Puerto Rico’s new phase
People resist financial junta

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

On June 30 when President Barack Obama signed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act — PROMESA (meaning promise in Spanish) — it triggered a new phase of struggle in the island/archipelago.

The law, passed by the U.S. Senate a day earlier and described by most corporate media as a “help” to Puerto Rico, has, on the contrary, the intention to establish a collection agency through a Financial Control Board for the benefit of bondholders at the expense of the Puerto Rican people.

The rush for approval was due to the July 1 expiration date for the payment of nearly $82 billion in interest and principal of the more than $70 billion in public debt that the island has accumulated over the years. On the island, Gov. Alejandro García Padilla had already submitted to the Puerto Rican Legislature a bill declaring a moratorium on debt repayment. He announced that the government did not have sufficient funds available to make payments on the debt and provide basic services and essentials for the people at the same time.

In fact, on July 1, the much-discussed default arrived, adding to the more than $300 million that was unpaid in May.

Hours earlier on the same day, as a prelude to the announcement of default, the auditing firm KPMG released its voluminous report — as demanded many times by creditors and the U.S. Congress — on the Puerto Rican government’s financial status for 2014. According to KPMG, the government by then had already accumulated a deficit of $52 billion. KPMG questioned the government’s ability to continue operating. (elnuevodia.com, July 1)

Whoever reads García Padilla’s statements on the default, and the necessity to put the needs of the people first, might think that he is governing on behalf of the people. Nothing could be further from the truth. Both García Padilla and earlier governments, whether the “populares” of the PPD (the ruling Democratic Popular Party) or the “estadistas” of the PNP, (pro-statehood New Progressive Party), have by and large taken personal advantage of their positions of authority, enriching themselves and filling their administrations with corruption while ruling in the interests of U.S. imperialism.

As a result, what is happening in Puerto Rico is that the majority of the people have become enormously dissatisfied with their government and with their undemocratic colonial status.

Bad things happen — all together
To better understand this new phase of the struggle in Puerto Rico, we need to see the context in which it occurs. The fiscal crisis has had serious consequences in many areas of the country. The measures the government has implemented — with the advice of U.S. consulting firms,  

Continued on page 10

Baltimore Workers World Bureau

Baltimore volunteer petitioners are joined by Workers World Party Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead and WWP First Secretary Larry Holmes. The group pictured, along with others, were at the weekend African American Festival called AFARM. They were there to sign up Baltimore voters to gain ballot access for local WWP candidates Andre Powell for mayor and Sharon Black for city council president. Hundreds of copies of Workers World newspapers were distributed, along with copies of a proposed local “Freddie Gray Justice Bill,” which would empower communities to disband racist police. Local activists declared the weekend a resounding success.

See Campaign statement defending Sacramento anti-fascist fighters on page 5.

BREXIT PLUS
- 65 million people forced to migrate
- Build worldwide worker solidarity

Cops killed man in wheelchair
DNC protesters: ‘We have right to rise up!’
Move 9; Leonard Peltier
Okinawa says no to U.S. military

Editorial  Mexican teachers on strike

• France
• Battle of Somme
By Edward Yudelovich

Delaware Attorney General Matt Dunn has refused to charge four Wilmington police officers in the shooting death of Jeremy “Bam” McDowell, 30-year-old Black American. Dole was killed last September while sitting in his wheelchair.

Black community leaders and residents were outraged by this result of an eight-month investigation by the Delaware Department of Justice. The department report cited Senior Cpl. Joseph Dolezle for “extraordinarily poor police work” during the incident. Prosecutors initially considered filing a felony assault charge against Dolezle. (delawareonline.com)

The dispatcher reported a transgender woman fired at McDowell with a shotgun about two seconds after ordering him to put his hands up and said Dolezle “should not be employed by the city police in any role where he would carry a firearm in public.” But the police said he was hit by the city’s “use of force policy” needed updating, and that officers get little training for response to similar situations among people who are psychologically, mentally, emotionally or physically disabled.

The report released a transcript where a resident reported a man in a wheelchair had shot himself. When the dispatcher says, “They’re going to take him out,” the caller is heard responding, “Don’t kill him!” In a later interview with investigators, the caller said she never saw a gun. No gun was ever found.

Fighting back for Black and disabled people

The Rev. Donald Morton, executive director of the Complexities of Color Coalition, said: “Now that we have come to this conclusion, I don’t know that I can tell our community to remain calm. There is only so much a community of people can take.”

Mahkeib Booker, who launched the Delaware chapter of Black Lives Matter, said the lack of charges tells the African-American community that their lives don’t matter.

McDowell’s family commented: “Our family disagrees with the conclusions of the report … which seems to reflect the historic fact that, we believe, no police officer in this state can get away with murder.”

The PPA is an organization in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to combat the rising epidemic of police murders, particularly of youth of color.

On July 10, the PPA will again protest police murders of disabled people of color at the second annual New York City Disability Pride Parade, marking the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The parade, gathering in Union Square Park at 11 a.m., will march and roll up Broadway to Madison Square Park for a disability rights festival from noon until 4 p.m.

The Disability Pride Parade was inspired by the civil rights movements of people with disabilities, people of color and women — as well as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people who just held the largest LGBTQ parade in New York City’s history, which this reporter was proud to march in.

Yudelovich is a World Wide Web activist with emotional and one-sided hearing loss disabilities.

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Cops kill man in wheelchair, no charges

Jeremy McDowell, killed by cops in Wilmington, Del.

But this is not reflected in the report.

“Jeremy was paralyzed and he could not run or hide…. The tactical response reflected deliberate indifference to the life of Jeremy.” In their statement the family said they will continue to pursue a federal wrongful death suit.

On Dec. 3, 2015, to mark the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, the People’s Party for a Socialist America (PPA) organized a protest in New York’s Penn Station to say “Disabled Black lives matter!” and to highlight the terminal’s infamous lack of access for disabled commuters, especially wheelchair users. Dedication to the memory of McDowell, the protest rocked Penn Station with chants of “Jeremy McDole! Say his name!” and “Disabled people need decent jobs, quality health care, not police terror!”

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In the U.S.

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‘Shut down Trump and the RNC’

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Cumbre OTAN en Varsovia amenaza guerra a Rusia

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An urgent appeal from one of the MOVE 9

June 26, 2016
Sisters, brothers and friends and supporters:

While I did not shoot (and therefore did not kill) one cop was killed and several other cops and firemen were wounded, all from police fire. However, MOVE members were charged for the assault we all miraculously survived.

We were all given a sentence of 30 to 100 years in a railroad trial. That 30 year maximum was up as of August 2008 and we were all given our first parole denial. Several more were to follow making it clear to all those that didn’t understand their role, that they fully intend to finish up where the cops and city officials left off on Aug. 8.

While there has always been some debate about the guilt of the men, one fact that has never been disputed is the innocence of the MOVE women. Police on the scene, the district attorney and the police collection that none of the MOVE women could possibly be guilty of the death of that cop. Yet Debbe, Janet and Janine have served the last 38 years of their lives in prison; victimized by the same cops and officials that dropped a bomb, brutally murdering their children on May 13, 1985.

Debbie, Janet and Janine were all dealed parole in June of 2016. The parole board, at the insistence of Philadelphia officials, will not consider any petitions. If an unfounded, unknown or unrecognized vehicle pulled up to your house, the first reaction was that you were being visited by someone who meant to do you harm in some way. This was learned behavior on the reservations. This was excruciatingly true in the 1970s.

Hey, I don’t want to be all doom and gloom here. I see over the decades that in some important ways, life has improved for our Peoples. President [Barack] Obama’s extraordinary efforts to forge a strong relationship with our Tribal Nations is good cause for a new sense of optimism that our sovereignty is more secure. By exercising our sovereignty, life for our people might improve. We might begin to heal and start the long journey to move past the trauma of the last 50 years.

But what will we do if the next administration rolls back those gains made over the past eight years? I often receive questions in letters from supporters about my health. Yes, this last year has been particularly stressful for me and my family. My health issues still have not been thoroughly addressed, and I still have not gotten the results of the MRI done over a month ago for the abdominal aortic aneurysm.

As the last remaining months of President Obama’s term pass by, my anxiety increases. I believe that this president is my last hope for freedom, and I will surely die here if I am not released by Jan. 20, 2017. So I ask you all again, as this is the most crucial time in the campaign to gain my freedom, please continue to organize public support for my release, and always follow the lead of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do on my behalf.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse... Doksha

Leonard Peltier

Peltier on 41st anniversary of ‘Incident at Oglala’

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In the Spirit of Crazy Horse... Doksha

Leonard Peltier

Report and photo by Anne Pruden

Roll back the rent!

Class lines were clearly drawn as over 500 mostly Latina and Latino tenants demanding, “Roll back the rent!” filled a hearing at Cooper Union College that was attended a militant rally outside. The June 27 meeting was the final Rent Guidelines Board hearing for a million New York City apartments. Classically regressed, the rents on these homes of mostly working-class tenants have risen to increasing intolerable levels.

More and more tenants must pay over one-third of their income for rent. As gentrification and homelessness abound in the city, community organizations have leaped forward. The tenants’ groups are growing more active and strong from fighting racist landlords and developers, especially in communities of color.

In large numbers, tenants joined tonight to pressure Mayor Bill de Blasio’s appointed Rent Guidelines Board, which finally voted for zero rent increases for one-year leases and a two percent increase on two-year leases. Furious landlords attacked this decision.

The struggle continues to control the rents so that they are affordable for all tenants in the city, whatever their income.
They’ll be marching in Cleveland to ‘Shut down Trump and the RNC’

By Martha Grevatt

People from all walks of life will be marching on the Republican National Convention. Workers spoke to some committed activists who have been organizing for the “Shut down Trump and the RNC” march to take place Sunday, July 17, on the eve of the convention.

Donnie Pastard is a longtime Cleveland community activist. She has also been organizing a “Real Cleveland Neighborhoods” tour to show the devastation wrought by the economy outside of the ritzy downtown area where the convention is happening. “We are very aware of the reasons this march is important to me,” she said. “My reaction to this convention is happening. ‘There are many reasons this march is important to me,’ she said. ‘My reaction is happening. —Standing up to intimidation

Marching on the RNC demands courage and conviction. A mob of Trump supporters is descending upon Cleveland, and some of them have physically assaulted anti-Trump protesters already.

Ohio is an “open carry” state, meaning that outside of the convention space, where fire-arms are prohibited, they can brandish their guns in public. The people of Cleveland, especially people of color, are facing threats simply by living there. Terresa Mitchell, an organizer and activist with New York People’s Power Assemblage, is going “basically to support the activists there on the ground in Cleveland. Cleveland is a majority Black city that is being gentrified and during the convention space it is going to be taken over by a lot of right-wing folk. And it’s important that the activists there on the ground have folks coming out to support them because they’re facing violence and intimidation from the folks that will be attending the RNC. There are racist, fascist and white supremacist groups that will be descending upon Cleveland that, in my mind, will use the excuse of trying to incite violence, she explained.

State repression against the right to protest, which has already begun with door-knocking by the FBI, Cleveland police and others, is another form of intimidation that both anti-Trump activists and city residents are being subjected to.

The city administration has established an “event zone,” within which free speech barely exists during the convention. The zone was established smaller after a lawsuit was filed, but still extends for blocks in any direction from the RNC site. There is only one permissible march route inside the zone and marchers have only 50 minutes to begin and end their march. A “DumplTrump” march planned for the Monday the convention opens has been denied a permit to start from Public Square, the heart of downtown Cleveland.

The movement knows from past convention protest experience that they are the ones being targeted. As Mitchell stated, “It seems that the Cleveland police are not going to be going against those folks, but they have to be going to touch on the left contingent.”

People all over the country are refusing to be intimidated. Shut down Trump and the RNC! See incites.org for protest calendar.

‘DNC protests to go on with or without permits’

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

Representatives of over a dozen groups planning protests in Philadelphia during the Democratic National Convention joined forces at a press conference June 28 to say they would take to the streets — with or without permits. The press conference was organized by the Philadelphia Coalition for Racial, Economic and Legal Justice (R.E.A.L. Justice) and Workers World Party, which are coordinating marches to “Shut Down the DNC” on July 26.

This event and a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union may have had results: On July 1 two of the groups announced they had received word that their applications for march permits would be granted.

At the press conference, speakers voiced concerns that the city had either delayed approval or outright denied permits to march during the DNC from July 25 to July 28.

Erica Mines, from R.E.A.L. Justice, opened the press conference with a list of demands that included decriminalizing First Amendment-protected protests by allowing all protesters, with or without permits, to march in the streets in front of the convention. Mines also called on the city to repeal the rush hour ban and to shut down prisons where the mayor is holding people.

“At the press conference, speakers voiced concerns that the city had either delayed approval or outright denied permits to march during the DNC from July 25 to July 28.”

“Shani Akila, an organizer with the Black and Brown Workers’ Collective, spoke for poor people pushed out of their communities by gentrification: “Now they are preparing to shut us out of the DNC and shut down our protests. We have every right to rise up against a system that is murdering us and we have every right to be heard.” She also called out Hillary Clinton for supporting repression in Haiti and wars in Africa.

Other speakers included ACLU attorney Mary Katharine Baker, Cheri Honkala, with the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign, Judy Dodd, from Up Against the Law Collective; Del Matthews, whose son Frank McQueen was killed by police in 2014; Brianna Jones, from the DNC Actions Committee; and Assa Khalifi, with Black Lives Matter.

Douglas Connor Brandon Tate-Brown was also murdered by police in 2014.

Many commercial as well as independent media outlets covered the press conference.

Test case for new citation law

An upstate case shows how the police interpret the new law on citations. R.E.A.L. Justice organizer Rufus Farmar was on his way to a meeting in North Philadelphia when he noticed police pushing an older man to the ground.

Farmer told Workers World that when he left his car to video the incident, police from the 26th District threw him to the ground and handcuffed him, injuring his knee and breaking his toe. Farmer was given a “rough ride” through sections of North Philadelphia and finally released behind the precipice.

“They took the cuffs off, handed me a $800 citation,” Farmer reported. “I was free to go,” Farmer reported. “I didn’t even know where I was, but I did know that police from the 26th District threw him to the ground and handcuffed him, injuring his knee and breaking his toe. Farmer was given a “rough ride” through sections of North Philadelphia and finally released behind the precipice.”

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Farmer was wearing a “Free Mumia” T-shirt, which was torn by the police. He reported that police called him a “professional protestor,” making it clear they knew him. He and Erica Mines made international news in April when they confronted former President Bill Clinton during a campaign rally for Hillary Clinton.
WWP petitioning for ballot status in Wisconsin

By Milwaukee Workers World Bureau

Organizers are now on the ground in Wisconsin collecting signatures needed to obtain ballot status for Workers World Party candidates Monica Moorehead for U.S. president and Lamont Lilly for U.S. vice president. WWP candidates were on the ballot in Wisconsin in 2006.

Lilly will be at two events on July 7 in Milwaukee: a “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest and an evening meeting on “Building People’s Power.”

The weekend of July 1-3, WP members from Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Rockford, IL, and Durham, NC, were joined by members and friends in Wisconsin at farmers’ markets, campuses, supermarkets and events to collect signatures and distribute July 7 event information. Organizers from Chicago and other cities will be coming to Wisconsin the week of July 3.

In Wisconsin since July 1, Scott Williams, from the Philadelphia Branch of WWP, is out in the streets of Milwaukee daily with Lamont Lilly on the ballot. He says the majority of workers and oppressed people he and fellow organizers are meeting on the street are supportive of the WWP 10-point revolutionary socialist program.

“Wisconsin since 2011 in particular has been the epicenter of the all-out assault on our culture, which includes union busting and a host of other racist and anti-worker attacks by Wall Street forces and their servants like Gov. Scott Walker,” Williams told Workers World. “We’re in Wisconsin with our comrades and friends to build solidarity between workers and oppressed peoples in a combined struggle against the ruling class and to get socialism on the ballot.”

Added Williams: “We’re in Wisconsin to get Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly on the ballot because they have the experienced perspective and fightback spirit with a party behind them that our class needs to fight and win against the many capitalist-imperialist attacks.”

On July 2 “The Grass Is Greener” radio show on Radio Wisconsin interviewed Steve Millies, a retired Amtrak worker and WWP activist, who is organizing in Milwaukee to get WWP on the ballot. Millies now lives in New York City, but is originally from Milwaukee.

For more information about these events, visit wisbailoutpeople.org and facebook.com/wisbailoutpeople, or call 414-905-0665. To make a web-enabled contribution to help cover expenses for the WWP “Put Socialism on the Ballot” Wisconsin campaign, see gofundme.com/wwpwisconsin.

The two July 7 events are sponsored by the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement (the “Stop the Bradley Foundation!” protest is at 4:30 pm at 1421 N. Franklin Pl., Milwaukee, and the “Building People’s Power” community conversation, which Moorehead will join via Skype, will be at 7 pm at 734 N. 26th St., Milwaukee.

Andrea Ballesteros and Tommy Cavanaugh of the Rockford, IL, branch of Workers World Party, petitioning for WWP ballot status July 3 in the Riverwest neighborhood in Milwaukee.

McOnie Moorehead for president. Lamont Lilly for Vice President.
A GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Nearly one in 100 forced to migrate

By Teresa Gutierrez

The recent Brexit vote in Europe was closely tied to the issue of migrants and refugees. Mirrored by the racist, demagogic campaign of Donald Trump here in the U.S., the campaign to “Leave” the European Union was carried out within an anti-immigrant context. With capitalism at a dead end, racist scapegoating has become a priority for the capitalist class in order to divert attention from the economic crisis.

This is shameful and merits an immediate, worldwide, working-class response. Why? Because the crisis of the forced migration of workers is of epic proportions. It is a massive humanitarian crisis. It is genocidal, a crisis that was created by the bloody hands of U.S. and British imperialism.

This is not just an issue of migrants but of refugees and workers and should be treated accordingly.

This massive displacement, this gigantic wave of forced migration primarily from the Middle East, Africa and Asia to Europe and elsewhere, has resulted in the largest displacement of humanity since World War II. That is a stunning fact. This amounts to World War III. That the working-class movement in Britain could not stay the hand of this war is one thing; to be sucked into the ideology of the right wing is another.

This bodes ill for the working-class movement, not only in Europe but in the U.S. as well. “Leave the EU” and “Build the Wall” are two sides of the same coin: divide and conquer the multinational working class with the issue of immigration.

War, sanctions and austerity caused the refugee crisis

How repulsive of our enemies to use the issue of forced migration as an answer to the ravaging effects of the austerity measures sweeping Europe. The very forces that are laying off workers in London, Detroit, Khartoum, Mexico City or Dhaka are the very forces that are driving workers to leave their homelands.

It is U.S. and British and NATO imperialist wars of regime change in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan and so on that are forcing workers to leave in the first place. Those wars include starvation sanctions and planned destabilizations.

Take Libya. This country had once been a state where its resources, the very oil the corporations go to war for, had been nationalized and helped give Libya the highest standard of living in Africa.

It was months of bombing as well as the assassination of its leadership — Gadafi in 2011 — that devastated Libya. Imperialism destroyed the entire infrastructure of this country in one fell swoop.

And now the European elite turns its back on the very people it bombed, after creating the very conditions that forced those people to leave.

We have all seen the pictures published by the capitalist media, the painful pictures of waves of migrants at sea, of drowned children, of boats capsized with people who never make it, whose families back home will never know what happened to them.

Rarely are these pictures accompanied by admissions of what caused this migration.

In reality, the vast majority of the people in the pictures are not migrants at all. They are refugees and should be accorded the rights of refugees, including, according to the United Nations, the number one right of safe asylum.

A few months ago, the world witnessed the horror of mass dislocation. Refugees’ dire conditions worsened when the U.N. Food Program exhausted its funds and cut aid to hundreds of thousands that were living in miserable refugee camps in Jordan, Turkey and Iraq.

The U.N. agency needed $262 million to keep the program funded through November 2015. Yet, the U.S. has spent much more than that on wars in Syria and Afghanistan. According to national priorities.org, U.S. taxpayers have paid, every hour since 2001, a whopping $88.36 million for its wars.

That is why Syria today has the highest number of people displaced by war. Syrians have been forced to leave in record numbers because the Pentagon and NATO targeted civilian infrastructure, irrigation, hospitals, schools, water purification and local industries.

The U.S. and NATO sanctions have been imposed on Syria since 2010. And this was followed by the arming and finacing of mercenary forces. This war has destroyed a formerly prosperous country where the population had modern infrastructure, free, quality health care, and free education.

French unions will stay in the streets

By G. Dunkel

Even if the French government forces the new labor law through the National Assembly without a vote, the unions in the coalition opposed to the new law intend to stay in the streets. According to public opinion polls, 70 percent of the people living in France oppose this law. Even if Parliament passes this reactionary law, the unions argue it should not be enforced.

The CGT Energy 24 Union cut the electricity to the homes of Socialist Party parliamentarians June 27-28 to protest their support for the new labor law. Dordogne, though rural, has historically been a center of radical activism.

In the Paris area, unions stopped collecting tolls on some roads and blocked access to some shopping centers and auto routes before the march.

As one marcher told the French newspaper Le Monde on June 28, “There is an illusion of calm, but the anger is immense.”

The coalition organizing the protests has called for another national march on July 5, the date when the National Assembly begins its final deliberations of the bill.

After a meeting set for July 8, the coalition will announce further steps. The coalition consists of the CGT, FO, FSU (Unitary Union Federation), Solidaires Unitaires Démocratiques (SUD), the National Union of French Students (UNEF), National High School Students (UNL) and the Independent and Democratic Federation of High School Students (FNIL).

The only French union which supports the new labor law is the CFDT (Democratic French Confederation of Labor), which is politically close to the current so-called Socialist government.

The French regime is trying to show the bosses at home and in other countries that it can force austerity on the working class in France. But the labor movement won’t give up, and has stayed in the streets for four months. Some 98 percent of French workers are employed under collectively bargained, legally enforceable agreements, and they are fighting to keep these guarantees.

When Prime Minister Manuel Valls spoke recently at Montpellier, a city of about a quarter-million people in southern France, at the opening of a light rail line, he was booed and hissed by the crowd over the new labor law. It is interesting that the print media wrote about “dozens of protesters” while the video clip on France2’s Info shows hundreds of people booing.

Even if the new labor law is passed, the struggle won’t be over.

This article is based on a June 30 talk. Teresa Gutierrez is Workers World Party’s presidential campaign manager and co-coordinator of the New York May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights.
THE BREXIT VOTE: The need for global working-class consciousness

By Larry Holmes

No doubt, there is hatred of the European Union on the left in Europe. The EU is an anti-worker, reactionary conspiracy on the part of European imperialist bankers to intensify the exploitation of workers and intensify the war of the oppressed. However, those who think that the Brexit vote was progressive out-missing the point.

You cannot separate the vote to leave the EU from the racist, anti-immigrant campaign that was central to it. Moreover, nowhere is the left benefitting from the vote, but the racists and fascists.

No, the task is for the working-class movement to take the political initiative away from the racist and fascist forces. The reason why there is some confusion about understanding and analyzing what happened with this vote is because there are other forces. The ruling class of the world is not happy about what happened. One of the important things for capitalism is having their political establishment intact. They’re not that thrilled about Donald Trump but that doesn’t change Trump’s character.

This was a big blow to the big bourgeois, to the idea that it’s crumbling in many ways. This was a blow to their establishment for what they’re trying to do ever since the end of the Cold War. They’re not that thrilled about Donald Trump but that doesn’t change Trump’s character.

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That’s good. But that doesn’t negate the fact that it starts the whole thing crumbling.

It’s really a continuation of an earlier thing. This is what has them worried. It’s a new revolution. Based on that, we can all go forward.

We would advise them: Don’t get dug in to a bad position. Don’t become captive because for some reason you decided to downplay and minimize the role of racism.

What has globalized high-tech capital done? Ultimately, it has created two roads for the working class. Either we will allow capitalism in its desperate epoch of decay and death to force workers into more intense competition with each other for disappearing, low-paying jobs on a vicious and violent scale. That’s one direction. Or workers will begin fighting not just based on nationality or geography but more and more on the basis of seeing each other as a global class, as the capitalists do.

We would argue with anyone, including our British comrades, that there is a strong position, those who agree with us, and those who are in between, that this is the question. This is a central question that is posed by this election. What road for the working class? Break it up and as the capitalists would prefer we do, fight each other, close the borders, blame the immigrants, not the capitalists.

Or do we have a strategy that can lead to uniting the workers more and more on a global basis? Can someone show me the argument that shows that this is what the vote for Brexit did? The Party is not perfect but we’ve got it.

But just finishing the point, it’s a huge development. It mirrors political developments in this country of the working class movement, which is confused, to a large extent demoralized — talking about the vanguard elements — and that this has been going on for a long time, too long as we all know, based on setbacks like the collapse of the Soviet Union and all sorts of other things. This is a challenge.

We have all about that in the U.S.

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We have all about that in the U.S.
The 2003-04 National Hockey League has ended. But 22 years before the NHL was established, the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes was formed in 1893 in Canada. Initiated by Black Baptist churches in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the league comprised of the sons and grandchildren of enslaved Africans who had escaped from the U.S. The league comprised teams from Africville, Amherst, Dartmouth and Halifax. The CHL formed 25 years before the U.S. Negro Baseball League was established.

The CHL served as a launching pad for pro hockey. Black innovation is just now catching up. Vintage league stats are hard to track. Yet the black experience is a living history of struggle.

A score of firsts

Canadian Herb Carnegie from Fredericton, New Brunswick, was the first Black player in the semi-pro Ontario and Quebec Hockey Leagues in 1938.

Young Rangers, then went to the Buffalo Bisons and then to the Toronto Maple Leafs. He made his debut with them in 1948.

In 1961, O’Ree returned to the NHL Bruins to play 43 games at the position of right wing. He was 95 percent blind in one eye from a hockey injury, which he kept secret. In the U.S., O’Ree suffered many indignities and racist remarks during games, including hostility from his white teammates and from other white teams, much like what Jackie Robinson experienced. Between 1961 and 1974, O’Ree played in the minor leagues with Los Angeles Blades and San Diego Gulls. He won two scoring titles in the Western Hockey League. He was the first Black hockey player in the NHL at age 43. Now his retired number hangs from the rafters in the San Diego arena.

O’Ree was inducted into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame. In 1980 in San Diego, he became the NHL director of youth development for the NHL Diversity Task Force. That task force is a nonprofit program for minority youth to encourage them to play hockey.

The Bruins and the NHL lauded O’Ree at Boston’s TD Garden in 2008 on the 50th anniversary of his NHL debut. After the same game, his hometown of Fredericton honored him by naming a sports complex after him. And the NHL celebrated him during its 56th All-Star game in Atlanta. In 2010, O’Ree received the Order of Canada, the highest award for Canadian citizens, for being a hockey pioneer and dedicated youth mentor in Canada and the U.S.

The other problem with the filters is that many other contaminants in Flint’s water besides lead are getting through, including Legionella bacteria. At least 12 people died since 2014 from an outbreak of Legionnaires disease caused by the failure to add anti-corrosive chemicals to Flint River water. However, suspicions are growing that Legionella pneumonia-related deaths, such as that of 68-year-old Bertie Marble, were actually caused by undiagnosed cases of Legionnaires’ disease.

The cause of the painful skin rashes, hair loss and breathing difficulties after showering, bathing and playing in kids’ swimming pools has yet to be identified. Lead is not the cause, and the problem did not go away after the switch back to Detroit water.

The only real solution, as any Flint resident will tell you, is to replace the 10,000-plus lead service lines and ultimately the entire aging infrastructure. Since the entire system was subjected to the corrosive river water, which is 19 times more corrosive than Detroit water, damage to the pipes has caused a spike in water main breaks.

The cost of water loss and repairs is then passed on to Flint residents, whose bills are among the highest in the country. The money in a just passed federal law falsely stated that the water was safe to drink and was in compliance with federal regulations.

On the surface that seems like wonderful news. But the reality is more complex. Leaving a filter and spare cartridges with social service agencies and organizing volunteers to ensure that Flint residents have access to safe drinking water, told Michigan Radio on June 30, “Anywhere from 50 to 70 percent of folks that we see who have filters that are not working.”

Not every medical expert agrees that water is now safe for everyone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a warning about what Black athletes were white about what Black athletes were doing in a cold-weather sport, CHL whites about what Black athletes were doing in pro hockey. Despite the racist beliefs of many officials who copied elements of the Black style or sought to take credit for Black hockey innovations.

But for instance, historically, the CHL was the first league allowing the goaltender to drop to the ice to stop the puck. The Orioles in the Niagara District League were one of the first all-Black teams.

Out of the headlines

Flint’s water still unsafe

By Martha Grevatt

Detroit

Only a few months ago the Flint water crisis was front-page news across the country. The world learned of the lead-poisoning crisis caused by the state and city officials’ decision in April 2014 to draw water from the highly corrosive Flint River and the same officials’ failure to keep Flint citizens from getting caught in aerators and may have increased the amount of lead in the system.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced that blood-lead levels in Flint’s children doubled after the switch to the Flint River and fell after the city went back to Detroit water. Yet the cognitive damage done to the children from lead remains a constant source of grief for parents and for young people who are suddenly struggling and failing in school. Funds to help ameliorate the damage via early intervention and proper nutrition are just now beginning to trickle in.

Water crisis not only about lead

The other problem with the filters is that many other contaminants in Flint’s water besides lead are getting through, including Legionella bacteria. At least 12 people died since 2014 from an outbreak of Legionnaires disease caused by the failure to add anti-corrosive chemicals to Flint River water. However, suspicions are growing that Legionella pneumonia-related deaths, such as that of 68-year-old Bertie Marble, were actually caused by undiagnosed cases of Legionnaires’ disease.

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This is what happens — and will continue to happen — in a capitalist profit system. Billions of people worldwide lack access to clean, affordable water while a handful of billionaires keep getting richer. Only socialism can prevent more Flint disasters from taking place.
Black hockey players

SOULS ON ICE

The Sam Marcy
Black Labor from Chattel Slavery
Black & Brown Unity
Alabama's Black Belt
Haiti Needs Reparations
Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior
Racism, National Oppression
Monica Moorehead

In the Winter Olympics. The first Black hockey player to win a gold medal played. In 2002, Iginla became the first time leader in goals, points and games played. In 2002, Ig

So, the U.S. and Japan agreed to move the Futenma base from Ginowan, a populous city, to a more remote site. But in 2010, 100,000 island residents strongly protested construction of a new base. Some 76 percent of the island's residents dispute the relocation of Futenma base. The U.S. seeks to beef up the island. Two years later, on Sept. 9, once again 100,000 island residents rallied — this time against the U.S. installation of a new joint strategy is aimed at subverting and further militarizing the country.

On April 25 of that year, 100,000 Okinawans demanded all U.S. bases off the island. Two years later, on Sept. 9, once again 100,000 island residents rallied — this time against the U.S. installation of a new base in Henoko. The June 19 demonstration demanded that the base be moved off Okinawa altogether. This was echoed by Takeshi Onaga, Okinawa's governor, who asked that the U.S. take measures to prevent it. The U.S. didn't allow a three-month battle during World War II, where in the Pacific in under six hours. They can be deployed from Okinawa to anywhere in the Pacific in under six hours. So Washington is intransigent about maintaining its bases in Okinawa.

At the same time, Abe, who represents the right-wing, militaristic arm of Japan's capitalist establishment, has proposed legislation overturning the Japanese Constitution's post-WWII peace clause. He is seeking to eliminate obstacles to further militarizing the country.

Japan's government, led by Prime Min-
ister Shinzo Abe, and asserts that its mili-
tary presence on Okinawa is necessary to protect U.S. interests. Pentagon forces can be deployed from Okinawa to anyplace in the Pacific in under six hours. So Washington is intransigent about maintaining its bases in Okinawa.

Serious crimes by U.S. troops and em-
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Now is the time for working people in the United States to act in solidarity with the valiant teachers’ struggle in Mexico. The teachers’ union, the National Coordinator of Educators in Teaching (CNTE), announced an indefinite teachers’ strike beginning July 5.

That Mexico’s teachers need solidari-
youth. The United Federation of Teachers, or UTIER, announced it would be on strike from July 1 onwards. It estimated that over 50% of teachers would be striking.

The teachers are fighting against the Mexican government’s plan to privatize and restructure the educational system, which includes the dismissal of thousands of teachers and the reduction of public education, as well as from the United States.

On July 1, federal agents threatened to evict the camp, but gave no deadline. Their call is for people to unite against the junta, against privatization and reestructuration, and to demand the dismissal of the people in power. They demand the right of the people of Puerto Rico to speak out together.

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The battle of the Somme, 1916
A century of wars since ‘the great slaughter’

By John Catalinotto

Political leaders from France and Brit-
ain, along with observers from other
countries, met in France on July 1, the
centennial of the First Battle of the Som-
me River. One of the bloodiest battles of
World War I, it was the opening of the
mass slaughter known as trench warfare,
in which the major European powers
sacrificed the lives of millions of young
men as they vied for control of the colo-

nial world. The war itself, which lasted
four years, was rightly called “the great
slaughter.”

The horror of the war was so unbear-
able that it led to a social revolution in
Russia that terrified the ruling capital-
ists. Today, with supranational entities
like the European Union, the ruling
classes may be attempting to prevent
new wars among the imperialists within
Europe. But this hasn’t prevented them
from gangning up together and using
NATO, a Euro-military under U.S. lead-
ership, in attempts to reconquer their lost
empires from Yugoslavia to Afghanistan,
or even from risking war with now-capit-
alist Russia.

The British generals who in 1916 faced
German forces at the Somme fit the car-
daturing of the ruling-class twit, whose stu-
manship is matched only by his arrogance.
They thought they had a foolproof plan:
a week of unbridled British artillery fire
would soften the German lines. It turned
out that their artillery barrage, begun in
the last week of June, had killed few German
troops, disarmed few machine guns and
destroyed few of the barbed-wire obsta-
des.

Obvious to this failure, on July 1, 1916,
the British generals ordered the planned
offensive against the German army to pro-
ceed. Following their orders, British
troops, laden with equipment, walked
clamorously and slowly toward the German
lines. They were mowed down on the way
by German machine gun fire. By the end of
the first day, 58,000 British had been
killed or wounded. The front had moved
two kilometers, a little over a mile.

The battle ground on for five months.
By the time snow brought it to a halt in
November 1916, the fighting had killed or
wounded an estimated 420,000 British,
200,000 French and 500,000 German
troops. That’s a total of more than a
million casualties. The front had moved
all of seven miles.

With the help of the casualties were
English, German and continen-
tal French, the imperialist powers also
ordered troops from the colonies into
battle. Counts among the British soldi-
eries of World War I were soldiers from
Ireland, India, Nigeria and even sparsely
populated Newfoundland — Newfound-
land was not then part of Canada; caus-
alties among the French troops included
Vietnamese, Senegalese and Algerians;
among those under German command
were Tanganyikans, Rwandans and Poles.

An imperialist war for colonies

The parties ruling the European im-
perialist democracies of France and Brit-
ain, as well as those in the monarchies in
Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia,
had entered the war in 1914 without hesi-
tation, even with enthusiasm. The rul-
ers of each country believed their army
would win a quick victory. Their mouths
watered at the thought of conquered ter-
riory and new colonies — as was shown
later when the successful workers’ revo-

lution in Russia revealed and publicized
conditions that the rulers had kept secret.

It was not heroic battles that the troops
experienced, but the overwhelming damp,
cold, hunger and boredom of trench war-
fare, broken only by the occasional thud
of artillery and the fear of a sudden or,
worst, a lingering death. Along with the
misery imposed on the masses of Eu-
rope, the intense suffering of the troops
was widely open to the public, a departure
such as hadn’t been seen before on the
Eurasian land mass. Playing a leading
role in these revolutions were the ruling
classes who served the rulers and who the
ruling classes had armed, taught to fight
and turned into warhorses.

In November 1918, when the war ended,
there had been major rebellions and mutinies in nearly all the imperi-
alsist powers. The ruling classes in France and Britain and their general
staff were able to crush their uprisings. But rebellions led to the overthrow
of the monarchies in Germany and Austria-Hungary, the defeated powers,
and sparked a world-changing social rev-
olution in Russia.

A century of wars since ‘the great slaughter’

The imperialist powers and U.S. rul-
ing classes took steps to export war to the
former colonial world, just as they ex-
port unemployment and hunger. If they
are solemn about the Somme, it is not
because they abhor the suffering of the
workers and farmers of Europe. It’s be-
coming more and more evident that such
foresight will lead to revolution that upends their rule.

Adapted from a chapter in Catalysts’ forthcoming book, “Turn the Guns
Around: Marines, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.”

Al-Quds rallies protest apartheid Israel

By Michael McHahwar

International Al-Quds Day is celebra-
ted all over the world on the last Friday
of the holy month of Ramadan. This year
it fell on July 1. Al-Quds day was created by
Iran in 1979 to inspire internation-
opposition to Zionism. (Quds is the Arabic
name for Jerusalem.)

In Dearborn, Mich., the Al-Quds Commit-
tee organized its annual rally with the
slogan, “Amerikan First, Not Apartheid
Israel.” The majority of pro-
testers were of Lebanese descent, together
with Palestinians and other nationalities.

The rally’s general message was oppo-
sition to the $37 billion given to Israel by
the U.S. Speakers included community
sheikhs as well as Alison Weir, from If
Americans Knew, an organization that
educates people about U.S. policy in the
Middle East. Speakers brought up com-
nunities near Dearborn where pressing
issues are more in need of the billions
sent to Israel. These include the collaps-
ing Detroit Public School system, yet to
be bailed out, as well as the Flint water
crisis, where the city has received less
than $100 million in aid to fix its crum-
bling infrastructure.

Actions called for at the rally were to
“have conversations” and to be more
mindful and critical of whom one votes
for. But voting isn’t the route to ending
rulers and farmers of Europe. It’s be-
coming more and more evident that such
foresight will lead to revolution that upends their rule.

Adapted from a chapter in Catalysts’ forthcoming book, “Turn the Guns
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Al-Quds Dearborn

Al-Quds New York City

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tionary class truth that you’ve come to depend upon. We urge you to sign up today!

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tionary media in the U.S.

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