management demanded that the nurses accept a \$10 million cut in their health plan. Of the five major health care groups in the area, four currently offer the plan Allina wants to cut. When workers rejected the offer, Allina refused to return to the bargaining table.

The nurses were joined on the picket line by members of the SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Education Minnesota unions, city council members, and doctors and patients. “It might be a cliché, but for me it goes back to the old adage, ‘An injury to one is an injury to all,’” explained Brionna Harder, a teacher and member of Education Minnesota who supported the strike. (WorkdayMinnesota.org, June 23)

The nurses returned to work on June 26 under the terms of the previous contract. As of that date neither side had proposed a return to the bargaining table.

Macy’s and Triumph workers win better contracts after strike votes

Two strike votes, on opposite coasts, showed the power of the strike threat, leading to much improved contacts in June. Hundreds of workers, represented by Department Store Union (RWDSU) Local 1-S, rallied outside Macy’s flagship store in New York City on June 2. While many workers at four area stores earn as little as \$9 an hour, CEO Terry Lundgren’s total compensation in 2014 rose to nearly \$13 million, up from more than \$11.4 million in 2013. A vote to strike on June 15, the day the contract expired, sent Macy’s back to the table. On June 23, the 5,000 RWDSU members ratified a new, four-year contract by 97.5 percent. The agreement includes substantial wage increases; a better, more affordable health care plan; and fair schedules, including no mandatory work on major holidays. (rwdsu.org, June 24)

As of June 23, 400 members of Machinists Union (IAMAW) District Lodge 751 at Triumph Composite Systems in Spokane, Wash., voted by 82 percent to accept the company’s offer of a four-year contract and return to work on June 27. The company locked them out on May 10 after a strike vote of 93 percent on May 9.

The new contract made significant gains, curbing the two-tier wage and benefit system. By giving raises to the newer workers, the contract cut in half the 12.5 percent pay gap between workers hired before 2006 and those hired after. All workers get lump-sum bonuses totaling \$7,000 spread over three years and all workers get a 3 percent raise the fourth year. The company will fund a new retirement plan for workers hired since 2013 and maintain the current health care cost-sharing plan. “What has happened here over the past six weeks is a shining example of the power of union membership where workers have the right to bargain with their employer,” observed IAM Local 751 President Jon Holden. (IAM751.com, June 24) □

Alabama workers demand to be paid

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

A bold action against wage theft was announced June 17 by the Adelante Alabama Worker Center and WOW (Winning Our Wages/Ganando Nuestros Salarios). Standing on the steps of the Hugo Black Courthouse in Birmingham, Ala., the groups gave notice that they had filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of three immigrant workers for stolen wages of up to \$10,000 for each. WOW is a program sponsored by Greater Birmingham Ministries.

The three workers — identified as Gabriel, Rafael and Javier — had followed their employer from



PHOTO: MARY SCOTT HODGIN

Florida to Alabama, doing hard work and waiting patiently for their pay. Now, courageously, they are stepping forward as part of a movement to hold the bosses accountable for their refusal to pay.

Jessica Vosburgh, director of Adelante, stressed, “For these three workers who are filing a suit today, there are 30 or 300 or

3,000 more workers, especially immigrants and people of color, who were too scared, intimidated or threatened by their bosses to stand up and exercise their rights under the law.”

The Economic Policy Institute calls wage theft “an epidemic,” saying workers lose hundreds of millions of dollars a year to employers who pay for some hours but not all — such as overtime or setting up a workstation at the start of a shift — or who simply refuse to pay. Loss of half an hour a day in pay for a minimum wage worker can mean losing more than \$1,400 a year — the difference between paying the rent or eviction. □

Shut down Trump and the RNC!

State tramples First Amendment, protesters win in court

By Martha Grevatt

The Republican National Convention, to take place in Cleveland July 18-22, will be targeted by a full week of protests. This includes a march the Sunday before the convention to “Shut down Trump and the RNC.” Organizers of that march have publicized a full “calendar of resistance” on the International Action Center web site and are in solidarity with any group fighting for the right to protest.

The city of Cleveland has shown no restraint in genuflecting before the Republican Party, and in the process trampling the First Amendment rights of protesters. On June 23 U.S. District Judge James Gwin ruled that the city’s unreasonable restrictions on demonstrations were unconstitutional.

The so-called event zone, which was to be off-limits to protesters, was deemed “unduly large.” The RNC is to take place at the Quicken Loans Arena, which is east of the Cuyahoga River, which divides Cleveland’s east and west sides. The restricted zone extended to areas west of the river and — although no floating protests have been announced — to a stretch of the river itself. The zone also extended into Lake Erie, some distance north of the arena.

The allowed “parade route” took a sharp detour around the arena and confined marchers to areas of limited visibility. Free speech was further constricted by only allowing rallies in designated parks and during daylight hours — the major events of the RNC are during the evening — and imposing a ban on elevated platforms and, to quote their document, “soapboxes.”

In a victory for the progressive movement, which has made clear its determination to have a forceful and visible presence throughout the RNC, all these restrictions were overturned. Two days later, after Judge Gwin ordered the case into mediation, the American Civil Liber-



ties Union and the city reached a compromise agreement.

The agreement shrinks the 3.5-square-mile event zone considerably and liberalizes all the other restrictions. “Organize Ohio,” a plaintiff in the suit, can begin its “End Poverty Now” march on the east side in the Black community. This route, originally denied a permit, was chosen to highlight the 50th anniversary of the Hough Rebellion, an uprising of the city’s African-American community that lasted for four days. The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless won the unrestricted right of homeless residents to be inside the security zone, where many food and shelter resources are located. The Coalition to Stop Trump and March on the RNC is still fighting for a permit to march on Monday, July 18, the day the convention opens.

State harasses activists

While the city’s protest restrictions have been liberalized, protest suppression has taken another form: intrusive and intimidating visits by the FBI, Homeland Security, the Secret Service and Cleveland cops. At least a dozen Cleveland activists report that they or their families have gotten a knock on the door.

According to Cleveland NAACP President Michael Nelson, police questioned the parents of a young woman who was arrested last year. She had been protest-

ing the acquittal of two officers involved in firing 137 bullets into a stopped car, killing unarmed Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell. The police pressed her parents for information about “anybody planning violence” during the RNC.

Members of Cleveland “Food Not Bombs” have been visited by police and FBI agents working in tandem. The group is not planning to protest but has applied for permits to feed demonstrators, along with local residents in need of food, inside the event zone. “I personally believe that this is an attempt to intimidate,” said FNB member Maggie Rice.

State intimidation will continue throughout the RNC. Through a \$50 million Homeland Security grant, Cleveland police have acquired riot gear, retractable steel batons, fencing to pen in protesters, plastic cuffs and Long Range Acoustic Devices, which disperse crowds by emitting a loud, painful noise.

The city also purchased state-of-the-art surveillance tools, including cameras, laptops, Pointer Illuminator Aiming Lasers and Stingray cell phone tracking devices. After the RNC, the African-American community will have even more reason to fear the cops, who get to keep their new instruments of terror.

In response, the week of protests will be

a statement not only against the racism of Donald Trump and the RNC, but against the repressive capitalist state. The National Lawyers Guild and Rust Belt Medics have pledged to assist with any situations that may arise.

Shut down Trump and the RNC!

The ACLU also represented “Citizens for Trump,” winning for them a rally permit inside the original event zone. Many who will protest argue that there should be no linking of the freedom to protest with any so-called “rights” of the neofascist Trump mob. Susan Schnur, a Cleveland organizer of “Shut Down Trump” and the RNC march and rally, stated: “Free speech as defined by well-meaning groups such as the ACLU includes the right to preach hate and brutality toward immigrants, Muslims and Black and Brown people. We disagree. Hate-mongers are the backbone of the Trump campaign and should not have the right to preach violence and bigotry.”

The “Shut Down Trump” march will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 17 — the night before the RNC opens — and is intended to strike a militant political tone for the next four days of resistance. Make your plans now! Come to Cleveland to say, unequivocally, “Shut down Trump and the RNC!” For more information and to endorse, visit iacenter.org. □

Houston Pride

Continued from page 3

2012, Watson joined the Houston Stonewall Lawyers Association.

Although Watson grew up in Houston long after the Civil Rights Movement, she is aware of her past and her family history. “My great-great grandmother was a slave,” she says. “My grandmother used to tell me stories that her mother had passed down to her about those days. It had a deep impact on me.” As an African-American lesbian, she says she understands the intersectionality of being a woman, a person of color and a member of the LGBTQ community. She is the first African American to be elected to Houston’s GLBT Political Caucus.

Houston City Hall was lit in the colors of the rainbow flag during June, and Mayor Sylvester Turner not only supported Pride 2016 but encouraged everyone in Houston to come out and celebrate. The day before the Pride festival, the African-American mayor held a press conference to announce that Houston was forming an LGBTQ Task Force so the needs and issues of LGBTQ communities would have a voice at City Hall. Turner said, “As I stated at the Houston Stands with Orlando Vigil, as long as I am mayor, we are going to stand together.”

In this, the most diverse city in the United States, there were more nationalities and ethnicities present at Pride 2016 than could be counted.

Despite Orlando, despite this being the 25th anniversary of the July 4 gay-bashing murder of Paul Broussard outside a Houston gay nightclub, despite the oppressive heat — Houston proved that solidarity and LGBTQ Pride ruled the day. □

NYC Trans Day of Action

Continued from page 3

Latinx, and/or Afrolatinx), including Enrique Rios from Brooklyn. We send our deepest condolences to all of the families, lovers, and friends of the victims and all of the Southern queer and trans organizers who continue to fight for liberation in their name. We are with you in solidarity. We are constantly reminded that there is no separation from our need to heal and our need to organize for our continued survival. We need each other now more than ever.

“Our community in New York City is struggling today as we reconcile with the constant reality that we are considered disposable by a racist, transmisogynist, Islamophobic, and xenophobic country. From our experiences on the ground as an organizing center for and by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Two Spirit, and Gender Non Conforming People of Color (LGBTSTGNC POC) we know that this massacre is not the exception, it is part of the economy of violence against LGBTSTGNC, Black people & People of Color, Indigenous people, and immigrants. It makes explicit what the institutions of war, prisons, detention centers, and the police teach our communities every day: that we were never meant to survive.”

Go to the ALP website at tinyurl.com/h3w4zy8 to read the entire statement. □

Letter from Florida

Pride in time of tragedy

Continued from page 3

ers marched with signs containing the names of each person killed in the Pulse nightclub, as well as their ages.

Also at the parade was an increase in police presence — in surveillance, undercover police, the FBI, Homeland Security and a wave of other surveillance forces. Many have praised these groups for their service, but since when is Pride supposed to be on government lockdown? Since when do we accept celebrating ourselves, our lives and the fight for LGBTQ liberation under the eyes of a violent police state that continues to be a large part of violence against queer and transgender people, especially queer and transgender people of color?

Mainstream LGBTQ organizers say that times have changed and Stonewall was 50 years ago. But when you really think about it, Stonewall was only 50 years ago, and police violence did not end on the final night of the Stonewall uprising. Police violence was present in the 1980s and 1990s when AIDS activists demanded the government acknowledge them and their lives, and police violence was present at a Pulse vigil in New York City just weeks ago. The very idea that we are protected by the police is a result of homonationalism and, often, one’s own

privilege — especially considering Pride events now are largely dominated by upper-class, white, cisgender, gay white men and women.

The police who march beside us in Pride parades and put “We Are Orlando” decals on their cruisers are the same police who harass transgender women, particularly transgender women of color, and bust up camps for homeless queer youth. They are the same cops who shoot queer people and arrest undocumented trans people and allow them to be sent to abusive detention centers.

We cannot celebrate ourselves under the spotlight of state-sanctioned surveillance, which inevitably leads to more violence against queer and transgender people. We must not run into the cold arms of a homonationalism that embraces us in tragedy, erases our identities as queer and transgender people, calls us “Americans” instead and then spends every other day of the year actively campaigning against our lives. In the wake of this tragedy, we must now more than ever bring Pride back to what it was supposed to be: a celebration of all of our unique and intersecting identities, free from fear of violence.

— Devin C, a trans organizer from northwest Florida

Supreme Court ruling Victory for women’s right to choose

By Sue Davis

With a 5-3 vote, the Supreme Court affirmed June 27 in the case of *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* that women’s constitutional right to abortion may not be subjected to “undue burden” imposed in the infamous HB2 Texas law of 2013.

This case challenged two provisions that the state alleged were needed to protect women’s health. One is that abortion clinics must be ambulatory surgical centers that meet stringent requirements, even though those are not mandated for more life-threatening procedures. The other is that doctors performing abortions must have admitting privileges at hospitals within 30 miles from where they work.

The decision, authored by Justice Stephen Breyer and joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan, Anthony Kennedy and Sonia Sotomayor, demolished both planks of the law. Breyer wrote: “Neither of these provisions offers medical benefits sufficient to justify the burdens upon access that each imposes. Each places a substantial obstacle in the path of women seeking a previability abortion, each constitutes an undue burden on abortion access, and each violates the federal Constitution.” (supremecourt.gov)

Breyer further exposed the blatantly obvious anti-woman intent of the law when he wrote: “We add that, when directly asked at oral argument whether Texas knew of a single instance in which the new requirement would have helped even one woman obtain better treatment, Texas admitted that there was no evidence in the record of such a case.”

Noting that surgical abortion is one of the safest medical procedures, Ginsburg stated in her concurrence: “Many medical procedures, including childbirth, are far more dangerous to patients, yet are not subject to ambulatory surgical center or hospital admitting-privileges requirements.” She added, “When a

State severely limits access to safe and legal procedures, women in desperate circumstances may resort to unlicensed rogue practitioners ... at great risk to their health and safety.”

The law was so far-reaching that half of the more than 40 clinics in Texas had to close when it went into effect. Full implementation of the law would have reduced the number of clinics to 10 in the second-largest state with 5.4 million women of childbearing age (15-44). That would have put 900,000 women of childbearing age, about 17 percent of the state’s total, 150 or more miles from the nearest clinic.

This ruling is a decisive loss for reactionary forces, especially so-called Americans United for Life that wrote the law. Right-wing-dominated legislatures, especially in the Midwest and South, have passed hundreds of laws restricting the right to abortion — including copy-cat TRAP (targeted regulation of abortion providers) laws in Alabama, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Wisconsin and 19 other states.

Reactionary lawmakers — who thought they could palm off restrictions under the guise of “protecting women’s health,” when they could no long peddle their bogus campaign for fetal rights — have become more brazen in league with the conservative current in the U.S. They have passed laws mandating medically unnecessary waiting periods, parental consent provisions and so-called “counseling” with false and misleading data designed to scare and shame women from having abortions.

Make no mistake: This win will not stop the right’s efforts to end abortion. Even the presumptive Republican presidential nominee — who flip-flopped from being pro-choice after he began running for president — has agreed to make abortion illegal. Meanwhile, Texas lawmakers and the toxic cesspool of anti-women’s-rights zealots are vowing to continue to pass laws endangering women’s lives.

‘Historic confirmation of women’s rights’

The Supreme Court’s long-awaited decision is a welcome reprieve for the reproductive rights movement that has been fighting an uphill battle for over two decades since the court’s 1992 *Casey* decision opened the floodgates so states could pass laws restricting abortion. The only proviso standing in their way was that states do not impose an “undue burden” on women.

The racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ, pro-capitalist right has been exposed as perpetrating lies, withholding vital information and promoting fraudulent laws that can only harm women. Specifically, the 5.4 million women in Texas — but especially poor women, low-wage workers, women of color, immigrants, youth, rural residents, lesbians and trans people, women with disabilities and victims of domestic violence. The risks for undocumented women being discovered, detained and deported at border patrol checkpoints were enormous.

Amy Hagstrom Miller, founder and CEO of Whole Woman’s Health, which led the challenge to the Texas law, said, “Every day Whole Woman’s Health treats our patients with compassion, respect and dignity — and today the Supreme Court did the same. We’re thrilled that today justice was served and our clinics stay open.” (Reuters, June 27)

Dr. Willie Parker, board chair of Physicians for Reproductive Health, noted: “Today’s Supreme Court ruling is an historic confirmation of a woman’s right to make her own decisions about her health, her family, and her future. Politicians can no longer use ideologically driven laws with no medical basis to threaten wom-

en’s health by restricting access to safe, legal abortion care. ... The battle to protect abortion access is not over. We will continue to fight to ensure that our physicians can fulfill their deep, conscientious commitment to providing all women who need it — in Texas and across the country.” (prh.org, June 27)

Now the reproductive justice movement can work, in the words of Yamani Hernandez, executive director of the National Network of Abortion Funds, “to create the support and access we truly need for abortion to be not just legal, but a reality for anyone who needs it. ... [and] the ability to focus on barriers like the Hyde Amendment.” (fundabortion-now.org) Ever since Hyde was instituted in 1976, denying Medicaid for abortions, it has imposed an “undue burden” on poor women who depend on the federally funded health care program.

Monica Moorehead, Workers World 2016 presidential candidate, praised the decision: “All women, but especially poor women of color, need to be able to fully exercise their reproductive options while attempting to raise healthy children. Many of these same women are single mothers in the forefront of the struggle for \$15 an hour and a union.

“It is crucial that the women’s movement show solidarity with the most oppressed women who bear the brunt of racism, homophobia and transphobia in this capitalist system riddled with patriarchal views. In the long run, only a socialist society, based on equality and justice for all working and oppressed people, can provide the kind of nurturing environment and cooperative community that all people need in order to thrive.” □

Caravans to Cuba continue to challenge blockade

By Cheryl LaBash

Have the changes in U.S.-Cuba relations made activities like the Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravans unnecessary?

The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization says the changes make the annual caravan and travel to Cuba as needed as ever. Although it appears that much has changed in U.S.-Cuba relations, the underlying laws and regulations that restrict trade and travel for U.S. residents and businesses still exist. Extraterritorial restrictions on international commerce with Cuba are also still very much in effect.

At a June 24 meeting in New York City, IFCO launched a massive national outreach campaign urging Congress to support legislation that would end the ban on travel and trade with Cuba. The campaign will target congressional members as they head home to their district offices for the July break.

In a small but unprecedented move, a Senate committee has approved amendments to the federal spending bill that would lift the travel ban that still prevents U.S. tourists from legal travel to Cuba.

“Now is the time to end this blockade once and for all!” exclaimed IFCO Executive Director Gail Walker, an organizer of the annual U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan. “Only grass-roots pressure on Congress will get these bills passed before President Obama leaves office. Now is the time for people of faith and conscience to

stand up and speak out to end this unjust policy that harms both Cubans and people in the United States.”

In a prepared statement joining the campaign, the Rev. Lennox Yearwood stated, “The proof that our efforts have worked lies in recent changes announced by the Obama administration to move toward normalizing relations with Cuba.”

Yearwood is the CEO and founder of the Hip Hop Caucus, an IFCO board member and a grass-roots faith leader. He added: “We welcome this first step toward the reversal of a blockade policy that has caused decades of pain and suffering for the Cuban people. But we know that more must be done. It’s time, while there is still time, for this president and this Congress to end the blockade on Cuba, and it is past time for this president to use his executive power to close Guantánamo prison and return Guantánamo to its rightful owners: the people of Cuba.”

Caravan participants will visit members of Congress from July 5 through July 14 and then travel to Cuba for 10 days to deliver humanitarian aid and messages of love and friendship. Since 1992, IFCO has organized 27 U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravans and hundreds of delegations that have delivered humanitarian aid as a direct challenge to the U.S. blockade.

Resource and background information is available at ifconews.org/cuba-caravan. Find East Coast, Midwest and West Coast meeting schedules at cubacaravan2016.org. □

Young Cubans to ‘box on the bridge’

By Cheryl LaBash

An international spotlight will shine on youth sports July 30, when young Cuban boxers meet their Pennsylvania counterparts for an exhibition match on Pittsburgh’s Roberto Clemente Bridge. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has called “Boxing on the Bridge” one of 2016’s “can’t miss sporting events.”

The match is sponsored by the nonprofit 501(c)3 Hibernian Celtic Athletic Fund. In its appeal for grass-roots financial support through gofundme.com/pghvscubaboxing, the fund states: “By staging this event on the Roberto Clemente Bridge we celebrate the bridge we have established between Pittsburgh and Cuba. ... We want to turn the page and usher in a new, post-Cold-War era of friendly relations brought on by the recent opening of diplomatic relationships. ... Aside from helping to normalize relations between the U.S. and Cuba, this event will provide some very hardworking and deserving young athletes a chance to shine on the international level.”

A T-shirt gift for donating on the go-



PHOTO: BRIAN BATKO

Boxing champ George Foreman with Pittsburgh youths who will box with the Cubans on July 30.

fundme site recognizes Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara’s Irish roots. The Hibernian Celtic Athletic Fund was established to make sports accessible for low-income Pittsburgh youth of all nationalities. For the past three years on St. Patrick’s Day, the fund has sponsored an exchange with Irish boxers called the Donnybrook.

The Cuban Constitution guarantees “access to study, culture and sports.” But in the U.S., youth sports, as well as art and music, are among the first to be cut when school district funding shrinks. “Boxing on the Bridge” builds on decades of work by the Pittsburgh-Matanzas Sister Cities Partnership. It will help build bridges with Cuba and public support for congressional action to finally end the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba, which continues, despite President Obama’s March visit to the island. □

Prisoners harness power of labor strike

By Matty Stardust

As movements for freedom and against mass incarceration continue to build behind prison walls, more prisoners are looking to the power of the work stoppage to advance their cause.

Inmates in Alabama's dreaded Holman Correctional Facility launched a labor strike on May 1, shutting down the prison's inmate-staffed kitchen, license plate manufacturing plant and food processing plant. In a document posted online, inmate members of the Free Alabama Movement demanded an end to the practice of "prison slavery," whereby prisoners are forced to labor for a fraction of the legal minimum wage and no benefits, if they are even paid at all.

The prison administration was forced to send in prison guard scabs to keep production going. They put the facility on lockdown, restricting inmates' movements in order to prevent further prisoner solidarity. Within days, however, the strike spread to four other Alabama prisons: Elmore, St. Clair, Staton and Donaldson Correctional Facilities. (workers.org, May 19)

Prisoner labor strikes also swept the state of Texas on April 4 as inmates in seven state prisons initiated work stoppages to protest deplorable living and working conditions. And back in 2014, a labor strike by undocumented mothers incarcerated and awaiting deportation proceedings at Pennsylvania's Berks County Family Detention Center had forced the Obama administration to order the gradual release of all mothers with children from immigration detention facilities.

Building off this momentum, inmates in Alabama, Mississippi, Ohio and Virginia have put out a call for a national prison labor strike on September 9, the 45th anniversary of the Attica Prison Rebellion. Striking prisoners will demand an end to prison slavery. "To achieve this goal," reads a statement released online by the organizers, "we need support from people on the outside. A prison is an easy-lockdown environment, a place of control and confinement where repression is built into every stone wall and



Free Alabama Movement stands in solidarity with prisoners.

chain link, every gesture and routine. When we stand up to these authorities, they come down on us, and the only protection we have is solidarity from the outside." The full text of the statement can be read at tinyurl.com/oa7m2vt.

The recent turn toward labor strikes as a tactic in the movement to end mass incarceration, forced prison labor and inhumane conditions represents an advance from previous methods, which generally consisted of hunger strikes, lawsuits and letter-writing campaigns. In a document titled "Let the crops rot in the fields: A call for new strategy in the National Movement Against Mass Incarceration and Prison Slavery," posted

online on Feb. 26, the Free Alabama Movement explains the rationale for the change in strategy: "Just like the institution of chattel slavery, mass incarceration is in essence an economic system which uses human beings as its nuts and bolts. Therefore, our new approach must be economically based, and must be focused on the factors of production — the people being forced into this slave labor." (FreeAlabamaMovement.wordpress.com)

The document identifies unpaid and underpaid prison labor as a fundamental pillar of the system of mass incarceration, and a source of superprofits to the corporations that utilize it. Sales of goods manufactured by prisoners totaled be-

tween \$2.4 billion and \$5 billion in 2009, and prison industries overall generated some \$34.4 billion in revenues in 2010. (phewacomunity.org) Prison labor is so profitable that corporations from McDonald's to JCPenney, Starbucks, Boeing and UPS all utilize it.

The document also outlines a general strategy for further advancing the movement: "Remember, we are working against a half trillion dollar system that is controlled by businessmen and women who are the modern-day slave profiteers. And just like any business, their focus is on the bottom line. From this viewpoint, we must organize work stoppages at prisons with economic industries that are operated by slave labor. The impact of a work stoppage is immediate and significant, as production is shut down and profit margins plummet around the country."

In addition to calling on prisoners to initiate more planned work stoppages, the Free Alabama Movement calls on supporters nationwide to organize protests outside prison facilities and to boycott key corporations that profit from prison labor. Only a broad, united front of workers in prison and outside can overturn once and for all this racist system of chattel slavery. Forward the prisoner revolution! □

Stop force feeding striking prisoners!

By Workers World Staff

At least six prisoners are now on hunger strike in Wisconsin at Columbia, Green Bay and Waupun maximum security prisons. Some began their strike on June 5, others on June 10. They are protesting the extreme torture of solitary confinement to which they have been subjected. Some have been held for years in isolation, a practice condemned by the United Nations and international human rights organizations.

Prison authorities are now force feeding three of them: Norman Green, LaRon McKinley Bey and Cesar DeLeon. DeLeon,

incarcerated at Waupun, said in a June 22 letter: "We are still on food refusal strike. Because I refused to drink the water until they give me clean water while on strike, the prison doctor exaggerated his medical assessment of me and got Judge Steven G. Bauer from Dodge County to sign a temporary court order to force tube-feed me. They started on Friday. It's three times a day. Both of my nostrils are injured from the tube. I been spitting blood. My nostrils are so swelled from tube-feeding that I can't even breath through them."

The striking prisoners are asking supporters to call Brian Foster, Waupun Prison warden, at 920-324-5571.

Also, call Jon Litscher, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections at 608-240-5000 or email him at jon.litscher@wi.gov. Tell them to agree to the prisoners' demands to end this torture.

Prisoners' supporters are organizing a statewide protest rally and vigil on July 2 at the DOC in Madison at 2 p.m. Among other organizations, the WISDOM Network, Ex-Prisoners Organizing, Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement, Workers World Party and Milwaukee Industrial Workers of the World are backing the strikers. For more information, see facebook.com/milwaukeeiww and solitarytorture.blogspot.com. □

Find out latest on travel to Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

It seems like everyone is going to Cuba or wants to. Some want to go before U.S. "tourists" spoil Cuba. But wait a minute, isn't "tourism" still formally prohibited by U.S law? What is ethical travel to Cuba anyway?

Help spread the word and register to discuss Cuba issues. Questions will be taken on Sunday, July 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Eastern time during a webinar, or can be asked on Facebook event page bit.ly/1WWUMob, Twitter #AskAboutCubaTravel or via email to Cheryl@nnoc.info. The webinar is free, but registration is required at bit.ly/1YzgVBN.

During the webinar, Art Heitzer from the National Lawyers Guild and its Cuba Subcommittee and Bob Guild from Marazul Charters will provide up-to-date information about the changing landscape of Cuba travel. They are both well-prepared and experienced in Cuba travel since 1959.

Working with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Heitzer on behalf of the NLG helped train and establish a network of over 50 lawyers in the U.S. to assist travelers who had visited or wanted to visit Cuba. He also assisted in the defense of all the "Trials for Travel," approximately one dozen administrative prosecutions under the administration of George W. Bush, as well as directly representing dozens of Cuba travelers. This included the Methodist Three, in which the government settled their case with no penalty after Heitzer filed unprecedented counterclaims alleging racial profiling and interference with religious practices. In the last 25 years, he has counseled over 1,000 Cuba travelers, usually pro bono, and continues to do so.

Guild has been sending groups to Cuba since 1977. He worked with the Venceremos Brigade for many years and is currently vice president of Marazul Charters. □

TO TRAVEL TO CUBA

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New Travel Rules

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Questions answered here
An NNOC webinar
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PASSPORT

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FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

French unions hold 10th protest, defy restrictions

By G. Dunkel

Faced with defiance by the unions at the government’s attempt to prohibit their 10th national protest over new anti-labor “reforms,” the regime ceded. Some 200,000 workers and supporters marched in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Rouen and other French cities.

France’s President François Hollande, Prime Minister Manuel Valls and Minister of the Interior Bernard Cazeneuve acted as if they were firmly and stubbornly opposed to allowing the June 23 protest, as strongly as they are opposed to making any concessions on the new labor law.

French TV played scenes dating from the last prohibited demonstration of the CGT (the General Confederation of Labor) in 1962, during which the cops beat nine members of the CGT to death at the

Charonne metro station. Undaunted, the unions still insisted on their democratic right to march. Faced with determined unions backed by a growing wave of popular support in a country, where even doctors, lawyers and notaries hold marches, the government gave in — albeit grudgingly.

Palestinians were forbidden to bring their kaffiyehs on the march and observant Muslim women weren’t allowed to wear scarves covering their hair. All bags, backpacks and containers were searched; swim goggles (which offer eye protection from tear gas) were confiscated.

Still, 60,000 people showed up in Paris and marched around the Bassin d’Arsenal, a stretch of water leading from the Seine to Place Bastille, where the march started and ended.

The turnout for this demonstration, less

than two weeks after the last major action, is a clear sign that French workers support their unions against the government’s attacks on their rights. Some commentators call the current series of anti-government protests the longest, largest and most sustained since the 1789 French revolution that deposed the monarchy.

The so-called Socialist Party (PS) manages the French government. Demonstrators held signs — in French social media — that call this regime “traitorous” because it tries to disguise its attacks on the working class as an attempt to promote employment. But making it easier to fire a worker doesn’t really increase employment; it increases profits.

The CGT chose June 23 to demonstrate to mark the day the French Senate as a whole took up the new labor law for debate. Many of the law’s anti-worker

provisions were strengthened by Senate committees before the bill itself reached the Senate floor.

Another day of national demonstrations is set for June 28, the date the Senate sends the bill back to the National Assembly. The Assembly gets the final word on the bill.

It’s widely expected that the government will use its executive powers to enact the bill into law without a vote in the Assembly. Given the unpopularity of the bill and the government, the bill would fail such a vote.

French workers are still in the streets and still striking. They haven’t stopped struggling over this law and everything it represents. They have a chance for victory and deserve the solidarity of progressives throughout the world, including in the U.S. □

Actions called to ‘Stop NATO’s aggressive expansion’

The United National Antiwar Coalition, the U.S. Peace Council, the International Action Center, Veterans for Peace and other groups have called for protests in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco on July 9 against the NATO summit held in Warsaw, Poland. Below are excerpts from the UNAC appeal issued in mid-June.

The drive by nuclear-armed NATO to the borders of Russia — a nuclear-armed state — poses at the very least the risk of accidental nuclear war, and at worst the possibility of military confrontation between two nuclear powers.

On July 8-9 in Warsaw, Poland, a NATO Summit will be held. Its agenda is

alarming. For example, the U.S. wishes to incorporate Ukraine and Georgia into NATO. Next year, the Pentagon plans to quadruple military spending in Europe to \$3.4 billion and begin rotating an armored brigade through Eastern Europe — in addition to extra NATO forces deployed to Poland and the Baltics. The U.S., the main force behind NATO, is already in a deadly proxy war in eastern Ukraine.

NATO has already launched the largest war games in decades [June 7-17] — involving 31,000 troops (14,000 from the U.S.) and thousands of vehicles from 24 countries. A naval exercise involving NATO forces has just begun in Finland [also in June].

A few weeks ago the United States activated the first of two missile-defense installations in Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, there is the ongoing “SaberStrike” operation in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Given the serious escalation of the danger of a disastrous confrontation between the United States and Russia, we have organized demonstrations for Saturday, July 9, to coincide with the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Poland.

We consider the following general slogans to be a basis for unity:

- No to NATO; No to War!
- Yes to Peace; No to NATO!
- Abolish NATO, Don’t Expand It!
- Money for Jobs, Not for NATO!

- No More War Games!
- End NATO Provocations Against Russia!
- NATO Provocations Threaten Nuclear War!
- No to a New Cold War!

The demonstration will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, at the Army Recruiting Center in Times Square, Manhattan. At 12 noon in Los Angeles at Grand Park and at 12 noon in San Francisco at 355 McAllister St.

Please fill out the online Endorsement Form for the July 9 demonstration at uspeacecouncil.org/?p=2954.

Let us make this demonstration as broad as possible. □



GRAPHIC: GRANMA.CU

Zika, the Olympics and the Brazilian coup

By Lyn Neeley

More than 230 scientific researchers, bioethicists and health experts from around the world have written an open letter charging that it is unethical to hold this year’s Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, center of the world’s Zika crisis.

World Health Organization director-general Margaret Chan rejected the claims, saying the Olympics would not significantly alter the international spread of the virus.

The scientists accuse the WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of being in the back pocket of the International Olympic Committee and of supporting private developers linked to Brazil’s new right-wing cabinet who stand to gain big profits by hosting the games.

Brazilian developer Carlos Carvalho made \$1 billion from publicly funded development when Rio hosted the 2014 soccer World Cup. Cities hosting the Olympics may only break even financially, but landowners, developers and private business people profit from an increase in land acquisition, construction, tourism and foreign investment.

‘Judicial coup’ gov’t protects wealthy profiteers

This May, in a maneuver described as a “judicial coup,” the government of Pres-

ident Dilma Rousseff of the center-left Workers Party was ousted in a supposed “anti-corruption” campaign led by Michel Temer, who immediately appointed an all-white, all-male, right-wing cabinet. The new government has already eliminated 4,000 public sector jobs and announced a labor “reform” that weakens workers’ rights.

Many of the new cabinet members have themselves faced charges of embezzlement and corruption. The new minister of science is a creationist, an evangelical bishop. The minister of agriculture is a soybean tycoon who deforested large areas of the Amazon rain forest.

Ricardo Barros, Temer’s new minister of health, has no background in medicine or health. He wants to bring the church into debates about abortion and contraception. In the middle of the Zika crisis, he said the new government may not be able to continue Brazil’s constitutionally guaranteed right to universal health care, which is facing cutbacks in the name of austerity. Barros is paying back more than a million reals — \$296,000 — for fraud regarding the sale of garbage compactors and collectors when he was mayor of the city of Maringa.

Barros claimed there would be practically “zero” risk of contracting Zika during the Olympics because mosquito populations will drop during July and August, Brazil’s winter months. However, many have pointed out that temperatures fre-

quently rise to nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit during those months. Brazil spent 25 times more on the 2014 World Cup than on this year’s annual budget to combat the Zika-borne mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

Preparations for the games in Rio include sending in the National Guard to terrorize and remove over 400 families who live in favelas (shanty towns) around the site of the Olympics. Brazil, with one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world, has about 18 million poor people living on less than \$1.30 a day, the largest number in the Western Hemisphere. They are not among those profiting or pushing for the Olympics to be held in Brazil.

Zika is spreading

Meanwhile, Zika is spreading rapidly throughout Colombia. More than 12,000 pregnant women in Colombia have tested positive for the virus. The number of pregnant Zika-infected women in the United States has risen to 234 and the CDC says that thousands of pregnant women in Puerto Rico could be infected, which could mean dozens or even hundreds of infants being born with microcephaly, a birth defect causing slow brain development and abnormally small heads.

In their letter published May 28, scientists argue that Zika is more dangerous and extensive than it was first thought to be. They say too little is known about

Zika transmission or its effects on a developing fetus during various stages of pregnancy. The strain of Zika in Brazil has already resulted in 1,489 cases of babies born with microcephaly and other neurological disorders. About 30 percent of pregnant women there have been infected with Zika. (Harvard Public Health Review, May 2016)

Replying to the scientists, the WHO argued that only a small number of tourists will contract Zika at the Olympics. But the scientists pointed out that a single infected person carried the virus into Brazil in 2013. Now, as many as 1.5 million people have been infected and it continues to spread rapidly.

Sexual transmission, oral, vaginal and anal, plays a more important role in the spread of Zika than was previously realized. The CDC journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* reports that Zika may live in sperm 62 days after the onset of symptoms, which are not always obvious. This could increase the potential and rate of sexual transmission of Zika.

Wealthy sports fans staying in air-conditioned hotels in Rio may not feel they risk catching Zika. However, if Zika is spread internationally, it is women and poor people who will be impacted the most, especially those living in poor countries that haven’t got the resources to fight Zika. Seventy percent of the families affected by Zika-related illnesses live in extreme poverty. □

MEXICO

Bloody attack on teachers’ union leads to uprising

By Chris Fry

A full-scale workers’ uprising in the Mexican state of Oaxaca has shut down transportation and businesses throughout the region. Access to an important oil refinery has been blocked. As of June 23, there were 21 highway blockades there.

Oaxaca is an impoverished and mostly Indigenous state in Mexico’s rural south. In one small town, reports said, the air was heavy with the smell of burning tires on a strategic highway that leads from the neighboring state of Puebla to the state capital, Oaxaca de Juárez. The highway was blocked with burned-out cars, buses and trailers. Dozens of trailers waited in line to pass.

The uprising came after some 800 Mexican federal police had shot into a crowd of demonstrators who were armed with only stones, sticks and Molotov cocktails. The crowd was defending a barricade in the town of Nochixtlán. At least eight demonstrators were killed and some 100 wounded. Another 22 are missing, and some 27 were arrested and report being tortured. At least five more died from their wounds.

“They are shooting at us as if we were animals,” William Velázquez, a 34-year-old teacher, told a reporter. He picked up a large stick. “These are the only weapons we have. We don’t carry guns. They were firing on unarmed civilians.” (latino.fox-news.com)

At first, the Mexican government claimed that the cops did not carry weapons. But after many news organizations showed video of police firing bullets, the government tried to say that “unknown gunmen” began firing at both sides, even though none of the cops had been shot. Finally, Federal Police Chief Enrique Galindo acknowledged that he had sent in officers with guns. “The police obligation is to protect the population,” he said, as if that excused the carnage from police bullets.

The day after the shootings, Ramos Zárate, a journalist covering the Oaxaca events for the newspaper El Sur, was mysteriously shot and killed. He is one of eight journalists killed in Mexico so far this year.

Solidarity with teachers’ fight to save union

This all stems from a confrontation between the Mexican central government, led by President Enrique Peña Nieto, and the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE), the Oaxaca section of the largest teachers’ union. The

government demanded that the teachers pass a national certification test or be discharged. Dozens of teachers were then quickly fired. Several CNTE leaders were arrested on trumped-up corruption charges, which the teachers describe as a move designed to break their union.

The CNTE is calling for the removal of the test requirements, which they point out fail to take into account the special conditions of the impoverished people of Oaxaca, where some 21 Indigenous dialects are spoken. The union is also demanding the immediate release of its leaders.

Since the police shootings in Nochixtlán, protesters have burned police headquarters in San Pablo Huitzo and Santiaguito. They have blockaded roads, a

shopping mall, even train tracks in the western state of Michoacán. They have forced bus lines to cancel trips to Oaxaca, a popular tourist spot. And in Oaxaca city itself, the teachers have set up an encampment in the city’s main square, where thousands of teachers from around the country have arrived to defend it.

Militant acts of solidarity with the Oaxaca teachers have erupted throughout Mexico and, indeed, around the globe. In Chiapas, Mexico, teachers and residents set up numerous blockades, including one that cut off the Pan-American Highway. On June 21, for example, a mass solidarity assembly of faculty, staff and students was held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City.

When the news broke that 13 people had been killed by Mexican police during protests over attacks on education, several U.S. groups called for solidarity demonstrations with the teachers and students in Mexico. Below are short reports from two of them.

Denver protest at consulate

A vigil and protest against the police killings in Mexico were held on June 24 at the Mexican Consulate in Denver in response to a call from Alliance for Global Justice. The demonstrators carried signs outside the consulate and then walked through it with the signs.

The teachers are fighting to keep their union and stop government “reforms” in education that would get rid of 3,000 teachers and schools that train many poor youth and include expression of Indigenous cultures.

The U.S. bears special responsibility for the deaths, since a large amount of U.S. money was given the Mexican government under the Merida Agreement, supposedly to fight crime and drugs, which has been used instead to arm the police. These arms are now being turned against social protesters such as the teachers. The U.S. also has built a private for-profit prison in Sonora where the union leaders of the CNTE, a democratic movement within the National Union of Education Workers, have been sent. The U.S. plans to build 16 more such prisons, according to the AFGJ.

The AFGJ has asked people to send the following letter to Mexican President

Enrique Nieto, Attorney General Arley Gomez Gonzales, Secretary of Public Education Aurelio Meyer and Oaxacan Governor Gambino Cue:

“We demand an end to the violent oppression in Oaxaca, Mexico, against teachers, students, parents and unionists against the neoliberal education reform laws. These laws would lead to massive firing and the closure of teacher training schools. They would replace culturally relevant and sensitive, community-based education with standardized testing and a deemphasis on critical thinking. Classes that support Indigenous identity would be replaced with a streamlined, one-size-fits-all school system, during a time that social and educational investment by the state is being replaced with increased spending on the military, law enforcement and prison construction. These new policies, and the instruments for repressing the strike, are being directly supported by the U.S. government.”

— Viviana Weinstein

Houston solidarity with teachers


People in Houston are in firm solidarity with the teachers’ union in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, which has been on strike since mid-May and has now been the victim of violence from the local police as well as the military. A June 22 demonstration at the Mexican Consulate here, called by the Asamblea Popular de Houston, drew many activists including the Brown Berets, the Houston Socialist Movement, supporters of the Zapatistas, Indigenous activists and Workers World

Six thousand people marched in solidarity in Monterrey, Chihuahua and other cities in northern Mexico. In the U.S., the Chicago Teachers Union, which has expressed its solidarity with the CNTE for many years, staged a “die-in” at the Mexican Consulate in Chicago.

On June 20, at the Mexican National Indigenous Congress, the Zapatistas issued a statement calling on “our peoples and civil society in general to stand with the teachers who resist at this moment, to see us in them. ... We invite all the peoples from the fields and the cities to be aware and in solidarity with the teachers’ struggle, to organize ourselves autonomously to be informed and alert in the face of the storm falling on us all.” □

Party. Several teachers spoke about how teachers work with love for their students, often at meager pay, and must be supported. On June 25 activists gathered at the Mecom Fountain, in the center of several main Houston streets. The union group leading the strike is the National Coordinator of Education Workers. It is estimated that 13 people have been killed, countless have disappeared, and many are wounded and in the hospital. Activists have begun a hunger strike at the Mexican Consulate that will last three days.

— Gloria Rubac



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Protest in New York City on June 23.

Historic agreement in Colombia

‘Let this be the last day of the war’

After nearly four years of talks, on Thursday, June 23, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the Colombian government signed an agreement in Havana regarding the details of a Definitive and Bilateral Cessation of Hostilities, Laying Down of Weapons and Guarantees of Security. It is expected that, in a few months, the final agreement on the six basis points discussed at the conversation table will be consolidated and signed by both parties.

Thursday’s ceremony gave much hope to masses of people who, since the 1940s, have lived through abject violence produced by a state policy aimed to repress the excluded masses’ desire for freedom and justice. This bleeding Colombia is now entering a very complex stage, where popular forces, revolutionaries, paramilitaries and rightist forces coexist, along with the Colombian state and the representatives of transnational in-

terests with their military capabilities, particularly the U.S. (which has seven military bases in that country), the European Union and Israel.

The international importance of this agreement was reflected in the participation of heads of government of nearly a dozen countries, including President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and Raul Castro of Cuba (host of the negotiations) and representatives of the United Nations, the European Union and the Latin American regional organizations CELAC [Community of Latin American and Caribbean States] and CEPAL [United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean].

Following are excerpts from the statement of the Secretariat of the FARC-EP on the agreement:

‘Let this be the last day of the war’

In 1964, in the midst of the heat of an unequal armed struggle, the assembly of the guerrillas of Marquetalia produced its agrarian program, in whose introduction is the following statement to which we refer today: We are revolutionaries who fight for a change of the regime. But we wanted and fought for this change using the least painful way for our people: the peaceful and mass democratic struggle. That road was violently closed to us with the official fascist pretext that they were combating so-called Independent Republics, and since we are revolutionaries who one way or another will play our historical role, we had to find another way: the path of armed revolution to struggle for state power.

Today, 52 years later, the members of the FARC-EP

Continued on page 10

Venezuela, Mexico and the media

The U.S. corporate media demonize Venezuela's government while it prettifies the Mexican regime. Consider this: People in some Venezuelan cities this spring, complaining of food and other shortages, seized goods from markets. The corporate media reported these with sympathy. They blamed Venezuela's government for food shortages. They reported that five people died during the "food riots," without clarifying who killed them.

The Venezuelan government said the deaths had nothing to do with the "food riots."

In the city of Nochixtlán in Oaxaca state in Mexico, police opened fire with live ammunition at anti-government protesters and killed 13 people, mostly Indigenous, wounded 100 others and "disappeared" another 20. (See articles, page 9.)

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto is a U.S. collaborator in the NAFTA trade deal, the "anti-drug war" and the "anti-terror war." The Mexican army and police of the different states fire on protesters regularly.

With these facts in mind, it is revealing to see how the corporate media and U.S. politicians handled the two different scenarios described above.

The New York Times, Forbes Magazine, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, Fox News and most of the networks gave ample publicity to the "food riots" in Venezuela and to 400 arrests. While these media often call people in rebellion a "mob" and paint them as dangerous — remember how they wrote of Baltimore and Ferguson, Mo., where Black youth were involved — they were sympathetic to Venezuela's "rioters." The media presented Venezuela as teetering on the brink of chaos and desperately needing a U.S.-imposed regime change.

The fewer reports on Mexico in the same media gave the point of view of the authorities, who claimed the demonstrators shot at police first. There was no attempt to fault the Mexican government for its policies toward workers or Indigenous peoples. Donald Trump continues to slander Mexican workers, but no one in the U.S. government or media is calling the Mexican government a "national security threat."

Nor is Secretary General Luis Almagro of the Organization of American States trying to whip up all of Latin America against Peña Nieto the way he did against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party's 2016 presidential candidate, commented, "Our election campaign's 10-point program very much applies to the developments in both Venezuela and Mexico. It reads in part: 'We oppose all U.S. wars, invasions, occupations and drone attacks, regardless of the media lies and justifications.'

"The mainstream media systematically lie because they are owned and controlled by big-business interests which pit workers against other workers in order to make profits.

"In reporting events in Venezuela, the media, in siding with the U.S.-backed oligarchy who make up the opposition, will

attempt to demonize the anti-imperialist Bolivarian government. In Oaxaca, Mexico, the media will downplay the brutal police and army repression of a united, militant struggle of teachers, the Indigenous and public-sector workers demanding an end to overwhelming poverty rooted in capitalist austerity.

"What is happening in both countries is an important reminder that the mainstream media are an instrument of the oppressive capitalist state apparatus.

"It also reminds us that the working class in the United States should stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are fighting for the same human needs against a capitalist system whose ability to exploit labor knows no borders." □

Historic agreement in Colombia

'Let this be the last day of the war'

Continued from page 9

are concluding with the government of Juan Manuel Santos a bilateral and definitive agreement for a ceasefire and an end to hostilities, an accord with security guarantees and to combat paramilitary forces, and another on the laying down of weapons that leave us at the threshold of concretizing the Final Agreement in a relatively short time; this will allow us to finally return to legal political participation using peaceful and democratic means. ...

The 48 peasants from Marquetalia over decades grew to be thousands of women and men in arms who put the Colombian state in serious trouble, but who simultaneously never stopped talking about a peace agreement reached through civilized conversations. Several attempts to reach this agreement were painfully frustrated. But they continued trying again and again, and today we see the fruits of their persistence.

Because if something is attested to by the presidents of the accompanying and guarantor countries present here today, along with all the high-level international individuals immersed in the peace process underway and who accompany us here, what is about to be sealed is not a capitulation of the insurgency, as some obtuse elements wished, but the product of a serious dialogue between two forces that clashed for over half a century, in which neither could defeat the other. ...

We are very close to signing the Final Agreement that will end the conflict and begin building a stable and lasting peace. From the beginning we argued that the signing of this agreement is the best chance our country will have to build the road toward social justice and progress, on the basis that the gates of true democracy will be opened, so that opposition social and political movements can enjoy full guarantees. ...

There are agreements reached on this matter, and some remaining questions are close to being defined. And also concerning Comprehensive Rural Reform and crops used for illicit purposes. ...

Militant protest prevents fascist rally

By Terri Kay
Sacramento, Calif.

Hundreds of anti-fascists from Sacramento, the Bay Area and across California converged here on June 26 and stopped an openly fascist rally from taking place on the steps of the state Capitol building.

A call to action from the anti-fascist group Antifa Sacramento said it was "organizing a direct action to confront these bigots, deny them a platform to promote hate and to make sure they know they are not welcome on our streets or in our communities."

Members of openly fascist groups, including the so-called Traditionalist Workers Party, had obtained a permit to hold a rally at the Capitol. According to Antifa Sacramento, "The founder of TWP is Matthew Heimbach who is closely affiliated with several white power and neo-Nazi gangs throughout the United States, including the Sacto Skins, Golden State Skinheads, National Socialist Movement, California Skinheads (CAS),

Blood & Honor and the Ku Klux Klan." The struggle to stop the fascists played out over a number of hours, with the anti-fascists showing up before 9 a.m. to hold the area and prevent the fascists from having any opportunity to hold their noon rally. State and local police were there in full riot gear, clearly to protect the fascists and enable them to hold their rally. The crowd saw through this and chanted, "Cops and Klan go hand in hand." When about 20 fascists showed up, the crowd gave chase and a number of melees ensued. Seven counterprotesters were hospitalized as the fascists managed to stab at least four people and cause blunt-force-trauma injuries to three others. Several of the injured were African American, and at least one was a transgender person. It's not clear how the Nazis managed to target these particular people, as the counterprotesters were largely white. But there is no doubt these victims were chosen based on the racist, homophobic ideology of their attackers. The Nazis took some injuries as well. □

It will not be all rosy, and certainly there will have to be struggle so that what is signed is complied with. ...

The Final Agreement will be the key to turn the lock, but it will require constant organization and mobilization of the people to guarantee compliance. ...

The agreement on security guarantees and to combat paramilitarism must be a reality in deeds; otherwise it runs the risk of turning the final result of the process into a historical failure. It is very painful and cannot be tolerated any longer that at this point such elements continue murdering with full freedom. ...

There has also been an agreement reached regarding Laying Down Arms. ... Of course, we in the FARC will be politically active, that is our reason for existing, but using legal and peaceful means, with the same rights and guarantees of the other parties.

The Colombian government will have to enforce the agreement that no Colombian will be prosecuted because of their ideas or political practices. That the perverse practice of including in the order of battle of the armed forces the names of the leaders of social movements and of the political opposition will have to permanently disappear from the homeland. That once the final agreement is signed, the military war apparatus and its antiquated security

doctrine will disappear. ...

We need that an effective and definite reconciliation materializes in our country. No more violence and the craving for violence. This requires a patient and intense effort of outreach, education and awareness of what was agreed on in Havana, so that the people of Colombia are clear about its valuable and positive content. And so they know what they can and should claim from the state. So that they unite and organize to achieve it. Only in that way we will build a New Colombia. ...

We know that nothing will be achieved easily or quickly. We understand that the main beneficiaries of our efforts will be future generations. Therefore we extend our hand to the youth. They are the ones to build the new country and therefore the ones called upon to defend peace and reconciliation, to promote a new type of political activity, for the consolidation of civility and a wider democracy.

The FARC have always been optimists. Even in the most difficult moments we always believed that peace was possible. ... We hope to conclude within a reasonable period another ceremony, the signing of the Final Agreement. Let this be the last day of the war.

The full text in Spanish can be read in pazfarc-ep.org. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.
Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination
Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance LeiLani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers Demand a Bill of Rights Imani Henry

Black & Brown Unity Saladin Muhammad

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal

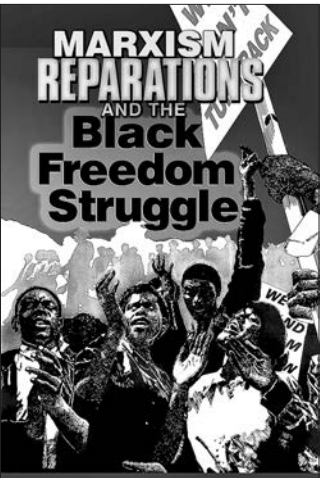
Racism & Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales

Haiti Needs Reparations Pat Chin

Alabama's Black Belt Consuela Lee

Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker

Available at major online booksellers.



GRAPHIC BY SAHU BARRON

Stop Brexit racism with global worker solidarity

Continued from page 1

The photo was actually taken at the Slovenian border. The poster was denounced as false all over Britain by the Remain forces and had to be taken down.

The vote to Remain among whites was 46 percent. Among the oppressed the vote was as follows: Asians 67 percent, Muslims 70 percent, Chinese 70 percent, Hindus 70 percent, Blacks 73 percent. This speaks volumes about the racist character of the Leave vote. (Independent, June 25)

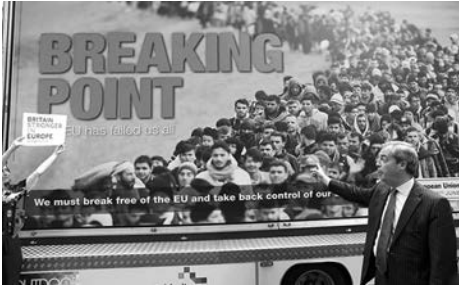
The largest Muslim organization, the Muslim Association of Britain, voted to Remain because, among other things, a vote to Leave would “increase the levels of hate crimes against British Muslims.” (Sunday Express, June 26)

Sayeeda Warsi, a former minister of the ruling Conservative Party, quit and switched to the Remain camp because of “spreading lies, hate and xenophobia.” She added, “I don’t want the Leave campaign to be running this country.” (Express Tribune, June 27)

Showing solidarity the paramount issue

The Remain forces in the Conservative Party, led by Cameron, based their arguments exclusively upon the threat to the economy. Of course, this was important for the workers because leaving is a threat to the economy and jobs. But Cameron and his forces never mentioned the danger of Islamophobia, the attacks on Poles and Romanians, nor did he admit that racism was a fundamental issue in the campaign.

Jeremy Corbyn, head of the Labour



Nigel Farage of UKIP with Leave billboard attacking immigrants

Party, did come out against hate and Islamophobia and visited a mosque to show solidarity with the Muslim community. This was in spite of the fact that Corbyn has a history of progressive opposition to the EU.

From the anecdotes and statistics above it would seem clear that it was better to vote Remain while giving an anti-imperialist, anti-EU explanation that showed solidarity with the oppressed than to remain silent and abstain, leaving your position unknown. Also, whatever anti-imperialist arguments are made, it is clear that the Leave movement is a right-wing movement with a flagrantly racist agenda.

Showing solidarity with the oppressed is particularly urgent in light of the widespread refugee crisis and the crisis of immigrant workers — from the Middle East to the southern borders of the United States. Working-class opposition to Leave would be a good answer to Donald Trump, who wants to build a wall to keep Mexicans out and stop Muslims from coming to the U.S. Trump flew to his golf course in Scotland and announced that he thought the Leave vote was a good

thing, despite the fact that Scotland voted to remain.

Right wing takes advantage of economic crisis

What happened in Britain is happening throughout the imperialist world. The long economic crisis — the inability of capitalism to come back from the shock it received in 2008-09 — is undermining employment, wages and working conditions everywhere. Austerity is a universal policy on Wall Street and in Frankfurt, Paris, London, Rome and Rotterdam.

To be sure, the Leave vote struck a blow at the EU. But that blow is hardly to the advantage of the working class, even if it brings havoc to imperialist commerce and finance capital. The British vote to Leave the EU is now being hailed by the National Front in France, by the Alternative for Germany, by the rightist Democratic Party of Sweden, by the right wing in the Netherlands, Austria and Hungary and by Donald Trump.

All these ultra-right, near-fascist and racist forces see the Leave vote as an opening and are bound to become more aggressive. It will not be to the advantage of the workers and the oppressed if the EU disintegrates into blocs of capitalist right-wing governments.

It is also worth pointing out that there has always been a right wing of the British ruling class that never got over the loss of the empire and has never reconciled itself to accommodating the continental powers, especially Germany and France, in any association. There has always been a so-called “Eurosceptic” wing of the British ruling class.

They don’t want the imperialists from the continent, who have had to make certain concessions to the working class over the years, to be telling them that they have to give four weeks’ vacation, or paid maternity leave, or comply with environmental regulations set in Berlin and Paris.

These are the forces that have triumphed in the Brexit referendum. They are fanatics who in their rabid chauvinism have injured their own export position with regard to the largest capitalist market in the world, with 500 million potential customers. They have jeopardized their position as the financial hub of Europe. They have courted an economic crisis that will have dire consequences for their profits and for the workers.

The EU had \$741 billion worth of investments in Britain as of 2014. All these investments are now stranded outside the EU, damaging U.S. and British financial interests. The U.S. has 2,750 companies in Britain, with about 1.2 million workers and \$558 billion invested there. These include the biggest banks — Morgan Stanley, Citibank, JPMorgan/Chase, Goldman Sachs, among others — who may have to apply to the EU now for licenses, etc. (Revolutionary Communist Group, May 26) Of course, all financial

and commercial arrangements are subject to negotiations, but the immediate effect is a sharp blow.

International solidarity and class consciousness

The way to strike a blow from the left at the EU is to open up a working-class campaign against European capital — to resist the rule of the banks and the multinational corporations across international borders. The French workers are engaged in a fierce battle against the Hollande regime. It would be very timely for the labor movement and the radical movement in all of Europe to open up their own struggles of solidarity — and not just symbolic struggles.

This is easy to say but difficult to do on short notice. But if the workers’ movement of Europe could begin to turn itself around from being reactive and defensive and think in terms of fighting — not just the EU, but the capitalist system — on a continentwide basis, that would be a great step forward.

A struggle against the EU could be a struggle against the austerity being imposed on Greece. Such a struggle would have been timely when the Syriza government came to office in 2015 and became the first government in Europe to openly oppose austerity. It was, of course, a social democratic regime that could not carry such a struggle through by itself against German finance capital and all its cohorts, and it finally capitulated.

A class for itself

Karl Marx said that the working class must become a class “for itself.” That means it must be conscious of its class position in society and the position of all other classes, especially the ruling class. Above all, the working class must be conscious of special oppression. It must see how the attempt to divide on the basis of immigration status as well as race, color, gender and sexual orientation is a lethal instrument used against solidarity and meant to obscure the real enemies: the rich, the exploiters, the possessing classes.

Marx also said that the working class has no homeland. (This does not apply to the nationally oppressed.) What is common to all workers is that they are exploited by the bosses, that they are forced to sell their labor power on a daily basis. This is true of British workers, Greek workers, Irish workers, U.S. workers, South African workers or Venezuelan workers. Our class must resist seeking advantage over each other on a national basis.

British workers can only unite as a class when they unite with Muslim workers, Polish workers, Romanian workers, Indian workers, Pakistani workers, African workers, Philippine workers, Irish workers and so on.

When that day comes, the days of the capitalist class will be numbered. □

Luchas de los pueblos indígenas en el Yukón

Opresión y resistencia en Canadá

Continúa de página 12

Algunas luchas locales en el Yukon ilustran cómo las Primeras Naciones tratan de superar décadas de genocidio cultural y agresiones económicas contra su medio de vida y la ecología local.

A pesar de que el Yukon era zona de una importante fiebre del oro al final del siglo 19, y terminó produciendo un estimado de 12,5 millones de onzas de oro, no tenía una sólida conexión vial con el resto de América del Norte hasta que el ejército EUA construyó una en respuesta a la invasión japonesa de Alaska durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Todavía está aislada, con sólo 35.000 personas - 25 por ciento de ellas PN - en un área de terreno con una densidad de población de 0,2 habitantes por milla cuadrada. El Yukón es tan rural que el Colegio Yukon en la ciudad más grande, Whitehorse, necesita cercas alrededor de los cubos de basura para protegerlos de los osos. Guardias de seguridad acompañan a las/os estudiantes a sus autos por la noche para protegerles de los coyotes.

Hay 14 Primeras Naciones en el Yukón. El centro comunitario PN en Whitehorse cuenta con un laboratorio de idiomas bastante grande y moderno. Un número de PN ofrece clases de cocina y habilidades tradicionales tales como caza y su preparación, pesca y preparación de alimentos para las/os estudiantes mayores en la escuela primaria y secundaria.

En Dawson, sede de la PN Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, escuelas locales enseñan el idioma Hän tanto a la Primera Nación como a estudiantes canadienses desde jardín de infantes hasta la secundaria.

Entre 80 y 90 pequeñas operaciones mineras activas de oro y otros minerales

existen en arroyos y ríos del Yukón, ya que no requieren gran cantidad de capital para montar. Equipos de movimiento de tierra y unos cedazos simples en general hacen el trabajo.

La mayoría son operaciones de versiones anteriores, después de haber sido trabajadas por un número de años, pero todavía hay exploración. Recientemente, dos buscadores levantaron un poco de capital y pidieron 45 concesiones mineras en Judas Creek, un área cerca de Carcross y Marsh Lake en el sur de Yukón. Es en el territorio tradicional de las PN Kwanlin Dun y Carcross/Tagish, cerca del asentamiento Kwanlin Dun.

La Junta de Evaluación Ambiental y Socio-económica de Yukón no aprobó la solicitud, ya que habría tenido un efecto adverso sobre el rebaño de caribúes en Carcross, un recurso que las PN comenzaron a utilizar hace cientos de años. (Yukon News, 13 de mayo)

Lawrence Ignace, director de herencia, tierras y recursos naturales para la PN Carcross/Tagish, escribió, “Si esta solicitud es aprobada para proceder en su totalidad o en parte, la [PN] tomará las medidas necesarias para detener el proyecto”. La reciente aceptación de la declaración de la ONU sobre los Derechos indígenas de Canadá da a Carcross/Tagish un caso legal fuerte.

Las poblaciones indígenas en Canadá quieren y necesitan desarrollo económico, pero dicen que tiene que ser humano y respetar su economía tradicional y la ecología. Han conservado su identidad después de cientos de años de opresión, ya que han librado obstinada y eficaz resistencia, aunque a un alto costo. □



Low-Wage Capitalism describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**

Available at all major online booksellers.

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era



Moorehead-Lilly '16
por la presidenta y el vicepresidente @wwp2016
PARTIDO MUNDO OBRERO/WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Histórico acuerdo en Colombia ‘Que éste sea el último día de la guerra’

Nota: Tras casi cuatro años de conversaciones, el pasado jueves 23 de junio se firmó en La Habana un acuerdo sobre los puntos del Cese al Fuego y de Hostilidades Bilateral y Definitivo, Dejación de las Armas y Garantías de Seguridad entre las FARC-EP y el gobierno colombiano. Se espera que en pocos meses se consolide y firme el acuerdo final sobre los seis puntos base discutidos en la Mesa de Conversaciones.

Sin embargo, ya esta ceremonia del jueves llenó de esperanza a un pueblo que desde los años cuarenta ha vivido en la más absoluta violencia producto de una política estatal dirigida a reprimir las ansias de libertad y justicia de las grandes masas excluidas. Esta Colombia desangrada entra ahora en una etapa muy compleja donde coexisten las fuerzas populares, las revolucionarias, paramilitares y derecha, el Estado y los representantes de intereses transnacionales con sus capacidades militares principalmente EUA (que posee 7 bases militares en ese país), la Unión Europea e Israel.

La importancia internacional de este acuerdo quedó reflejada en la participación de jefes y jefas de gobierno de casi una decena de países, incluyendo al presidente Nicolás Maduro de Venezuela y Raúl Castro de Cuba (país anfitrión de las Conversaciones), y representantes de la ONU, la CELAC, la CEPAL y la Unión Europea.

A continuación están fragmentos del comunicado del Secretariado de las FARC-EP sobre el acuerdo:

‘Que éste sea el último día de la guerra’

“En el año de 1964, en medio del fragor de la desigual lucha armada, la asamblea de los guerrilleros de Marquetalia produjo su programa agrario, en cuya

parte introductoria dejó sentada la siguiente declaración que ahora recordamos: Nosotros somos revolucionarios que luchamos por un cambio de régimen. Pero queríamos y luchábamos por ese cambio usando la vía menos dolorosa para nuestro pueblo: la vía pacífica, la vía democrática de masas. Esa vía nos fue cerrada violentamente con el pretexto fascista oficial de combatir supuestas “Repúblicas Independientes”, y como somos revolucionarios que de una u otra manera jugaremos el papel histórico que nos corresponde, nos tocó buscar la otra vía: la vía revolucionaria armada para la lucha por el poder”.

“Hoy, 52 años después, los guerrilleros de las FARC-EP estamos sellando con el gobierno de Juan Manuel Santos un **cese al fuego y de hostilidades bilateral y definitivo**, un acuerdo sobre **garantías de seguridad y combate al paramilitarismo y otro sobre dejación de armas**, que nos dejan a las puertas de concretar en un plazo relativamente breve el Acuerdo Final, que nos permitirá por fin retornar al ejercicio político legal mediante las vía pacífica y democrática.

“... Los 48 campesinos marquetalianos se convirtieron con las décadas en miles de mujeres y hombres alzados en armas que llegaron a poner en serios aprietos al Estado colombiano, pero que simultáneamente nunca dejaron de hablar de un acuerdo de paz por la vía de las conversaciones civilizadas. Fueron varios y dolorosamente frustrados los intentos por conseguirlo. Pero siguieron intentándolo una y otra vez, y hoy vemos los frutos de su persistencia.

“Porque si de algo dan fe los Presidentes de los países acompañantes y garantes hoy aquí presentes, así como el conjunto de las altas personalidades internaciona-

les inmersas en el proceso de paz en curso y que nos acompañan aquí, lo que está a punto de sellarse no es una capitulación de la insurgencia, como querían algunos obtusos, sino el producto de un diálogo serio entre dos fuerzas que se enfrentaron por más de medio siglo, sin que ninguna pudiera derrotar a la otra.

“.... Estamos muy cerca de la firma del Acuerdo Final que pondrá fin al conflicto e iniciará la construcción de una paz estable y duradera. Desde un principio sostuvimos que la firma de este acuerdo es la mejor oportunidad que tendrá nuestro país para enrumbarse hacia la justicia social y el progreso, sobre la base de que serán abiertas las compuertas de la democracia verdadera, para que los movimientos sociales y políticos de oposición gocen de plenas garantías.

“.... Hay acuerdos sellados sobre esa materia y están próximos a definirse algunos puntos pendientes. Como también en cuestión de Reforma Rural Integral y cultivos de uso ilícito.

“.... No será todo color de rosa, y seguramente habrá que luchar porque se cumpla integralmente lo firmado.

“...El Acuerdo Final será la llave para dar vuelta a esa cerradura, pero requerirá de la organización y movilización constante de la gente por su cumplimiento.

“... El acuerdo sobre garantías de seguridad y combate al paramilitarismo tiene que ser una realidad en los hechos, so pena de conducir el resultado final del proceso al fracaso histórico. Duele profundamente y resulta ya intolerable que a estas alturas tales estructuras sigan asesinando con plena libertad.

“... También se ha llegado al acuerdo sobre Dejación de Armas, Claro que las FARC haremos política, si esa es nuestra razón de ser, pero por medios legales y pacíficos, con los mismos dere-

chos y garantías de los demás partidos.

“El Estado colombiano tendrá que hacer efectivo que a ningún colombiano se lo perseguirá por razón de sus ideas o prácticas políticas, que la perversa costumbre de incluir en los órdenes de batalla de las fuerzas armadas los nombres de los dirigentes de movimientos sociales y políticos de oposición, tendrá que desaparecer definitivamente del suelo patrio. Que una vez firmado el acuerdo final desaparecerán el dispositivo militar de guerra y su anticuada doctrina de seguridad.

“.....Necesitamos que en nuestro país se produzca efectivamente una definitiva reconciliación. Basta ya de la violencia y los delirios por ella. Ella requiere una paciente e intensa labor de difusión, educación y concientización de lo pactado en La Habana, para que la gente de Colombia quede clara de su valioso y positivo contenido. Y para que sepa qué puede y debe reclamar del Estado. Para que se una y organice por conseguirlo. Sólo así haremos una Nueva Colombia.

“... Sabemos que nada se conseguirá fácil o rápidamente. Entendemos que los principales beneficiarios de nuestro esfuerzo serán las generaciones futuras. Por eso extendemos nuestra mano a la juventud. Ella es la llamada a construir el nuevo país y por tanto la más llamada a la defensa de la paz y la reconciliación, a la promoción de un nuevo tipo de actividad política, a la consolidación de la civilidad y la más amplia democracia.

“Las FARC siempre hemos sido optimistas. Aún en los momentos más difíciles siempre creímos que la paz era posible. Confiamos en celebrar en un plazo prudencial otro acto solemne, la firma del Acuerdo Final. Que éste sea el último día de la guerra”.

El texto completo se puede leer en <http://www.pazfarc-ep.org>. □

Luchas de los pueblos indígenas en el Yukón Opresión y resistencia en Canadá

Por G. Dunkel

Los sectores más pobres de las personas que viven en Canadá son indígenas. Llamados Primeras Naciones, incluyen a indios americanos, inuit y metis. Desde 1763, cuando Francia cedió casi todas sus colonias en América del Norte, la clase dominante de Canadá ha estado tratando de apoderarse de la tierra y los recursos de las Primeras Naciones a veces por la fuerza, a veces por engaño jurídico o leyes injustas.

Los resultados de estos ataques, que deberían llamarse adecuadamente genocidas en su intención, son claros e impactantes. En Canadá, las personas indígenas controlan sólo el 0,2 por ciento de la tierra mientras los colonos tienen el 99,8 por ciento. La esperanza de vida de las/os indígenas en Canadá es siete años menos que la de las/os no indígenas. Las tasas de desempleo para las personas indígenas son cuatro veces más alta. El dinero gasta-

do en la educación de jóvenes indígenas es un tercio de lo que gasta en otros jóvenes. Su tasa de suicidio es cinco veces mayor que la de las/os jóvenes no indígenas.

Este es el resultado de opresión sistemática a lo largo de los últimos 150 años. (“Inquietante Canadá: Una alerta Nacional” de Arthur Manuel y Gran Jefe Ronald M. Derrickson, 2015)

Las dos herramientas más poderosas en el arsenal represivo de Canadá fueron la Ley India de 1876, que todavía está aunque modificada de forma sustancial en 1927 y 1951, y las escuelas residenciales, que fueron introducidas en virtud de la Ley India. Había alrededor de 80 escuelas en 1931; la última cerró en 1996.

La Ley India define el estado de una mujer basada en la de su cónyuge. Si él no era un miembro de una Primera Nación, tampoco lo era ella. Si él pertenecía a una banda diferente (gobierno de la tribu) y murió, ella podría estar obligada a desplazarse fuera de la comunidad que

había sido su hogar durante décadas. La ley creó “reservas” similares a las reservas de EUA, que limitaban severamente el derecho a la tierra de los indígenas, y a sus Primeras Naciones se les dio nombres europeos. La ley también limitó la salida de sus reservas sin el permiso del agente local indio.

Las escuelas residenciales - a menudo la única educación ofrecida a las/os jóvenes indígenas - eran agentes flagrantes de genocidio cultural. Quitaban las/os niños a sus familias con el objetivo de assimilarlos a la cultura canadiense dominante. A lo largo de más de 100 años, un 30 por ciento de las/os niños indígenas, alrededor de 150.000 jóvenes, se ubicaron allí. Al menos 6.000 niñas/os murieron mientras asistían a estas escuelas. Además de los ataques contra su cultura, miles sufrieron abusos psicológicos y físicos.

Las protestas, demandas e indignación por las escuelas crecieron tanto que el

primer ministro Stephen Harper, un conservador de extrema derecha, ofreció una disculpa pública en nombre del gobierno de Canadá el 11 de junio de 2008. Un par de años antes, la corte más alta de Canadá había adjudicado un acuerdo de demanda colectiva por \$2 mil millones a sobrevivientes de las escuelas.

En 2010, el gobierno canadiense emitió un comunicado diciendo que seguiría los principios de la Declaración de la ONU sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, aunque no la adoptaría oficialmente. Mientras Harper era todavía primer ministro, la lucha en torno a los derechos de las Primeras Naciones se intensificó.

Este 10 de mayo, la Ministra de Asuntos Indígenas Carolyn Bennett, en representación del recién elegido gobierno liberal, se dirigió a la ONU y oficialmente anunció que Canadá había cambiado su política y adoptaría oficialmente la declaración.

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